



COMING EVENTS

● **Friday, November 27, 2009, 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting, Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St., Port Hope** Speaker: **Hugh Currie**. Topic: **Peru**. Hugh will do a slide presentation on the flora and fauna of Peru. Hugh is a Past President of the Toronto Ornithological Club and very active in the Toronto birding community. Anyone who has read Richard Pope's entertaining book, *The Reluctant Twitcher*, will have been introduced to Hugh.

● **Saturday, December 19, 2009 - Annual Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count**. For more information, contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615 or ekrf@eagle.ca

● **Sunday, December, 20, 2009 - Presqu'île-Brighton Christmas Bird Count**. For more information, contact Maureen Riggs, 613-475-3604 or mriggs@sympatico.ca

Christmas Bird Counts require observers who are willing to spend a long day in the field, sometimes under strenuous conditions. Feeder counts are also welcomed. Feeder counters for the Port Hope/Cobourg Count can phone in their totals to Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552. Both of the counts noted above end the day with a pot luck dinner.

● **Friday, January 29, 2010, 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting, Cobourg Public Library** Speaker: **Elisabeth LaFontaine**. Topic: **Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time!** Elisabeth LaFontaine, Executive Director of the Northumberland Land Trust will talk about the importance of land preservation and the options available to land-owners. She will show the DVD made by Dr. Brenda Beck, *Footsteps of Northumberland County*, about its geography and the role of its people, both past and present.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- WBFN member, **Bill Crowley** was recently elected President of the Field Botanists of Ontario. Congratulations!
- In the September *Curlew*, congratulations were extended to **Paul Appleman** on being chosen to carry a torch in the Olympic Torch Relay. Paul will be running his leg of the relay in Orono on December 16 at 1:45 p.m.

Editor's Note:

The next issue of the *Curlew* will be published in January 2010. Contributions of articles are always welcome.

Please continue to report sightings to Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552 or to Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca

Deadline for material for the January *Curlew* is December 31, 2009.

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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the January 2010 issue should be received by December 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 January Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

Gleanings from the Northumberland Bird Database

OWLS

by Clive E. Goodwin

Early in 2005 a Northern Hawk Owl spent the best part of three months hunting along a nondescript section of County Road 2 west of Welcome. It's unlikely that any regular readers of this column who were here in 2005 failed to see this bird, as there was usually a crowd of people on the opposite side of the road watching it! Since the first record in 1817 we have had over 16 hawk owls reported in the County, all between October 30 and March 17. All have been singles except the first, a November observation by Fothergill, who noted 'many specimens fell into my hands' suggesting that the bird's status at that time was very different from the present day.

In some ways the 2005 sighting was rather typical of many of our owl records: it was in the middle of winter, and almost half of our owl sightings are from winter; it drew hordes of birders, with sadly predictable episodes of bad behaviour from a few individuals; and the bird seemed engagingly tame. Then it was a rarity, and while owls one can see readily without some sort of special effort are always noteworthy, this bird was a genuine rarity. Only Boreal Owl has fewer records, and that is a smaller bird that spends its days hidden in dense cover, so is undoubtedly more common than our 16 records would suggest. But of course, unlike most other owls, the Northern Hawk Owl hunts during the day.

Our owls fall into three broad groups, with overlaps between two of them. First, all by itself, is the Barn Owl. It is a southerner, with a limited foothold in the Province, and only three have occurred in Northumberland, two of which were dead, so its occurrences here must be considered accidental. There are 10 other owl species that occur here with varying degrees of regularity, 4 of them northerners that can be found here occasion-

ally in winter, when the numbers of the rodents on which they prey in the north crash [two of these, of course, are the Boreal Owl and Northern Hawk Owl]. The other 6 species have nested here, although half only seem to nest in very small numbers, and perhaps not even regularly, so our records of them are mostly from outside the breeding season.

First, because it's easier, let's look more closely at the northerners. Snowy Owl, a tundra bird, immediately comes to mind, and [if one excludes numbers from banding stations] it has yielded far more records [548] of more birds [692, because some records are of more than one bird] than any other owl. Flights seem to occur at roughly 4-5 year intervals, but there is quite a lot of variation; certainly 1991-94 and 2008-9 were exceptionally high years, which had been preceded by unusually long periods with few or none. A Snowy or two seem to be reported in most winters, and remember that the season spans two years, so for example 2008-9 was last winter.

Great Gray Owls are much less common [125 reports], but when they move it is usually in some numbers. The birds are large, dramatic creatures that tend to stay for periods in conspicuous locations, and like hawk owls, they are approachable. Perhaps needless to say, Great Gray flights are among the most keenly anticipated of all bird movements! The flights themselves are sufficiently rare that the wait can be a long time. We have records of single birds or very small numbers at roughly 4-5 year intervals, but our first recorded larger movement was in 1979: at least 12 birds, mainly west of Port Hope. A hiatus followed until the 1995-7 period which yielded 34 reports, and then in 2004-05 we had 50 reports; and no more to date apart

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from isolated sightings in the early New Years of 2008 and 2009. You'll note that the peak dates differ from those of the Snowy; this is a bird of the taiga and open coniferous forests, and here it must compete with Long-eared, Boreal and hawk owls, so it is not surprising to find that its peaks also coincide with some of our few Boreal and Northern Hawk Owl appearances.

Great Horned is our most frequently reported resident owl [368 reports]: nesting in old hawk or crow nests as early as February, its ear tufts sticking up above the open nests are a sure sign of its presence. In contrast, both Barred Owl and Eastern Screech Owl, our other two 'common' species, are cavity nesters, and are harder to find. The numbers of all three show increases in the 90's, paralleling the improved coverage in this period. But none of them can really be described as common. The breeding bird atlas reveals that both Great Horned and screech owls are generally distributed across the County, and neither seems to show much evidence of seasonal movements, although the 152 records we have of screech owl are hardly enough to yield a reliable picture of its status. Great Horned numbers seem to have dropped sharply over the last three years, raising concerns about possible West Nile virus infection.

Barred Owl is confined to more extensive areas of woodland, and although our dataset is still small [243], a careful analysis yields evidence of late fall and winter movements in some years, presumably as well as the resident population. Four recent winters, 2000-1, 2004-5, 2005-6 and 2007-8, all tell a story of birds appearing in places they are not normally seen. One of the most unlikely was a bird sitting on a power pole on Charles Street outside our living room window in downtown Cobourg on October 30, 2005!

Which brings us to the Long and Short-eared Owls, and the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

All three of these have in common relatively few records [excluding those from banding stations, between 112 and 139] and even fewer breeding season records [between 19 and 24]. The Summer Bird Count has only 2 records for the entire group, and the neither atlases recorded birds in more than 5 squares for any of the three.

The saw-whet exhibits some migratory movement, although banding by Roger Frost and Elizabeth Kellogg suggests that in fall this consists mainly of young birds: nevertheless, almost 56% of our records are from the traditional migration periods, and this is probably an understatement, as in spring a few birds may move north as early as February. But it's an elusive little owl, mainly because of its size, spending its days tucked in heavy foliage, sometimes in the tops of vine tangles, sometimes in a small conifer.

There seems to be some migration by Short-eared Owl as well. Elsewhere birds have been reported as flying in off the Lake, and we have 8 records from Cobourg harbour, 6 of which were in migration periods; these were birds that would certainly be passing through. Short-eareds are open country owls and they will sometimes move and hunt in daylight, so are more readily seen. However, their movements are difficult to interpret, as wintering overlaps with dispersal which in turn overlaps with nesting. Long-eareds, by contrast, are among the most elusive of owls, and it's hard to determine if the birds we sometimes see in winter are local residents or visitors from further north. In winter Long and Short-eared Owls often behave rather similarly, roosting in groups and sometimes foraging at dusk. Lakeshore Road west of Port Hope has been one of the more reliable areas to see such behaviour over the years, but on the whole the County does not seem to attract these regular winter owl roosts – or maybe we just haven't found the rest yet!

In closing a word on observing owls

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might be in order. Owls can seem very tame and it is tempting approach them closely. Unfortunately what we interpret as tameness is more likely to be what is called 'cryptic' behaviour, as owls rely on immobility for concealment. Accordingly a very close approach can be stressful for the bird, particularly in wintertime when the owl may already be

stressed by food shortages and weather. Particularly use care when photographing, as firing a flash in the face of an owl staring straight at the camera could harm the bird's eyesight. There's controversy on this point, but it's better to err on the side of caution.

All that said, with luck the next few months may indeed yield some owl viewing opportunities!

Cucumber Magnolia

On Sunday, August 23rd, Town of Cobourg arborist Rory Quigley lead a group of 7 WBFN members on an urban forest tour of Cobourg. The route started at Victoria Park and travelled east to Donegan Park, around to the Brookside and Sidbrook hospital properties on King Street. At the old Sidbrook hospital site, we were introduced to a cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) growing in the back yard. When a condominium development application was submitted to the Town for this property, Rory did an inventory and inspection of the existing trees on this site in accordance with the Town of Cobourg's tree protection by-law. The discovery of this rare tree demanded some special attention.

There are very small naturally occurring populations of cucumber magnolia in southern Ontario and it is believed that this specimen was brought over by the estate owners as an ornamental tree approximately 150 years ago. The cucumber magnolia is currently listed as a nationally and provincially endangered species and is protected under the Canadian Species at Risk Act. Although this tree had thousands of yellow/green blooms in early June this year, Rory noted that there has been no germination of this tree or others in Southern Ontario. One theory may be that the pollinating insects are outside of their range here.

This tree has a unique form with several vertical stems that look like individual trees towering over the trunk. You can see the tree from the road as the entire canopy soars above the building. The tree appears to be healthy and doing very well here. The Town will continue to monitor the health of the tree and protection measures during construction.

- Gina Brouwer

A Tale of Two Chickadees

In an article in Northumberland Today, Sept. 11, 2009 p. 14, Elizabeth Kellogg wrote about banding a chickadee in Presqu'ile Provincial Park at the Annual Monarchs and Migrants event. ("Last weekend" would have been September 5th and 6th, 2009)

I quote:- "We caught a black-capped chickadee which had a band on its leg. I thought that this was probably a bird that we had banded at a previous banding demonstration.

A check of the records showed that this bird had been banded by my husband, Roger, on May 22, 2005 as a "second-year" bird. This means that the bird had hatched in 2004. Since the original banding had been in the spring, we were able to determine that the bird was a female. This means that this little bird is in her sixth year of life and that she has probably raised five families in the park. We also captured her on August 31, 2008 at last year's Monarchs and Migrants banding demonstration."

This episode reminded me of an essay by Aldo Leopold titled "65290," from his book "A Sand County Almanac," p. 87.

This is an account of a chickadee, with band number 65290, which he banded at his family farm in Wisconsin in 1937. The following account is taken from an article in the January/February 1987, issue of "Bird Watcher's

Digest," titled "A Tribute to Aldo Leopold: A centennial assessment of one of our great conservationists," by Gustav A. Swanson, Contributing Editor.

Briefly – "Number 65290, one of seven chickadees in the "the class of 1937" was trapped the next winter along with only two members of his class; by the third winter the group had shrunk to 65920 and only one other compatriot. By the fifth winter only 65920 survived, and in the sixth winter he too was "missing in action."

"A review of a decade of chickadee banding revealed that of 97 young banded, those surviving to a second winter numbered 19; to a third, 7; to a fourth, 3; and finally, to a fifth year, only one, 65920. The speculation over the dangers chickadees face in their struggle to survive is so fascinating that I enjoy it at each rereading.

"Leopold had a remarkable ability to think like a chickadee, or any wild animal he studied."

"A Sand County Almanac" is a classic as many of you will know. Well worth reading – often.

*Jack Goering
October 2009*

Presqu'ile Outing

October 17, 2009

I had a wonderful time at the Willow Beach outing. When I was getting out of the car and went for a walk, Ben spotted turtle nests in the ground! I took a few egg shells with me. I brought the egg shells because I was interested in them.

Then we got to a place where there was a big marsh. I got my binoculars out and looked at all of the birds. When I went farther on the walk my Mom found a dead shrew on the side of the path. I was interested in it too so I took it too.

When we finished the walk, at the end three people were waiting for us. We got in the car and headed off. We went to the boardwalk. After I went to a pond and put my finger in and a strange thing moved! I showed my Mom and we were thinking it was a salamander.

I went to Audrey Wilson's. I drank hot chocolate and we shared stories. Audrey gave me very special stamps. I had a great time!

Elliot Drew
Age 8

Comment on Sciencsational Sssnakes Presentation

I got to hold a snake! It felt cool. I really wanted to hold a turtle. I did get a little scared when the big snake was wrapping around my neck. I liked the pictures that they were showing on that board. It was very fun!

Courtney Drew
Age 6

In Memoriam

Ian Tate

1921-2009

Readers of the *Curlew* will remember Ian Tate for his short items about animal behaviour. These were usually somewhat whimsical notes about behaviours which he had observed around his home in Port Hope or around his cottage, "Tops'1", near Kinmount (that he euphemistically called the Swamp). The last of these articles (*Curlew*, November 2007) was about the squirrels which took advantage of the bounty of his bird feeders in his garden on Ward Street in Port Hope.

On his retirement in 1987, Ian moved from Toronto to the Kinmount cottage and, two years later, to Port Hope. He had attended school at TCS and so knew the town. His sister, Sheila Goering, lives here, so this may have had something to do with the choice of location.

Ian regularly took part in the Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count on the team lead by A.K. Sculthorpe. The other members of this team were Jack Goering and Geoff Dale. When Ian had to cancel participation in the 2008 Christmas Bird Count, we knew that he was seriously ill.

Over the years, Ian has raised many hundreds of dollars for WBFN by doing a Baillie Birdathon. This effort, too, was led by A.K. Sculthorpe. At A.K.'s death, Ian took on the leadership of the Baillie Birdathon team.

Elizabeth Kellogg
with assistance from Jack and Sheila Goering

Over the past several months, Bruce Parker has been creating a web site for WBFN. Although, as noted below, there are a few things that are still being worked on, the site is up. Have a look at the great work Bruce has done for us. Thank you, Bruce! He would welcome photos and articles from members for inclusion on the site.

WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS NOW ON THE WEB

Even though they are still a few items still missing, the site is now live! Pages were starting to become out of date since I last contacted everyone and it was time to get it launched.

I have made some changes - added Richard Pope's book launch - a PDF file link - and a few other updates. I have instructed John Draper to do all the official page registrations with search engines such as Google. This is a process that does take a bit of time - maybe as long as 1 to 2 weeks - before Google and others would come up with our site when someone does a search. In the meantime our site is accessible through the following link.

www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org

This is the address that Google and others will eventually find when a search is done and it will have a description of our site when the registrations are activated by them.

There are still some items for fine tuning such as the **Members Only** page but hopefully they can be finalized at the next executive meeting.

*Bruce Parker
buice@sympatico.ca
October 22, 2009*

text of an e-mail sent from Bruce to the Executive

Presqu'ile Provincial Park Resource Management Plan Completed

Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has announced that planning for resource management projects on the islands and mainland of Presqu'ile Provincial Park has been completed.

Copies of the plans, the park management plan, and supporting documents can be obtained from the Ontario Parks website: http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/pres_planning.html.

For further information please contact: Corina Brdar, Zone Ecologist, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks, Southeast Zone, 51 Heakes Lane, Kingston, ON K7M 9B1
Fax: 613-536-7228 / Email: DCCO.mnr@ontario.ca

Deadline for comments is on December 11, 2009. Comments should be directed to the Minister of the Environment, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 10th Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5 and copied at the same time to MNR at the address above.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Greater White-fronted Goose	Oct. 27	2	Cty. Rd. 30 & McCann Rd.	SP
Snow Goose	Oct. 2	4	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Oct. 27	1 (blue)	Cty. Rd. 30 & McCann Rd.	SP
	Oct. 30	1 (blue)	Warkworth sewage lagoon	SP
Ross's Goose	Oct. 20	1 juv.	Cty. Rd. 30 & McCann Rd.	SP, Mobs
Brant	Oct. 14	45	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Cackling Goose	Oct. 29	5	Cobourg Harbour	RF, SP
American Wigeon	Oct. 27	7	Port Hope west beach	RF
Green-winged Teal	Oct. 14	230	Popham Bay, Presqu'île	CEG
Canvasback	Oct. 29	1f	Popham Bay, Presqu'île	CEG
Surf Scoter	Oct. 20	1	Port Hope west beach	RF
White-winged Scoter	Oct. 24	40+	Lucas Point, Cob. - small flock flying west	MB
	Oct. 27	11	Port Hope west beach	RF
Black Scoter	Oct. 20	1	Port Hope east beach	RF
	Oct. 27	7	Port Hope west beach	RF
	Oct. 29	9	Presqu'île	CEG
	Nov. 2	1f	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Common Merganser	Oct. 20	50	Port Hope west beach	RF
Red-breasted Merganser	Oct. 20	15,000	Port Hope west beach	RF
Ruddy Duck	Oct. 9	2m, 2f	Cobourg Harbour	EK, MB
	Oct. 20	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Red-throated Loon	Oct. 20	1	Port Hope west beach	RF
	Oct. 24	1	Lucas Point	MB
	Oct. 25	1	Presqu'île beach 3 - dead	MB
	Oct. 29	1	Presqu'île, Owen Point	MB
	Oct. 29	1	Cobourg Harbour	RF, SP
Common Loon	Oct. 17	350	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 20	120	Port Hope west beach	RF
Horned Grebe	Oct. 14	28	Popham Bay, Presqu'île	CEG
	Oct. 27	15	Lucas Point, Cob.	MB
	Oct. 27	1	Port Hope west beach	RF
Red-necked Grebe	Oct. 17	15	Redlea Beach, Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
	Oct. 18	2	Presqu'île, Chatterton Point	FH, Ontbirds
Double-crested Cormorant	Oct. 20	200	Port Hope west beach	RF
Great Blue Heron	Oct. 27	1	s. of Colborne	JF, KB
Green Heron	Oct. 10	1	AKS Marsh trail, PH	RF
Turkey Vulture	Oct. 1	35	Cobourg west beach	KN
	Oct. 10	30 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 10	20	over Ontario St. & Rose Glen, PH	DD
	Oct. 14	285	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Osprey	Oct. 2	4	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 6	1	Victoria Beach, Cob.	EK
Bald Eagle	Oct. 17	3 imm	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Harrier	Oct. 14	4	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Oct. 14	72	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Cooper's Hawk	Oct. 14	9	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
	Oct. 26	2 imm	Stuart St., Cob.	SMc
Northern Goshawk	Oct. 14	1	Colborne	CEG
	Oct. 14	32	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Red-shouldered Hawk	Oct. 14	16	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Red-tailed Hawk	Oct. 14	311	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct. 14	1	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Golden Eagle	Oct. 20	1 imm	over Hwy. 2 @ McEwen Rd., e. of Cobourg	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

American Kestrel	Oct. 14	1	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
Peregrine Falcon	Oct. 6	1	Victoria Beach, Cob.	EK
	Oct. 6	2	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
	Oct. 17	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Coot	Oct. 27	1	AKS Marsh	RF
Sandhill Crane	Oct. 12-26	1 juv.	s. of Grafton	LB
Semipalmated Plover	Oct. 25	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Killdeer	Oct. 11	30+	Dale Rd. opposite Dolley's	MBi
Spotted Sandpiper	Oct. 9	1	AKS Marsh trail, PH	EK
Hudsonian Godwit	Oct. 24	1	Cobourg Harbour	RF, Mobs
Sanderling	Oct. 6	100+	Presqu'ile PP - high count	DSh, Ontbirds
Least Sandpiper	Oct. 27	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
White-rumped Sandpiper	Oct. 20	1	Port Hope west beach	RF
	Oct. 16-24	1 juv.	Cobourg Harbour	Mobs
Baird's Sandpiper	Oct. 27	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Purple Sandpiper	Oct. 25	1	Gull Island, Presqu'ile	DSh, RDM, SP
Wilson's Snipe	Oct. 11	1	Dale Rd. opposite Dolley's	MBi
Iceland Gull	Nov. 7	1	Presqu'ile	DSh
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Oct. 8	1	Sebastopol Island, Presqu'ile	DSh, Ontbirds
	Oct. 15	1	Presqu'ile, Owen Point	DSh, Ontbirds
Black-billed Cuckoo	Oct. 6	1	Presqu'ile	DSh, Ontbirds
Eastern Screech Owl	Oct. 7	1	Lakeshore Dr., Cob.	BP
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Oct. 5/13/14	1	Lakeshore Dr., Cob.	BP
	Oct. 22	1	Lakeshore Rd., w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Sept. 16	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Oct. 12	1	Martha St., PH	MR
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Oct. 23/29/31	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Oct. 31	1	Harwood Rd. nr. Turk Rd.	RH
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Oct. 10	3	Cobourg backyard	MB
Eastern Phoebe	Oct. 6	32	Port Hope lakeshore	RF
Northern Shrike	Oct. 29	1	Presqu'ile	CEG
Common Raven	Oct. 14	1	Durham St., Port Hope	RF
	Oct. 14	1	over College St., PH	DB
Carolina Wren	Oct. 27	1	Warkworth	SP
House Wren	Oct. 12	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Winter Wren	Oct. 10	3	Cobourg backyard	MB
Sedge Wren	Oct. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 10	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Marsh Wren	Oct. 4	1	Jewell Rd.	RF
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oct. 18	1	Peacock Blvd., PH	KA
Tennessee Warbler	Oct. 12	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct. 6	3	Port Hope lakeshore	RF
	Oct. 10	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Oct. 10	3	McArthur St., Cob.	RF
	Oct. 12	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Nashville Warbler	Oct. 6	12	Port Hope lakeshore	RF
Pine Warbler	Oct. 6	1	AKS Marsh trail, PH	RF
Prairie Warbler	Oct. 6	1	Presqu'ile PP	DSh, Ontbirds
Black-and-White Warbler	Oct. 6	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
American Redstart	Oct. 6	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
Scarlet Tanager	Oct. 21	1	Bloomsgrove Ave., PH	SB

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Towhee	Oct. 10	1	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
Fox Sparrow	Oct. 6	1	AKS Marsh trail, PH	RF
	Oct. 16-24	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Oct. 17	1	Peacock Blvd., PH	KA
	Nov. 1	1	Upper Cold Spring	SW
Lincoln's Sparrow	Oct. 10	3	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
White-crowned Sparrow	Oct. 10	15-20	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
Lapland Longspur	Oct. 25	2+	Owen Point, Presqu'ile	MB
Snow Bunting	Oct. 25	400+	Presqu'ile beaches	MB
	Oct. 27	20	Cty. Rd. 2 w. of Colborne	JF, KB
Rusty Blackbird	Oct. 27	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Oct. 29	8	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Oct. 31	12	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Milk Snake	Sept. 15	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Monarch (last for season)	Oct. 19	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Cabbage White butterfly	Oct. 26	1	Young St., PH	NW
Early Buttercup	Oct. 14	in bloom	Burnham Blvd., PH	WC

Observers: KA=Kurt Appleman; SB=Sharon Bahr; MB=Margaret Bain; LB=Leslie Benson; MBi=Michael Biggar; KB=Kim Braat; PB=Paul Bridges; DB=Dave Broughton; WC=Bill Crowley; DD=Don Davis; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGe=John Geale; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; RH=Reese Hunt; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; SMc=Sheila McCoy; RDM=Doug McRae; Mobs=Many Observers; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; BP=Bruce Parker; SP=Sarah Petrasek; MR=Marg Round; DSh=Don Shanahan; NW=Norma Wallace; SW=Susanne Williams;

Project FeederWatch begins November 14, 2009

Every winter, nearly 2400 Bird Studies Canada members and another 13,000 volunteers across the United States contribute to Project FeederWatch, an annual survey of birds that visit backyard feeders. Participating is easy and fun! At regular intervals from November to April, 'FeederWatchers' count the kinds and numbers of birds at their feeders, then submit their observations. The results help scientists detect and study winter bird population trends.

Project FeederWatch is a joint program of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participation is free for Bird Studies Canada members. FeederWatchers receive a full-colour bird poster and calendar; resources to help them attract, identify, and record the species at their feeders; four issues a year of *BirdWatch Canada* magazine; free participation in any of BSC's other volunteer programs; and a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of their BSC membership.

The 2009-2010 Project FeederWatch season runs from November 14, 2009 to April 9, 2010. Visit our website to learn more about Bird Studies Canada and Project FeederWatch, or call us at 1-888-448-2473 to sign up.

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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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