



## COMING EVENTS

*Please note the meeting locations.*

● **Friday, February 27, 2009, 7 p.m. - Annual General Meeting - Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. South, Port Hope**

Speaker: **Rory Quigley, Arborist for the Town of Cobourg.** Topic: **Urban Forestry.**

His presentation will include a history of local trees, the relationship of trees to insects, animals and the environment, and urban forest challenges such as disease control. Rory Quigley has been with the Town of Cobourg for more than 18 years. He ran the Town's Greenhouses for much of that time. His full time attention is now in the area of Urban Forestry working closely with the Building and Planning Departments and with the new GIS Department and the new mapping system. Rory is an active member of the International Society of Arboriculture, Ontario Chapter, and as a board member, participates in many sub-committees such as the Ontario Tree Climbing Championships and its Conference and Education Committee. He has lived in the Cobourg area all his life with his lovely wife Denice and children Pat and Meg.

**Silent Auction:** List of items received by press time is on pages 8 and 9.

**Social Time.** Bring your own mug.

**Reports** on pages 3-7

**Note the early start time.**

● **Friday, March 27, 2009, 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting, Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario St., Cobourg**

Speaker: To be announced

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- The sympathy of the club is extended to Rene Chenevert and family on the death of Alice Chenevert on January 27. Although not currently members of WBFN, they were active members for many years.



## Reminder - 2009 Membership Fees

Willow Beach Field Naturalists fees for 2009 are now due. Payments can be made at the February meeting, or they can be mailed to The Treasurer, Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3Z3

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40790538  
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BOX 421  
PORT HOPE, ON L1A 3Z3

### THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Simone Mérey.....	905-885-8347 .....	smerey@nhb.com
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Treasurer	Rae Waring .....	905-372-9350 .....	waringrm@sympatica.ca
FON Rep.	Carole Payne.....	05-885-6135 .....	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 March 2009 issue should be received by February 28, 2009. 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 March Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I find it hard to believe that five years have passed since I was nominated to the executive board of WBFN. I had been a member of the club for several years, but not an active member. Russell Lake contacted me to inquire if I would stand for an executive position. I immediately declined, but informed Russell I would reconsider my decision in the future. The future arrived approximately one week later, with a second phone call. I asked Russell what qualifications were required for the position and he informed me that my interest in birding was sufficient. It is an honor to represent the membership of WBFN.

The primary focus of the executive during the past year has been environmental concerns and public education. The executive has taken a strong stand with regards to the issue of off-road vehicles having access to public roadways, and lands for recreational use. Members have attended several municipal and township meetings to express our concerns regarding environmental damage, and safety issues surrounding ATV usage. In addition, letters were forwarded to all councils within Northumberland County to express our concerns and relay recommendations. To all those members who attended meetings, and who wrote letters of support - Thank you.

Consultation with Ontario Parks representative, Curt Morris, has been positive, and we will see new signage, an updated visitors guide, and improved walkways in Peter's Woods during 2009. I want to acknowledge Petra Hartwig and Chris Drew for their time and effort in managing the stewardship of Peter's Woods.

Clive Goodwin authored a paper for submission to Ontario Parks, outlining the memberships' concerns, and recommendations regarding the management plan for the beaches at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, particularly during shorebird migration. Thank you, Clive.

Similarly, Bob Short wrote a submission on behalf of the club to Ontario Parks expressing concerns regarding changes to the hunting regulations within the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park.

Carole Payne, our Ontario Nature Representative, continues to energetically support all things WBFN. Carole attends meetings and keeps the membership well informed of all activities at Ontario Nature.

This year, we were successful in our nomination of Audrey Wilson for an Ontario Nature Achievement Award. Audrey was presented the W.W.H. Gunn Conservation Award on June 7, 2008 at the Ontario Nature A.G.M. Congratulations Audrey - a well deserved recognition.

Ben Walters has contributed a significant amount of his personal time to the club the past year, serving as second vice president, organizing outings, as well as being our environmental representative and our representative on the Forest Advisory Committee.

Attendance at the general meetings remains strong. This can be attributed to the efforts of our program's coordinators, Susanne Williams and Deborah Panko in attracting quality speakers.

Rae Waring has taken over as treasurer, and he has done an excellent job of managing our finances. Contributions to organizations during the past year included: The Northumberland Land Trust, the Friends of Presqu'ile Board Walk Fund, the Owl Foundation, Turtle Trauma Centre, Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, F.L.A.P., Lone Pine Marsh and the Jane Goodall Institute.

Karen Drew remains as our secretary and does an amazing job of attending every executive meeting to read the minutes and keep everyone informed.

Roger Frost has continued to organize the Christmas Bird Count, the Northumber-

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land Summer Bird Count as well as the Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey. In addition, Roger and Elizabeth Kellogg continue their banding of songbirds and saw-whet owls.

I cannot express enough gratitude to Elizabeth Kellogg, our Curlew Editor. Elizabeth spends a significant amount of her personal time producing our newsletter. Thank you, Elizabeth, and Norma Wallace.

Bruce Parker remains as our Educational Coordinator. WBFN awarded three educational scholarships this past year. The successful candidates included Plainville Public School, Beatrice Strong Public School and Notre Dame Public School.

John Geale, in addition to being a director, has been active with environmental issues and keeps everyone informed of club activities and interests via the internet. Gina McFarlane is our media coordinator and our representative on the GRCA with regards to the development of the Fisheries Management Plan for the Cobourg Creek watershed.

During the past year, the club had a booth at the Living Green Fair, the Roseneath Spring Festival and the Port Hope Fair. I believe it is important for the club to be present

in the public eye to provide educational information. Thank you to all the volunteers who attended those activities.

Thank you to Barry and Margaret Robinson who make sure everyone receives the current issue of the Curlew. This is a very time consuming task.

Thanks you to Jim and Emma Sandham for organizing the name tags for the membership. I can assure you this is appreciated by everyone. Marguerite and Bob Short - thank you for organizing the meeting raffles and storing all the donated items.

Louise Schmidt, our first vice-president and Trent River Conservation Authority representative: Thank you for your support during the past year.

To the club directors: Roger Frost, Bill Newell, Audrey Wilson, Barry Robinson and John Geale - a sincere thank you for your timely comments and guidance.

Finally, I want to thank all of the members who have contacted me during the past year with your suggestions or concerns regarding club activities and direction. Your comments are appreciated.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Michael Biggar*

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## **Willow Beach Field Naturalists Annual General Meeting Minutes** **Terry Fox Public School – February 29, 2008, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Call to Order:**

Refreshments were served while members socialized and bid on silent auction items. Simone Mery called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. She welcomed everyone. 47 people were present.

### **Reports:**

#### Minutes:

**Motion** by Bill Crowley to adopt the AGM Minutes of Feb. 23, 2007 as is. Seconded by Marg Short. Carried.

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*(Continued from page 4)*

President's Report:

**Motion** by Jean Wilson to confirm actions of the Executive Board since the last AGM, as per the President's Report. Seconded by Bob Short. Carried.

Financial Report:

**Motion** by Janette Johnston that the Financial Report be accepted. Seconded by Carole Payne. Carried.

Constitutional Amendments

**Motion** by Bill Newell that the amendment associated with WBFN Affiliation be accepted. Seconded by Louise Schmidt. Carried.

**Motion** by Janet Lake that the amendment associated with the Duties of Officers be accepted. Seconded by Bryan Baxter. Carried.

**Motion** by Russell Lake that the amendment associated with The Property Committee and Fund be accepted. Seconded by Bob Short. Carried.

**Motion** by Barry Robinson that the amendment associated with the Fiscal Auditor be accepted. Seconded by Ben Walters. Carried.

Nomination Committee / Election of Board Members:

Bryan Baxter, Past President & Chair of the Nominating Committee put forward the following names for two year terms:

President – Michael Biggar

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Louise Schmidt

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Ben Walters

Treasurer – Ray Waring

Membership – Bruce Parker

Directors- John Geale, Doug Robertson, Barry Robinson

Past President – Simone Merey

**Motion** by Bryan Baxter to accept the Nominating Committee Report. Seconded by Bill Crowley. Carried. Further nominations were called from the floor and none were forthcoming.

**Motion** by Carole Payne that nominations from the floor for President be closed. Seconded by Bill Newell. Carried.

**Motion** by Ben Walters that nominations from the floor for 1<sup>st</sup> VP be closed. Seconded by Russell Lake. Carried.

**Motion** by Bob Short that nominations from the floor for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP be closed. Seconded by Louise Schmidt. Carried.

**Motion** by Carole Payne that nominations from the floor for Treasurer be closed. Seconded by Ben Walters. Carried.

**Motion** by Ben Walters that nominations from the floor for Directors be closed. Seconded by Louise Schmidt. Carried.

Bryan Baxter congratulated the new board members.

Announcements:

Simone Merey congratulated Ben Walters for receiving the Robert J.T. Page Award for Envi-

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ronmental Science at Trent University.

Sightings:

At 8:05 pm, Elizabeth Kellogg solicited bird sightings from the members present.

Presentation:

At 8:10 pm Carole Payne introduced the presenter Alison Elliott. Alison gave the club a very interesting presentation on her trip to the Arctic with Students on Ice last August.

At 9:05 pm, Carole Payne thanked Alison for giving the club such an interesting presentation. The silent auction winners were then announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

**Willow Beach Field Naturalists  
2009 Nominating Committee Report**

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

The 2009 Committee consists of the Immediate Past-President, Simone Mérey, Past-President Bryan Baxter, the President Michael Biggar, and members Louise Schmidt and Bruce Parker.

At the AGM in 2007 Directors Roger Frost, Bill Newell, Audrey Wilson and Secretary Karen Drew were elected for a two year term ending in 2009.

Directors Bill Newell, Audrey Wilson and Secretary Karen Drew have consented to let their name stand for election for another term.

Gina McFarlane, Press Coordinator, and Petra Hartwig, Peter's Woods Coordinator have also agreed to let their name stand for election as Director for a two year term.

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

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee

Simone Mérey, Chair



**Silent Auction**  
**WBFN Annual General Meeting**  
**Friday February 27, 2009**

We will be having another Silent Auction this year at our AGM meeting. Money generated goes to the WBFN educational grants given each year to local schools for nature related endeavours. School children are the next generation of naturalists. Please support this cause and have a fun evening.

On the night of the auction items will be on display at 7pm. Please start your bids during this social time prior to the meeting. (You may wish to bring your own mug). There will be another short break during the evening for revising your bid and then bidding will close.

The auction is **cash and carry**, with **cash** or **personal cheque** accepted as payment. Bidding will be in increments of **no less than \$1.00** to make collecting of cash easier. Winners will be announced before the end of the evening and items must be paid for and taken away that night.

For those unable to attend peruse the items, have a friend bid/pay on your behalf.

I would like to thank all who have donated items for the auction. It is greatly appreciated. Please forgive if I have left any names from the list. For more information contact Marguerite Short at 905-885-1420 or mb.short@sympatico.ca

**ITEMS DONATED FOR SILENT AUCTION**

*This list may not be complete. Some donations may be received after the press time for the Curlew.*

	<b>ITEM DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DONATED BY</b>
1.	Peterson Guide - Mexican Birds	
2.	Large Hand-painted glass sun catcher, 24" round	Don Davis
3.	3 unframed paintings - signed H. Thompson	Andy McLauchlan
4.	Miniature Brant Decoy - carved by Larry Fell	Michael Biggar
5.	Bird seed Lot	
6.	Bluebird House	Michael Biggar
7.	Small Quilted wall hanging - Hummingbird	Louise Schmidt
8.	Crystal Butterfly Curio	Louise Schmidt
9.	Mexican Folk Art Mobile	Louise Schmidt
10.	Quilted wall hanging - Cardinals - plus hanger	Marguerite Short
11.	Birdfeeder	
12.	Afghan - handmade by Alice Stephenson	Anita McLauchlan
13.	Ontario Parks package - pass Apr. 1-Nov. 30, 2009, plus T-Shirt and bag	Curt Morris, Acting Park Super., Darlington Provincial Park
14.	Mexican Ceramic	
15.	Serving Dish	Don Davis
16.	Bowl on Stand	
17.	Blue Bowl	
18.	Ceramic Salt and Pepper set	
19.	Novelty X's and O's	
20.	Brass Bird wall hangings (2)	Don Davis
21.	China "Wildflower Angel"	
22.	The Birders Handbook	
23.	Leather Bag (Business)	Don Davis
24.	Wooden Desk Top Memo & Card Holder	
25.	2 Booklets - Gardening Ecologically & Parents Guide to a Child's Garden	Kathryn McHolm

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Donations  
cont'd.

26.	Set of 2 Framed Pictures	
27.	Set of 2 Oval Framed Pictures	Andy McLauchlan
28.	Framed Picture - Orchid	Carol Knapper
29.	Ceramic Hot plate	Carol Knapper
30.	Antique Pottery Vase	Carol Knapper
31.	Book - "Chesapeake Gardens & Houses"	
32.	Embroidery kit	
33.	Book - Birds of Canada - 'coffee table book'	
34.	Mexican Folk Art Picture	Helen Hunt

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## Gleanings from the Northumberland Bird Database

### THE 2008 BIRD YEAR IN REVIEW

by Clive E. Goodwin

What a difference a year makes! The drought and heat of 2007 left us with the lowest autumn lake levels in some 70 years. A huge swath of Cobourg harbour was dry and the beaches at Presqu'ile seemed to have quadrupled in size. It all started to change in December, and by the end of the first week in February 2008 we already had a full winter's worth of snow. Now [in January 2009] we seem to be well into the second severe winter in a row, and are looking back at a year that recorded some of the wettest weather on record. Cobourg harbour and Presqu'ile beaches are relatively normal again!

So what has all this to do with birds? As it turned out, a great deal. The wet spring resulted in very wet beaches at Presqu'ile, which in turn attracted abundant shorebirds. It was the best spring shorebird migration there in years. Lush growth with the wet summer yielded optimal breeding conditions for birds, and abundant food for fall migrants as plant growth continued into autumn. On the other hand, by then relatively high water levels seemed to result in quite limited habitat for southbound shorebirds, and their movement then was lackluster.

Whether due to the higher water levels, the generally cooler summer or some other

causes, the botulism outbreak was much less pronounced in 2008, and there was some recovery in the Great Black-backed Gull numbers. On the other hand Common Terns continued their long-term decline, with this summer's numbers the lowest we have ever recorded in 16 years in Cobourg, with the exception of 2001, when coverage was exceptionally poor. Worse still, the numbers of young, normally about 50% of the totals, were reduced to 2 or 3 birds. It is thought that competition with Ring-billed Gulls for nest sites is the main cause of the decline. At this rate, these elegant birds will soon be things of the past on the Great Lakes.

Common Tern was not the only tern species to make the news last year. The year's rarest bird was one of the few species even more graceful than a Common Tern: an Arctic Tern appeared at Presqu'ile on May 22, and presumably the same bird made a couple of passes through Cobourg harbour on May 29, watched by a group of captivated observers, and then appeared at Port Hope three days later. We've had two or three prior reports of Arctic Terns, but only one was convincingly described. It's a bird that is particularly distinctive in flight, when its shorter bill,

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long tail and graceful flight give it a quite different 'look' to the familiar Common Tern, but an observer unfamiliar with the species can easily make a mistake.

Unlike 2007, last year yielded relatively few other 'extreme' rarities – usually considered to be birds that have been recorded 10 or fewer times in the County – and most were at Presqu'ile. A Snowy Egret there on May 18 was our 9<sup>th</sup>, a Prothonotary Warbler on May 12 was our 10<sup>th</sup>, and a Kentucky Warbler on May 5, this time at Port Hope, was the 7<sup>th</sup>. Just outside my arbitrary line was a Varied Thrush for the second year in a row, on October 2. This was another Presqu'ile sighting, and the 11<sup>th</sup> for the County.

This is not to say it was a boring year. As usual, there was a good showing of species that were noteworthy for one reason or another. 2008 started with a long-staying flock of 5 Greater White-fronted Geese in Port Hope. The birds obligingly moved around and their numbers finally grew to 6, a new high count for us. Then there were the usual rarer ducks appearing, mainly at Presqu'ile, with Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Ducks and Barrow's Goldeneye. The latter was present for an exceptionally long time before disappearing in early March. Our first Eared Grebe records in 5 years were birds or a bird at Presqu'ile in late September and on November 15. Another Gyrfalcon turned up – the 6<sup>th</sup> since 2000 – yet again at Presqu'ile in November. And a Western Sandpiper at Presqu'ile on April 29 was only our 9<sup>th</sup> for spring.

Then we had a King Rail report that turned the tables on location, because this time it was not at Presqu'ile, the site of most of our 17 records. King Rails are rare Provincially, and breed mainly in large marshes in the south-west, but birds have long been recorded from Presqu'ile, and we have historical records from the adjacent Murray Canal as recently as 1995, as well as on much ear-

lier dates from Carr's Marsh and at Willow Beach. All of these are putative nesting records, and the date of the current record – July 24 - implies at least a summering bird. But the location is quite new, a marshy area west of Warkworth.

Some species were noteworthy for their numbers seen. Once again the continued increase in Mute Swans set new records: the 2008 high at Presqu'ile was 471 birds on December 14. This compares with the previous winter's high of 464, as this aggressive bird continues its expansion. Our first record was of two resident at Canton in 1940, and it was not until December 1995 that more than 10 were reported at one time, ominously then from Presqu'ile. The 27 Great Egret nests at Presqu'ile were signs of a more welcome expansion: our first nesting was in 2000. Golden Eagles continue to appear more often. We had a high of 9 in 1995, but it was not until 1999 that we were seeing consistently higher numbers, and 2008's 18 was our first total in double figures. It was the product of two counts of 10 and 6 at the end of October, which suggests there are many more eagles passing than we see. Undoubtedly this is mostly because the birds pass well north of the shoreline – for example, I have only seen four Golden Eagles from the Cobourg harbour area in 16 years.

There were a few outstanding single counts. Three Parasitic Jaegers off Coverdale Park in Cobourg on November 19 was remarkable for a species that many [most?] birders in the County have never seen. Then, in the light of the serious decline of Red Knot, the Presqu'ile count of 240 on May 29 was encouraging. Similarly, Purple Martins rarely provide good news these days, so a one-hour count of 175, while still far from earlier fall totals, was heartening.

Finally, to the winter incursions: flights were good at both ends of the year. Late winter brought good numbers of both Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls, and there were large num-

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bers of Bohemian Waxwings. It was one of the largest flights ever, as counts of 150 were fairly common, and 175 were seen on March 20 from north of Port Hope. There was also a waxwing count of 500 birds near Brighton on January 27, which was very high for either species.

Later in the year movements of White-

winged Crossbills were being seen as early as July 25 – hardly winter! The huge movement this winter is still continuing as I write, with flocks flying past the window – and its scale seems comparable with the enormous influx of 1985. It forms a fitting conclusion to the 2008 year.

### **Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekends March 14-15, 21-22/2009, 10 am to 4 pm**

Presqu'ile Provincial Park will again be hosting waterfowl viewing weekend, where nature enthusiasts can come and appreciate one of the great natural spectacles on earth - the return of migrating waterfowl to their staging areas along the lower Great Lakes. Presqu'ile is well situated to experience this phenomenon with close viewing and a good variety of species. Seeing 20 different species of waterfowl in a day is not unusual and 25+ species are usually tallied during the season. During viewing weekend, volunteers with scopes are situated at key areas to help visitors find and ID the different species. The Nature Centre, featuring “ducky” displays and children's activities is open 10 am to 3 pm and the Lighthouse Centre with hot drinks and snacks and the Friends Gift store is open 10 am to 4 pm. A Bushnell representative is usually on hand on weekends to answer your questions and show you the latest in optical equipment.

If you want to come learn about ducks this is a great opportunity. If you are interested in coming out and helping with duck ID or in one of the Visitors Centres, I would be more than happy to hear from you. For more information on the event or on volunteering, please contact David Bree at 613-475-4324 ext 225 or david.bree@ontario.ca

### **OOPS!**

Sorry to have published incorrect dates for the Great Backyard Bird Count in the January *Curlew*. This event is only 4 days long, February 13, 14, 15 and 16, not two weeks long, as published in January.

## **2009 Young Ornithologists' Workshop Teen Birders Invited to Apply!**

The 2009 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund's Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario from Friday, July 31 to Sunday, August 9. Participants will receive hands-on field ornithology training, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13 - 17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 30, 2009. For more information and an application form, contact the Landbird Programs Coordinator at [lpbo@birdscanada.org](mailto:lpbo@birdscanada.org), or visit the Bird Studies Canada website.

*- from Bird Studies Canada e-newsletter, January 9, 2009*

## **Cambridge Monarch Recovered in Mexico Bearing Special Tag**

A few years ago, monarch enthusiast John Powers of Cambridge, Ontario, created his own special monarch butterfly tag in tribute to Canadian conservationist "Wild Goose" Jack Miner, who put Bible quotes on his Canada Geese bird bands. John's monarch tags bore an identifying number, website address and a Bible quote. Some thought that such a project was ill advised - mixing science and religion. However, John's good intentions prevailed and John tagged a number of migrating monarchs with these tags.

I recently received the following message from my friend, California monarch enthusiast Paul Cherubini who, like John Powers and myself, began studying and tagging monarchs with the Urquharts in the 1960's:

"Last March 7/08, I purchased in Mexico at the El Rosario Sanctuary, 62 Monarch Watch tags, as well as two Brower tags and one strange tag with a religious message: <http://k85.photobucket.com/albums/k75/4af/jgp.jpg>. At the time, I thought the religious tag was an obvious "face" tag, or "hoax" tag, so I didn't examine it very closely.

Then today, when I was packaging the Monarch Watch tags to mail them to Kansas, I noticed the religious tag had the initials "JGP" which suddenly rang a bell "John Powers" in my mind. I further noticed the tag had a web address: <http://www.flyingjewels.com/>. So I looked it up and it was indeed the website of John Powers in Ontario!"

*- submitted by Don Davis*

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Roger Frost*

Trumpeter Swan	Jan. 4-31	1ad, 3juv	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
American Wigeon	Jan. 15-31	1 m	Cobourg Harbour	MB, m.obs.
Northern Pintail	Jan. 8/13	3/1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 8	4	Cobourg Harbour	JGo, BP, GMCD
Canvasback	Jan. 23	4	Port Hope yacht basin	BW
Redhead	Jan. 17	15	Cobourg Harbour	KN, m.obs.
<b>King Eider</b>	Jan. 11-13	1 fw.m	off Coverdale Park, then Lucas Point, Cob.	EK, MB, m.obs
Ruffed Grouse	Jan. 4	1	Knoxville Rd. & 6th, PH Ward 2	ERM
Pied-billed Grebe	Jan. 5, 8, 9	1	Ganaraska River mouth	ERM, m.obs.
			Cobourg Harbour (found dead on ice the next day_	
Double-crested Cormorant	Jan. 5	1 imm.		KN
Great Blue Heron	Jan. 22, 23, 31	1	over AKS Marsh, PH	EB
Bald Eagle	Jan. 2	2	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Jan. 8	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Northern Harrier	Jan. 8	1	Hwy. 2 & Zion Rd., PH Ward 2	SL
Northern Goshawk	Jan. 21	1	Cobourg Harbour - hunting pigeons	CEG
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov. 23	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
American Kestrel	Jan. 2	1	Hwy. 2 e. of Gage's Creek, PH	SL, NW
Peregrina Falcon	Jan. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Coot	Jan. 28	1	PH yacht basin	EK, RF
Ring-billed Gull	Feb. 1	200+	Cobourg Harbour - first spring migrants	CEG
Thayer's Gull	Jan. 22, 23, 31	1 ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
Iceland Gull	Jan. 4-31	1 ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Jan. 28	1	PH west beach	EK, RF
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Jan. 4, 17, 23	1 ad.	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
Glaucous Gull	Jan. 9	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 23	2 ad, 3 imm	Cobourg Harbour - high count	MB
Great Black-backed Gull	Jan. 6, 12	5 ad, 5 imm	Cobourg Harbour - high count	MB
Great Horned Owl	Jan. 27	1	Victoria St. S., PH	DC
	Jan. 31	1	Stuart St., Cob.	SMcC
Snowy Owl	Dec. 2	1	Cty. Rd. 9 & 18 by chip truck	DS
	Jan. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 4	1	Chadwick's garage, Cob.	ERM
	Jan. 11-13	1	Deer Park Rd, n. of Hwy. 401	RS
	Jan. 12	1	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2, n. of Hwy. 2	MB, ERM
	Jan. 15-17	1	DePalma Dr. & Burnham, Cob.	MR
	Feb. 3	1	Hwy. 2 w. of Theatre Rd.	AA
Long-eared Owl	Jan. 14	1	Ward St., PH	W&TG
	Jan. 26	2	Ward St., PH	W&TG
Boreal Owl	Jan. 18	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Jan. 24	1 found dead	Hwy. 45 1 km. n. of Dale Rd.	SP
Belted Kingfisher	Jan. 6, 11	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Jan. 11-13	1	Cobourg Creek, Peace Park	MB
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Jan. 4	1	s. of Canton dam, PH Ward 2	ERM
	Jan. 21	1	Gore's Landing	JW
Northern Flicker	Jan	1	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
Northern Shrike	Jan. 7	1	Durham St., PH - feeder	EK
	Jan. 20	1	Apple Orchard Rd. nr. 401	MR
	Jan. 27	1	Lander Rd. w. of Gore's Landing	DA
Common Raven	Jan. 18	2	Loyalist Rd., PH Ward 2	JC
	Feb. 1	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
Brown Creeper	Jan. 17	1	7th Line, Hamilton Twp.	SW
Carolina Wren	Jan. 13	1	Centennial Dr., PH, feeder	ERM

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Bluebird	Jan. 1-4	10	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 6	1	Osaca, PH Ward 2	CEG
	Jan. 17	4	Wesleyville/Mail Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
	Jan. 20	5	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
American Robin	Feb. 1	10	Durham St., PH	RF
Northern Mockingbird	Jan. 1	1	Lakeshore & Wesleyville Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
Bohemian Waxwing	Nov. 29-Dec. 6	2	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 23	40+	s. of Colborne	K&AB
Cedar Waxwing	Nov. 29-Dec. 6	200	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 27	50	Lakeport Rd.	CEG
American Tree Sparrow	Jan. 6	1	Young St., PH	NW
Chipping Sparrow	Jan. 1-28	1	Cobourg feeders - since Dec. 4	MB
Song Sparrow	Jan. 19-26	1	Welcome feeder	KMc
White-throated Sparrow	Jan. 1, 3, 4	1	Deblaire St., PH	GMCD
	Jan. 7	1	Durham St., PH - feeder	EK
Snow Bunting	Jan. 16	80	Baulch Rd., PH	SW
Common Grackle	Jan. 7	1	Cobourg west end	BM
Brown-headed Cowbird	Jan. 7	1	Cobourg west end	BM
Lapland Longspur	Jan. 11-24	3	Brand Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2	BW
Pine Grosbeak	Dec. 30	5	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 6	1	Presqu'île PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Jan. 31	15	Jack Gordon Rd., Hamilton Twp.	SW
Purple Finch	Jan. 15	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 30-31	6	Centennial Dr., PH, feeder	ERM
White-winged Crossbill	Dec. 7	100	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 4	50	Loyalist Rd., PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	Jan. 8	25+	Lakeshore & Brand Rd., PH Ward 2	JGo, BP, GMCD
	Jan. 9	100+	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 9	120	Toronto Rd. s. of 401 carpool lot	SW
	Jan. 14	30+	Centennial Dr. & Crossley, PH	SM
	Jan. 21	15	AKS Marsh trail, PH	EB
Common Redpoll	Jan. 9	30	Cobourg feeders - high count	MB
	Jan. 24	1 leucistic	Upper Cold Springs, Hamilton Twp.	SW
	Feb. 6	25	Upper Cold Springs, Hamilton Twp.	SW
Pine Siskin	Nov. 16-Jan. 15	150	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Jan. 14-21	40-90	Bloomsgrove Ave, PH	MR
	Jan. 14-30	60	Centennial Dr., PH, feeder	ERM
	Jan. 28	200	Durham St., PH - feeder	EK
American Goldfinch	Jan. 7	50	Durham St., PH - feeder	EK
	Jan. 14-30	60	Centennial Dr., PH, feeder	ERM
	Feb. 6	45	Upper Cold Springs, Hamilton Twp.	SW

**Observers:** AA=Adele Appleman; DA=David Acoma; EB=Erich Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; K&AB=Kim & Arn Bratt; AB=Ann Brightman; DC=Dan Christis; JC=Jane Currelly; GMCD=Geoff Dale; RF=Roger Frost; W&TG=Wendy & Todd Garrison; JGo=Jack Goering; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; SL=Susan Laing; BM=Bert MacMillan; SMC=Sheila McCoy; ERM=Ted McDonald; KMc=Kathryn McHolm; SM=Simone Merey; KN=Ken Niles, SP=Sarah Petrask; BP=Bob Popham; MR=Martha Robinson; DS=Dave Shirley; LS=Louise Schmidt; RS=Rhonda Shortreed; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; JW=Jane Weeks; SW=Susanne Williams.

## **Funding Available for Environmental Projects**

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) is looking for landowners interested in participating in the Clean Water – Healthy Land Financial Assistance Program offered within the Municipality of Clarington and the Municipality of Port Hope. This initiative is supported by the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Municipality of Clarington and the Municipality of Port Hope, and administered by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

Landowners, residents, community groups, schools and businesses can apply for financial assistance to complete stewardship projects that will benefit their watershed, local environment and environmental property values and assets.

“Projects such as well upgrades and decommissioning, livestock fencing and alternate watering sources, conservation tillage equipment and tree planting are eligible projects under the Clean Water – Healthy Land Financial Assistance Program” said Pam Lancaster, Stewardship Technician, “We are also looking forward to working with community groups on environmental initiatives.”

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority can assist applicants by providing technical advice. Those residents who do not require financial assistance or those who are outside of the program area may still approach the GRCA for assistance on stewardship.

For more information on the Clean Water – Healthy Land Financial Assistance Program, please contact:

Pam Lancaster, Stewardship Technician  
Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority  
2216 County Road 28, P.O. Box 328  
Port Hope, ON, L1A 3W4  
905-885-8173 x 247, [plancaster@grca.on.ca](mailto:plancaster@grca.on.ca)

## **Coming Events at Ganaraska Forest Centre**

Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22, 7-9 p.m. - **Owl Prowl**

Pre-registration is required for this event. Cost: \$15/family, \$6/adult or 4\$/child, student or senior

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Maple Syrup Day**

Pre-registration is not required. Cost: \$20/family, \$8/adult, \$4/child, student or senior

For more details or to register, check the GRCA website, [www.grca.on.ca](http://www.grca.on.ca), phone 905-797-2721 or e-mail: [gfc@grca.on.ca](mailto:gfc@grca.on.ca)

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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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