



COMING EVENTS

Please note the meeting locations.

● **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**

Laurie will share with us the inspiring story of how the drive, generosity and vision of one woman, Murial Braham, began the Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary, eighteen years ago. She will tell us how Lone Pine has since grown to include three nature reserves on the same Cold Creek watershed. And she'll tell us about Lone Pine's vision for the future: a coherent swath of green habitats and clean water.

● **Saturday, April 25, 9:30 a.m. - Opening of Peter's Woods.** If you would like to help, contact Petra Hartwig, phartwig@cobourg.ca, 905-372-4301 or Chris Drew, drew@eagle.ca, 905-342-2904.

● **Friday, May 29, 2009 - President's Walk - Rice Lake Conservation Area, Bewdley, 6:30 p.m.**

Directions: From Ganaraska Road 9, turn north on the Cavan Road entrance to Bewdley. The Conservation Area parking lot entrance is not very far, on the north side of the road (right) just past a farmyard with horses. There are houses directly across the street from the entrance. Meet in the parking lot.

Wear appropriate footwear, as it is a dirt trail that meanders through forest and meadow from Cavan Road to the Rice Lake shore. This is an easy hike, but a short section of the trail may be muddy after a rain. It would be wise to bring protection against biting insects. This is a good place to see a variety of birds.

● **Saturday, May 16, 2009, Outing to Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary**

Destination meeting time: 6:30 p.m.

Directions: Follow Hwy. 401 to Cty. Rd. 25 (north of Colborne). Follow Cty. Rd. 25 north, approximately 3.7 km to Dundonald Rd. (also called Cty. Rd. 21). Follow Dundonald Rd. east approximately 1.5 km to Maple Grove Rd. Turn left (north) on Maple Grove Rd. and follow approximately 0.5 km to the parking area on the east side of the road.

Details: 130+ acre Provincial Class 1 wetland. This outing is to visit the location we will be hearing about at

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our general meeting on April 24th. The outing will be an exploration of the wetland from the maintained paths. Last year's outing provided close observation of Virginia Rails, Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes and Great Egrets. This evening outing will last until dusk.

- **Sunday, June 7, 2009, Outing to Zion Rd.,** Cavan Twp., south of Millbrook
 - **Saturday, July 18, 2009, Canoe Outing to Rice Lake** at Bewdley
 - **Sunday, September 13, 2009, Outing to A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh,** Lake St., Port Hope
 - **Saturday, October 10, 2009, Outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park**
- More details about these four outings will appear in the May Curlerw.*

Notice to all Willow Beach Members:

Due to equipment considerations, the Willow Beach executive is considering having all meetings at the Cobourg Public Library commencing September, 2009. Cobourg is also a more central location given our membership extends from Port Hope to Brighton. If you would like to comment, please phone Michael Biggar, the President, at 905-372-7407 or send an email to mbiggar.wbfn@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Barbara Stevenson, Toronto

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40790538
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THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

| | | | |
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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlerw. Copy for the May 2009 issue should be received by April 30, 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 May Curlerw. 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

SMALL GULLS, LITTLE GULLS AND THE TIRE MAT

by Clive E. Goodwin

Not everyone is a fan of Herring Gulls and their close kin, but the smaller gulls are a different story. In our part of the world Bonaparte's Gulls are the familiar small gull, and twice a year we can look forward to the flocks of these elegant birds moving along the waterfront, to and from their breeding grounds in the boreal forest. On the ground they form restless little groups, and from time to time they'll swirl out over the water, or perform intricate aerial ballets over some invisible source of food. I've wasted – well, spent - hours watching them when I really should be doing something more constructive, but they're a never-ending source of delight.

While we can expect them in migration, a few young birds typically spend the summer on the Great Lakes, and occasional birds will winter here as well, so we can hope for them year-round. Their numbers seem to wax and wane, and a careful look at the history of their movements reveals some suggestion of four or five year peaks. If so, the next peak may occur this year, and it will come as no surprise to regular readers to find that in the last 10 years their peak spring movements seem to have become earlier, from May to April.

However, another now familiar trend is more worrying: an apparent decline in numbers over the same period. The 1997 spring peak was over 11,000 birds [as always with the database, this is really 'bird days', as some birds will be counted more than once]. Numbers remained high for the next two years before dropping off in 2000, but then in 2001 the total was some 4200, with 3500 in 2003 and over 2900 in 2005, thus revealing a two-year sequence of much lower 'peaks'. Since then spring numbers have continued very low, with fall counts little higher, so we await the 2009 results with some apprehension.

The other small gulls are a diverse bunch indeed: about all most of them have in common is rarity. In fact, recently the American Ornithologists' Union reclassified Bonaparte's and Black-headed Gulls into a separate genus, with the Little Gull separated into another; all three had previously been in the *Larus* genus with the bigger gulls. As the kittiwakes, Sabine's Gull, and Ivory Gull all had their own genera already [as do Franklin's and Laughing Gulls, which we'll not discuss here], now all these birds are formally segregated from their larger relatives: still gulls, but distinctively different.

They're all rare here. We have 8 Ivory Gulls on record, 9 Sabine's Gulls, 12 Black-headed Gulls and about 21 Black-legged Kittiwakes. With the exception of the winter-visiting Ivory Gull they have usually appeared in migration periods, and – sometimes - popped up in the company of Bonaparte's Gulls. The same is even more so in the case of Little Gull, both the smallest and much the most common of the lot. We have 238 Little Gull records, and it has been seen in every year since 1991, almost always at the same time as Bonaparte's. The chance of finding a Little Gull is another strong incentive to watch Bonaparte's Gull flocks!

But there's more to the Little Gull story than this, which leads me – finally – to the tire mat. Anyone who started their Northumberland birding after about 1995 will wonder what a tire mat could possibly have to do with gulls, but in fact in its day the tire mat was, for its size, the most important piece of bird habitat in Cobourg harbour. The mat floated at the end of the centre pier, which it was supposed to protect. It was about the width of the pier and maybe twice as long, and simply consisted of a bunch of old tires all attached

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together and floating vertically with their tops protruding just slightly above the surface of the water. It was in bad shape when I first saw it, and was removed around 1995 as loose tires were breaking away and the entire mat was becoming a hazard.

The mat attracted an astonishing variety of birds. I have never encountered such a small area that was so consistently productive: you never knew what it would turn up! I saw everything from Brant to Snow Buntings on it, and it was great for small flocks of shorebirds, loitering waterfowl and open country birds like Horned Larks and pipits. But above all it was a mecca for small gulls and terns, and particularly Little Gulls.

The story of Little Gulls in North America is an intriguing one. They're an Old World species, but their first known nesting on this continent was in Oshawa Second Marsh in 1962. Subsequent nestings occurred in a variety of locations across the Province, but the last known nesting was in 1989 [an excellent account of the species' history appears in the latest Breeding Bird Atlas], and the birds often seem to be present in an area, sometimes nesting, for a few years and then move on.

So what of the tire mat? Our first harbour Little Gull records were in 1983, when a bird was seen on June 26 and stayed until July 2. The next year [1984] four birds spent July 18-29 here. Interestingly, that year coincided with the highest-ever May counts of Bonaparte's Gulls on record to that date –

some 11, 500+. There were a handful of records in the next few years, and we were travelling a lot on business at that time so our contributions were few.

Then came 1994: as it happened, the next big spring peak in Bonaparte's numbers [7500+], and a year when I was convalescing from surgery, and hence, not travelling! The first Little Gull appeared on April 27. On May 2 there were 4, but the last departed on May 21, close to the end of the Bonaparte's flight. Then on July 15, long past the migration period but in a pattern reminiscent of the 1983-4 sightings, 5 birds appeared, and until August 21 there were never fewer than 2 birds in the harbour. On July 30 there were 8, all concentrated on the tire mat! We had courtship flights, and the mat itself was the site of animated courtship displays. But of course, it couldn't last. Little Gulls breed in large cat-tail marshes, and although they do like open areas for the nest sites themselves, the tire mat didn't quite make the grade. The last bird was seen on September 2. And soon the raft itself was no more.

Since then Little Gull sightings have fallen off in the County as a whole. There was a small peak in numbers in 1998-9, also years of good Bonaparte's movement, and a few isolated summer records – some in Port Hope harbour, where interestingly there are a few floating tires for use by the yachts. Cobourg is lucky to see one bird a year. But for one amazing season Cobourg harbour and the tire mat was the Little Gull capital of southern Ontario!

Thanks to Carole Payne who has agreed to care for the club's P.A. system and see that it gets to meetings. If anyone would like to assist her with this task, please contact Carole at 905-885-6135 or bookbind@cogeco.ca

WHO SAYS MONEY DOES NOT TALK

by Audrey E. Wilson

For the past 3 years, Peter Brotherhood (WBFN member) has led Mary Morton bus tours from the Toronto area to Presqu'ile. He has involved myself as naturalist to tag Monarchs on the fall trips. Monarchs are caught locally and taken over the Apple Route, tagged and released at Presqu'ile. I demonstrate with both the original alar tags developed by Dr. Fred and Norah Urquhart's research program (mid '50s) and the current Monarch watch tags.

Don Davis tells me Dr. Chip Taylor went to Mexico's El Rosario's site recently. There he set up his table to buy tagged specimens from the locals. Money is made available through Monarch Watch at the rate of 50 pesos for each tagged Monarch. Since this program began, the amount has shrunk from about \$5.00 U.S. to \$3.75 due to the current money situation. Thus, on March 2, 2009, of 617 tags that he purchased (including one forged tag), our #89-025 was bought. It was a female Monarch tagged at Presqu'ile on September 8, 2007 by a Mary Morton client. In '07, 23 we conducted 3 bus tours. This return was 1 of 22 released that particular day.

Interestingly, in the March 2002 *Curllew*, I wrote an article with the above title, as similarly a Monarch tagged with Kawartha Field Naturalists on September 9, 2001 at our

place - 38 Bayshore, Presqu'ile - was also purchased in Mexico. It was the final one of only 16 tagged that day, #89-316, found at El Rosario on February 13, 2002 by Dave Kirst, a Minnesota teacher and Monarch Watch volunteer.

Ted McDonald (WBFN life member) and myself were on the Urquhart's original team in the mid 1950s, involved in the quest to find the overwintering site for Monarchs. Huge numbers were tagged in those early days, including the transfer experiments. e.g. I tagged over 15,000 with only 40 returns prior to 1975 when the Mexican sites were discovered. Of that number, none were found in Mexico. Fast forward to present times and note, 1 in 16 tags reached Mexico in 2002, and 1 of 22 in 2009 - quite a remarkable difference. Local Mexican families search diligently for tagged specimens to sell when Monarch Watch personnel come calling to buy their latest finds. WHO SAYS MONEY DOES NOT TALK !

Note: March 2009 saw the death of Norah Urquhart in her 91st year. Her husband, Dr. Fred Urquhart preceded her in 2002. This team received the Order of Canada on May 6, 1998 for their life-long dedication and research to insect migration studies.

Friends of Presqu'ile 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 an appreciation of the unique 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.

Please contact Ernie Payette, Past Chair, at (613) 475-1688 or email info@friendsofpresquile.on.ca

The guest speaker at the March meeting spoke about the Species at Risk project. Following are two other perspectives from members of this team.

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 *Sciensational 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
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TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY SPECIES AT RISK PROJECT

by Bill Crowley

About three years ago, I received a letter inviting me to join a Parks Canada working group for species at risk on the Trent Severn Waterway.

Our group was chaired by the Lower Trent Conservation Authority and was responsible for the Trent River-Rice Lake section of the Waterway. We had representatives from the Alderville First Nation, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, the Lower Trent Conservation Authority, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Northumberland Land Trust, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, and a couple of individuals.

I am not going to attempt to review all of our actions during this three year period, but I would like to mention a couple of highlights. I think it would be accurate to say that the main cause of species at risk is loss of habitat, followed very closely by persecution by man. Thus, I would like to highlight two programs which were initiated to assist species at risk. Before proceeding, I wish to say that there was one aspect of our meetings' activities which really impressed me. It was the manner in which our committee members worked together. There was harmony, cooperation, and genuine desire to make a positive contribution.

A member of our committee had identified a marsh north of County Road #18 which had been degraded by carp. These fish had destroyed much of the vegetation by digging at the bottom of the marsh. The marsh is connected to Rice Lake by a culvert which passed under the road and the carp entered the marsh through the culvert from Rice Lake. The proposed solution was to wait until the fall when the carp returned to Rice Lake for the winter and then install a carp barrier to

prevent the carp from returning to the marsh in the spring. The landowners were approached, gave permission and the barrier was installed. The following spring, Jeff Beaver, who just happens to be an expert on wild rice, planted wild rice in the marsh and it grew. He will be planting more wild rice this coming spring and eventually, it will be self sustaining.

This marsh isn't giant, but it is a very respectable size. When it returns to its original state, we believe it will become a valuable habitat for a number of species at risk including, we hope, Least Bittern, Eastern Hognose Snake and Blanding's Turtle.

This project was not expensive and it is not a giant project, but it is definitely a step forward.

In general, snakes are not popular. Many people think that all snakes are dangerous. Snakes and turtles are species at risk because of loss of habitat and, in the case of snakes, persecution. There are no records of the number of snakes that have been clubbed to death by a shovel wielding human being, or the number of turtles run over by cars as they were crossing the road, but these are serious threats to snakes and turtles.

We contracted with an organization based in Orillia, *Sciensational Sssnakes!!*, to give over ninety presentations at various locations across the complete Trent-Severn Waterway.

Sciensational Sssnakes!! has captive native snakes and turtles which they use for educational talks. During the presentations, they, with a snake in their hands, explain where and how it lives, what it eats, and the hazards it faces.

After the presentations, the audience is able to pat and hold the snakes. I attended two

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of these presentations and watched the snakes act as ambassadors for species at risk and win the respect of their audience.

The wonderful thing about these presentations was that *Sciensational Sssnakes!!* presented technical information in language that young people ages 5 to 85 could easily understand. However, I do believe that the snakes were the real stars of the show. I am sure that no one who attended these presentations will ever think of taking a shovel to a snake.

The turtles were not as affectionate and cuddly as the snakes. When staff from *Sciensational Sssnakes!!* picked up a turtle, its little feet would move much faster than ever they move on land. We learned that some turtles live to a grand old age (over 70 or 80 years). We also learned that when we see a mother turtle crossing a road to lay her eggs, she is quite possibly following a path which she followed before the road was built. Now, when I

see a Turtle Crossing Sign, I pay extra attention and stop if I see a turtle crossing the road. I may even help her cross the road before I continue on my way.

I tend to compare the species which live on our planet to a brick wall, with each species representing a brick in the wall. It is possible to remove bricks from the wall one brick at a time, and the wall will be weakened but, it will still stand. Then one day, another brick is removed and the wall, too weak to remain standing, collapses. I firmly believe that each species and its habitat has a purpose in this world and for this reason needs to be respected and preserved.

We have completed the three year project and I think we have done some good work. However, the problem of preserving species at risk and their valuable habitat cannot be solved in three short years. Thus, I have a very sincere hope that we can find a way to continue this project.

Rabbit Anyone?

On Sunday morning, I looked out my front window to see a dead rabbit lying on Ontario Street. By five in the evening, it was flattened out and the insides were exposed.

As I watched the NBC afternoon golf game, I became aware of large wings going past my window. I looked out in time to see three Turkey Vultures in the middle of the road pulling on hunks of rabbit. As cars came by, they hopped off the road or flew up to perch on my neighbors' roof ridge and chimney. One bird in particular seemed to enjoy seeing how long he could wait before soaring upward just missing the cars. I held my breath.

He also seemed to be the dominant bird because when he came to the meat the other two birds backed off. Gradually he pulled the remains over to the edge of the road. About that time a van load of people stopped to look. The driver began honking at the vultures. The Turkey Vultures took off, but half an hour later they returned to finish their meal. A tidy cleanup - all that remained was a bit of fur. Needless to say, real drama replaced the golf game!!

- V. Jean Wilson

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------|--|---------------|
| Snow Goose | Mar-15 | 12 | Presqu'ile PP | FH, Ontbirds |
| | Mar-28 | 1 | Fudge's Mill pond, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2 | S. Mery et al |
| | Mar-28 | 1 | Garden Hill pond | LS |
| Trumpeter Swan | March 8-14 | 2 imm | Cobourg Harbour | CEG, MB, Mobs |
| | Mar-19 | 2 | Rice Lake off Roseneath Landing | DS |
| | Mar-28 | 4 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Tundra Swan | Mar-31 | 1 | McLean Rd. | RF |
| Wood Duck | Mar-22 | 6 | Dale Rd. wet field, e. of Theatre Rd. | EK, RF |
| Eurasian Wigeon | March 17-22 | 1 m | Presqu'ile PP | KW, Mobs |
| American Wigeon | Mar-28 | 6 (3pr) | Garden Hill pond | SW |
| Blue-winged Teal | Mar-28 | 2 (pr) | Garden Hill pond | LS |
| Northern Pintail | Mar-10 | 10 | Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| | Mar-17 | 12 | Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| | Mar-22 | 6 | Dale Rd. wet field, e. of Theatre Rd. | EK, RF |
| Green-winged Teal | Mar-22 | 3 m | Dale Rd. wet field, e. of Theatre Rd. | SW |
| Canvasback | March 7-9 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| | Mar-15 | 2 (pr) | Rice Lake at Harwood | SW |
| Redhead | Apr. 2 | 4 | Rice Lake off Bewdley | LS |
| Ring-necked Duck | Mar-03 | 50+ | OPG Wesleyville ponds, PH Ward 2 | PB |
| Greater Scaup | Mar-28 | 1 | Garden Hill pond | LS |
| | Apr. 2 | ~40 | Rice Lake off Bewdley | LS |
| White-winged Scoter | Mar-12 | 1 | Port Hope Harbour | JGo, BP, GMCD |
| | Mar-20 | 6 | Cobourg Harbour - high count | CEG |
| Black Scoter | Mar-12 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| | Mar-24 | 1 m | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Long-tailed Duck | Mar-08 | 1 | Rice Lake at Harwood | SW |
| | Mar-15 | 368 | off Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| Bufflehead | Mar-29 | 1 | Fudge's Mill pond, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2 | SW |
| | Mar-31 | 5 | Dale Rd. flooded field, diving | MB |
| Common Goldeneye | Mar-03 | 9 | Ganaraska River @ Dale Rd. | SW |
| | Mar-22 | 120 | Sandy Bay, Rice Lake | EK, RF |
| Common Merganser | Mar-22 | 122 | Sandy Bay, Rice Lake | EK, RF |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Apr. 2 | 6 | Rice Lake off Bewdley | LS |
| Ruffed Grouse | Mar-01 | 2 | Art Lang Rd. | SW |
| Wild Turkey | Mar-08 | 12 | Cty. Rd. 18 at Camborne | SW |
| | Mar-08 | 40 | Harwood Rd. & Cty. Rd. 9 - crossing road | JW |
| Red-throated Loon | Mar-26 | 3 | Presqu'ile PP | FH, Ontbirds |
| Common Loon | Mar-06 | 1 | off Lake St., PH | EK |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Mar-28 | 1 | Garden Hill pond | LS |
| Horned Grebe | Mar-22 | 4 | off Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| Red-necked Grebe | Mar-17 | 11 | off Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| | Mar-31 | 130 | off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2 | RF |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Mar-15 | 200+ | Cobourg Harbour, flying east | MB |
| Great Egret | Apr. 2 | 2 | Presqu'ile PP | FH, Ontbirds |
| Turkey Vulture | Mar-19 | 6 | over Port Hope west end | AMcL |
| Osprey | Apr. 2 | 2 | Rice Lake Conservation Area | LS |
| Bald Eagle | 04-Mar-09 | 2 | Roseneath Landing | DS |

Sightings - cont'd.

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|------------------------|------------------|--------|---|--------------|
| Northern Harrier | Mar-06 | 1f | Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2 - watched her catch 4 mice within 1 hr. | LS |
| | Mar-26 | 1 | Toronto Rd., PH | SW |
| | Mar-29 | 1 | Buttar Blezard Rd., Cold Springs | SW |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 04-Mar-09 | 1 | over north part of Brighton | RDM |
| Broad-winged Hawk | Mar-22 | 1 ad | Presqu'ile PP, early date | RP, MB |
| American Kestrel | March 22 | 1 | Centreton Rd., Centreton | SW |
| | March 26 | 1 | Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp. | JGe |
| | March 30 | 1 | Dale Rd. w. of Theatre Rd. | SW |
| Merlin | March 6 | 2 (pr) | Young St., PH - in a tree copulating | NW |
| | March 17, 28 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| American Coot | March 7-9 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Wilson's Snipe | March 26 | 3 | Lakeshore & Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2, flooded field | MB |
| American Woodcock | March 15 | 1 | Lakeshore Rd. nr. Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2 | DT |
| Iceland Gull | March 1, 14 | 3 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| | March 20, 23 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Glaucous Gull | March 1-3 | 2 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| | March 14 | 2 imm | Cobourg Harbour | MB, CEG |
| Mourning Dove | March 25 | 2 (pr) | Cty Rd. 18, Cold Springs, carrying nesting material | SW |
| Snowy Owl | March 14-17 | 1 | Presqu'ile PP | FH, Ontbirds |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | March 14 | 1 | Sherbourne St., PH | AMcL |
| Eastern Phoebe | March 26 | 1 | Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp. | JGe |
| | March 27 | 2 | Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp. | JGe |
| | March 28 | 1 | Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2 | TS |
| Northern Shrike | March 1 | 1 | Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp. - last date | JGe |
| | March 3, 9 | 1 | Bowmanton Rd. backyard | KD |
| | March 13 | 1 | Massey Rd., PH Ward 2 | GdA |
| Common Raven | March 8-14 | 1 | Cranberry Rd. nr. Choate Rd., PH Ward 2 | KMcH |
| Tree Swallow | March 29 | 25 | Sandy Bay, Rice Lake | RF |
| Carolina Wren | March 7 | 1 | Dorset St.W., PH | KMcH |
| | March 31 | 1 | Durham St., PH | EK, RF |
| Bohemian Waxwing | Feb. 18 | 32 | Bowmanton Rd. nr. Beagle Club Rd. | KD |
| | March 11 | 40-50 | Nr. Cty. Rd. 45 & 9 | GS |
| | March 15-19 | 20+ | Roseneath Landing | DS |
| | March 24 | 5 | 7th Line e. of Campbell Rd., PH Ward 2 | BW |
| Pine Warbler | March 31, Apr. 1 | 1m | Lakeshore Rd. w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2 | PB |
| Eastern Towhee | Feb. 15 | 1m | Lakeshore Rd. w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2 | PB |
| | Feb. 17 | 1f | Lakeshore Rd. w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2 | PB |
| Chipping Sparrow | March 10-20 | 1 | Spragge Cres., Cob. | RL |
| Fox Sparrow | Feb. 16 | 1 | Lakeshore Rd. w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2 | PB |
| Red-winged Blackbird | March 2 | 2 | 401 & Division St., Cob. | KD |
| | March 5 | 1 | Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2 | LS |
| Eastern Meadowlark | March 18 | 1 | Toronto Rd., PH | SW |
| Pine Grosbeak | March 9 | 10 | Roseneath Landing | DS |
| | March 13 | 3 | Cty. Rd. 10 nr. 4th, PH Ward 2 | MBi |
| Purple Finch | March 9 | 3 | Roseneath Landing | DS |
| | March 20 | 1 | Vimy Ridge Rd., Hamilton Twp. | JGe |
| White-winged Crossbill | March 8 | 2 | Loyalist Rd., PH Ward 2 | EK, RF |
| Common Redpoll | March 12 | 55 | Durham St. feeder, PH | EK |
| Hoary Redpoll | March 21 | 1 | Bayshore Rd. feeder, Presqu'ile PP | FH, Ontbirds |
| Pine Siskin | March 5 | 20 | Deblaire St., PH | GMCD |
| | March 31 | 4 | Lucas Point, singing & prospecting for nest sites | CEG |
| Evening Grosbeak | March 24 | 3 | Castleton feeder | LB |

Sightings - cont'd.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|--|-----|
| Coyote | March 7 | 1 | The Mill Golf Course, Cob. | AEW |
| Red Fox | March 5 | 1 | Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2, watched her catch 3 mice within 10 min. | LS |
| Eastern Chipmunk | March 7, 14 | 1 | Young St., PH | NW |
| Skunk | March 16 | 1 | Young St., PH | CP |
| Beaver | March 15 | 1 | Close Pt. Rd., Rice Lake | SW |
| Mink | March 15 | 1 | Close Pt. Rd., Rice Lake | SW |
| Compton's Tortoiseshell | March 28 | 1 | Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2 | LS |
| Chorus Frogs | March 19 | | Presqu'ile PP pannes, singing | DB |

Observers: GdA=Gill de Auer; MB=Margaret Bain; MBi=Marnie Bickle; LB=Larry Bird; DB=David Bree; PB=Paul Bridges; GMCD=Geoff Dale; KD=Karen Drew; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGe=John Geale; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JGo=Jack Goering; FH=Fred Helleiner; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; KMCh=Kathryn McHolm; AMcL=Andy McLauchlan; RDM=Doug McRae; RL=Russell Lake; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; CP=Cindy Peters; RP=Richard Pope; BP=Bob Popham; GS=Gary Settering-ton; DS=Dave Shirley; LS=Louise Schmidt; TS=Ted Schmidt; DT=Davidson Tate; NW=Norma Wal-lace; BW=Ben Walters; LW=Lori Wensley; JW=Jeff Williams; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson; KW=Karl Wysotski.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, May 9, 2009 - **Living Green Fair**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Port Hope Fall Fair Centre, McCaul Street, Port Hope
- Saturday, May 9, 2009 - **Nature Conservancy of Canada International Migratory Bird Day Event**, Alderville Black Oak Savanna (meeting location tba). Join staff of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna at this annual event celebrating birds and bird watching in the Rice Lake Plains. This family-oriented day includes talks, hikes and refreshments, and runs rain or shine. To register or for more information please contact Ashley at 613-394-3915 x 225 or ricelakeplains@ltc.on.ca.
- May 16 & 17, 2009 - **Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend at Presqu'ile Provincial Park**
View the elusive Whimbrel and many colourful warblers as they migrate to their northern nesting grounds. Enjoy guided nature walks, bird banding and evening programs. Lighthouse Interpretive Centre will be open.
- Thursday, June 11, 6:30 p.m. - **Caring for the Moraine "Invasive Species Hike"**. Meet at the Beagle Club Road parking in the Northumberland County Forest. Looking at ecology and control of invasive species. Please contact Ashley Wilson for more details at 613-392-3915 X225 or ricelakeplains@ltc.on.ca

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

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