



## COMING EVENTS

*Note that meeting locations have changed.*

● **Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m., General Meeting, Ruth Clarke Activity Centre, 81 Mill St.S., Port Hope.** Directions: This address is south of Peter Street, between the two railroad viaducts on the east side of the Ganaraska River. The parking lot is across Mill St.. from the Centre. If this lot is full, there is another lot south of the south viaduct within an easy walk to the building.

**Speaker: Alison Elliott**, Science Teacher at Trinity College School. **Topic: Wildlife and Conservation in Uganda.** Alison will present photos and stories of her July 2008 travels in Uganda while volunteering there with the Jane Goodall Institute. The talk will cover the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, JGI environmental education initiatives, and safari photos from Queen Elizabeth National Park.

● **Saturday, November 15, 2008, 9:30-11:00 a.m. - Closing of Peter's Woods**

For more information or if you would like to help, contact Chris Drew (905-342-2904 or [drew@eagle.ca](mailto:drew@eagle.ca)) or Petra Hartwig (905-372-4301 or [phartwig@cobourg.ca](mailto:phartwig@cobourg.ca)).

● **Friday, November 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m., General Meeting, Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario St., Cobourg**

**Speaker: Anthony Holmes** of Port Hope. **Topic: 60 Years of Butterflies: or how I matured from mere collecting to understanding their distribution.** Mr. Holmes, a resident of Port Hope, was a founding member of the Toronto Entomologist's Association. He is the prime author of the Ontario Butterfly Atlas.

● **Presqu'île Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, December 14, 2008.** Contact Maureen Riggs (613-475-3604 or [mriggs@sympatico.ca](mailto:mriggs@sympatico.ca)) if you would like to participate.

● **Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 20, 2008.** Contact Roger Frost (905-885-9615 or [ekrf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca)) if you would like participate.

## Alderville Black Oak Savanna Honours Rick Beaver

On September 19, a number of people who have been active around the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, gathered at Victoria Inn in Gore's Landing to formally say good-bye to Rick Beaver.

At this event, it was announced that the trail network on the Savanna will be designated the "Rick Beaver Trail Network" in his honour. Rick recognized the importance of this remnant prairie and worked very hard with the Band Council to ensure its protection. Rick also introduced this place to WBFN and many of our members have enjoyed outings there. As well a number have participated in work parties for plantings and seed collection.

Although he had to give up the position of Natural Heritage Coordinator for the Savanna, he was never too far away, always generous with encouragement and advice when needed.

By the time you read this, Rick and his partner, Ruth Clarke, will have moved to Mexico. We wish him well in this new phase of his life.

## HELP NEEDED

Emma Sandham, who has looked after the name tags at WBFN meetings for several years, has notified the Board that she will no longer do this after January 1, 2009. She and Jim are willing to continue printing name tags for new members. If you would be willing to take on this task, please speak to President, Michael Biggar after the next meeting, or contact him at 908-3727407 or [mbiggar.wbfn@gmail.com](mailto:mbiggar.wbfn@gmail.com)

Thank you, Emma and Jim!

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Jim and Felicity Campbell,  
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	<a href="mailto:smerey@nhb.com">smerey@nhb.com</a>
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Curlew Ed.	Elizabeth Kellogg	905-885-9615	<a href="mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca">ekrf@eagle.ca</a>
	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	

*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the November 2008 issue should be received by October 31, 2008. 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 November 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

### THE DATABASE: WHY BOTHER?

by Clive E. Goodwin

Last month I mentioned the number of 19<sup>th</sup> century records we had, starting with an 1813 junco by Charles Fothergill. Afterwards I was idly looking over the 1800's set, and just at random I opened another record. It was Fothergill again, this time an Osprey on Rice Lake, on April 19, 1821; with his note "Fishing Hawk arrival. Common". Forty years back that in itself would have been noteworthy: Ospreys were almost gone. But they're common enough now, and that date didn't seem out of line either. Maybe a little late, I wondered? Out of curiosity I looked for the arrival dates for Osprey. It turned out it was rather tricky, and I had to use Days from January 1; April 19 is day 109.

I prepared a table showing me the arrival days between 1972 and 2008 [prior to 1972 we had few consistent arrival records], and it appeared that day 109 was dead on for the decade of the 70's, with arrivals between days 101 and 122. But by the 2000's it is indeed late: arrivals range between day 69 and day 105, with most by day 91. By today's reckoning, Fothergill's Osprey was over two weeks late, and more significantly, so were all the birds in the 70's.

So a chance opening of an 1821 record leads to possible evidence of global warming! This is typical: you never know just where a query is going to lead; and for me that is one of the huge fascinations of the database, and probably a major reason that I maintain it.

But has it any broader value? Readers may recall that I also mentioned in my last article that the conventional wisdom used to be that such records were not worth much anyway. Fortunately that has changed.

Over time more appreciation has developed among ornithologists – the scientific community – for the potential value of these kinds of records. True, the observers are

mostly amateur birders with a huge range of skills and experience, and the sightings themselves are not gathered in a rigorous manner; in fact, mostly they are quite hit and miss. But there are potentially a very large number of them, gathered over long periods of time, and no other bird data of this breadth and scope exists. Modern statistical methods can factor in the irregularities to some extent, but really the sheer volume of material is the thing that can compensate for the individual variations – the 12 million birds we mentioned last time. So gradually the dismissive attitude towards birders' records has changed.

We now have e-bird, where individual sightings can become part of a vast international database maintained by Cornell University, and our 12 million is multiplied many times over. At present, the sets of daily observations on our database have already been supplied to e-bird Canada, and I am currently checking the location details, ensuring the conversions from NAD map references to the required latitude and longitude format are correct, prior to transferring the rest. When this is done and all the records transferred I understand that the size of e-bird Canada will be increased by about 30%!

Quite apart from e-bird, however, the county records are now accessible in a way that was formerly impossible. Using more traditional methods of note-keeping, the individual variations in records over, say, a decade are too great to be confident about longer term trends, and the detail becomes too overwhelming over longer time periods. Data on *Wings* can be readily be manipulated to provide such information. We now receive requests periodically for information on the status of species either over time or by location. In some cases we can help, in others not,

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but without the database any information provided would have been limited to individual impressions, which can be very inaccurate.

There's no question that the availability of daily, or close to daily, records for some locations is a major boon. It means we have a 15-20 year record of the numbers of many species from two or three locations, which may prove invaluable depending on the information being sought. On more general records the interests of the observer can also influence the picture – for example, both Doug MacRae's records and those of the Thomsons have good numbers of shorebirds represented.

Valuable as the very detailed records are, the more general picture provided by *The Curlew* provides quite a different perspective. The emphasis is broader, so there is a far better cross-section of species. The information used in looking at Osprey arrivals above came almost entirely from records obtained from *The Curlew*, with a few from Presqu'île.

The ideal would be to attain the degree of detail provided by the large datasets for all species – but that would mean many more records of every kind, and it is quite unrealistic to expect there would ever be more than a tiny minority of people with the time and interest to keep data in this detail.

Similarly it's unlikely that many persons would be interested in keeping running counts of all the birds seen on a field trip, although doing so often provides a quite different [and fascinating] perspective on a day's outing. If you do, we'd love to hear from you!

More generally, what should you do to provide database-friendly material? Unfortunately guesstimates of the numbers seen at

the end of the trip – a traditional birder approach - can fall short. The persistent tendency is to over or underestimate, so running counts are really the best answer. But for individual sightings really the detail provided by *The Curlew* is usually satisfactory. We cannot handle two variables at once, such as '10-12 birds, October 3-8' and in these cases it is usually best to provide a high count and date, and numbers on the first and last days recorded. Unfortunately we often see internet posts mentioning 'lots' of one species or another, or giving vague locations or dates; and to be useful for the database we need a date, a place and at least an approximate number seen.

Certainly the more data we can gather the more valuable the database becomes. In fact, it is remarkable that a county with one of the smallest populations in southern Ontario has such an extensive record of birding, over so many years. It's a tribute to the keenness and perseverance of Northumberland birders past and present.

[The summaries of the bird records can be seen at the website – [homepage.mac.com/wings\\_4d/bonc/bonc\\_index.html](http://homepage.mac.com/wings_4d/bonc/bonc_index.html)

We've recently updated the records there, and Steven and I are currently working on making some of the material more user-friendly and easier to maintain. For those of you who send records to Elizabeth and Roger by e-mail, you can eliminate a step by simply keying me a copy – [clivegoodwin@sympatico.ca](mailto:clivegoodwin@sympatico.ca). Some of you already do this (many thanks) and it makes things significantly easier by simplifying entries and spreading the work out].

### **Ganaraska Region Conservation**

#### **Nature at Night Halloween Event, Saturday, October 25, 6-9 p.m., GRCA Forest Centre**

Get into the Halloween spirit during this spooky guided night hike. Activities include carving pumpkins, creating Halloween crafts, an active and fun campfire with hot chocolate and an hour nature hike in the forest. Pre-registration is required. Call 905-797-2721 or e-mail [gfc@grca.on.ca](mailto:gfc@grca.on.ca). Rates: \$20 per family, \$8 per adult or \$4 for children, students, and seniors.

*The following article was sent in by Mark Rupke who spent the summer as Project Field Technician for the Snakes in the Plains Project. Ben Kuchta was a volunteer who worked with Mark.*

## **Local Attitudes Shifting to Benefit Snake Conservation**

*by Ben Kuchta*

A pair of eyes appeared through a couple of bent slats in the blinds. By the time we had pulled up there was already a sceptical face at the door. We got out of the car, approached, and introduced ourselves through the screen door. "We're here from the Nature Conservancy of Canada. We'd like to talk to you about the Eastern Hog-nosed snake."

It's funny the looks we received when Mark Rupke and I recently contacted land-owners to talk to them about Hog-nosed snakes. Their responses revealed that there is definitely still a stigma in the public perception regarding snakes. Responses ranged from a keen interest in what we had to say to an absolute fear of these benign animals. One of the most common responses however, was a mix of anxious fear with healthy respect, something I was glad to hear.

As a conservationist at heart, I would rather that people were not afraid of Hog-nosed snakes. However, I am pleased with the growing level of understanding and tolerance most locals are displaying towards them. These snakes need to be given a wide berth, not because they are dangerous, but simply because they are a threatened species of ecological importance to the area.

The fact is that attitudes are changing when it comes to conservation and most people realize that snakes have a legitimate place in the local ecosystem. I was surprised and elated to hear so many people saying that these animals are valued. It is a great relief that acceptance, rather than persecution, is prevailing and people are finally saying things like, "I never kill snakes when I see them. They have an important role so I just let them do their thing."

Public awareness is of particular impor-

tance for the survival of the Eastern Hog-nosed snake. This often unnoticed species displays behaviours which are very effective at evoking feelings of fear or threat in people who encounter them. When approached these snakes will often rear up and spread out their ribs, creating the appearance of a hood much like that of the infamous cobra. This threatening display, combined with a vigorous hissing is an effective bluff designed to scare off predators. In encounters with the Eastern Hog-nosed snake these behaviours have worked too well and earned the snake the highly inaccurate local nicknames of cobra and puff adder, neither of which are found in Canada.

These nicknames, when combined with threatening defensive behaviours, have historically spelled disaster for these snakes and many have been killed out of unfounded fear. The myth that the Eastern Hog-nosed snake is dangerous could not be further from the truth as it is totally harmless and rarely, if ever, bites.

So what does the Eastern Hog-nosed snake look like? Well, it grows to around 43 inches or over a meter in length. It has a turned up snout and although it can take on several colour phases, including almost black, it normally has dark blotches on a light background. The snake is not venomous unlike the Massasauga Rattlesnake (Ontario's only venomous species) with which it is sometimes confused because of its blotchy appearance. It is worth noting however, that the Massasauga Rattlesnake does not live in the local area and therefore any snakes encountered in the Rice lake area are not venomous.

Unfortunately, there is no current esti-

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mate of the local Hog-nosed population, nor is there accurate information about the distribution of these animals in the region. But locals can help out and get involved in the conservation of these wonderful creatures by letting the Nature Conservancy of Canada know when they see an Eastern Hog-nosed snake and by not interfering with the snake's natural behaviours when one is spotted.

More information about the Eastern

Hog-nosed snake and the *Snakes on the Plains* project (not to be confused with the Hollywood blockbuster, *Snakes on a Plane*), can be found at the Nature Conservancy of Canada website [www.natureconservancy.ca/ontario](http://www.natureconservancy.ca/ontario). Snake sightings can be reported by calling Todd Farrell at (905)862-2642. Together, as a community, our actions may be key in determining the future of this unique and threatened reptile.

## **Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and the Surrounding Area**

*Written by Colin Jones and Matt Holder*

*Illustrated by Andrea Kingsley and Peter Burke*

This is a comprehensive field guide to all 135 species of dragonflies and damselflies found in Algonquin Park and the surrounding area, extending across south-central Ontario and into southwestern Quebec. It features:

Detailed, full-colour illustrations of all species, including males, females and variants

Additional close-up illustrations of features important in species identification

Key field marks are highlighted through the use of arrows and accompanying text

Information on identification, similar species, habitat, behaviours, flight period, status and range of each species

Included an introduction, complete with illustrations and photographs to anatomy and life cycle, as well as the fundamentals of observation, identification and capture

A site guide to some of the key areas within Algonquin Park to find and observe these fascinating insects.

The book is produced by The Friends of Algonquin Park. It is available at the Park's two bookstores and online from The Friends bookstore at:

<http://store.algonquinpark.on.ca/cgi/algonquinpark/00517.html>

It retails for \$28.95 plus GST

*The Wallace Birdathon is a fundraiser for the Property Account. Funds are gradually being transferred from the Property Account to the Northumberland Land Trust to support protection of some of the special natural places in Northumberland County. Thanks to generous donors, the 2008 Wallace Birdathon raised \$1,040.00. Below is a copy of the report which was sent to all donors.*

## Wallace Birdathon – 2008

With such a cold, backward spring, I delayed this year's Birdathon until the evening of Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, Louise Schmidt could not join me until Sunday morning, so I started alone in Candlewick Woods at 5:45 p.m.

The weather was cool, overcast, and very windy, not much help for finding birds. Candlewick Woods were very quiet. There were a few migrant warblers. Mostly these were American Redstart and Magnolia Warbler, but there was one beautiful male Canada Warbler and a drab female Yellow-rumped Warbler. Here, I also saw a Northern Harrier, Ruffed Grouse, Least Flycatcher and Downy Woodpecker. However, the breeding Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers were impossible to find. Lake Ontario off the woods was also unproductive, with only a few Red-breasted Mergansers and Double-crested Cormorants.

A quick check of Haskill Rd. turned up a couple of Clay-colored Sparrows and the only Willow Flycatcher.

Next, I checked Port Hope Harbour, only to add a few Herring Gulls.

The Lake St. Marsh was a little more productive, adding Blue-winged Teal, White-winged Scoter, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Warbling Vireo, but no migrant warblers.

With daylight running short, I decided not to go to Cobourg Harbour, but to look for Upland Sandpipers in the Cold Springs area. The Upland Sandpipers proved elusive, but I did add Cliff Swallow, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow and Orchard Oriole.

Quick stops at a couple of marshes in the Alderville area added only Virginia Rail

and a few other common species.

It was now nearly dark, so I birded Dunbar Rd. through the Northumberland Forest in search of Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks. There were lots of Whip-poor-wills, Hermit Thrushes, and a few American Woodcock, but no nighthawks.

Now after dark, I stopped several places to call owls with no luck at all. I arrived home at 11:30 p.m. with only 76 species.

I met Louise at 4:00 a.m. the following morning for the long drive to Murray Marsh. The morning was clear with much lighter winds, which made bird finding much easier. Murray Marsh was productive, adding American Bittern, Wood Duck, Osprey, Wilson's Snipe, Sora and White-crowned Sparrow.

Next we birded the Red Cloud School Rd. area where we found Blue-winged, Golden-winged and Wilson's Warblers. As well, we also saw our first Eastern Towhee and Olive-sided Flycatcher of the day.

We headed west into the Northumberland Forest where we added many new birds: Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brown Creeper, Blue-headed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blackburnian Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and our second Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Peter's Woods was next, adding Black-throated Blue Warbler, Winter Wren, Swainson's Thrush and Pine Siskin. The highlight of the day came here when a pair of quite upset Barred Owls came in to sit almost over our heads! This pair no doubt had young nearby.

It was now late morning and we had to

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make a decision. Should we stay inland and try to find some of the rare breeding birds we were missing or should we head for Presqu'ile and try to add the many migrants and waterbirds we were also missing? In the end, we did a bit of both.

We headed for Presqu'ile, but on the way stopped at a woodlot in the Centreton area for Red-headed Woodpecker with no luck. We also stopped at a marsh near Grafton for Green Heron, with no luck. In fact, from the time we left Peter's Woods until we arrived at Presqu'ile, we only added 2 species – Common Loon and Great Blue Heron.

At Presqu'ile, we birded the lighthouse area, and Calf Pasture where we found a fair number of migrant warblers, but only added Blackpoll Warbler, Common Tern and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Quick checks of the woodland along Paxton Dr. and the Marsh Boardwalk added only a Cooper's Hawk. At Beach 3, we added most of our shorebirds: Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Least Sandpiper and Dunlin.

Outside the park, we struggled to find the usually easy Pied-billed Grebe and Common Moorhen, for two more species. At the sewage lagoons, we only added Gadwall.

We now headed for Lone Pine Marsh. By now the wind was blowing hard again, so we were amazed when we heard one Least Bittern calling from the marsh! In addition, we also added a Great Egret.

With time running short, we plotted our strategy to clean up the easy birds that remained to be seen. We headed off towards Cobourg via Grafton. Luck was with us as we finally found an American Kestrel on Vernonville Rd. and a Green Heron just east of Grafton.

In Cobourg, we first stopped at the foot

of D'Arcy St. to scan the lake. Here, we added nothing new, but could hear loud rap music coming for the east pier at the harbour. At this point, Louise and I figured it was pointless going to the harbour. This was probably our worst decision of the day. We later learned that both Brant and Whimbrel were seen that afternoon at Cobourg Harbour.

We now drove through downtown Cobourg to pick up Chimney Swift. We checked the storm-water pond behind the Golden Plough for ducks and shorebirds. The pond at first didn't seem very promising, but Louise did spot the only Black-crowned Night Heron of the day.

With only about 40 minutes left, we decided to check the Upland Sandpiper fields again, since it was on the way back to Louise's house. Again, the Uplands failed to show themselves.

As I drove Louise home, she tallied up the list, a rather disappointing 138 species. We arrived at Louise's with a few minutes left, and briefed Louise's husband, Ted, on our day. As we were lamenting all the birds we missed, our only Cedar Waxwing flew over almost exactly 24 hours after I had started.

We ended the day with 139 species. We saw almost all of the common breeding species, and most of the uncommon ones. We did poorly on shorebirds, migrant landbirds, ducks, raptors and owls. Our worst miss was Purple Martin, although we did find a starling at Presqu'ile that did a wonderful Purple Martin song. Pileated Woodpecker was another bad miss. It always amazes me how hard it can be to find such relatively common species on a birdathon!

It was fun day, and now I have another year to plan strategy.

*- Roger Frost*

*This review first appeared in the EDUCT newsletter, Issue 18, September 2008, of the Edinburgh University Club of Toronto.*

*Book Review*

## **Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005**

This is a huge, beautiful book, packed with information interesting to birders, but also fascinating to anyone caring about the natural world and the changes we are seeing in it in our lifetimes, specifically in Ontario. It was published in late 2007, the second such Breeding Bird Atlas, the first having been produced exactly 20 years ago, so not only does it give a picture of the current status and distribution of the birds of the province, but it permits quite precise quantification of both increases and decreases in bird populations as well as advances and retreats in their Ontario range across the last two decades.

It is a monumental work. Data were collected by 3417 observers, clocking 152,263 hours of effort over the five years, in a landmass stretching from Middle Island in Lake Erie, at the latitude of Rome and northern California, to the subarctic tundra on the shores of Hudson Bay. And this prodigious amount of data is brilliantly presented. Each of the 286 breeding species has a lucid written account illustrated by superb photos of the birds themselves, often accompanied by nest and habitat shots. The maps are amazing. Each species has a Breeding Evidence map, clearly demonstrating its likely presence or absence in every one of the 10km squares covered (100km in northern Ontario), with dots to show if the species was recorded in both atlases, only the first one, or newly in the current one, giving an invaluable picture of range expansions and contractions. Point Counts – recording all birds seen and heard at prescribed locations for exactly five minutes – also allowed the production of Relative Abundance maps for almost half the breeding species, often giving a surprising picture of where relatively common species are in fact most common.

The face of Ontario has changed dramatically in the last 20 years, and human population growth and changes in land use are well reflected by this Atlas. In the south, the suburban sprawl of cities, with the resultant loss of wetlands and agricultural acreage, has driven out some more reclusive bird species, but has also encouraged those

more able to adapt to urbanization – just think of all those Canada Geese grazing on condominium lawns beside our yacht-filled harbours, and the “McDonald’s” gulls fighting over spilt French fries in our paved-over malls. But with the abandonment of marginal farmland, there has also been a significant increase in forest cover across northeastern North America, and this has benefited some shyer woodland species.

One of the more surprising findings of this second Atlas is the fact that, overall, more species have increased rather than decreased in numbers in Ontario in the last 20 years. Though there were variations by region and habitat, over the whole province 74 bird species showed statistically significant population increases, while 39 showed significant decreases. Common Ravens have expanded south into much of the land they probably occupied before the pioneer clearances and Eastern Bluebirds have survived European Starlings usurping their nesting cavities by volunteers setting-up starling-proof nest boxes along many new “bluebird trails” in open country. But grassland birds and the aerial foragers – swallows and swifts, nighthawks and whip-poor-wills - seem in precipitous decline, for reasons that are unclear, probably complex, and evident across North America.

So, this book is wonderful to browse through, or to consult for specific information - a must for the cottage or the Toronto backyard. It is thoroughly scientific, yet uniformly well written and accessible, with wonderful far-ranging chapters outside the actual species accounts. It is most attractively illustrated, and the whole production is of an extremely high standard. It is published by a partnership between Bird Studies Canada, Environment Canada, the Ontario Field Ornithologists, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ontario Nature. The book is large (and quite weighty), 9x12", with over 700 pages, and sells for \$92.50 plus GST. To order the Atlas, phone 1-800-440-2366 (416-444-8419 in Toronto) or go on-line at [www.birdsontario.org](http://www.birdsontario.org)

*-Margaret Bain*

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Roger Frost*

Snow Goose	Sept. 15	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Green-winged Teal	Sept. 15	20	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Sept. 21	15	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Surf Scoter	Sept. 25	1m	off Wicklow Beach	MB
Common Goldeneye	Sept. 7, 8	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Horned Grebe	Sept. 24	90+	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
	Sept. 25	6	off Wicklow Beach	MB
Red-necked Grebe	Sept. 24	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Eared Grebe	Sept. 25	1	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Bald Eagle	Oct. 3	1	Grafton area	EK
	Sept. 29	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
	Oct. 3	1	Grafton area	EK
Black-bellied Plover	Sept. 17	4	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Sept. 24-25	9	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Sept. 24-28	4	Cobourg Harbour	MB
American Golden Plover	Sept. 16	4	Cobourg Harbour (high count)	MB
Solitary Sandpiper	Sept. 28	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
	Sept. 30	1	Gage's Creek mouth, PH	RF
Red Knot	Sept. 15-16	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Western Sandpiper	Sept. 6-9	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
White-rumped Sandpiper	Sept. 2-3	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Sept. 4	1	Cobourg west beach	MB
Baird's Sandpiper	Sept. 1	3	Cobourg Harbour (high)	CEG
	Sept. 3-5	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Oct. 2	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept. 16	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Red-necked Phalarope	Sept. 8-11	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Great Black-backed Gull	Sept. 6	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
jaeger sp.	Sept. 5	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
	Sept. 16	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Eastern Screech Owl	Sept. 30	1	6th & Jack Gordon Rd., Hamilton Twp	SW
Common Nighthawk	Sept. 6	5	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Sept. 21	1	Upper Cold Springs	SW
	Oct. 6	1	Durham St., PH	EK, RF
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sept. 29	5	Lucas Point	CEG
	Sept. 29	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sept. 7	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Sept. 29	1	Lucas Point - late date	CEG
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Sept. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Yellow-throated Vireo	Oct. 1	1	Beach Rd., Cramahe Twp.	CEG
Blue Jay	Sept. 23	3500	Grafton area	RF
Black-capped Chickadee	Oct. 7	18	Lake St. Trail, PH	EK
Sedge Wren	Sept. 26	1	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 7	17	Lake St. Trail, PH	EK
Eastern Bluebird	Sept. 10	19	Brighton Twp.	CEG
	Sept. 16	17	Brighton Twp.	CEG
	Sept. 23	14	Brighton Twp.	CEG
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Sept. 15	several	over downtown Cobourg after dark	MB
Swainson's Thrush	Sept. 15	many	over downtown Cobourg after dark	MB
<b>Varied Thrush</b>	Oct. 2	1f	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds

Sightings - cont'd.

Northern Mockingbird	Sept. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Tennessee Warbler	Sept. 16	1	Northumberland Forest	BJW
	Sept. 29	1	Lucas Point	CEG
Orange-crowned Warbler	Sept. 16	1	Northumberland Forest	BJW
	Oct. 2	1	Lucas Point	CEG
	Oct. 7	1	Lake St. Trail, PH	EK
Nashville Warbler	Sept. 16	16	Northumberland Forest	BJW
Yellow Warbler	Sept. 1	6	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Magnolia Warbler	Sept. 16	17	Northumberland Forest	BJW
Cape May Warbler	Sept. 16	1	Northumberland Forest	BJW
Black-throated Green Warbler	Sept. 16	12	Northumberland Forest	BJW
	Oct. 2	2	Upper Cold Springs	SW
Yellow Palm Warbler	Oct. 1	1	Presqu'île PP	CEG
Blackpoll Warbler	Sept. 16	4	Northumberland Forest	BJW
Common Yellowthroat	Sept. 7	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Lincoln's Sparrow	Sept. 15	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
White-throated Sparrow	Oct. 7	42	Lake St. Trail, PH	EK
Giant Swallowtail	Sept. 22	1	Port Hope backyard	DD
Northern Red-bellied Snake	Oct. 5	1	Lander Rd., Hamilton Twp., found dead	SW

**Observers:** MB=Margaret Bain; DD=Don Davis; BDiL=Bruce DiLabio; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=Ontario Field Ornithologists listserv; DSh=Don Shanahan; BJW=Ben Walters; SW=Susanne Williams.

## Thank you

Carole Payne thanks all those who helped staff the WBFN booth in the Environment Tent at Port Hope Fair in September: Ann Brightman, Ron Cooper, Mary Ann Cooper, Karen Drew, Simone Merey, Debora Panko, Ron Cole, John Geale, and Bill Logan.

## Membership News

- Congratulations to Ron and Cath Oberholtzer who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September.

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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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