



COMING EVENTS

Please note the meeting locations.

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

Speaker: **Beth Cockburn**. Topic: **Action for Habitat Health**

Beth's presentation will discuss species at risk on the Lower Trent system and what actions are being undertaken to protect them. Beth is the manager of "The Species at Risk Programme" for Parks Canada, based in Peterborough. More information about this subject can be found at www.waterwaywildlife.com.

Friday, April 24, 2009, 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting, Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St.S., Port Hope

Speaker: **Laurie Hill**. Topic: **Lone Pine Marsh**

Saturday, April 25, 9:30 a.m. - Opening of Peter's Woods. Contact Petra Hartwig or Chris Drew if you would like to help. (More information on page 6.)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Doug Galt, Colborne

James McGrath, Cobourg

Nancy Blakely, Cobourg

Heidi Reid, Cobourg

Elisabeth LaFontaine, Grafton

These five members are all associated with the Northumberland Land Trust

Doug McRae, Brighton

Clifford J. Bell-Smith

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THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

Past Pres.	Simone Mérey	905-885-8347	smerey@nhb.com
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1st Vice-pres.	Louise Schmidt	905-797-1059	wingbeat@xplornet.com
2nd Vice-pres.	Ben Walters	905-885-8586	benwalters@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Karen Drew	905-342-2904	drew@eagle.ca
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 April 2009 issue should be received by March 31, 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 April Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

Hazel Bird

February 17, 1920 - February 1, 2009

February 6 saw a celebration of Hazel Bird's life.

Willow Beach Field Naturalists became acquainted with Hazel on November 5, 1965 when she reported a Red-bellied Woodpecker at her feeders in Harwood. My folks confirmed her report and got word out to club members. Members found Hazel a person very small in stature with tremendous vitality and a contagious enthusiasm. She was a widow raising seven young children.

During visits to see the woodpecker (It stayed until February 1, 1966), Hazel shared her deep concern re: the rapidly declining bluebird population from nearby fields. John Wilson (my Dad) and WBFN outings chairman at the time, offered to pre-cut material for 25 boxes. Peter Greathead's (past WBFN president) special education class and my science class constructed these boxes while Hazel went about getting property owners' permission for suitable box placement.

On March 2, 1968, nine WBFN members accompanied by school children arrived in Harwood to erect these first boxes. By the following spring, Hazel had another 100 boxes ready to go! Thus was born what turned out to be a most successful project under Hazel's co-ordination. This project continued for almost forty years. When she retired, she dismantled and retired her boxes.

During this forty year period, the Eastern Bluebird moved from "endangered" status to a species "NOT AT RISK"! Hazel co-ordinated all efforts from building boxes, relocating them when necessary, to regular monitoring and recording statistics, organizing numerous volunteers, etc. April's /05 *Curlew* gives detailed information of this project in "A Tribute to Hazel". Hazel received many well earned and prestigious awards in

relation to this work. One she cherished was a WBFN Life Membership in 1994. MacCoubrey's funeral parlour received a plaque via courier in time for her service from the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society for a 1996 Conservation Award. I can visualize Hazel's puckish grin at actually receiving this award finally, some 13 years after the fact! Many members will recall the evening outings to bluebird country which Hazel led in June.

From a WBFN perspective, Hazel's other significant contribution to the club was her participation in our Young Naturalists (WBFN YN) during the 1970's. Her major role was editor of an excellent newsletter specifically designed for YN. Monthly, we also offered a special outing for the senior kids in this group. Renowned artist, Audrey McNaughton (a WBFN member), offered art lessons for this small group. Hazel became hooked on sketching and became the star pupil!

This volunteer work with WBFN-YN developed into a volunteer position at the newly established Outdoor Education program at the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre. As soon as funds became available, this evolved into a full-time paid position for Hazel. For some years, Hazel and I worked together daily. As the program expanded in the '70s., she went to the Wilmot Creek site or Goodrich-Loomis Centre - wherever the needs were the greatest. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 13 had great respect for this hard working, energetic staff member. The new Outdoor Education program had little money to spare. Hazel was a great asset at helping with interpretive work, teaching Haiku poetry, constructing popular rope mazes or conducting rainy day craft sessions such as creating egg carton cat-

erpillars with a little tempera paint and a few pipe cleaners. She was always ready to assist with winter camp-outs, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing or being part of the Outdoor Ed. team for teacher professional development workshop. Frequently, she was a willing nursemaid to my various wildlife waifs when I was on the road. When she retired officially, we presented her with a 12 foot aluminum ladder, cut into three short sections for easy bluebird monitoring. Grateful school staffs also contributed to a money purse. The contents were subsequently used for a table saw and wood for you know what! My only regret about her Outdoor Ed. involvement was that Hazel, due to health reasons, never knew about the Northumberland

Land Trust designation of her beloved Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre, as she truly believed in every facet of our programs.

From a personal viewpoint, Hazel and I both worked and played hard together. We *always* had a lot of fun! If interested, read "End of a Perfect Day", Sept. 1967 Curlew, found in our local town libraries' reference section

Whenever I hear the gentle gurgling warble of our Eastern Bluebird, see the familiar flash of blue or see the wonder in a child's eye from observing the simplest things in nature, I'll surely think of you, Hazel. "Safe Journey, my friend!"

Audrey E. Wilson

Dorenda Turk, who live on Turk Rd. off Harwood Rd., reports that she has had Eastern Bluebirds at her place daily since February 1, the day of Hazel Bird's death. The birds are feeding on blue berries which grow in the area.

THANK YOU

The silent auction held at the Annual General Meeting raised \$717.00 for the club. Thanks to all the donors and all the members who made purchases.

Especially, thanks go to Marguerite Short, Bob Short and Louise Schmidt who organized the event. Well done.

Friends of Presqu'ile Park searching for Board Members

The Friends of Presqu'ile Park is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the educational and interpretive aspects of Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Our efforts are focused on providing to all Park visitors an understanding and appreciation of the unique and natural and cultural history of Presqu'ile Park. This year, we celebrate our 20th year of operation. We are seeking individuals to serve on our Board of Directors to replace our Directors who have completed their 3 year term of office. Aside from their knowledge of natural history, members bring other skills to the table, such as business and financial skills, experiences in public relations and teaching and so on. If you would be interested, please contact Ernie Payette, Past Chair, at 613-475-1688 or e-mail info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

Rice Lake – Trent River Species at Risk Regional Team

Local groups and individuals in the Rice Lake – Trent River area have worked together since April 2007 to help Species at Risk. Led by Lower Trent Conservation the team includes: Alderville First Nation, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Northumberland Land Trust, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, local Stewardship Councils and the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Through communications and on the ground demonstration projects the Rice Lake – Trent River Species at Risk team increased awareness and inspired individuals to take action to help Species at Risk.

Team members attended a number of local events to educate the public about local Species at Risk. Lower Trent Conservation's Goodrich Loomis Nature Camp highlighted species at risk on a number of occasions. The Otonabee Region Conservation Authority delivered a well received educational program to local schools and groups such as Scouts and day camps. In 2008 *Sciencational Sssnakes!!!* expanded their educational and entertaining species at risk program into our region. Thirty five programs were held at various events in the area reaching over 2000 people. Over 40 people attended a marsh monitoring workshop last spring. Many were interested in volunteering for the marsh monitoring program.

Exciting demonstration projects occurred as a result of this partnership. The Nature Conservancy of Canada is removing Scots pine to enhance tallgrass prairie and eastern hog-nosed snake habitat. The Alderville First Nation and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters partnered to restore a marsh adjacent to Rice Lake. This marsh has tremendous potential to provide habitat for a number of Species at Risk. Wild rice was successfully re-introduced to the marsh. Lower Trent Conservation and the Northumberland Stewardship Council collected butternut seeds and distributed Butternut trees to landowners.

The enthusiastic members of our team have done some great work for Species at Risk in our area but your help is needed. Find out more about our local Species at Risk and what you can do – get involved!

Anne Anderson
Watershed Management Coordinator
Lower Trent Conservation
613-394-3915 extension 219
anne.anderson@ltc.on.ca

Peter's Woods 2009

Peter's Woods will open to the public on Saturday, April 25th at 9:30 a.m.

- Curt Morris, our MNR representative, will be accompanying us and do a walk-about, giving us some assistance in what will be done this year.
- New colour brochures will be available under the Parks Ontario umbrella. We are very excited about it.
- Two new signs have been ordered and will be posted this spring, one at the entrance and the other sign with the partners' logos and text will be posted inside at the parking lot.
- Lumber for the boardwalk has been ordered and will be stored in the MNR Kingston office until spring, when it will be delivered for us to construct a boardwalk in the low lying wet areas.
- This spring, a maintenance plan is in place whereby the MNR will do maintenance to the vaults (privies).

A list of volunteers:

Hans and Marlene Maas
Fran and Les Jack
Barry and Margaret Robinson
Marg and Bob Short
Deborah Panko and Ron Cole
Anita and Andy McLaughlan
Cliff Bell-Smith
Kevin Burn and Family
Klaus and Margaret Schroeder
John and Joan Norris
Hazel and John Lyons
Russell Lake

We extend an invitation to all members to come out to the "Woods" and enjoy the natural beauty it has to offer.

Respectfully submitted of behalf of Co-ordinators Chris Drew and Petra Hartwig

*If any members would like to help at the opening or consider helping with this project, contact:
Petra at phartwig@cobourg.ca or 905-372-4301 or
Chris at drrew@eagle.ca or 905-342-2904*

Gleanings from the Northumberland Bird Database

SCOTERS

by Clive E. Goodwin

Scoters. Large, dark waterfowl flying purposefully far out on the lake, always on their way to somewhere else, their blackness relieved only by the flashing white patches in their wings.

Not all scoters have white in their wings, of course, and [particularly in recent years] they're not always passing through. But the image is close enough to reality to strike a chord of recognition; that is indeed how we seem to see scoters much of the time. If indeed we see them at all, because they can be elusive birds. I was going to say 'enigmatic' but then I remembered I'd already accused Red-breasted Mergansers of that in a much earlier article. In fact, scoters probably fit the word even better. When Earl Godfrey published his definitive *The Birds of Canada* in 1986 he could say only that 'breeding data were few' for both Black and Surf Scoters, and it was not until the second atlas in June 2006 that breeding of Black Scoter was finally confirmed for Ontario, by a group of atlasers from a helicopter in the Hudson Bay Lowlands – where it probably breeds in the multitude of small pools right across that vast expanse! And scoters occur in tens of thousands in staging areas and on wintering grounds.

So what of Northumberland? We too have had counts of thousands, mainly in the brief period between May 22 and 25. If your experience with the County is limited to the past decade or so, your reaction could well be one of incredulity; Whimbrel or Brant maybe, but scoters? Yet White-winged Scoter counts in the thousands were, I suspect, normal in this period in the 1970s and '80s. The database only shows periodic high counts: in excess of 1000 in 1971, '75, '78 and '85, but many of the intervening years had hundreds seen on successive days.

In those relatively early days the real problem with counts was that there were not many of them, but we ourselves also had the advantage of leading birding groups at Presqu'île around the third weekend in May at that time. One of the things we were always aware of was the possibility of large scoter movements, but they were often around sunset and far out on the lake, and consequently very easy to miss. The data suggest the flights often were missed: the records come from a scattering of localities along Lake Ontario, implying they could be seen almost by chance all along the lake in this period. And indeed a review of my records for the Province as a whole supports this, with high counts in later May in many years from Toronto to Kingston, with little consistency.

But the real picture for White-winged Scoters [much the commonest of the three] is even more complex, and it only appears when one examines the monthly pattern of movement year by year. Initially I took the last 30 years for this exercise, and found quite dramatic changes. May was always the time of heaviest movement in the earlier years, although if flights occurred here between 1979 and 1982 they were missed, and 1985 yielded the highest numbers, with 5224 in all. There were few records in winter; in fact, only 17 birds in total were recorded in January and February up to 1992. Fall, the time we now most associate with scoter movement, saw flocks of up to 200 reported occasionally, but numbers most frequently were in double digits at best.

Following the 1985 peak the spring flights seemed much reduced, and by 1989 only 16 White-wingeds were recorded all year! But this was soon to change. In 1988

(Continued on page 8)

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zebra mussels were discovered in the Great Lakes, and it can hardly be coincidence that by 1991-2 birds were beginning to be seen from October through May, while the May flights themselves showed some recovery in numbers.

Then came 1995. It began with a wholly unprecedented report of 8000 at Presqu'île in January. The May movement recorded 9383 birds, much the highest ever. Birds were seen in every month except June through August. Intriguingly, it was just 10 years since the 1985 flight. So what, I wondered, happened in 1975, which predated my 30-year analysis? It transpired that some 6000 were seen in May '75, much the largest movement on record to that time, so here was a clear pattern of large movements at 10 year intervals, which apparently has never been identified anywhere before!

Subsequent years, however, reveal a quite different pattern of scoter abundance. The trend first identified in 1991-2 has solidified, and birds are now regular between October and May. May numbers have gradually declined and the spring peaks are now in March and April. There have been some years of outstanding numbers: totals of 2549 in April 2000, 5713 in November 2002 [the last year we have with over 1000 seen in one day], and 1103 in October 2005, maybe a thin echo of the huge spring numbers of earlier decades. But the last three years in particular have suggested a gradual decline in scoter numbers. Now these birds are wintering here, and one surmises feeding on zebra mussels, they may be suffering the same problems from contaminants that have been identified in the declines of scaup, also linked to zebra mussels.

What of the other two species of scoter? Because scoters often form mixed flocks, and because they typically stage well off shore,

consistent identification to species is often rather problematical. Certainly Surf and Black Scoters are rare birds indeed compared to their White-winged relatives: for example, while we were recording 5224 White-wingeds in May 1985, we had just 97 Surf Scoters, and the corresponding figures for 1995 were 9383 versus 42! Black Scoters are even more rare, with 22 and 14 respectively for those two years.

These were among the higher numbers recorded, and in several years only one or two individuals have been reported for either species. The difficulty in identifying trends in these cases is the paucity of data to work with. Nevertheless, both have shown some patterns that are similar to the White-winged. Surf Scoters used to be commoner in May, particularly between 1980 and 1995, although the numbers seem to have occurred slightly earlier in the month, and a clear 10-year pattern is lacking. Blacks showed the pattern of May movements between 1982 and 1986, and in occasional years subsequently. Your best chance of finding either one is in October and to a lesser extent November, but again years can pass with no reports in this period.

Neither species has shown much evidence of wintering here after the pattern of their larger relative. There is a fair scattering of December records for both, but this can be attributed to late migrants. Only 1997 reveals small clusters of records in the later winter, and intriguingly, this is true for both Black and Surf. As to whether they show the same declines, the picture is at once both clearer – the disappearance of a pronounced May movement clearly suggests a reduction – and more ambiguous, as the fall numbers appear more stable.

So it appears that all three scoters continue to pose puzzling questions for which no ready answers are available.

In order to raise funds for the completion of the Marsh Board Walk at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, the Friends of Presqu'ile are holding a raffle. The Executive has agreed to make tickets available at the next general meeting. WBFN member, Janette Johnston, who is also on the Friends Board, will be selling tickets. One of the prizes has been donated by WBFN member, Bill Crowley. Tickets will be available at various events throughout the summer and the draw will be held at Applefest in September.

Raffle for Presqu'ile Marsh Board Walk Fund

PRIZES

Quilted Wall Hanging by Grace Zanatta
Carving of Nuthatch by R.R. Danahy
Christmas Carving by Katrin Brady
Framed Photo of Presqu'ile Park by Bill Crowley
Summer Park Pass from Ontario Parks

Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

FOREST ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

Please join us for a FREE introductory workshop on Forest Ecology and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Terrestrial Ecologist, Ken Towle and Biologist/Flying Squirrel Expert, Steve Patterson, will show us how the complex relationships between plants and animals in the forest are essential for its survival. Includes a live demonstration from Sabrina and Scooter the Flying Squirrels!

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25th. Doors open at 6 p.m. for display viewing and presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Baltimore Recreation Centre, 23 Community Centre Road, Baltimore. Free refreshments will be provided.

To register or for more information, please contact Ashley at 613-394-3915 X225 or ricelakeplains@lrc.on.ca. Also visit www.lrc.on.ca or www.morainforlife.org.

Presented by the Caring for the Moraine Project; Rice Lake Plains Area partnership including Alderville First Nation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, Lower Trent Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Northumberland County Forrest, Northumberland Land Trust, Northumberland Stewardship Council, Ontario Parks and Tallgrass Ontario.

EARTH HOUR

MARCH 28, 2009 @ 8:30 p.m.

Turn off your lights on Saturday March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm. Millions of Canadians will turn off their lights on March 28th for Earth Hour in support of action on climate change. We hope to make Earth Hour even bigger this year but we need your help! Encourage your friends and family to participate. Get your business or workplace involved.

And don't stop at turning off the lights. Think about what else can be done to reduce your footprint like taking transit, unplugging unused electrical appliances and washing your clothes in cold water. The list is endless and your action will make a big difference. Make every hour Earth Hour with WWF.

Earth Hour is a symbolic event. Turning off our lights for an hour won't stop climate change but it does demonstrate that our individual action is important and adds up to make a big difference. More importantly, it sends a very powerful message to government and world leaders that people want policies and regulations put in place that can achieve meaningful emission reduction to help fight climate change.

Participate in Earth Hour and make your voice heard by signing up at www.EarthHourCanada.org where you could win a trip to the Polar Bear Capital of the World.

PRESCRIBED BURN COURSE

April 7 and 8, Presqu'ile Provincial Park

The event is a co-initiative of Tallgrass Ontario and Ontario Parks. The RX100 course is an MNR recognized training program for people interested in helping out on low-complexity prescribed burn - prairies primarily.

The two-day course included an in-class session on the how-tos of conducting a safe and effective prescribed burn as well as going over fire safety and fire behaviour. There is a field component as well, where attendees get a chance to practice using prescribed burn equipment such as drip torches and pumps.

At the end, attendees receive MNR certification as Low Complexity Burn Works, a log book and a reference binder covering all that was taught in the course.

There is overnight accommodation available if needed, at no extra charge. Bring lunches for two days and a sleeping bag. The cost is \$325.

For more information or to register, contact Gavin Trevellyan, Eastern Regional Coordinator, Tallgrass Ontario, tallgrass@nexicom.net, 705-876-9556

Willow Beach Field Naturalists' Board & Appointments 2009

Executive Board

Officers

Past President	Simone Merey	905-885-8347.....	smerey@nhb.com
President	Michael Biggar	905-372-7407.....	mbiggar.wbfn@gmail.com
1st Vice President.....	Louise Schmidt.....	905-797-1059.....	wingbeat@xplornet.com
2nd Vice President	Ben Walters	905-885-8586.....	benwalters@sympatico.ca
Secretary.....	Karen Drew	904-342-2904.....	drew@eagle.ca
Treasurer.....	Rae Waring.....	905-372-9350.....	waringrm@sympatico.ca
Directors	Audrey Wilson.....	905-372-3937	
.....	Bill Newell.....	905-352-3051.....	homework@eagle.ca
.....	Barry Robinson.....	905-373-9262.....	jbarryrob@cogeco.ca
.....	John Geale	905-342-3851.....	johngeale@yahoo.com
.....	Petra Hartwig.....	905-372-4301.....	phartwig@cobourg.ca
.....	Gina Brouwer	905-373-5015.....	WBFN_gina@live.ca

Activity Coordinators

Bird Counts	Roger Frost	905-885-9615.....	ekrf@eagle.ca
Education.....	Bruce Parker	905-372-4911.....	buice@sympatico.ca
Meeting Coordinator	Deborah Panko.....	905-372-1974.....	bluebird@teksavvy.com
Outings	Ben Walters	905-885-8586.....	benwalters@sympatico.ca
Press	Gina McFarlane	905-373-5015.....	WBFN_gina@live.ca
Ontario Nature Rep.	Carole Payne.....	905-885-6135.....	bookbind@cogeco.ca

Committees and Appointments

Auditor	John Lillico	905-372-7099	
Cobourg Land Use	Clive Goodwin.....	905-372-1065.....	clivegoodwin@sympatico.ca
.....	Russell Lake	905-372-3636.....	russelllake@sympatico.ca
.....	Terry Stopps	905-372-1028.....	stopps@eagle.ca
Curlew Circulation	Barry Robinson.....	905-373-9262.....	jbarryrob@cogeco.ca
.....	Margaret Robinson	905-373-9262.....	jbarryrob@cogeco.ca
Curlew Publication.....	Elizabeth Kellogg	905-885-9615.....	ekrf@eagle.ca
.....	Norma Wallace.....	905-885-5552	
Environmental Monitor	Ben Walters	905-885-8586.....	benwalters@sympatico.ca
Kawartha Highlands.....	Bob Short.....	905-885-1420.....	mb.short@sympatico.ca
Lone Pine Marsh	Marilyn Harris	905-349-3554	
.....	Bob Harris	905-349-3554	
Name Tag Committee	John Geale	905-342-3851.....	johngeale@yahoo.ca
Peter's Woods	Chris Drew.....	905-342-2904.....	drew@eagle.ca
.....	Petra Hartwig.....	905-372-4301.....	phartwig@cobourg.ca
Meeting Raffle.....	Marguerite Short.....	905-885-1420.....	mb.short@sympatico.ca
Waterfront Trail.....	Margaret Bain.....	905-373-1202.....	mjcbain@sympatico.ca

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, or visit the Bird Studies Canada website.

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

Strange Birds at your feeder?

This past winter, some members have reported birds with strange plumages. The Project FeederWatch newsletter recently commented on this phenomenon. Refer to the PFW web site, address below for more information on this subject.

Leucism and Albinism explained

Participants sometimes see familiar-looking birds at their feeders that have strange white spots or blotches. On rare occasions a participant might see a completely white bird. Learn about these plumage abnormalities: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/AboutBirdsandFeeding/Albinism_Leucism.htm

School Gardening Study Suggests Positive Outcomes

"The Child in the Garden: An Evaluation of the Benefits of School Gardening" by Blair, Dorothy, Published in the *Journal of Environmental Education*, Vol. 40, #2, Winter 2009

Summary of findings: Although educators widely use school gardens for experiential education, researchers have not examined the evaluative literature on school-gardening outcomes. The author reviewed the U.S. literature on children's gardening, taking into account potential effects, school-gardening outcomes, teacher evaluations of gardens as learning tools, and so on. Studies showed positive outcomes of school-gardening initiatives in the areas of science achievement and food behaviour. Further studies documented a wider scope of desirable outcomes, including an array of positive social and environmental behaviours.

(WBFN member Don Davis has a PDF of this paper. Requests for a copy may be sent to donald_davis@yahoo.com.)

ADVANCE NOTICE

● **Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.** - at Victoria Hall, Cobourg
Food, Farms and the Future... Where Do We Grow from Here? **Thomas Pawlick**, author of *The End of Food* and **Gaye Hoskin**, 5th generation farmer, address the issues surrounding the production, distribution and marketing of our food. Learn how you can support and advocate for a nutritious and appetizing food supply in Northumberland County. For tickets, call the Concert Hall box office at 905-372-2210.

● **May 30, 2009 - Ontario Nature's 78th Annual General Meeting**

Ontario Nature will be holding its 78th Annual General Meeting on May 30, 2009 at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton, Ontario. The AGM will be held in partnership with the Huron Fringe Birding Festival. McGregor Point Provincial Park serves as headquarters for the Festival.

For more information, watch the AGM insert in the Spring 2009 issue of ON magazine, or contact Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia, Ontario Nature AGM Coordinator at barw@ontarionature.org, or 1-800-440-2366, ext. 240

● **5th North American Duck Symposium**

Long Point Waterfowl and the University of Guelph are co-hosting the 5th North American Duck Symposium and Workshop (NADS 5) to be held in **Toronto** from **August 17-20, 2009**. NADS 5 will showcase current research in duck ecology, conservation, and management from North American and European researchers. Examples of plenary sessions include "Riches of the Boreal Forest: Waterfowl Populations and Conservation Challenges", Predator Management at the Landscape Scale: The Delta Experience", "Implications of a Change Great Lakes Ecosystem for Ducks", and "Linking Harvest, Habitat and Human Dimensions: An Update".

NADS 5 is open to all who have a keen interest in duck ecology and management. Online registration for NADS 5 is now available. Limited early bird prizes are available for those who register before April 30. The organizers of NADS 5 would also like to announce the third call for paper and poster presentations. Please check out the NADS 5 website for detailed information on paper and poster submissions and descriptions of plenary sessions:
<http://www.northamericanducksymposium.org>.

from Bird Studies Canada e-newsletter, Feb. 6, 2009

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Trumpeter Swan	Feb. 1-12	3	Cobourg Harbour	LW, CEG
	Feb. 13	4	A.K. Sculthorpe Marsh, PH	EB
Northern Pintail	Feb. 6	1	Cobourg Harbour	M&SP
Canvasback	Feb. 18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Greater Scaup	Feb. 24	500	off P.H. west beach	EK, RF
Surf Scoter	Feb. 26	1	Presqu'île PP	FH, Ontbirds
White-winged Scoter	Feb. 2	11	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Long-tailed Duck	Feb. 15	160	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Red-breasted Merganser	Feb. 14	64	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Hooded Merganser	Feb. 9	1m	mouth of Ganaraska, PH	SW
	Feb. 27	3m	Ganaraska River @ Dale Rd.	SW
Ruffed Grouse	Feb. 17	1	Upper Cold Springs backyard	SW
Wild Turkey	Feb. 1-4	30	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 14	15	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Bald Eagle	Feb. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Feb. 5	1juv.	Cobourg west end	CC
Cooper's Hawk	Feb. 18	1	Ad. female spent a leisurely hour dissecting a pigeon on the roof of the Harbour Delights store	CEG
Red-shouldered Hawk	Jan/Feb.	1	southern part of Brighton	MC, Ontbirds
Golden Eagle	Feb. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	DS
American Kestrel	Feb. 8	1	DePalma Rd., Cob.	EK, RF
Merlin	Feb. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Herring Gull	Feb. 1	1000	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Iceland Gull	Feb. 20	3	Cobourg Harbour - high count	CEG
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Feb. 20	1 imm	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Feb. 20	1 ad	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Glaucous Gull	Feb. 20	9	Cobourg Harbour - high count	CEG
Great Black-backed Gull	Feb. 1	7	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Great Horned Owl	Feb. 8	1	Young St., PH	NW
Snowy Owl	Jan. 30	1	Golden Plough area, Cob.	AEW
	Feb. 1-14	1	DePalma Rd., Cob.	JM
	Feb. 1-15	1m	Cty. Rd. 2 w. of Theatre Rd.	RB, CEG, ERM, TG, JM
	Feb. 25	1	Cty. Rd. 2 w. of Theatre Rd.	ERM
Great Gray Owl	Feb. 4	1	n. of Cambellford	BR
Long-eared Owl	Dec. 3/08	1	injured. Tranferred to Owl Foundation	AEW
	Dec. 24/08	1	2nd floor balcony, Wellington St., PH	AEW
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Feb. 20, 21	1	Camborne feeders	AEW
Northern Flicker	Dec. 27/08	1	Brighton	MC, Ontbirds
	Jan. 30	1	Vernonville feeder	AEW
	Jan. 30-Feb. 20	1	1010 Ontario St. ,Cob.	AEW
Pileated Woodpecker	Feb. 26	2	Wicklow Beach	CEG
Northern Shrike	Feb. 2	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Feb. 4	1	W. county Line, Lakeshore Rd., PH	CEG
	Feb.10, 15, 26, 28	1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 13	2	Presqu'île PP	CEG
Horned Lark	Feb. 4	43	Kellogg Rd. area, PH Ward 2	CEG
Brown Creeper	Feb. 4	1	Dorset St.W., PH	TG
	Feb. 3/16	1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JGe

Sightings - cont'd.

Carolina Wren	Feb. 5	1	Brown St., PH feeder	CP
	Feb. 15	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
	Feb. 26	1	Durham St., PH	EK, RF
Northern Mockingbird	Feb. 4	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	CEG
Bohemian Waxwing	Feb. 18	32	Bowmanton Rd. nr. Beagle Club Rd.	KD
Cedar Waxwing	Feb. 8	12	s. end of Buttar Blezard Rd.	SW
Fox Sparrow	Dec. 7&9/08	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob. feeders	AEW
	Feb. 19	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
White-throated Sparrow	Feb. 4	1	Canton, PH Ward 2	CEG
Lapland Longspur	Feb. 4	6	Lakeshore & Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Red-winged Blackbird	Feb. 22	1m	A.K. Sculthorpe Marsh, PH	EB
Brown-headed Cowbird	Feb. 22	1m	s. of Colborne	JF
Pine Grosbeak	first week of Feb.	2	Brighton garden	MC, Ontbirds
	Feb. 8	3	Jack Gordon Rd.	SW
	Feb. 28	2	Presqu'île PP	FH, Ontbirds
Purple Finch	Feb. 16	1m	s. of Colborne	JF
White-winged Crossbill	Feb. 5/15/16	5/3/1	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 16	10	Upper Cold Springs	SW
Common Redpoll	Feb. 13	~100	Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp. - high count	JGe
Hoary Redpoll	Feb. 14	1	Durham St., PH	RF
Pine Siskin	Jan. 14	150+	1010 Ontario St., Cob. feeders	AEW
	Jan. 28	165	1010 Ontario St., Cob. feeders	AEW
	Jan. 29, 30	~200	1010 Ontario St., Cob. feeders	AEW
	Feb. 18	50+	s. of Baltimore	AB
	Feb. 22	150	1010 Ontario St., Cob. feeders	AEW
American Goldfinch	Feb. 9	50+	s. of Colborne	JF
	Feb. 19	80	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Eastern Chipmunk	Feb. 18	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Feb. 28	1	Young St., PH	NW
Red Fox	Jan. 5	1	Deblaire St., PH	GMCD
	Jan. 6	1	Hope St.N., PH	RA
	Feb. 16	1	Cty. Rd. 18 n. of Dale Rd.	SW
Raccoon	Feb. 10	1	Beaver Meadow Rd. nr. Fisher Rd.	SW

Observers: RA=Ruth Andrus; EB=Erich Bahr; RB=Reinhard Bahr; AB=Ann Brightman; MC=Maureen Campeau; CC=Christine Connell; GMCD=Geoff Dale; KD=Karen Drew; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGe=John Geale; CEG=Clive Goodwin; TG=Ted Gorsline; FH=Fred Helleiner; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; JM=Jason Mack; ERM=Ted McDonald; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; M&SP=Malcolm & Suzanne Pacey; CP=Carole Payne; BR=Brian Rundle; DS=Dave Shirley; LS=Louise Schmidt; NW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson.

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