



Vol LV No. 5

May 2010

## COMING EVENTS

● **Thursday, May 20, 2010 - Outing - Place:** Port Hope west beach

**Destination meeting time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Directions:** Turn south on John St. off Walton St. in downtown Port Hope. Follow John St. until it ends at Hayward and turn right (west) on Hayward. Follow Hayward past the Via rail station until it ends at Marsh St. Turn right (west) on Marsh St. and follow until parking lot at playground equipment.

**Details:** We will park at the playground and see if there are any shorebirds along the lakeshore and walk west along the beach looking for migrants and locally breeding birds for approximately 1.5hr.

● **Friday, May 28, 2010 – President’s Walk**

**Place:** Peter’s Woods Provincial Park

**Destination meeting time:** 7:00 p.m. (NOTE TIME)

**Directions:** Follow County Road 45 north to County Rd. 29. Turn right (east) on Cty. Rd. 29 and follow to McDonald Rd. Follow McDonald Rd. south and turn left into the parking lot at the signed entrance to the Park.

**Details:** We will explore the woods along the trail on this ~1.5hr walk.

● **Saturday, June 5, 2010 - Outing - Place:** Goodrich-Loomis Bio-blitz

**Destination meeting time:** 7:00am – early afternoon

**Directions/Details:** More information to come. This event will be a “Bio blitz” to try to find as many species of any type of organism anywhere on the property for Lower Trent Conservation. It will be an inventory to help Lower Trent with their management planning of conservation areas. Everyone is welcome to attend as any sightings including dandelions and squirrels are helpful so we hope that as many members as possible will come and bring family friends for a day of just enjoying nature. An organized walk (~1hr.) will take place at 9 a.m. and will focus on all living things that can be found. This would be a great time to help recall your bird songs in preparation for the Northumberland Summer Bird Count.

● **Sunday, July 18, 2010 - Outing - Place:** Canoe Outing on the Otonabee River

**Destination meeting time:** 9:00 a.m.

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**Directions:** Follow Highway 28 north to Whitfield Rd. (Fraserville). Turn right (east) on Whitfield Road and follow to the end at the public boat launch.

**Details:** This canoe-hike will last 2 to 3 hours and will explore the wetlands and shoreline along this stretch of river. This is a very wide and somewhat “lazy” stretch of river and we will stick close to the shore so that it will not be a difficult paddle. Everyone is welcome and we can pair strong paddlers with newer ones.

●**Saturday, September 18, 2010 - Outing - Place:** Spartan Trail, Port Hope

**Destination meeting time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Directions:** We will meet and park at the Jack Burger sports complex. Follow Walton St. in downtown Port Hope west to Toronto Rd. Turn north onto Toronto road and make another right turn very shortly after onto Victoria St. Follow Victoria St. north to Highland Dr. Turn right (east) onto Highland Drive and follow to the sports complex’ parking lot. We will access the trails from here. **Details:** This walk will last 2-3 hours during which we will explore this amazing natural area in the middle of town.

●**Sunday, October 10, 2010 - Outing - Place:** Ferris Provincial Park

**Destination meeting time:** 9:00 a.m. at park entrance

**Directions:** Follow Highway 401 east of Cobourg to County Rd. 30 north of Brighton. Take exit 509 and go north on County Rd. 30. Follow County Rd. 30 north approximately 28km to Bridge St. west in Campbellford. Turn right (east) on Bridge St. and follow for approximately 0.5km to Centre St. Turn right (south) on Centre St./County Rd. 8, approximately 2.5km to the park entrance. Park is still open at this time so entrance fees will apply to each car.

**Details:** This walk will last approximately 3 hours during which we will explore the trails in this park and go onto the suspension bridge over Ranney Gorge.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40790538  
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSED TO  
BOX 421  
PORT HOPE, ON L1A 3Z3

### THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

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*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the September 2010 issue should be received by August 31, 2010. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, [ekrf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca), or Norma Wallace (885-5552) for the September Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."*

## THE NEWCOMERS IN TOWN: MERLINS

by Clive E. Goodwin

It's April 17, and this spring has already yielded ten Merlin sightings in Cobourg. On April 1, Ken Niles saw an 'aggressively vocal' Merlin in Victoria Park, and one further east on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Then I had two harbour records in March with another in April, all just west of the Park. To the north end of town, John Geale had a bird in early April, and Audrey Wilson reported one not far away in Union Cemetery. Finally, on April 7 a pair was engaged in a noisy courtship flight over the factories at the east end of Lucas Point, and five days later I came across a male [a tiercel, in falcon terminology] sitting quietly in a dead birch. It watched me approach, and finally flew west a hundred yards or so and perched again. This process was then repeated, but as I came closer for the third time it flew out and down over the lake, and then returned eastwards out of sight. This rather ambiguous behaviour, together with the other sightings, suggests there could be at least two, and perhaps as many as three territorial Merlins around town!

None of this is really new, of course. We had breeding confirmed in Victoria Park in 2007, and birds have been present in these three locations in the past, with suspicions of breeding in all of them. Port Hope is even further ahead in the nesting Merlin count, with breeding first confirmed in 2004, and birds annually since; while elsewhere the birds first nested in Presqu'île in 2003, and other sightings have been scattered around the County. There are sure to be more Merlin reports yet to come from these other places, so we may be headed for a record-high spring count.

While this spring's early flurry of sightings is maybe not surprising given the number of records in recent years, it's only relatively recently that Merlins have become more than an uncommon spring and [mainly]

fall migrant. Formerly, their appearances in our urban areas were only when the towns happened to coincide with their migration routes in spring and fall, usually along the Lake Ontario shorelines. My own image of a Merlin in the past was of a kind of pint-sized Peregrine Falcon, always in a tearing hurry to get somewhere else! Presqu'île in fall has probably always been a local – and exciting – exception to this, as the birds there will perch somewhere along the beach line, and periodically dash out to terrorize the shorebird flocks. The consistency of this pattern is reflected in our 1176 records, with 53% between August 31 and October 31, and almost as many [49%] from Presqu'île.

In contrast, the breeding season of May through July only accounts for some 8% of all records. In earlier days, even as recently as the 1985 Breeding Bird Atlas, the Merlin was mainly a bird of the taiga and the coniferous forests of the north, and an uncommon one at that. So when did all this change, and why?

In fact, over their huge range Merlins will nest in a variety of habitats. In Britain they are mainly birds of the moors, often nesting on the ground and hunting the pipits and larks that populate these open places. There's speculation that birds in our far north may also nest on the ground, and aeries in tree holes and on cliff ledges have been reported. Still, in North America in general the species seems to favour forested areas adjacent to open country for nesting, using conifers for the nests themselves, which are often in the old nests of crows and other birds.

As to when urban nesting first occurred, there's considerable ambiguity. Some of the earlier records, for example, in Thunder Bay in 1941 and Ottawa in 1936, may technically have been in the cities, but the descriptions of

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the nesting habitat suggest that the birds may have chosen a site [typically in a large park] that was sufficiently out-of-town to allow hunting in immediately adjacent rural areas rather than in the town itself. But nests were recorded in Saskatoon and Edmonton in the 1960s, and expanded from these cities to other communities across the prairies. Urban nesting there has apparently been very successful, with House Sparrows in particular as favorite targets.

However – and it’s a very significant ‘however’ – the story so far neglects one key element. In the 1960’s the wholesale use of DDT and other pesticides led to a collapse of many raptor populations, due mainly to egg-shell thinning, which in turn resulted in nest failure. Perhaps the hardest hit was the Peregrine Falcon – I can recall that at one point the species seemed almost gone – but Merlins declined seriously as well. Between 1961 and 1976 we have only one or two birds recorded annually, and recovery was still not thought to be complete by the time of the first Breeding Bird Atlas. Without this catastrophic decline we probably would have had Merlins nesting here much earlier.

The bird’s actual expansion is quite strikingly shown by comparing the two Breeding Bird Atlases, which fortunately bracketed much of the recovery. In 1985 southern Ontario showed a thin scattering of territorial Merlins on sites north from Algonquin Park and Manitoulin Island [much of the area defined as the Southern Shield in the latest Atlas]. To the south and west of this there were a few on the Bruce Peninsula and the northern Niagara Escarpment, and six or seven elsewhere. There were none in Northumberland.

By 2005 birds were well distributed across the Southern Shield, and there were a good number of sites recorded from squares south of there and on the Bruce Peninsula. The probability of the species being found in

a square with reasonable coverage rose from 6.5% for the Southern Shield to 42.1%, and in the adjacent Lake Simcoe- Rideau region, which includes Northumberland, from 4.3% to 17.9%. In Northumberland itself we had birds recorded in six squares, with the nestings at Presqu’ile and Port Hope confirmed.

What emerges from all this is that the expansion into the towns is simply part of the general expansion of the Merlin’s range, following the introduction of controls on pesticides. It is a true expansion, as it would seem that formerly Merlins were birds of forest edges, but in a sense they are indeed reclaiming lost territory. Fothergill shot a Merlin in August of 1820, and he described the species then as “common”. Much later, Taverner, writing in 1922, says it is “nowhere a common bird” and its range is “south to the borders of cultivated land in eastern Canada”. In Fothergill’s day Northumberland would indeed be forested, but by the 1920’s most of that forest would be gone.

Apparently both the agricultural landscape and urban areas were unsuitable for Merlins in the 1920s. We can only guess at the explanation for this. It was too early for pesticides to be in the picture, but all raptors were probably more likely to suffer persecution in those days. Then as now, however, the American Kestrel was the falcon of agricultural landscapes, and at that time it was a very common bird. Perhaps some combination of these factors acted to exclude the Merlin.

Today the kestrel is seriously declining, probably as a result of dramatic declines in the invertebrate prey that forms the major part of its diet, only some 9% of which is birds. Merlins prey primarily on small birds, although like all raptors they are opportunists, and will readily hunt dragonflies where available. So conditions today might give more scope for a small open country hawk than there was previously. As for the occupation of towns, there has been speculation that the

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success of urban Merlins on the prairies was because there were both more small birds and more tall conifers for nests in the towns. The difference is less dramatic here, but our towns have both small birds and suitable mature conifers aplenty, so we might find that the

Merlin will do equally well here.

It turns out that we cannot really answer the 'why the expansion' question at all, but we do have front-row seats to watch the developing story of Merlins as newcomers to our communities.

### **Omission from Executive and Committee List**

In the list of the Executive Board and Committee chairs which appeared in the April *Curlew*, one very important new position was forgotten. Bruce Parker has taken on the role of the WBFN web master. The site that Bruce has created gives WBFN a very professional looking presence on the web. It is updated regularly.

Bruce would welcome photos and items to post.

If you haven't already done so, go to:  
<http://www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org>  
to see what the club is doing.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

This is the last issue of the *Curlew* until September. Please make a note of the summer and early fall outings that you wish to attend.

Sightings can be reported to Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552 or to Roger Frost at 905-885-9615 or [erkf@eagle.ca](mailto:erkf@eagle.ca)

### **Blue Jays nesting over porch light**

Norma Wallace reports that a pair of Blue Jays have again this year decided to build a nest over her neighbours' porch light on Hope St. in Port Hope. For several years, a pair built in this unusual location. In about 2004 or 2005, the nest was depredated by American Crows. This is the first nesting attempt here by the jays since that time. September's *Curlew* will report whether the nest was successful.

## Willow Beach Field Naturalists Opening of Peter's Woods (Ontario Parks)

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was the official opening of Peter's Woods for the season. The gate was opened at 9:00 a.m., and although no hordes of tourists or locals flocked its gate, a gentle hare and the song of a sparrow welcomed us.

The previous week was a busy one to prepare a boardwalk for the low lying areas in time for the opening. Chris Drew and Bill Newell worked diligently to assemble the sections for the 17<sup>th</sup>, and we were fortunate to have a beautiful day in which to do it. Audrey Wilson (and her charge, Millie) supervised the operation with her expert experience, Tim and Ann Lawley (always ready and able to lend a helping hand), and Tony Pitts and I transported the sections to their rightful place – in the muck and mire. I have to give credit to Chris for devising a very unique “vehicle” – made up of old motor cycle tires and a lot of spit and polish! The 10 foot by 3 foot sections of cedar were balanced on the trolley and with care – and a few slips and slides – we managed to transport them over the second bridge and to their rightful place. I think visitors will be impressed. No more precarious balancing on cedar planks while the squish of mud-laced boots and paws.

There are a few items of maintenance that need attention, but in conversing with Curt Morris of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Parks, he has assured us

they are “on board” to help out wherever they can. We had hoped the new brochures would have been available on opening day, but unfortunately they were not and the old standbys are available. Perhaps within the next couple of weeks we will finally see their reality.

Everyone who loves the early, natural spring flowers must go to Peter's Woods soon – the trout lilies, red and white trilliums, various ferns and mosses are coming up and bursting with life. I'm sorry to say that I cannot identify birds by their calls, but they are abundant. My favourite are the ferns and scouring rush – I can just picture in my mind's eye how the earth looked a millennium ago.

On behalf of the Volunteers of Peter's Woods, in partnership with Willow Beach Field Naturalists and Ontario Parks, we welcome you to visit the ‘Woods’ and bring your friends and family. Picture opportunities abound, the ambiance couldn't be better, and what you bring with you after your walk is peace in your heart.

*Petra Hartwig and Chris Drew,  
Co-coordinators of  
Volunteers for Peter's Woods  
April 28, 2010*

### **THANK YOU!**

Gretchen Harris & Nick Vanderknokke were kind enough to store the lumber for the Peter's Woods boardwalk over the winter. In thanks, WBFN Executive Board has given Gretchen and Nick the gift of a complimentary one year membership.

## **NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**

The Northumberland Stewardship Council has a new coordinator. After 15 years in the position, Glenn McLeod retired from the Ministry of Natural Resources in December 2009. Derrick Luetchford has been hired to fill the position.

The NSC provides landowner assistance in many resource oriented areas including tree planting, woodlot management advice, and wetland fencing. For complete information about the Northumberland Stewardship Council, Derrick may be contacted as follows:

Derrick Luetchford, Stewardship Coordinator, Northumberland Stewardship Coordinator,  
300 Water St., 1st Floor, South Tower, Peterborough, ON, K9J 8M5, (705) 755-3298,  
derrick.luetchford@ontario.ca  
www.ontariostewardship.org

*submitted by Bill Newell,  
Chair  
Northumberland Stewardship Council*

## **Northumberland Land Trust: Call for Volunteers!**

NLT is planning some outings to the McEwen Property this summer to do invasive plant surveying and removal. Dates will be announced shortly and will be sent out via Willow Beach email updates.

We are also looking for volunteers for governance, stewardship, marketing and fundraising committees. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ashley Wilson at: ashley.georgina.wilson@gmail.com or 613-570-0741.

## **Ontario Swift Watch**

The Canadian Chimney Swift population has declined by almost 30% over the last three generations (13.5 years). This dramatic and rapid population decline has led to the recent listing of Chimney Swifts by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as a federally threatened species.

To try to determine the causes of this decline, Bird Studies Canada has started a Citizen Science project called Ontario Swift Watch. Chimney Swifts nest in both Port Hope and Cobourg. Member who would like more information about this project can go to [www.bsc-eoc.org/birdmon/chsw/about.jsp](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/birdmon/chsw/about.jsp) or contact Elisabeth van Stam, Ontario Programs Biologist, Bird Studies Canada, 115 Front Street, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario: E-mail: [evanstam@birdscanada.org](mailto:evanstam@birdscanada.org): Telephone: 888-448-2473 ext. 173



### **NATURE NUTS DAY CAMP 2010**

Throughout the summer, the Ganaraska Conservation holds nature day camps for young people. The camp is located at the GRCA offices just off Highway 28 north of Hwy. 401.

***Week 1 - L.I.T. (Leader in Training) Camp, July 5th-9th & then Choose Another Week of Camp to Attend as an L.I.T. Ages 11-14*** This one-week camp is devoted to the older campers (ages 11-14) who are interested in becoming a camp counselor as a summer job.

***Week 2 - A Bug's Life, July 12th-16th***

***Week 3 - What It Takes To Survive, July 26th-30th***

***Week 4 - Earth, Water, Wind and Fire, August 3rd-6th (4-Day Week)***

***Week 5 - Crafty by Nature, August 16th-20th***

***Week 6 - Crime Scene Investigation, August 23rd - 27th***

For more information on the program and fees, consult the GRCA web site at [www.grca.on.ca](http://www.grca.on.ca).

### **Presqu'ile Provincial Park**

#### **Programs throughout the spring and summer:**

#### **June 5 to 27: Spring Interpretive Program**

Guided nature walks each weekend. The Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and the Friends' Gift Shop will be open weekends.

#### **July 1 to September 5: Summer Interpretive Program**

Details have yet to be finalized (see <http://www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca/>). Every Saturday lunchtime, the Friends will hold a BBQ, near the amphitheatre, from 11:30 am. The Nature Centre, the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and the Friends' Gift Shop will be open daily.

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

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

For more information about these programs, go to [friendsofpresquile.on.ca](http://friendsofpresquile.on.ca)



## RECENT SIGHTINGS

*compiled by Roger Frost*

Gadwall	Apr. 13	20	Presqu'ile PP	CEG
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	Apr. 20	1	Presqu'ile bay	FH, Ontbirds
Blue-winged Teal	Apr. 6	2	Dale Rd. pond	MB
Northern Shoveler	Apr. 11	1m, 1f	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	May 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Pintail	Apr. 4	25	Merrill Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	RF
Green-winged Teal	Apr. 4	50	Merrill Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	RF
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	March 29	1	Lake Ontario off Cobourg Harbour, last date seen	CEG
Surf Scoter	Apr. 14	1	Lake Ontario off Clarke/Hope boundary	PB
Black Scoter	Apr. 22	3	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Ring-necked Pheasant	Apr. 28	1	Cty. Rd. 24, e. of Roseneath	SW
Red-throated Loon	Apr. 14	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
	Apr. 19-22	3-8	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	May 1	2	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Common Loon	Apr. 24	6	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Pied-billed Grebe	Apr. 9	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Apr. 9, 10	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Horned Grebe	Apr. 26	3	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Red-necked Grebe	March 30	7	Lake Ontario off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Apr. 11	25	off Candlewick Woods	EK, RF
	Apr. 26	1	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
	May 1	2	Lake Ontario off Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Bittern	Apr. 3	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
	Apr. 8	1 in flight	Presqu'ile PP	GMCD, BP
Great Egret	Apr. 3	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Green Heron	Apr. 29	1	Calnan Rd. pond, Alnwick/Haldimand	MB
Turkey Vulture	Apr. 2	1	Morrish Church Rd. & Cty. Rd. 2, PH Ward 2	WC
Bald Eagle	Apr. 17-27	1a, 1imm	Roseneath Landing	DS
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 21	1	Roseberry Hill n. of Hwy. 2, PH Ward 2	PB
	Apr. 23	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Northern Goshawk	Apr. 19	1	Wesleyville/Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	PB
eagle sp.	Apr. 1	4	Castlehill Dr., Hamilton Twp.	MAC
American Kestrel	Apr. 12	2	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	MAC
	Apr. 15	1	near Colborne	BP, JGo, GMCD
Peregrine Falcon	Apr. 2	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF, KH
Virginia Rail	Apr. 18	1	Jewell Rd., Alnwick/Haldimand	EK, RF, KS
Sandhill Crane	Apr. 18	2	5th Line, Alnwick/Haldimand	EK, RF, KS
	Apr. 24	3	Roseneath Landing	DS
Spotted Sandpiper	Apr. 23	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	BL, Ontbirds
Greater Yellowlegs	Apr. 9	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Apr. 26	3	Mail Rd. pond, PH Ward 2	MB
	Apr. 26	3	Calnan Rd. pond, Alnwick/Haldimand	HMCL
	Apr. 27	4	Calnan Rd. pond, Alnwick/Haldimand	AEW
<b>Willet</b>	Apr. 25	6	Port Hope Harbour	RF, Mobs

## Sightings - cont'd.

Iceland Gull	Apr. 15	1	Cobourg Harbour	OT
	Apr. 16	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Apr. 25	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF, Mobs
Glaucous Gull	Apr. 10	3	Cobourg Harbour	OT
	Apr. 25	1	Cobourg Harbour	OT
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Apr. 15	1	Cobourg Harbour	OT
	May 1	1	Lucas Point, Cob. - second year	CEG
Bonaparte's Gull	Apr. 16	571+	off Cobourg Harbour flying east	CEG
	Apr. 16	300+	off Lucas Point, Cob.	BL, Ontbirds
Common Tern	Apr. 26		Presqu'île PP	FH, Ontbirds
Forster's Tern	Apr. 23	1	flew over Cobourg Harbour condo	CEG
Northern Saw-whet Owl	May 5	1	calling behind 2303 Division St.N., Cob	LW
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>	<b>Apr. 1</b>	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	MAC
Red-headed Woodpecker	Apr. 24	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Red-bellied Woodpecker	all Apr.	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Apr. 2	1m	Mail Rd./Wesleyville Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Eastern Phoebe	Apr. 2	7	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF, KH
Warbling Vireo	May 1	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Purple Martin	Apr. 10	4	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Apr. 12	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
	Apr. 19	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
	Apr. 27	5	Roseneath Landing	DS
Barn Swallow	Apr. 6	2	Loyalist Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Carolina Wren	May 1	1	Durham St., PH	EK
Hermit Thrush	Apr. 30	5	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Brown Thrasher	Apr. 5	1	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Apr. 5	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Cedar Waxwing	Apr. 2	12	Upper Cold Springs, Hamilton Twp.	SW
Pine Warbler	Apr. 15	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	AEW
Common Yellowthroat	May 1	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Eastern Towhee	Apr. 20	1m	Bowmanton Rd. feeder - first date	KD
Clay-colored Sparrow	May 1	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG, AEW, JW
Vesper Sparrow	Apr. 2	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF, KH
Fox Sparrow	Apr. 1-6	1	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Apr. 7	2	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Apr. 23	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
White-throated Sparrow	Apr. 30	30+	Lucas Point, Cob. First numbers	CEG
White-crowned Sparrow	Apr. 30	1	Deblaquire St., PH	GMCD
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Apr. 30	1	Durham St., PH	EK
Evening Grosbeak	Apr. 5, 9	1f	Bowmanton Rd. feeder	KD
Red Fox	Apr. 25-29	1	Albert St. backyard, badly affected by mange	MB
	Apr. 29	1	Lucas Point Park, badly mangy	MB, AEW
Cabbage White	Apr. 12	1	Young St., PH	NEW
	Apr. 27	1	Presqu'île	AEW
Red-bellied Snake	Apr. 4	1	Lake St. Trail	EK

Sightings - cont'd.

**Observers:** MB=Margaret Bain; PB=Paul Bridges; MAC=Mary Anne Cooper; WC=William Crowley; GMCD=Geoff Dale; KD=Karen Drew; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JGo=Jack Goering; FH=Fred Helleiner; CH=Carol Hunt; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BL=Bill Logan; HMCL=Helga McLernon; KH=Kyle Horner; mobs=Many Observers; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; BP=Bob Popham; KS=Katsu Sakuma; DS=Dave Shirley; OT=Ossie Tee; NEW=Norma Wallace; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson; JW=Jean Wilson..

## MAPS

Perhaps you are new to the area or perhaps you have lived here long enough that the sideroads didn't have names. In either case, a Northumberland County map might be useful if you want to find the locations mentioned in the sightings' list. This map is available for a small cost at the County office in Cobourg or at any tourism office. It includes a map of the Northumberland County with all the road names. It also includes street maps for all the towns, villages and hamlets.

Birders who wander further afield in Ontario might find it useful to acquire the MapArt *Ontario Back Road Atlas*. This map book includes only the sideroads and highways, and doesn't include street maps for the towns. It is available at the cost of \$19.95 plus tax at most stores that carry MapArt maps.

-Elizabeth Kellogg

*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

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.



Willow Beach Field Naturalists  
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