



COMING EVENTS

● **Friday, November 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.** at Cobourg Public Library

Speaker: Debbie Gordon; **Topic:** Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM)

STORM is a coalition, partnered with Citizens Environment Watch, whose focus is to protect the ecological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Since 1989, STORM has been working at the local and regional levels to ensure that municipalities make good planning decisions that respect the environmental significance of the moraine and take into account its ecological and hydrological functions. Debbie Gordon will talk about the far-reaching implications of the Moraine's Geography, the concerns of and initiatives members have taken including a request to have it designated as a biosphere.

● **Saturday, December 18, 2010—Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Roger Frost at 905-885-9615 or erkrf@eagle.ca if you would like to take part.

● **Sunday, December 19, 2010—The Presqu'île Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Maureen Riggs (613) 475-3604 or mriggs@sympatico.ca if you would like to participate.

Reports from feeder watchers are welcome for the Christmas Bird Count totals. Check with the compilers to determine whether your feeder is within the count circle. For the Port Hope-Cobourg count, feeder counts can be phoned to Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552 or contact Roger Frost. Maureen Riggs would be happy to receive feeder counts for the Presqu'île count.

● **Saturday, January 15, 2011, 10:00 a.m.** – Winter Tree Identification Field Trip to the Northumberland Forest with Bill Newell. Meet at the ski trail parking lot off Beagle Club Road. Directions: Take Cty. Rd. 45 north to Beagle Club. Turn left on Beagle Club and follow signs to ski trail parking.

● **Friday, January 28, 2011, 7:30 p.m.** at Cobourg Public Library

Speaker: Audrey Wilson will do a presentation on **Silkworm Moths**. Canada boasts six native silkworm moths. Through her slides, Audrey will indicate basic differences between moths and butterflies. The life cycle of these beautiful creatures will be shown with close-up shots of the different stages of their metamorphosis. Then she will take us to Mysore, India to view the home industry of silkworm moths that results in beautiful silk products for the commercial market.

● **Sunday, February 6, 2011, 10:00 a.m.** – Winter Gull and Waterfowl field trip to the Cobourg waterfront with Richard Pope. Meet at the parking lot at the south end of Hibernia Street next to the harbour.

President's Message

As many of you know, the October general meeting was cancelled due to an unfortunate library room reservation mix-up. To the members who came for the meeting, thank you for your patience and understanding and my apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

This in no way reflects on our very capable Meeting Coordinator Deborah Panko, who had a contract for the room booking and had arranged for what was to be a most memorable talk. Deborah has since sorted this out with the Library staff, with a positive outcome for WBFN.

Our speaker was very gracious about the situation and assured us he will be happy to return at another date to give his presentation about the Carden Alvar, something to look forward to in the future.

I hope to see you all at the Cobourg Library on Friday November 26 for our last meeting before the winter holidays.

Best wishes for a safe and joyous Holiday Season,

Louise Schmidt

Help Wanted

Volunteer to join the Name Tag Committee. John Geale is currently the only member and someone else is needed to share the responsibilities.

Name tag volunteers are responsible for ensuring there is a name tag for each member, making up new ones as needed and that the tags are available at each meeting. If you are interested please contact John Geale at 905-342-3851 or johngeale@yahoo.com

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THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

<http://www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org>

Past Pres.	Michael Biggar	905-372-7407	mbiggar.wbfn@gmail.com
President	Louise Schmidt	905-797-1059	wingbeat@xplornet.com
1st Vice-pres.	Ben Walters	905-797-3351	benjaminwalters@trentu.ca
2nd Vice-pres.	Tim Tottenham	905-885-2337	tottenham@vianet.ca
Secretary	Karen Drew	905-342-2904	drew@eagle.ca
Treasurer	Rae Waring	905-372-9350	waringrm@sympatica.ca
FON Rep.	Carole Payne	905-885-6135	bookbind@cogeco.ca
Curlew Ed.	Elizabeth Kellogg	905-885-9615	ekrf@eagle.ca
	Norma Wallace	905-885-5552	
webmaster	Bruce Parker	905-372-4911	buice@sympatico.ca

The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the January 2011 issue should be received by December 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 January Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."



Photo: S. Gibbs

Today a sighting the before mentioned 'bad-tempered bird' would indeed cause many birders to shout, with excitement that is. The Red-headed Woodpecker, once common in south-eastern Canada, has and continues to, decline steadily throughout its range. One of the largest declines is occurring in Ontario, where an estimated 60% population decline has occurred in only the last twenty years. Despite such declines, little is known about Red-headed Woodpeckers, indeed there has been no recorded studies of the species in the province (or in Canada) and currently there is no recovery plan or targeted conservation projects.

Historically, the Red-headed Woodpecker was a creature of the vast savannas and open deciduous forests. Long ago, the settlement of Europeans in North America led to massive losses of these habitats, causing difficulties for many species which called these habitats home. Yet a certain crimson-headed bird found that settlement towns and the resulting countryside was much to its liking (especially the new source of food settlers brought in the guise of planted fruit and nut trees!). This trend of flexibility seems to continue today as Red-heads may be found in a variety of areas with large dead and dying deciduous trees such as town centers, golf

“ O dear me!” WOODPECKER said.
“The birds all shout at me, ‘Red-head’;
It makes me feel so very sad,
No wonder that my temper’s bad!”

1930's Bird Children book

Report on Red-Headed Woodpecker Project

by Barbara Frei

courses, animal pastures, cemeteries and woodlots.

So here comes the tricky question: Why is a species, such as the Red-headed Woodpecker, that seemingly can make its home in many places, from leafy downtown Cobourg to deciduous woodlots to cow pastures, in such trouble? That is the question that I aim to answer (or at least chip away at).

I first came to Northumberland County in the summer of 2010, in search of this answer. I was drawn to Northumberland County following a close study of the two Ontario Breeding Bird Atlases. Northumberland stands out as one of the few remaining areas in central Ontario where Red-headed Woodpeckers were recorded during both atlases. Between May – August 2010 my team and I scoured the area to discover a wealth of deciduous woodlots with high avian diversity (over 55 bird species) in addition to very friendly and welcoming landowners! The former included our focal species, with 15 breeding pairs counted. And I suspect there are many more breeding pairs we did not find.

I will be continuing the study on Red-headed Woodpeckers in the summers of 2011 -2012. My study is three-fold. First, through the monitoring of breeding pairs combined with taking habitat measurements I hope to discover patterns arising from why these birds choose to nest where they do and how the surrounding habitat affects their success in

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raising young. As most other woodpecker species, Red-headed Woodpeckers need standing dead wood (or trees with dead limbs) to excavate for nest holes. It appears if they find the right branch or tree they will happily nest in the same tree (but a fresh hole!) for many years. Thus, if you have a tree on your property peppered with holes, please don't cut it down if you don't need to. An eyesore for some, may look just like home for woodpeckers.

Secondly, I will attempt to take feather samples from adults to understand what they are feeding on. This may be important since Red-headed Woodpeckers are the most adept flycatchers in the woodpecker family and as many of you know, several aerial insectivores (swallows, flycatchers and nightjars) are thought to be declining due to a lack of insect prey. The overall importance of aerial insects in Red-headed Woodpecker diets is still unknown.

Lastly, I will be comparing the location and breeding success of Red-headed Woodpeckers to their near (but in much bet-

ter shape population-wise) cousin, the Red-bellied Woodpecker. This southern species is pushing further north each year and enchanting many of us as it visits our bird feeders. Perhaps understanding why this species is doing so well may help with the mystery surrounding our bad-tempered feathered friend.

If you would like to help in the conservation and research of Red-headed Woodpeckers, here is what you can do. If you know of a past or present breeding location of Red-headed or Red-bellied Woodpeckers I would love to hear from you! If you are a landowner (or have a friend that is!) with a mature deciduous woodlot or a pasture with old trees and would like to have your area surveyed for Red-headed Woodpeckers in the summer of 2011, you can contact me at barbara.frei@mail.mcgill.ca. Lastly if neither of those options applies to you but you want to help our Red-headed friends, become a champion of conserving dead wood in your neighborhood. Dead branches and trees are often removed for aesthetic reasons, but think of how pretty it would be to have a Red-headed Woodpecker nesting in your



Barbara Frei at work.

Photo V. Aponte

Willow Beach Field Naturalists Scholarship 2010



Willow Beach Field Naturalists presented for the first time in 2010 a **\$1000 Education Scholarship** to a graduating high school student moving on to post-secondary education from **one** of following secondary schools: Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West, Cobourg District Collegiate Institute East, Port Hope High School, East Northumberland Secondary School, Brighton, St. Mary's Secondary School, Cobourg.

Congratulations go to first time winner **Megan Reid** from Port Hope High School. Megan is an enthusiastic and active environmental leader in her school and has participated in a number of environmental projects and programs during her high school years.

- Bruce Parker

WBFN Annual Education Awards 2010

WBFN has supported Port Hope and Cobourg area elementary and secondary schools for the last eight years with an education program that endeavors to foster the interest of young people in the natural world and enhance their knowledge of current environmental issues. We have been providing annual education awards of \$250 to two schools from 2002 to 2007 and three schools from 2008 onwards. In 2008 the awards program also expanded to include all Northumberland County schools. This year's winning schools consisted of two previous award winners with one new one.

●St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School Campbellford

Teacher Joshua Charpentier and the Green Team have been piloting the Scrap the Cap program at their school. Their goal is to "raise awareness of the concerns and hazards associated with non-reusable, plastic water containers." After determining that the school of 195 students was using 1,045 non-reusable liquid containers per month, the Green Team and Mr. Charpentier believed that a solution to this problem was to promote the purchase, sale and use of re-useable stainless steel water bottles in their school. The funds from the WBFN Education Award has helped to fund the purchase of the bottles for the school. The Green Team hopes to expand their program to other neighbouring schools.

●Plainville Public School

This is the third year that Plainville Public School has won an award from WBFN. Their planned project for this year focused on naturalizing an area adjacent to the school with native perennials and tallgrass prairie plant species. Led by Parent Council Chair Rose Goodall, the students will have learning opportunities through hands-on experience and discussions with the Ganaraska Conservation Authority and the Northumberland Stewardship Council Staff in preparing and planting the area. In addition, advice from the staff at the Alderville Black Oak Savannah will be sought. The location of the school close to the Rice Lake area makes the project particularly significant for the students.

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●Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School Cobourg

Also a repeat winner from previous years, Educational Assistant Anne Young has involved students this year with a study on animals and their relationship in our environment. Funds from the WBFN Award were used to purchase an incubator to hatch chicks in the school resource centre. While originally part of a curricular program for grade 3 it was determined that the whole school should have an opportunity to be involved. The incubator with the eggs was placed in the school resource centre so that all students could watch and monitor the hatching of the chicks. After the chicks were of a suitable size they were taken to the farm of a staff member. Some students had the opportunity to see them on the farm as well. The school hopes to continue the program next year.

- Bruce Parker

*For photos of the presentations, go to the education page on the WBFN web site,
www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org*

Window Kills

by Audrey Wilson

Recently, I was asked to help lead the Grafton Young Horticulturalists group on a pond field trip outing. When the leader arrived, she gave me two large bags of frozen window kills that had accumulated over a five year period at her home southwest of Grafton. Only a few of the birds had dates attached. Dates, along with location, reason for death and collector's name make specimens useful for museum collections. I used to send all I received to Earl Godfrey at the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa. His staff prepared them as museum specimens for use by scientists or artists. Now, I turn them over to the Doug McRae who gets them to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

Birds Collected

Sharp-shinned Hawk (1), September 7, 2010
Mourning Dove (1)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1) female
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)
Downy Woodpecker (1)
Black-capped Chickadee (3), October 9 & 10, 2010
House Wren (1)
American Robin (1)
Golden-crowned Kinglet (1)
Ovenbird (1)
Northern Waterthrush (1), September 12, 2010
American Redstart (1)
Northern Oriole (1)

Brown-headed Cowbird (1)
Northern Cardinal (1) immature male
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1) female
Pine siskin (1)
American Goldfinch (1)
Slate-colored Junco (2)
House Finch (2), October 19, 2010
White-throated Sparrow (2)

The above list of 26 individual birds represents 21 species of birds killed at only one home. This is a definite concern when one considers the multiplier effect when duplicated across the countryside at numerous feeders! What can we do to reduce this massacre?

SUGGESTIONS:

Try to break up window reflections. Sometimes adjacent windows or mirrors suggest a free fly-through for birds. Therefore, partially pulled blinds, short streamers attached to the top of windows (inside or outside) or window silhouettes all help!

Also, the closer feeders are to windows, the less impact damage a startled bird receives when frightened by a predator!

*For more information on this issue, check out
www.flap.org*

ECOSPARK Awards

EcoSpark, formerly Citizen's Environment Watch gave out its **2010 Moraine Hero Awards** in November. Three of the five awards went to people and projects in Northumberland County. Former WBFN member Sharon Keogh, Northumberland County and Ken Towle have been presented with awards.

The information below is copied from: http://www.ecospark.ca/monitoringthemoraine/moraine_hero_awards/2010. Go to the web site for more information about EcoSpark.

●Landowner Champion: Sharon Keogh
Sharon Keogh has worked hard promoting biodiversity on the land she and her husband own on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Early Canadian writer and botanist Catharine Parr Traill lived there in the 1840s. Sharon has reintroduced native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs written about by Traill, and encouraged the spread of existing native flora. She has spearheaded a controlled burn on the uplands, that were historically tallgrass prairie, to preserve habitat for ground-nesting birds. She has conducted guided walks for community groups and individuals. Sharon and her husband have created a trail network, and are working on controlling invasive species. They recently launched a website about their restoration efforts (<http://traill.ca/Welcome.html>). Sharon's desire is to continue stewarding in honour of Catharine Parr Traill who celebrated the flora and fauna of the landscape.

●Municipal Leadership: Northumberland County

Over the last three years, Northumberland County has transformed the Northumberland County Forest into a responsibly managed, preserved and accessible natural area of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Staff have introduced changes to regulate the overall management of the Forest. Some of these changes include the preservation of sensitive areas of natural vegetation, the introduction of controlled access for recreational use, the control of invasive species, participation in the Rice Lake

Plains Joint Initiative and the development of the Forest Fire Management Plan. County staff and stakeholders worked through a public process to ensure that the Forest moved forward with a management plan that balanced conservation issues with the privileges of recreation. This was the result of leadership and commitment to ensuring that the 5400 acre natural core area of the Moraine is preserved and managed according to the spirit and intent of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

●Proactive Approaches: Ken Towle

Ken Towle has been involved personally and professionally on the Oak Ridges Moraine for over a decade. Ken's proactive and precautionary view of conservation on and off the Moraine is reflected in his Moraine stewardship and passion for the area. His work as the terrestrial ecologist for Ganaraska Conservation linked him to the Caring for the Moraine Project, and later the Rice Lakes Plains Joint Initiative where he has helped to design tall grass prairie restoration projects. His enthusiasm initiated the demonstration site at the Ganaraska Forest Centre. He has also worked with countless Moraine landowners to naturalize their properties. Ken is the organizer of 'restoration drinks', a gathering that brings people who share a passion for the natural environment together. Ken has also written about important Moraine topics such as theoretical corridors and connectivity on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Snow Goose (white)	Oct. 20-22	3ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB, LW
Snow Goose (Greater)	Oct. 18-23	1ad	Calnan Rd. pond	MB, HMCL, SMCL
Brant	Oct. 17	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Cackling Goose	Oct. 18	2	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Mute Swan	Oct. 6	8ad	flying east, Cobourg waterfront	MB
Tundra Swan	Oct. 21	7	off Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Eurasian Wigeon	Oct. 27-29	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
American Wigeon	Oct. 2	3	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Blue-winged Teal	Oct. 28/31	5/5	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Northern Shoveler	Oct. 26	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Surf Scoter	Oct. 3	5	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
	Oct. 5	27	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
White-winged Scoter	Oct. 17	21	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 29	100+	off Lake St. Marsh, PH	ERM
Long-tailed Duck	Oct. 23	25	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Common Merganser	Oct. 23	10	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Red-breasted Merganser	Oct. 22	3500	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 24	10000	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Oct. 25	7500	off Cobourg Harbour	LW
Ruddy Duck	Oct. 21-24	1f	Cobourg Harbour	RP, m.obs.
Wild Turkey	Oct. 23	1	Yeovil St., PH	MH
Red-throated Loon	Oct. 2	1	Chub Point	MB
	Oct. 5	1	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 21	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Common Loon	Oct. 2	320	Chub Point	MB
	Oct. 2	433	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 15	46	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Oct. 24	43+	off Cobourg Harbour	SM, AT, CP
Horned Grebe	Oct. 5	20	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 10	30	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
Red-necked Grebe	Oct. 2	7	Chub Point	MB
	Oct. 5	3	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 14	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Oct. 18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 31	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Nov. 2	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Eared Grebe	Oct. 12	1	Presqu'ile	DB, Ontbirds
Great Egret	Oct. 10	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Cattle Egret	Oct. 29	1	Harbour St., Brighton	FH, Ontbirds
Turkey Vulture	Oct. 1	17+	Young St., PH	NW
	Oct. 3	364	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Bald Eagle	Oct. 3	5	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
	Oct. 23	1	near Hastings	GC
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Oct. 3	17	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Cooper's Hawk	Oct. 3	7	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
	Oct. 19	1	No Frills, Cobourg	CEG
	Oct. 21	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Goshawk	Oct. 3	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
	Nov. 3	1	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG

Sightings - cont'd.

Red-shouldered Hawk	Oct. 22	2	Hill 60, Cob., migrating west	MB
Red-tailed Hawk	Oct. 3	29	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct. 16	2light	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Oct. 31	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Golden Eagle	Oct. 17	1imm	Hwy. 402 & Division St., Cob.	RDM
	Oct. 21	1imm	over Centreton, circling west	MB
	Oct. 21	1	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Oct. 23	2	near Hastings	GC
American Kestrel	Oct. 3	7	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Peregrine Falcon	Oct. 3	2	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
	Oct. 5	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
	Oct. 17	1	Durham St., PH	RF
American Coot	Oct. 28	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Black-bellied Plover	Oct. 1	8	Cobourg Harbour	LW
American Golden Plover	Nov. 2	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Semipalmated Plover	Oct. 28	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Killdeer	Nov. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Spotted Sandpiper	Oct. 15	1	mouth of Gage's Creek, PH	EK, RF
	Oct. 18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Solitary Sandpiper	Oct. 11	1	Webbview Marsh	RF
Lesser Yellowlegs	Oct. 29	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Hudsonian Godwit	Oct. 3	2	Presqu'ile	RDM, Ontbirds
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Oct. 25	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Least Sandpiper	Oct. 24-28	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Oct. 29	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
White-rumped Sandpiper	Oct. 15	4	Cobourg Harbour - high	CEG
Baird's Sandpiper	Oct. 3	2	Presqu'ile	RDM, Ontbirds
Pectoral Sandpiper	Oct. 27-Nov. 1	3	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Dunlin	Oct. 30	32	Cobourg Harbour - single flock	MB
Stilt Sandpiper	Oct. 7	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
dowitcher sp.	Oct. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Little Gull	Oct. 17	1	Presqu'ile	RDM, SP, GP, Ontbirds
	Oct. 24-28	1-2	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Laughing Gull	Oct. 29	1	s. of Cobourg Ecology Garden	CEG
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct. 20	20	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Iceland Gull	Nov. 1	1juv	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Great Black-backed Gull	Oct. 18	5	Port Hope west pier	ERM
Common Tern	Oct. 16	2	Presqu'ile - record late date	FH, Ontbirds
Long-eared Owl	Oct. 16	3	Welcome area	EK, RF
Short-eared Owl	Oct. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Oct. 16	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	SP, Ontbirds
	Oct. 17	1	Welcome area	EK, RF
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Oct. 9/12	1	Lakeshore Dr., Cob.	BP
	Oct. 22	1	Lakeshore Dr., Cob.	BP
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Sept. 30	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Oct. 3	1	Spragge Cr., Cob.	RL
	Oct. 7	1	Bloomsgrove Ave., PH feeder	RB
hummingbird sp.	Oct. 26	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nov. 1	1	Warkworth feeder	SP

Sightings - cont'd.

Eastern Phoebe	Oct. 29	1	Wesleyville area	PB
Northern Shrike	Oct. 12	1	Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	SM
	Oct. 31	1	n. end of Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
Blue Jay	Oct. 3	408	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Common Raven	Oct. 3	9	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Black-capped Chickadee	Oct. 10	100	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK
	Oct. 12, 26	60+	Cobourg west headland	MB
	Oct. 26	285	Candlewick Woods	EK, RF
	Oct. 27	70+	Lake St. Marsh, PH, flying w.to e.	ERM
	Oct. 31	300	Candlewick Woods	RF
Boreal Chickadee	Oct. 21	1	Presqu'ile	D&IS
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Oct. 18	70	Northumberland Forest	RF
Marsh Wren	Oct. 11	1	Macklin Rd. marsh	RF
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Oct. 3/6	1/1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Eastern Bluebird	Oct. 31	30	Candlewick Woods	RF
Hermit Thrush	Oct. 20	15	Northumberland Forest	RF
Wood Thrush	Oct. 1	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
American Robin	Oct. 31	3000	Candlewick Woods	RF
American Pipit	Oct. 19	150+	Haskell Rd. & Lakeshore, PH Ward 2, harvested soybean field	RP, MB
Bohemian Waxwing	Nov. 9	30	Roseneath Landing	DSh
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct. 31	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	RF
Northern Parula	Oct. 3	1	Upper Cold Springs, Hamilton Twp	SW
	Oct. 10	1	Candlewick Woods	RF
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Oct. 6, 18	1	Cobourg backyard	MB
Blackpoll Warbler	Oct. 2	1	Durham St., PH	EK
	Oct. 12	2	Cobourg west headland	MB
Scarlet Tanager	Oct. 6, 18	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Eastern Towhee	Oct. 19	1	e. end of Cobourg	BL, Ontbirds
American Tree Sparrow	Oct. 31	200+	n. end of Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
Fox Sparrow	Oct. 18	6	Northumberland Forest	RF
	Oct. 23	1	Centennial Dr., PH feeder	ERM
	Oct. 25	2	Payne Cr. PH feeder	SM, AT
	Oct. 29, 30	2	Cobourg backyard, singing	MB
Lincoln's Sparrow	Oct. 10	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Oct. 11	1	Webbview Marsh	RF
	Oct. 12	7	Gristmill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
Dark-eyed Junco	Oct. 31	200+	n. end of Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
Lapland Longspur	Oct. 17	4/2	Presqu'ile	D&IS/RDM
Snow Bunting	Oct. 27	30	Chub Point	MB
Red-winged Blackbird	Oct. 31	3000	Candlewick Woods	RF
Eastern Meadowlark	Oct. 20	6	5th Line n. of Canton, PH Ward 2	PB
Rusty Blackbird	Oct. 11	25	Webbview Marsh	RF
Brown-headed Cowbird	Oct. 31	800	Candlewick Woods	RF
Purple Finch	Oct. 29	16	Wesleyville feeder	PB
Red Crossbill	Oct. 23	11	Wesleyville cemetery	PB
White-winged Crossbill	Oct. 16	6	Gristmill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Nov. 1	1	flying over Albert St., Cob., calling	MB
Pine Siskin	Oct. 22	70	Candlewick Woods	RF
	Oct. 28	50+	Lakeshore Dr., Cob.	BP
American Goldfinch	Oct. 31	300	Candlewick Woods	RF
Evening Grosbeak	Oct. 30	21	Bowmanton Rd., Alnwick-Haldimand	ED

Sightings - cont'd.

Monarch Butterfly	Oct. 16	1	Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Oct. 26	2	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB
Common Buckeye	Oct. 1	1	Cobourg waterfront	RS
Eastern Garter Snake	Oct. 26	1	Cobourg Harbour west headland	MB

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; RB=Reinhard Bahr; DB=David Bree; PB=Paul Bridges; GC=Geoff Carpentier; ED=Eliot Drew; RF=Roger Frost; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; MH=Mark Holmes; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; RL=Russell Lake; BL=Bill Logan; ERM=Ted McDonald; HMCL=Helga McLernon; SMcL=Sherwood McLernon; RDM=Doug McRae; SM=Simone Merey; m.obs.=Many Observers; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; BP=Bruce Parker; CP=Carole Payne; GP=Georgia Petrasek; SP=Sarah Petrasek; RPo=Richard Pope; LS=Louise Schmidt; D&IS=Don & Ian Shanahan; DSh=Dave Shirley; RS=Rick Strunk; AT=Anne Tesluk; NEW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; LW=Lori Wensley; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson

A person who has been feeding the Canada Geese at Cobourg Harbour has been approached by a number of birders and asked to refrain from doing so. There is signage around the harbour from the Town of Cobourg requesting that birds not be fed here. This person insisted that she was doing so at the request of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Below is the response from David Browne, Director of Conservation at CWF to a query about this issue from the WBFN Executive.

To whom it may concern,

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) is one of Canada's oldest and largest wildlife conservation organizations. As such, our organization has been advocating for the sustainable use of Canada's natural resources, and for conservation of wildlife and its habitat for over 45 years.

As advocates for Canadian wildlife, CWF does not encourage the public to feed wildlife, especially in urban centres. Feeding of wildlife, including Canadian geese, can create a variety of problems for both humans and wildlife.

When humans feed geese, more birds will become attracted to the area, especially when the feeding occurs on a consistent basis. When feeding causes geese to gather in large numbers, it can become a risk to both the birds and also to the local human population. Geese are prone to a variety of diseases including: avian botulism, gizzard worms, duck plague, chlamydiosis, avian cholera, and avian salmonellosis. Transmission and spread of these diseases becomes significantly enhanced when the birds gather in large numbers.

In addition to avian diseases, increases in geese population in urban centers can become a hazard for humans. Increases in geese excrement on sidewalks, beaches, lawns and near reservoirs can pose human health risks through the increased presence of harmful bacteria which can also compromise local water quality.

While it may seem that feeding geese is helpful, the Canada goose population is quite stable and not at-risk, as a result feeding these animals can cause more harm than good. The quality of feed used by humans is often much less nutritious than food geese would normally seek out on their own. As a result, feeding can sometimes cause health problems in geese in addition to the wing deformity known as angel wing, sometimes seen in juveniles. Human feeding can also result in geese losing their fear of humans. Fear of humans allows wildlife populations to remain wild and also reduces the risk of interaction and confrontation between humans and wildlife.

As previously stated, CWF does not advocate for the feeding of wildlife, especially in urban centres, with the exception of songbird feeders which have not been shown to pose a problem for songbird or mammal populations. As an organization we encourage the public to observe wildlife and their habitat while respecting their needs as wild animals.

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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.



Willow Beach Field Naturalists
P.O. Box 421
Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3

