



Vol LV No. 1

January 2010

COMING EVENTS

● **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.

● **Friday, February 26, 2010, 7:00 p.m. - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Speaker: **Pam Lancaster**. Topic: **Ganaraska Watershed**

WBFN AGM SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER FOR THE WBFN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Please mark your calendars! Barry Walker has kindly agreed to run a Silent Auction at our Annual General Meeting on February 26, 2010, bringing his expertise from the past very successful Bucket Raffles to ramp up our efforts. With the help of volunteers this auction should be fun!

All proceeds from the sales will go towards our new **Willow Beach Field Naturalists Scholarship fund (\$1000.00)**. Even in a small way, supporting the post-secondary education of a student who has shown leadership and interest in preserving the natural world is an important step in ensuring that we have strong advocates for nature in the next generation. So let's open our hearts and our wallets to support this worthy WBFN endeavour.

If you wish to:

- help on auction night, or
- donate an item,
- or if you have a great idea for an auction item, please contact Barry Walker at 905-885-8250 or Louise Schmidt at 905-797-1059.

To whet your appetite, a complete listing of the items up for Auction will appear in the February *Curlew*.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

●Gina and James Brouwer welcomed an addition to their family on Tuesday, December 1. Wesley John Brouwer arrived at 12:13pm., weighing 8lbs 4oz and measuring 21". Everyone is healthy and happy. Indeed a special early Christmas parcel!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Tamara & Peter Dunn, Baltimore
Michael Evans & Jayne Finn Cobourg
Ian & Jay McFarlane, Cobourg
David McFarlane, Camborne
Cameron & Faye McFarlane, Baltimore
Roger and Diane Mullin, Cobourg
Beth & Paul Lawson, Cobourg
Oswald & Susan Tee, Cobourg
Austin Thomas, Cobourg

WANTED:

Volunteer to fill the position of **2nd Vice-President**. 2nd Vice-President would be in line to be President in 4 years. Elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting in February, 2010. The new Executive takes office at that time. If anybody is interested please contact a member of the nominating committee:

Michael Biggar, Ben Walters, Bruce Parker, or Simone Merrey.

Simone Merrey Chair
905-885-8347
smery@nhb.com

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<http://www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org>

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The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the February 2010 issue should be received by January 31, 2010. 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 February Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

HARLEQUIN DUCKS, AND MORE ON OWLS

by Clive E. Goodwin

Late last November a Harlequin Duck appeared for a couple of days in Cobourg harbour. A high-plumaged male, it was a spectacular bird. It played hide and seek for the first day of its visit, but thoughtfully timed its second coming for a Sunday, and spent much of the morning displaying its finery to everyone who happened by. The drakes of many of our waterfowl are striking birds, but the Harlequin's pattern of white bars and spots against a dark background is most intriguing – until one sees the birds on their breeding grounds, with turbulent white water flickering against the dark rocks and boulders in the upland rivers and streams. In this setting they can be surprisingly difficult to see.

Your editor gave an excellent account of this species' habits in her article for *Northumberland Today* on December 4, which most regular readers of this article will have seen, so I'll simply cover the history of the bird both here, and in Ontario as a whole.

Harlequin Ducks have a long history in the Province, dating back to the mid-1800's, but records over the next 100 years were few. This would be less significant if the bird was not a duck, and it presumably would have been hunted in those days throughout that period; clearly it was always a rare bird in Ontario. Most of these earlier records were from Toronto, where 13 birds were recorded up to 1950, plus some from the Niagara River, and a scattering of sightings from other localities. Records continued to be few until the '70s, but there were enough to show the birds turning up in all seasons. There was a consistent pattern of birds wintering in Toronto, but late fall emerges as the time to see birds more generally, while there are several April and May records, and one of a bird that spent the summer at Oakville.

From 1970 on things become much

clearer, as Harlequins were seen in most years, and because birds were so often seen repeatedly in the same area, they generated numerous observations. Indeed, a bird in the west entrance to Toronto harbour became something of a tourist attraction, keeping company with a tame flock of Mallards at the foot of Bathurst Street and competing for hand-outs! But essentially the patterns noted in the previous paragraph were reinforced.

Fairly clearly, then, the birds were wintering in the Great Lakes area, particularly on Lake Ontario and the Niagara River, the latter probably the best candidate for suitable habitat in the south of the Province. The late fall birds would be migrants arriving from their breeding grounds in Newfoundland, Labrador and northern Quebec. Incidentally, this relatively late movement is consistent with the eastern population as the source of the birds wintering here: apparently the birds in the mountains of the west move earlier in the season. Our spring observations, late though they are for waterfowl migration generally, are apparently about on time for this species. And it's not unusual for young birds to sometimes spend their first full summer on the wintering grounds.

What, then, of Northumberland? Our first record was not until February 24, 1950, when Ted McDonald found a bird in Port Hope, as reported by Jim Baillie in *Audubon Field Notes*, then [and still, now as *North American Birds*] the journal reporting noteworthy bird sightings for the Province. Cobourg had its first five years later, on January 22, 1955, and set the now familiar pattern of hanging around until the 24th. One of its finders was Ken Niles, who is once again in Cobourg, and a keen watcher of the harbour scene! In all, we have now amassed 127 re-

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cords of Harlequins, but this represents only some 46 birds at the most, as there were many repeat sightings on subsequent days.

I say 'at most' because several of our records are of birds appearing in, say, Cobourg, and then disappearing from there, only to appear a few days later at Presqu'ile. Or one appears in Cobourg, vanishes, and then a month later another pops up. I was tempted to think all these cases were the same bird moving around, and maybe they are, but we have a couple of years that seem to tell a different story. Consider 2007, when there was one in Cobourg on November 12, a second in Port Hope on November 21, and then 3 at Presqu'ile on December 30. Were there three, four or five birds? Certainly there was more than one around that winter, which is what I was tempted to conclude from the November sightings. So I have included all of these kinds of records, which means my answer to the question above is five, at least as far as this analysis is concerned. In fact, we have had as many as five birds at once recorded.

When we look at these 46 records by year we find that, up to 1994, we had single birds appearing roughly every second year, with a 'peak' of 3 in 1983 [in Cobourg], and two [including our only June record] in 1986. Then 1994 was a bonanza year, with 9 birds seen, a total not equaled since. But subsequent numbers were consistently higher than formerly: in the 15 years since we only failed to record Harlequins once, in 2003, and single birds were only reported in four years. In fact,

we have averaged three birds annually from 1995 on. So, at least on our part of Lake Ontario, it appears that Harlequin Ducks have become more regular over the past 16 years, an encouraging trend for a bird that has been in trouble.

In closing, some follow up to the November article on owls. Readers may recall that I mentioned that in four recent winters, 2000-1, 2004-5, 2005-6 and 2007-8, Barred Owls had appeared in places where they were not normally seen. What I did not say [but perhaps one might assume] is that in those years birds were also being seen more often than usual in places like Presqu'ile Park where they do occur. The past autumn showed an unprecedented increase in sightings of these birds at Presqu'ile: observers were reporting seeing up to 6 birds on a visit, and one assessment suggested at least 8 different birds. I suspect this would be conservative, as at least some owls must have been hidden in cavities in the woods. Was this a purely localized event? It would seem not. First, two birds were found dead on the beach at Presqu'ile, suggesting they were moving – somewhere! Then the Summer Bird Count had recorded a record number, and now we have at least one report of a bird turning up in an unusual location. For the first time in years, John Geale had a bird in his woodlot in November. All of which raises the question: what is happening with Barred Owls?

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Looking ahead to next month, this year's Great Backyard Bird Count is being held from **February 12 to 15** - but you can count for as little as 15 minutes any time during that period. Last year, over 93,000 lists were submitted, recording 11,550,200 individuals of 619 species. If you'd like to join the fun, check out at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count 2009

On December 19, 2009, the 39th Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count was held. Forty-four field observers and 5 feeder counters tallied 19,664 birds of 72 species. This was about 3,000 more birds, but 10 fewer species than seen last year. In fact, this was lowest species total since 2002.

In addition, 5 species (White-winged Scoter, Sandhill Crane, Fox Sparrow and Common Grackle) were seen during count week, but not on count day.

Only one new species was seen this year, an elusive Savannah Sparrow near the Port Hope train station. Other unusual species this year were:

- Cackling Goose - fourth record
- Northern Shoveler - second record
- Bald Eagle - record high of 4!
- Golden Eagle - second record
- Sandhill Crane - flock of 5 flying past Cobourg on December 17th - first record!
- Hermit Thrush - a record high of 2 birds
- Myrtle Warbler - first since 2005
- Fox Sparrow - one seen count week for only the 4th record

For the first time, this year there was a dedicated owling party that spent 5 hours be-

fore dawn covering the entire count circle. This party had phenomenal success recording 18 owls of four species, plus 6 unidentified owls. This resulted in record high counts for Screech Owls (13) and Northern Saw-whet Owls (14).

Other species that recorded record high counts included Mute Swan (10), Red-tailed Hawk (70), Red-breasted Nuthatch (45), Brown Creeper (10) and American Tree Sparrow (679).

Many species seemed to be present in low numbers. However, only House Sparrows were counted in record low numbers. The 251 counted this year were over 100 fewer than last year and only about 1/6 of the record high of 1616 in 1989.

As usual, the post-count pot luck supper was a warm, fun and yummy event. It was great seeing so many of the counters there, even if I did have to rush off early. Thanks to all who participated.

A special thanks to Janet Lake and Connie Sakuma who cleared the tables and washed all the dishes while the rest of us tallied the list of sightings.

- Roger Frost

45th Annual Presqu'ile Christmas Bird Count

The Presqu'ile Christmas Bird Count was held on December 20, 2009. Conditions were good, but the cold weather of the last week reduced the amount of open water from what we have been used to in the last 5 years. Unfrozen water was pretty much restricted to the Trent River and open water of Lake Ontario. Just over 14,000 birds were counted of 74 species. This was down from the totals of the last 5 years, but still above the 21 year average of 71 species. An additional 3 species (Purple Sandpiper, Northern Flicker and Red-

shouldered Hawk were count-week only, with still two days to go in the count week. Some highlights are below:

Species seen that have been recorded only a couple of times on this count included:

- Peregrine Falcon (1st since 1987)
- Eastern Meadowlark (only 3rd time in 21 years)
- Chipping Sparrow, Marsh Wren and Carolina Wren have been recorded on less than half of the the counts in the last 21

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years.

The completely new bird for the count was the male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that has been staying near a park feeder since at least November 13. It appears to have a damaged wing but has managed to survive this long.

Rather noticeable by their absence were Cedar Waxwings - The first time in 21 years none have been recorded.

Record high counts were tallied for:

- Greater Scaup - 2076
- Bald Eagle - 6
- Northern Harrier - 8
- Sharp-shinned Hawk - 9
- Barred Owl - 14

- Northern Raven - 7

Finally, a couple of odd-balls were recorded:

- a Nelson's Gull
- a "pink-sided" Junco that was not quite an Oregon.

There were 28 participants (almost half of whom are members of Willow Beach Field Naturalists). A number of participants went to the (nice and warm) Maintenance Building in the Park for the compilation by David Bree and great food provided by May Wilson.

Many thanks to everyone who participated

- Maureen Riggs & David Bree.

Milkweed Species in Ontario

The Natural Heritage Information Centre (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources) accepts 12 milkweed species as occurring (or having occurred) in Ontario:

- Poke Milkweed (*Asclepias exaltata*)
- Green Milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*)*
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata* ssp. *incarnata*)
- Dwarf Milkweed (*Asclepias ovalifolia*)*
- Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*)*
- Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*)*
- Prairie Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*)*
- Kansas Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- White Milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*)*
- Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*)
- Green Cornet Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*)*

NHIC tracks (considers of provincial conservation concern) 7 *Asclepias* species, marked above with a star (*).

Poke Milkweed is widespread but quite local and not quite rare enough to qualify using NHIC criteria. NHIC used to track Whorled Milkweed, but additional sites have been found for this species, and is no longer tracked.

- submitted by Don Davis

Corrections to Sightings list published in November *Curlew*:

The number of Northern Goshawks seen on Oct. 14 should have read **3** (not 32).

American Kestrels, also reported on October 14, should have numbered **7** (not 1).

Presqu'ile Provincial Park

Calendar of Events – 2010

February 13 – Natureworks Soup Hike

See how much life there is in the dead of winter on this 1.5 hr guided walk, followed by a hot bowl of soup and a slide show at the Lighthouse Centre. \$2 person/\$5 family, preregister at 613-475-1688 ext 2.

March 20-21: Waterfowl Festival, 10am to 4pm

Celebrate the return of spring! Volunteer naturalists will help you view and identify over 25 different species of ducks, geese and swans. Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and Friends Gift store open. Also check out the children's activities in the Lighthouse Centre.

May 22 & 23: Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend, starting at 6:30am

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 open.

June 5 to 27: Spring Interpretive Program

Guided nature walks each weekend. Lighthouse Interpretive Centre open weekends.

July 1 to September 5: Summer Interpretive Programme

Daily Family Programs (except Wednesdays) – Guided walks, children's programs, evening talks, campfire sing-alongs. Nature Centre and Lighthouse Centre open daily.

July 31 & August 1: History Weekend

Relive Presqu'ile's storied past with events such as a musical evening social, old fashioned field games, children's boat building bee and a history play.

September 4 & 5: Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, starting at 8:00am

Bird banding, Monarch tagging and guided nature walks celebrate this weekend of fall migration.

Sept 10 to Oct 10: Fall Interpretive Programme

Friday Video presentations, Guided Hikes on select weekends. Lighthouse Interpretive Centre open weekends.

November: 6 & 7, 10, 13 & 14 Christmas at Presqu'ile

Juried arts and crafts show and sale from 10 to 4 daily. Be sure to also visit the tearoom.

For more information on events, visit the Friends of Presqu'ile website www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca or contact Presqu'ile Provincial Park at 613-475-4324 ext 225.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Snow Goose	Oct. 30-Nov. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW, EK
	Dec. 24	1	Cobourg Harbour	ERM
Ross's Goose	Nov. 21	1juv	Cty. Rd. 30 & McCann Rd.	SP
Cackling Goose	Nov. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	EK
	Nov. 21	5 high	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Tundra Swan	Nov. 1	5	Garden Hill Pond, PH Ward 2	RF
	Dec. 5	20	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Wood Duck	Dec. 18	2	Lakeport Creek	CEG
Northern Shoveler	Nov. 14	5	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 14	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, LW
	Dec. 14	1	Grist Mill Rd. mill pond, PH Ward 2	BW
Canvasback	Dec. 27	3	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Redhead	Dec. 27	~2000	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Ring-necked Duck	Nov. 24	1m	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Greater Scaup	Nov. 18	1000	off Lake St., PH	RF, EK
Harlequin Duck	Nov. 26,29, Dec. 24	1ad.m	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, mobs
White-winged Scoter	Dec. 20	~100	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Black Scoter	Nov. 7	1m	Lucas Point, Cob.	MB
	Nov. 21	2	off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Bufflehead	Nov. 1	16	Garden Hill Pond, PH Ward 2	RF
Ruddy Duck	Oct. 14	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Dec. 28-31	2	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Wild Turkey	Dec. 12	80-100	Cavan Rd., Hamilton Twp.	DSv
Red-throated Loon	Nov. 2	2	Presqu'ile Beach 3/4 - dead	MB
	Nov. 10/Dec. 1	1	Presqu'ile Beach 4 - dead	MB
	Nov. 18	1	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Nov. 20	2	Cobourg Harbour	RF
	Nov. 21-30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 24	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red-necked Grebe	Nov. 4	7	Lucas Point, Cob.	RP
	Dec. 27-28	1	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Double-crested Cormorant	Oct. 14	200	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Dec. 2	1	Presqu'ile PP	CEG
Great Blue Heron	Dec. 8	1	Molson St., PH nr. fish ladder	ERM
Turkey Vulture	Nov. 11	24	Barcovan Beach	MR, Ontbirds
Bald Eagle	Oct. 17	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Northern Harrier	Dec. 12	1	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
	Dec. 15	1	Hamilton Rd. & Croft St., PH	BS
	Dec. 21	1	Lakeshore w. of RR, PH Ward 2	SW
Cooper's Hawk	Dec. 29	1	Hwy. 28 & 401	EK
Northern Goshawk	Nov. 14	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 17	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF, EK
	Nov. 21	1	William St., Cob.	RP, MB
Red-shouldered Hawk	Dec. 8	1	Meade St., Brighton	MC
	Dec. 11	1	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Red-tailed Hawk	Nov. 1	8	Garden Hill Pond, PH Ward 2	RF
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov. 2	1	Huff Rd., Brighton	MB
Golden Eagle	Dec. 17	1	Hwy. 45 @ Cobourg	DS
American Kestrel	Dec. 30	1	Archer Rd., Alnwick-Haldimand Twp.	CEG
Peregrine Falcon	Oct. 17	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
American Coot	Dec. 10	30	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 26-28	1	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Sandhill Crane	Dec. 17	5	flying w. over Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Semipalmated Plover	Nov. 1	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Killdeer	Nov. 11-26	1	Presqu'ile, Gull Island	FH, Ontbirds

Sightings - cont'd.

Lesser Yellowlegs	Dec. 2	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	BL
Sanderling	Nov. 22/26	2/1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 8	1	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Nov. 1	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
White-rumped Sandpiper	Nov. 3		Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Nov. 17	1 juv	Presqu'ile, Owen Point	MB
	Nov. 19-26	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Purple Sandpiper	Nov. 22	1 juv	Presqu'ile, Gull Island	RP
	Nov. 26	1	Presqu'ile PP, Sebastopol Is.	FH, Ontbirds
	Nov. 27	3	Presqu'ile, Gull Island	RP
	Nov. 2/Dec. 1	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 1	1	Presqu'ile PP, Gull Island	RP, MB
	Dec. 3	3	Presqu'ile PP, Gull Island	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 8	3	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
	Dec. 10	4	Presqu'ile PP, Gull Island	PB, Ontbirds
	Dec. 13, 15	5	Presqu'ile PP, Gull Island	FH, Ontbirds
Dunlin	Nov. 22	7	Presqu'ile, Gull Island	RP
	Dec. 1	1	Presqu'ile, Gull Island	RP, MB
	Dec. 8	2	Presqu'ile PP	BDiL, Ontbirds
	Dec. 13, 15	2	Presqu'ile PP, Gull Island	FH, Ontbirds
Little Gull	Nov. 4	2	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Nov. 22	1	Presqu'ile, Gull Island	RP
	Nov. 29	1ad	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 5	2	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Bonaparte's Gull	Dec. 1	80	Presqu'ile, off Beach 1	MB
	Dec. 2	38	foot of Henry, St., Cob.	MB
	Dec. 7	19	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Dec. 10	150+	Presqu'ile PP	PB, Ontbirds
Iceland Gull	Nov. 6-30	1fw	Cobourg Harbour	KN, m.ob.
	Dec. 19-31	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Dec. 28-31	1imm	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Dec. 28	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 2	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Glaucous Gull	Nov. 24-27	1fw	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Dec. 7	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 31	1ad, 1imm	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Great Black-backed Gull	Dec. 10	3	east beach, Port Hope	NEW, SL
	Dec. 28	12 (high)	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Great Horned Owl	Dec. 20	1 heard	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Snowy Owl	Nov. 10	1 adult m	Trehear Rd. nr. Cty. Rd. 2, Cramahe Twp.	FH
	Nov. 10, 11	1	Presqu'ile PP, Gull Island	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 8	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Barred Owl	Nov. 2 & 15	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Dec. 20	11	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Dec. 21	1	Presqu'ile PP entrance, carrying a live snake!	MB
Long-eared Owl	Dec. 21	1	Beach Dr., Cramahe Twp.	MB
	Dec. 22	1	Best & Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	SM
Belted Kingfisher	Dec. 12	1	Garden Hill	RG
	Dec. 12	3	Garden Hill pond	BW
Red-headed Woodpecker	Dec. 12	1	Hwy. 30 nr. McCann Rd., found dead	SP
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nov. 1-26	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Dec. 18-31	1f	6th Line, Hamilton Twp., at feeder	JGe
Black-backed Woodpecker	Dec. 18	1	Telephone Rd. @ Hofers Rd., Alnwick-	CEG
Northern Flicker	Dec. 9	1	w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PBr

Sightings - cont'd.

Northern Shrike	Nov. 4, 5, 13, 26, 27	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Nov. 10	1	DeJong Rd.	KD
	Nov. 23	1	Choate Rd. & Hawkins, PH Ward 2	SM
Gray Jay	Nov. 8	2	Ganaraska Forest	LB
Common Raven	Dec. 21	1	Peace Park, Cob. feeding on lawn	MB
	Dec. 24	1	over Durham St., PH	EK
	Dec. 31	1	Lakeshore Rd. e. of Wicklow Beach	MB
Gray Catbird	Nov. 10	1	Lakeshore & Willow Beach Rd.	RF
Northern Mockingbird	Nov. 13-Dec. 31	1	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
	Dec. 20	1	Hope & Alfred St., Port Hope	MH
	Dec. 21	1	Lakeshore & Willow Beach Rd.	SM
	Dec. 27-29	1	Kennedy Rd., Camborne	OE
American Pipit	Dec. 18	2	Lakeshore & Thomas, Alnwick-Haldimand	CEG
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov. 4	1	Presqu'ile, an extremely colourful bird, probably <i>lutescens</i>	CEG
"Yellow" Palm Warbler	Nov. 17	1	Presqu'ile Beach 3 - late	MB
Common Yellowthroat	Nov. 28	1	McArthur St., Cobourg	RF
Eastern Towhee	Dec. 11	1f	Lakeshore Rd., PH	LJ
Chipping Sparrow	Dec. 30	1	Barnum House Rd.	CEG
Vesper Sparrow	Nov. 1	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Savannah Sparrow	Nov. 21	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Fox Sparrow	Dec. 23	1	6th Line & Kennedy Rd.	JGe
	Dec. 29	1	Baltimore feeder	AB
Song Sparrow	Dec. 12	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
White-throated Sparrow	Dec. 7	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
	Dec. 24-28	1	s. of Colborne	JF, KB
	Dec. 31	1	Deblaire St., PH	GMCD
White-crowned Sparrow	Nov. 2	1 - last	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Dec. 11-24	1	s. of Colborne	JF, KB
	Dec. 29-31	1	w. of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PBr
Snow Bunting	Nov. 24	90	Presqu'ile Beach 1	MB
	Dec. 31	~150	Dale Rd. e. of Welcome	SW
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Nov. 13-Dec. 31	1m	Presqu'ile PP, feeder	FH, Ontbirds
Red-winged Blackbird	Dec. 17	15	Lakeshore Rd. e. of Dickinson	MB
	Dec. 30	5	Barnum House Rd.	CEG
Rusty Blackbird	Nov. 1	8	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Nov. 2	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Dec. 17	3	Lakeshore Rd. e. of Dickinson	MB
	Dec. 30	1	Barnum House Rd., Grafton	CEG
Common Grackle	Nov. 16	1	s. of Colborne, feeder	JF, KB
	Dec. 1	1	Presqu'ile back yard	MB
	Dec. 17	1	Lakeshore Rd. e. of Dickinson	MB
Purple Finch	Nov. 8 & 22	1 flyover	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Nov. 12, 13	1m	6th Line, Hamilton Twp., at feeder	JGe
	Nov. 23	3m	6th Line, Hamilton Twp., at feeder	JGe
Pine Siskin	Nov. 22	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp., at feeder	JGe
	Dec. 20	2	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
American Goldfinch	Dec. 10	63	west of Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PBr
Evening Grosbeak	Nov. 8	7	Bowmanton Rd. feeder	KD
	Nov. 14	12	Bowmanton Rd. feeder	KD
	Nov. 21	14	Bowmanton Rd. feeder	KD
	Nov. 29	11	Bowmanton Rd. feeder	KD

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Red-bellied Snake	Nov. 2	1 ad.	Presqu'ile, sunning on sandy path	MB
			Presqu'ile Park gate, carried by a Barred Owl that presumably had found its hibernaculum - or perhaps the snake was out basking in the wintry sunshine!	
Eastern Garter Snake (presumed)	Dec. 20	1		MB
Garter Snake	Nov. 7	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Monarch Butterfly	Nov. 2	1	Presqu'ile - Owen Point - late	MB
Red Admiral	Nov. 10	1	Durham St., PH	RF
Red Fox	Dec. 1	2	6th Line, Hamilton Twp., on front lawn	JGe
Porcupine	Dec. 9	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Flying Squirrel	Nov. 17	1	Meyers Rd., Baltimore, found dead	JS
Chipmunk	Nov. 14	1	Young St., PH	NEW
Tree Frog	Nov. 27	1 heard	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PBr
Green Frog	Nov. 27	12	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PBr
Golden Alexanders	Nov. 10	in bloom	Burnham St., PH garden	BC
Red raspberries	Nov. 13	5 ripe	Young St., PH, picked and eaten	SL

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; LB=Luke Berg; MBi=Michael Biggar; PB=Paul Blake; KB=Kim Bratt; PBr=Paul Bridges; AB=Ann Brightman; MC=Maureen Campeau; BC=Bill Crowley; GMCD=Geoff Dale; DD=Don Davis; BDiL=Bruce DiLabio; BL=Bill Logan; KD=Karen Drew; OE=Olga Elchuk; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGe=John Geale; RG=Ron Getz; CEG=Clive Goodwin; MH=Matt Hayward; FH=Fred Helleiner; JI=Jean Iron; LJ=Louise Johncox; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; SL=Susan Laing; ERM=Ted McDonald; Mobs=Many Observers; SM=Simone Mery; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; BP=Bruce Parker; RP=Richard Pope; SP=Sarah Petrasek; MR=Michael Richardson; JS=Jay Sherwin; BS=Bob Short; DSv=Daphne Svenningson; NEW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams.

ONTARIO NATURE'S WRITING AND ART CONTEST

This year's topic: Wild species and wild spaces: why biodiversity is important to me.

New this year: Contest now includes artwork submission. Prizes will given to the top three essays AND the top three paintings or drawings.

What to write: Send an essay or story that is a maximum of 700 words in length. Please be sure that your submission reflects the topic.

What to draw or paint: Send us your artwork on a 8.5" X 11" sheet. Drawings or paintings should reflect the topic.

Include: An official entry form with your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, your parent's or guardian's name and a signature, your grade and the name of your school. To download an entry form, visit www.ontarionature.org.

Entry is limited to Grade 7 and 8 students.

Deadline: February 26, 2010

Send entries to: Youth Writing and Art Contact, Ontario Nature, 366 Adelaide St. W., Ste. 201, Toronto, ON M5V 1R9

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Family - \$25 Single - \$23

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