



COMING EVENTS

Please note the meeting locations.

● **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, has been collecting and studying Lepidoptera for 60 years. He was a founding member of the Toronto Entomologist's Association. He is the prime author of the Ontario Butterfly Atlas. He discovered the South African butterfly, *Thestor holmesi*, in 1950. He also discovered *Euphes dukesi* as new to Ontario and also documented several important range extensions for other species.

● **Presqu'île Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, December 14, 2008.** Contact Maureen Riggs (613-475-3604 or mriggs @sympatico.ca) if you would like to participate. There will be a pot luck following the count at Stone Hedge in Presqu'île.

● **Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 20, 2008.** Contact Roger Frost (905-885-9615 or ekrf@eagle.ca) if you would like participate. Following the count, there will be a pot luck at Welcome United Church. Feeder counts are welcomed and can be phoned to Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552.

● **Friday, January 30, 2009, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting, Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario St., Cobourg**

Speaker: Ben Walters. **Topic: Avian Research in the Ganaraska Forest.** Ben will be giving a presentation on the research that he has been involved with in the past year. The presentation will wrap up his final year of research in the Ganaraska Forest. It will also include information on shorebird research which he helped with at Assateague Isalen National Seashore in Maryland and on Akimiski Island, Nunavut in James Bay.



WBFN SILENT AUCTION

Due to the success of last year's first ever WBFN silent auction, the Executive Committee thought it would be a good fundraiser for the coming year. So please mark your calendar. The next auction will be held at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, February 27, 2009.

Like last year, we will be counting on the generosity of members to donate to the cause. This year, Marguerite Short has kindly offered to collect donations for the auction. If you have items or a service that you feel is appropriate, or if you want to help, please contact Marguerite at 905-885-1420 or bring items to Marguerite at the monthly meeting.

There was a good mix of new and slightly used items last year, some expensive and some very inexpensive so that there was an opportunity to bring something home without too much guilt. So please, start thinking about the auction. It takes each one of us to make it work.

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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the January 2009 issue should be received by December 31, 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 January 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

PRESQU'ILE SHOREBIRDS

by Clive E. Goodwin

In our last issue I discussed the database and some of its idiosyncrasies. This month I thought it might be interesting to look at the numbers of a group that has been well covered over the years, the shorebirds at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, and see both the strengths and weaknesses of the database in tracking their numbers.

It's a timely topic, because the recent release of the Presqu'ile beach management plan prompted some generalizations about shorebird numbers there that were new to me, at least; and because the plan discussions themselves were guided in part by data from this database.

We have 19,408 shorebird records from the Park dating back to 1914 [which predates the Park itself], representing over 369,000 birds of 41 species, so we should be able to gain a very clear picture of the status of this group there. In many respects we can, although in practical terms we have only scattered records prior to 1975, and we have fewer than 105 records each of 18 species. Mainly these represent rarer birds such as the three phalaropes; although Upland Sandpiper breeds in the County but is very infrequently [22 records] seen at Presqu'ile, while Solitary Sandpiper [76 records] is likely overlooked, as it is a bird of more wooded wetlands and rarely appears on the beaches. This leaves 23 species that are seen with some regularity.

Four of these nest in the Park. We only have 150 records of American Woodcock - 391 birds - between 1974 and 2006, but this is surely much too low. Woodcocks arrive very early in the spring and are crepuscular, so most of our records relate either to birds heard performing their evening displays in the

spring, or sightings of birds searching for food after late snowstorms, or the occasional brood later on. Generally, we tend to miss woodcock.

Snipe are not quite so elusive, but they appear on the beaches infrequently at best, and most of our records again seem to relate chiefly to the birds' aerial displays. And mostly their displays between 1978 and 1998: until last spring snipe seemed to be gone from the Park. Last spring a bird was heard winnowing over Beach 4 for a month or so, perhaps because everywhere was so wet some new habitat developed, but I doubt if the bird will return next year. Possibly the increase in tree cover on the pannes has made the area unsuitable for snipe, as the decline has seemed progressive: from 1978 to '87 a yearly average of almost 60 birds was reported; the 11 years between 1987 and 1998 yielded fewer than 23 a year; and from 1999 to 2006 we could only manage 4 sightings annually.

The other two nesting species are Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper. They're birds of the waterfront and beaches, and they follow a rather similar pattern to the other shorebirds, except that Killdeer are very early: over the years we have had 217 in March and 696 in April, although the movements of both species peak in May. For this reason, and the fact that neither woodcock nor snipe appear to be regular beach users, we'll exclude the residents in the discussion below, and we'll cover the remaining species as a group.

Our records give a good picture of numbers over the course of a year. The following chart shows our total of migrant shorebirds by month:

April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
132	102,540	17,590	5,513	78,204	104,996	31,910	14,559	898	355,796

cont'd. from page 3

Note that May and September are the peak months, and that there are much higher total numbers in fall, at least in part because the birds tend to loiter. The spring movement is very concentrated: not just into May, but into the second half of May [our first record of over 100 birds is May 15] and the first week in June [we have no count over 100 after June 8]—yet in this three weeks we have had daily counts of up to 10,000 Dunlin alone!

Movement tapers off very dramatically after June 8, and continues low until the end of July – we have one anomalous count of 400 Semipalmated Sandpipers on July 19, 1996, but only 3 other counts of over 100 in July, and two of these were month-end.

There are some interesting variations between species over the fall movement – perhaps a topic for another Gleanings – but suffice it to say here that by October Dunlin replace Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers as the commonest shorebirds on the beaches, and by December only a few lingering Dunlin and Purple Sandpipers are usually around. The database is less clear on the patterns of beach use by the migrants, but it's clear that in spring numbers are concentrated on Beaches 1-4, while in fall the birds tend to be far more dispersed, and favour areas of algal build-up.

When we look at numbers per year the picture is far more complex. As our last full set of records is for 2006 I went back 30 years and took three ten-year blocks. 1977-86 averaged 10,404 birds annually, but actual annual totals ranged from a low 2896 to 22,757. For 1987-96 the figures were 10,242 annually, ranging between 6339 and 24,494; and the decade to 2006 yielded an average of 15,500

a year, with a low of 3368 and a high of 34,332. High years can follow low years, or not; there's no consistency. Whatever these annual figures mean, only the most foolhardy would draw conclusions about the trends in shorebird populations from them. The last decade is particularly puzzling, coming at a time when shorebirds are known to be declining, and when the new Brighton wastewater wetland could well be drawing some birds away from the Park.

My personal experience at Presqu'île over the years does indeed support some of the yearly variability. There are variations in water levels, in the degree of wetness of the beach, in the locations and amounts of algae, in the timing of the movements, in the presence or absence of observers and, of course, in the actual numbers of birds themselves; it's hard to be categorical. But the dramatic increase in numbers in the last decade suggested the counts themselves were one place to look, so I analyzed the records over this period.

It turns out that only 5 observers [A to E in the table below] contributed 85% of the records in this period, and the remaining ones were randomly distributed. Normally this would not be a problem, but the IBA ran a shorebird survey in 2001-3, and the Atlas was underway at the same time. Observer A was clearly influenced by the atlas: the observations dropped off from 2001. B's contributions grew over the period, but not enough to compensate for other reductions. C, the most prolific observer, ceased to record in 2003. D did not normally report, but made a strong contribution to the survey, while E made a major contribution to the survey but reported very inconsistently at other times.

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Obs.	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
A	185	209	146	123	116	93	85	94	77	65
B	8	72	87	177	204	140	152	257	235	186
C	763	406	234	47	903	649	132	0	0	0
D	0	1	0	0	110	113	0	0	0	5
E	8	21	39	42	167	471	414	20	22	1
Recs.	964	710	506	389	1500	1466	783	371	334	257
Birds	27.9	23.1	8.9	9.3	26.3	34.3	10.5	6.0	5.2	3.4

The resulting total records reported are shown above, with the total birds seen in thousands underneath. The correlation isn't exact – it doesn't need to be – but fairly clearly the variation in the numbers seen is mainly an artifact of the uneven coverage. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to draw any firm conclusions from the database about the relative abundance of shorebirds at Presqu'île in recent years.

So, although we have a mass of shorebird data from Presqu'île, and can gain a very precise picture of the pattern of migration, inconsistencies in the recent coverage from year to year make it almost impossible to gain a clear picture of population trends.

TREE PLANTING AT PLAINVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

On Thursday, October 23, Audrey Wilson, Simone Mérey, and John Geale attended a ceremony with the whole student body of Plainville Public School to celebrate the planting of trees purchased with the help of a \$250.00 gift from WBFN and donations from several other organizations. We were met by Rose Goodall, the Chair of the Parents' Council who took us to see the trees. In all, 100 spruce, two oaks, and eight maples (red, sugar and silver) had been planted by the Grade 6 students; it must have been a lot of hard work, and these students can feel justifiably proud of their efforts. School Trustee Gordon Gilchrist and Hamilton Mayor Mark Lovshin each congratulated the students on their work, and two Grade 6 students each spoke, thanking WBFN and the other contributors. Principal Mark Fisher introduced us to the students and explained that each year the Grade 6 class would be responsible for taking care of the trees. The oaks and maples have been planted in a circle which will be used as an outdoor classroom; no doubt the students will enjoy a change of scenery for some of their classes! Audrey told the students how different the schoolyard looked compared to 40 years ago when the row of pines beside us had just been planted and pointed out how beautiful their outdoor classroom would be 40 years in the future as their oaks and maples matured. A reception, including fruit punch, muffins and cookies finished off a very pleasant visit. Congratulations and thank you to Plainville Public School.

John Geale

“A RARE CHILEAN GULL”

by Margaret Bain

I once went to a lecture with the title “A Rare Chilean Gull” given by Dr. Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Of course it was a lecture on Herring Gulls, which are indeed rare in Chile! Chip’s area of study is wildlife toxicology, specifically in colonial breeding birds such as gulls and cormorants. Herring Gulls were selected as the most suitable species for monitoring environmental contaminants such as organochlorides in the Great Lakes, and from 1978-1984 and 1994-1998 a CWS colour-banding program was carried out by Glen Fox on Gull Island in Presqu’ile Provincial Park.

Now to the point of this tale: on March 22, 2007, I was birding in Cobourg harbour and, checking the usual crowd of gulls loafing about on the east pier, noticed a Herring Gull with several bands on each leg. It was an adult bird, already in shiny, new breeding plumage. On its right leg was a metal band with a yellow plastic band below it and a grayish-blue band below that. On the left leg the bands were black over green over white. I tried to read the numbers on the metal band through my scope, but they were so worn that I couldn’t make them out. I sent these details in to the Banding Office at CWS, and recently heard back from Glen Fox with a history of the banded gull.

NLW/AYB (816-84932) was a female Herring Gull trapped and banded on a nest on Gull Island in the summer of 1995. She was already in full adult plumage, so assumed to be a minimum of 4 years old at that

time, making her age in 2007 at least 16 years. She nested successfully each year of the study from 1995 through 1998 but had two different partners during that time, both also banded and thus identifiable as different individuals.

When I saw her on the Cobourg pier, she looked healthy and in very good condition, in spite of her relatively advanced years. Herring Gulls are a long-lived species. Longevity studies at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland give the age of the oldest known Herring Gull as 28. Some of Glen’s banded gulls have reached more than 20 years of age, so as he says: “These are strong, tough, and clever birds!”

The Herring Gulls banded at Presqu’ile Provincial Park have never been found breeding anywhere else, year after year. Some of them do move around Lake Ontario in the fall and winter, with quite a few sightings from the Niagara River in winter, but they always go back to Presqu’ile to nest, close to where they themselves were born.

My thanks go to Chip Weseloh and Glen Fox for their generous help with obtaining this banding information and for sharing their expert knowledge of this common but fascinating species. I would urge all North-umberland birders to look a little more closely at the Herring Gulls they come across, so that they too may be able to add more information to our still limited understanding of this “everyday” species.

Audrey Wilson Honoured

The Official Opening of Phase One and Two of the New Marsh Boardwalk at Presqu'ile Provincial Park

As the morning sun broke through the clouds and filtered through fresh moist air, about 70 people, including many from WBFN, gathered in the parking area adjacent to the marsh boardwalk amidst greetings and laughter. We were all in that spot for the official opening which was to follow. Officials addressed us from a make-shift platform while, appropriately, fall robins commented from the trees around us.

As all naturalists know, Presqu'ile marsh is classified as a Provincially Significant wetland. Boardwalks and viewing stations are essential so that people may experience and appreciate marshes without harming the sensitive ecosystems. The previous boardwalk was originally constructed in 1979, and closed in 2005, having deteriorated to the point where public safety became a concern. The " Friends of Presqu'ile " spearheaded a fundraising campaign which has raised \$280,000 to date! The Teaching Pod (or Viewing Deck), "Audrey's Place" was constructed as a result of her generous donation of \$25,000 early in the campaign.

The volunteer construction crew has donated to date 4760 hrs. and has worked under extremely cold and hot conditions --- in fact, from the coldest to the hottest there was a spread of 50 degrees. All labour, tools, and machinery were donated.

After a view of the tower which easily supported all 70 people, we all walked through the cool shade of the cedars to "Audrey's Place". The sun warmed us as we assembled on the "Viewing Deck". The plaque recognizing Audrey's generosity and her decades of support for the park was unveiled and Audrey, as well as Bill Wilson (no relation) who headed the work crew, addressed the gathering as the water of the marsh lapped against the Pod.

The next step is the completion of the boardwalk itself which will follow the footprint of the former walk, so that disturbance to the marsh is minimized. The Teaching Pod will be invaluable for outdoor education activities, something that we all know is dear to Audrey's heart.

Although the fundraising so far has been very successful, a last push is needed to complete the project. Individuals as well as groups who still wish to participate may do so by sending a donation to

Friends of Presqu'ile Boardwalk Fund.
Box 1442, Brighton On. K0K 1H0.

Charitable receipts are issued for amounts over \$10.00.

Bill and Lori Wensley

IN MEMORIAM
Peter Landry
1921-2008

Peter Landry, one of the founders of Willow Beach Field Naturalists , died at his home in Montreal on October 15, 2008.

Prior to coming to Port Hope, Peter served in the RCAF as a radar technician with the Thunderbird Squadron, in the infancy of radar, and was mentioned in dispatches. He joined the staff of Trinity College School in 1949 where he taught physics and mathematics. He subsequently taught at St. Joseph's Teachers College in Montreal and at McGill University. He received his B.Eng. and M.Sc. from McGill and his M.A. from Columbia University in New York.

Peter was a founding and life member of WBFN. He started keeping the club's records of sightings and encouraged other members to do so. He did much early research on bird sightings in this area by consulting with Jim Baillie at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Those members who attended the WBFN 50th Anniversary celebration will remember being entertained and informed by Peter's remarks about the early days of the club.

- by Elizabeth Kellogg with information from Geoff Dale, Ted McDonald and the Globe and Mail

Some members who heard Alison Elliott's presentation about her experiences in Uganda last summer wanted more information. Below are the web addresses for her trip blog and for the Jane Goodall Institute.

My trip blog: www.jgiteachertraining.blogspot.com

JGI Website: www.janegoodall.ca

Teachers with environmental education experience are welcome to apply for a spot on a future project with the Jane Goodall Institute.

To financially support this project, donations (made out to Jane Goodall Institute Canada) can be sent care of Alison Elliott at 1032 Brand Road, R.R.#3 Port Hope, ON L1A 3V7. Tax receipts are provided.

Thank you to WBFN and individual members of the club for their support of this project.

- Alison Elliott

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Snow Goose (white)	Oct. 10	1ad	Cobourg Harbour - Greater Snow Goose	MB, CEG, LW
	Oct. 22	15	Trent River in Campbellford	SP
Brant	Oct. 24	1	Cobourg Harbour	BE
	Oct. 30	2	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Cackling Goose	Oct. 10 & 13	1	Cobourg Harbour, very small dark bird	MB, CEG
	Oct. 19	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Tundra Swan	Oct. 30	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Canvasback	Oct. 29	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Surf Scoter	Oct. 12	3	Cobourg Harbour	EK, RF
	Oct. 15	20	off Port Hope west beach	RF
White-winged Scoter	Oct. 19	30	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Black Scoter	Oct. 10	3	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Oct. 15	1	off Port Hope west beach	RF
	Nov. 1	3f/imm	Chub Point	MB
Red-breasted Merganser	Oct. 23	4000+	off Cobourg west beach	MB
Ruffed Grouse	Nov. 3	1	St. Mark's Church, PH	JGoe
Red-throated Loon	Nov. 1	2	off Cobourg west beach	MB
	Nov. 1	1	Chub Point	MB
Common Loon	Oct. 11	620+	Lucas Point, Cob.	MB
	Oct. 13	123	off Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
	Oct. 18, 23	450+	off Cobourg west beach	MB
	Nov. 1	122	off Cobourg west beach	MB
Horned Grebe	Oct. 11	74	Wicklow Beach	MB
	Oct. 11	40	Lucas Point, Cob.	MB
	Oct. 13	17	off Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Red-necked Grebe	Oct. 23	1	Cobourg east beach, dead	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	Oct. 3	13	PH west pier	ERM
American Bittern	Oct. 17	1	Presqu'ile marsh	RPo, GMCD
Great Egret	Oct. 10	1	Presqu'ile marsh	RPo, GMCD
Osprey	Oct. 30	1	6th Line, PH Ward 2	BLeS
Bald Eagle	Oct. 2	1ad	over Hwy. 2 just e. of Cob.	MB
Northern Goshawk	Oct. 22	1ad	migrant, just e. of Port Hope harbour	MB
Red-tailed Hawk	Oct. 30	60+	over Brighton	RDM, SP
Golden Eagle	Oct. 28	10	Grafton area	RF
	Oct. 30	6	over Brighton	RDM, SP
Peregrine Falcon	Sept. 17/18	1/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 15	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK
	Oct. 31	1	Cobourg west headland	MB
	Nov. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Coot	Oct. 16-19	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Oct. 20-24	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Sandhill Crane	Oct. 30	3	over Brighton	RDM, SP
Black-bellied Plover	Oct. 8	8	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 12	8	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
American Golden Plover	Sept. 6	1	Presqu'ile PP	LW
	Oct. 26	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Solitary Sandpiper	Oct. 11	1juv	mouth of Cobourg Creek - late	MB
Willet	Sept. 6	1	Presqu'ile PP	LW
Red Knot	Sept. 6	1	Presqu'ile PP	LW
Sanderling	Oct. 31	7	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Western Sandpiper	Sept. 6	1	Presqu'ile PP	LW
Least Sandpiper	Oct. 13	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG

Sightings - cont'd.

Purple Sandpiper	Oct. 24-27	1	Cobourg Harbour	RP, M.Obs.
	Oct. 26	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh
	Oct. 29	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	BL
Dunlin	Aug. 9	3	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Red-necked Phalarope	Oct. 26	1	Cobourg Harbour	RF, M.Obs.
Red Phalarope	Oct. 27	1	Cobourg Harbour	RDM, M.Obs.
Little Gull	Oct. 26	1ad.	Cobourg Harbour	RP, M.Obs.
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct. 31	1200+	Lucas Point, flying west	MB
Iceland Gull	Oct. 24	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh
Great Black-backed Gull	Oct. 3	3	PH west pier	ERM
	Oct. 29	1ad.	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob., dead	MB
Black-legged Kittiwake	Oct. 31	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Oct. 31	1	Huff Rd. & Lake Ontario	MR
Snowy Owl	Oct. 19, 24, 28	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB, ERM
	Oct. 30	3	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Nov. 7	1	s. of Grafton	NH
Short-eared Owl	Oct. 12	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Oct. 16	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Oct. 6	1	Sherbourne St., PH	AMcL
Red-headed Woodpecker	Oct. 13	2	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Eastern Kingbird	Oct. 4	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob., record late	MB
Blue-headed Vireo	Oct. 22	1	Lake St. Marsh Trail, PH	EK
Horned Lark	Oct. 30	10	Cobourg Harbour algae	MB
Bank Swallow	Aug. 10	35	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Carolina Wren	Oct. 7	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 15	18	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oct. 6	6	Young St., PH	NW
Eastern Bluebird	Oct. 27	89	Lakeshore Rd/Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	NM, Ontbirds
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oct. 6	1	multiflora rose hedge, Albert St., Cob.	MB
	Oct. 17	1	Presqu'ile PP	CEG
Hermit Thrush	Oct. 14	10	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Wood Thrush	Oct. 11	1	Cobourg Harbour west headland - late	MB
American Robin	Oct. 27	225+	Lakeshore Rd/Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	NM, Ontbirds
Northern Mockingbird	Oct. 10	1	Lakeshore Rd/Wesleyville OPG, west gate	MB
Cedar Waxwing	Oct. 27	175+	Lakeshore Rd/Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	NM, Ontbirds
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct. 2	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
	Oct. 7	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK
Cape May Warbler	Oct. 18	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Oct. 6	6	Payne Cres., PH	AT
Palm Warbler	Oct. 4	4	foot of Durham St., Cob.	MB
Blackpoll Warbler	Oct. 13	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Redstart	Oct. 17	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Scarlet Tanager	Oct. 4	1m	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Oct. 6	1	Payne Cres., PH	AT
Chipping Sparrow	Oct. 4	20	foot of Durham St., Cob.	MB
Fox Sparrow	Oct. 4	1	Cobourg Ecology Garden	MB
	Oct. 22	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 31	1	Cobourg feeders	MB
Lapland Longspur	Oct. 28	1+	Cobourg Harbour among Snow Buntings	MB
Pine Siskin	Nov. 2	46	Bowmanton Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	KD
Black Swallowtail	Oct. 4	1m	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB
Mink	Oct. 11	1	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB
Black Bear	Oct. 21	1	Presqu'ile PP	Sun Media

Observers - page 11

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; GMCD=Geoff Dale; DD=Don Davis; KD=Karen Drew; BE=Bill Edmunds; RF=Roger Frost; JGoe=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; NH=Naomi Higgins; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BLeS=Barbara LeSueur; ERM=Ted McDonald; AMcL=Andy McLauchlan; NM=Norm Murr; RPo=Bob Popham; RDM=Doug McRae; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=Ontario Field Ornithologists listserv; SP=Sarah Petresek; RP=Richard Pope; MR=Maureen Riggs; DSh=Don Shanahan; AT=Anne Tesluk; NW=Norma Wallace; LW=Lorie Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams.

Tri-National Monarch Butterfly Monitoring Workshop Saltillo, Mexico – October 27 – 29/08

Eight Canadian delegates, including WBFN member Don Davis, attended this three day workshop in Northern Mexico. We were greeted, for the most part, with warm sunny days, and temperatures exceeding 20 C! At this time of year, large numbers of monarchs are soaring over this city, located between two mountain ranges, towards the overwintering sites in Michoacan:

Agenda and Background Paper for Workshop: <http://www.cec.org/calendar/details/index.cfm?ID=2111&varlan=English>

Description of what we did: http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/CitizenScience_CECOct2008.html

Photographs from the workshop field trip – go to October 28, 2008 on this blog (scroll down the page): <http://monarchchaser.wordpress.com/>. Look for familiar faces!



Wanted

Your Involvement in the Cobourg Creek Watershed Plan

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and its partners invite you to attend an open house on the Cobourg Creek Watershed Plan. Learn about this valuable natural resource: what lives there, what grows there, how the water flows. Learn about suggested management actions needed to protect the Cobourg Creek Watershed into the future. Let's work together to preserve this natural treasure for generations to come.

**Tuesday, November 18, 2008
12:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
at the Northumberland Mall, west corridor**

For more information please contact Pam Lancaster, Stewardship Technician at plancaster@grca.on.ca or 905-885-8173 x 247

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

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

Annual membership fees are:

Family - \$25 Single - \$23

Cheques for membership should be made out to Willow Beach Field Naturalists and sent to: The Treasurer, Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3Z3. A receipt for Income Tax purposes will be provided for your membership fee as well as for any donation. Willow Beach Field Naturalists is a Registered Charitable organization.



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