



Vol LVI No. 3

March 2011

COMING EVENTS

● **Friday, March 25, 2011**— General Meeting, **7:30 p.m.** at Cobourg Public Library.

Speaker: **Richard Pope**, author of *The Reluctant Twitcher*, will give a lively and entertaining talk about a recent two-week trip to the **Arctic**. The talk will be accompanied by high quality slides of Arctic birds.

● **Sunday, April 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m.** – Nature Walk to Lone Pine Marsh led by Mark Rupke. Rain date of April 17. Meet in Port Hope at the Phillips Rd. car pool lot (across from Arby's) at 1:00 p.m. or 1:15 p.m. at the car pool lot at Cty. Rd. 45 & 401 in Cobourg. Directions to Lone Pine Marsh directly: Travel east on 401 to Cty. Rd. 25 (Exit 497). Turn north on Cty. Rd. 25 to Cty. Rd. 21. Turn east (right) on Cty. Rd. 21 to Maple Grove Rd., which is the first sideroad. Turn north (left) on Maple Grove. There is a small parking lot about 1 km. north on Maple Grove at the northwest corner of the marsh property.

● **Friday, April 29, 2011**—General Meeting, **7:30 p.m.**, **Calvary Pentecostal Church, 401 Croft St. E.** at Rose Glen Rd., Port Hope. **NOTE THE NEW LOCATION.**

Speaker: **Cindy Cartwright** will talk about the **Hummingbird Project** whose goal is to understand the life cycle of Ontario's hummingbirds. The project involved participation from birders, banders and members of the general public throughout Ontario. Over 1,000 people have participated since the project began in 2005, resulting in several sub-projects. The presentation will outline the project details, what we have learned so far, how people can participate, and what we hope to learn in the future. There are more details on the website www.ontariohummingbirds.ca

● **Saturday, May 7, 2011** – Outing to **Massasauga Point Conservation Area** and **Point Petre Nature Reserve** in **Prince Edward County**

Our leader, Bill Crowley, will concentrate on spring wildflowers which grow on these two interesting properties and will spend a little time discussing alvars which are very special and relatively uncommon habitat. Alvars are only found in southern Sweden, northwest Estonia and around the Great Lakes in Michigan, New York, Ohio, Ontario and Quebec. Of the 120 alvar sites in Canada and the U.S., Ontario contains 75% of North American alvars. Prince Edward County has a climate which is similar in many respects to Carolinian Canada. Thus, we will see some wildflowers which are normally found only in Southwestern Ontario. Meet at the commuter parking lot at Hwy. 45 and 401 at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to The County. We will stop at a small restaurant for lunch and finish the day about 3:00 p.m.

**WELCOME TO
NEW MEMBERS**

Gordon Berry, Cobourg
Don and Beth Madole, Cobourg

Membership News

•Norma Wallace is delighted to announce the arrival of her first great grandchild, Wyatt MacArthur Laing, in late February.

**Applications for Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop
Due by April 15, 2011**

The 2011 Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, from Friday, July 29 to Sunday, August 7. Participants will receive hands-on field ornithology training, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 15, 2011. For more information and an application form, contact our Landbird Programs Coordinator at lpbo@birdscanada.org,

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THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

<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 April 2011 issue should be received by March 31, 2011. 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 April Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

President's Message March 2011



The Annual General Meeting held on February 25 was a success thanks to the 71 members who attended and supported the club by their presence or by generously purchasing raffle tickets and used books. The biggest raffle prize was the 2011 Provincial Park Annual Pass donated by Tom Mates, Superintendent of Presqu'île Provincial Park. As in past years, Audrey Wilson managed to obtain this coveted prize for us. Five other items were donated by Michael Biggar. Thanks to the efforts of Marguerite and Bob Short, the raffle and book sale raised \$393.50. Congratulations to the winners!

We owe thanks to Deborah Panko and Trish Whitney for organizing this special evening, making coffee/tea, doing the cleanup, and to Ann Biggar for providing the delicious treats.

Congratulations to the members of the Executive Board who renewed their commitment to WBFN for another term. I look forward to another exciting year of working with you. To our renewing general members and new members, the Board appreciates your support.

On February 27, I sighted my first Eastern Chipmunk of the year, a sure sign that spring is approaching. For many, the first robins are “**the**” sign that spring has arrived, but for me, the arrival of the first Red-winged Blackbirds and hearing that raucous song are my official sign of spring. I get a thrill each year from seeing those red epaulets displayed by the arriving males. From then on, household chores will take the back burner and my binoculars will get an epic workout looking for migrants. By the time you read this, they should be here!

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions and look forward to seeing you at the next outing or meeting.

*Louise Schmidt,
President*

EARTH HOUR 2011—SATURDAY, MARCH 26 AT 8:30 P.M.

At 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2011, lights around the world will be switched off for Earth Hour. For more information, go to www.earthhour.org

THE 2010 BIRDING YEAR IN REVIEW

by Clive E. Goodwin

If there was one underlying theme to 2010 it probably should be 'heat'! The year started out with the warmest winter on record, continued into an unusually warm spring, and summer was mostly warm as well, if unsettled. Fall was pleasant, and even December was quite open at first. So what does a warm year have to do with birding? A great deal, it turns out, because the warm weather profoundly influenced bird movements, and altered the habitats the birds depended on.

Perhaps not all of this was bad for the birds themselves, but it certainly influenced seeing them. In 2010 the early spring meant that ice vanished from Presqu'ile Bay very early, and the waters remained generally open. This in turn reduced the size of the traditional waterfowl concentrations there, as the birds arrived earlier (there were at least 3000 Greater Scaup there in mid-January), dispersed more widely, and the balmy weather apparently encouraged them to continue on with their migration. So there were ducks, but not as many, and not as concentrated into limited, near-shore areas.

The previous two years, and particularly 2009, had seen huge concentrations of shorebirds on the Presqu'ile beaches in later May. Winter's retreat had left pools of water on the beaches and strands of wet algae along the shorelines, ideal feeding grounds for the northward-bound flocks when poor weather interrupted their flights. The birds responded: thousands landed to rest on the beaches and feed feverishly along the water's edge. But in 2010 there were no pools and the algae had dried up, and the birds passed overhead, or landed in smaller numbers to forage on more limited habitat elsewhere.

Prolonged good weather is good for migration, but often poor for watchers close to the Lake Ontario shorelines. Birds over-fly

favoured promontories and woodlots that are magnets to exhausted migrants in cooler, more unsettled weather. So in 2010, it was often, as birders will say, 'very quiet'.

But for all that, there were unusual birds to be seen. It started with owls and waterfowl. The Barred Owl bonanza at Presqu'ile was first chronicled in an article last year, but it continued into the 2010, with birds sitting on utility poles by the roadsides, gazing benignly at the passing scene! It was an experience to be treasured. Turning to the waterfowl, we had particularly frequent reports of three 'regular' rarities – species that have been appearing almost annually in recent years. On January 8 a Barrow's Goldeneye appeared off the lighthouse at Presqu'ile and continued there very obligingly until disappearing on February 24. Another bird was seen at Port Hope a week later, and towards the end of March three were reported briefly at Presqu'ile again. Then on November 23 a bird appeared, once again off the lighthouse, and almost certainly the same one seen there earlier in the year, and at the time of writing (late February) it's still there. There's precedent for such appearances with this species. While generally rare, some wintering individuals will return to the same place for several years in a row. Until last year Presqu'ile has not had a bird quite this predictable, although most of our records are from the Park.

Harlequin Ducks are another rarity that can appear in winter too, and the bird that appeared in Cobourg harbour in January was likely the same bird that was present in the area in late the previous November. One was seen there on and off to late March, and subsequently a bird appeared briefly at Presqu'ile in May, followed by reports there of two to three in December.

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The third rarer duck to grace the County for protracted periods last year has almost always been a spring visitor in the past. Eurasian Wigeons typically appear as elegant single males among the milling flocks of waterfowl at Presqu'île. They're usually first reported in mid to late March, and fully half of our records are between then and the beginning of May. May itself accounts for another quarter of reports, mainly from two longer staying birds in 1987 and 1995. Prior to last year we had only four fall reports: three from 1987 again, and a Cobourg record from Pratt's Pond in 1968. But in 2010 Eurasian Wigeons were reported at Presqu'île in March, April, June, July, October, November, with the last sighting on December 2.

Where do these birds come from, appearing as they do so regularly? The two diving ducks both probably originate from their restricted eastern breeding ranges. The eastern population of the Barrow's Goldeneye seems particularly small, and most seem to winter in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Harlequins are much more numerous in the east, so it's not surprising that we see them more often, and in larger numbers. Most winter along the Atlantic coast, so they're still a rarity here, even though this species is thought to be increasing.

The wigeon is abundant in the Old World, and nests west to Iceland and east to far eastern Russia. I would guess our birds are likely vagrants from Iceland, birds whose compasses are mixed-up and which migrated west, instead of east to join the vast flocks wintering in the U.K. If such wanderers survive they probably would follow the same route in subsequent years, accounting for the small numbers that occur in eastern North America.

Some observers have suggested there must be 'lots' of all these birds around the Great Lakes, and these sightings often represent multiple individuals. There's some sup-

port for this with Harlequins, but on the whole there doesn't seem to be the number of scattered records of any of these species that one would expect if significantly larger numbers were present, although obviously there will be more individuals here than we can hope to see.

The year had its share of vagrants. Spring, with its exceptionally warm weather, was rather unproductive: there was the usual assortment of rarer warblers at Presqu'île – Hooded, Cerulean and Prothonotary – and another Piping Plover graced its beaches in mid-May. However, perhaps the most memorable sightings of the spring shorebird movement were of Willets. Not only were there six seen at Port Hope in late April, but on May 2 two were in Cobourg harbour with a Marbled Godwit. They were calling, and their cries echoed repeatedly off the walls of the pier and the breakwaters, an eerie and unforgettable experience for the handful of observers present.

In early June, a time things are usually winding down, when there was a sudden flurry of activity. On June 3 a Reeve – a female Ruff – was found near Grafton. Ruffs are very rare here: we only have seven confirmed records, so this bird generated much interest. Unfortunately, it vanished early the next day.

The Reeve's finders next stopped at Cobourg harbour, and promptly found an Eared Grebe in high breeding plumage swimming around just off the boat launch. This species had yielded more records than the Ruff, at least 14 birds, and there had even been a sight record in late March from two Guelph birders, of a bird in transitional plumage at Presqu'île. But none of the locals had seen it, and few had seen any of the others either, so it too generated much interest. And unlike the Reeve, it was incredibly cooperative, hanging around to the 10th, reappearing in August, and an October sighting at Presqu'île could have even been the same

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bird. Just as all this excitement was dying down, on the June 14th, a Snowy Egret appeared in the harbour, this time probably our 10th. But it was even less cooperative than the Reeve, and disappeared very soon after it was found.

Summer brings more interest in overall bird numbers; increases and declines, although in fact some highly relevant figures came from winter: on January 9, 2011 Mute Swan numbers wintering at Presqu'île had reached a record 719 birds (the previous high was 552)! This alien population is growing exponentially, to the detriment of other waterfowl and wetland habitat generally. It's perhaps not surprising that the other high count was really from an introduction as well: the 2010 Willow Beach CBC totaled a record 255 Wild Turkeys, as these birds continue to increase in the County.

By contrast the declines were all in native species, and continued the depressing story of previous years. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were one of the more striking examples of the decline in aerial foragers, with the Summer Bird Count totaling only 9 birds, the lowest since 2000, when the count was less well covered. I know our own route found the species absent from locations where birds were formerly well established. Our database does not track Great Horned Owl numbers well because the bird, for all its size, tends to be elusive. But last year the decline became very obvious. Annual totals have dropped from a high of 47 birds in 2005 to only eight last year. West Nile virus is probably the culprit in this decline.

Fall migration was fairly uneventful until October, which began with some large groundings which may have been associated with the passage to our south of hurricane Nicole. White-crowned Sparrows and Palm Warblers were the main constituents of the bird flocks that swarmed along the lakeshores. The period also brought two Hudsonian Godwits to Presqu'île. October as a whole also brought one of the periodic huge fall flights of chickadees. Through much of the month they were pouring eastwards along the waterfront, even when there were few other migrants around. It was far from the heaviest flight on record, but was noteworthy for its direction – eastwards, when the more recent heavy movements have been westwards, and because a few Boreal Chickadees were being seen in the flocks. Finding one in the teeming hordes was a matter of sheer luck, but one was located at Prequ'île, and it may have chosen to winter, as a bird is still being seen there.

Which brings us to later fall and the winter itself. Our seventh Yellow-throated Warbler was reported from the Wicklow Beach area, and a Cape May Warbler at Wesleyville to December 6 was our latest ever by over a month. The same garden hosted a Boreal Owl on December 17-18, but the most widespread event of this period was the influx of Bohemian Waxwings. It started in early November, and by the middle of December was clearly of record proportions. A count of 2000 at Roseneath Landing on December 15 was by far the largest number ever reported in Northumberland, and altogether 5680 individuals were counted, a fitting end to the year.

The Great Cobourg Harbour Gull Bonanza

Perhaps you watched the recent events in Tahrir Square in Cairo, where thousands and thousands of protestors stood shoulder to shoulder, packed so tightly together that there was no open space to be seen. This was what Cobourg harbour looked like in mid-February 2011, when at least 6000 gulls gathered to hang out on the ice, tightly packed together, their raucous voices so loud the din carried for blocks along the lakeshore. Gray and white and black, the horde looked like snowy cobblestones laid down over the wide sheet of ice. Few people had seen anything like it before.

Cobourg harbour can be a great place to study gulls in winter, but it is very weather-dependent. Wintering gulls like it best when at least half the harbour is ice-covered, but are not pleased if it's totally frozen over. Wind direction and strength rather than just temperature play a large part in the formation of the ice, and its amount and pattern can vary dramatically from one day to the next. Westerly or southwesterly winds are a Cobourg gull-watcher's delight as then the ice is blown close to shore, and binoculars and spotting-scopes can bring up the subtle details of feather colour and body structure.

I must admit that gull-watching is an acquired taste. It usually takes years before a birder progresses through warblers (gorgeously pretty in spring), then sparrows (not too many kinds to sort out), to shorebirds (getting a bit complicated here), and finally gulls. Most gulls are not pretty. They are various shades of gray, black, white, and brown and identifying the exact species is like trying to do a very cryptic crossword – a little clue here, another hint there before you get the final answer. But it can become addictive, and in Ontario most serious birders make at least one trip a year to the Niagara River which, for reasons very poorly understood, attracts large numbers of gulls of many differ-

ent species in early winter. But at Niagara you are usually high above the gorge, looking down at a snowstorm of distant gulls – Cobourg harbour at its best is much better.

And conditions did cooperate this year to produce a great spectacle for several days in mid-February. It was bitterly cold, but strong west winds prevented the whole harbour from freezing over, and the gulls gathered in huge numbers. Nine different species were identified on the crowded ice. Most were our large, tough Herring Gulls, perhaps 5000 of them. About 800 were the smaller, yellow-legged Ring-billed Gulls, sometimes called “McDonald's Gulls” as they are the ones haunting shopping malls ready to fight over fallen French fries. Great Black-backed Gulls, the largest gulls in the world, have been seriously declining on the Great Lakes possibly because of outbreaks of avian botulism but were present in astonishing numbers: I counted 44 with a third of the flock still to go when a passing Bald Eagle made everything fly up in sudden fright. The beautiful visiting Arctic gulls, Glaucous and Iceland, the young ones pearly white or the colour of very milky coffee, were sprinkled through the crowd, about a dozen of each. One brutish young Glaucous Gull in particular often looked like a huge Snowy Owl in flight – the Icelands are much more elegant!

More difficult to identify were the occasional Thayer's Gulls (don't ask) and three or four Lesser Black-backed Gulls. The two prize finds were a young Black-legged Kittiwake and an adult Mew Gull, both oceanic birds and very rare in our area. The kittiwake probably strayed inland from the Atlantic shore, but the Mew Gull may have wandered all the way from the west coast. The kittiwake was very cooperative, often paddling around in the shallows among the Mallards, but the Mew Gull made only one brief after-

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noon visit, disappointing many who came looking for it the next day.

The small amount of open water has been full of ducks and geese and swans, plus one lingering coot, sheltering from the numbing winds, but it was the extraordinary sight of so many thousands of gulls completely

covering the harbour ice that caused the awe and excitement. They will gradually disperse as the weather gets warmer, but we can always hope for another bonanza next year, though I think we'll remember this special one for a long time to come.

Margaret Bain

Outing Report, February 6 at Cobourg Harbour

On Sunday February 6 at 10:00 am about 30 people met at the Cobourg waterfront on a very cold morning to view the gull and waterfowl species present in the harbor. The harbour was the only place one could bird this day as there were massive ice-buildups all along the lake.

Richard Pope led the group, and did an excellent job of identifying the various species present, as well as pointing out the field markings of each specie and fielding questions from the group. The gull population was dominated by two species i.e. Herring and Ring-billed. A single white winged gull (Glaucous) made a brief appearance and was immediately identified by Roger Frost. The previous afternoon a Lesser Black-backed and a Thayer's Gull were viewed but were not seen this morning.

Puddle duck viewing was limited to the large numbers of Mallards present as well as a few American Black Ducks. The diving duck population was well represented with good views of Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Long-tailed Ducks and Common Mergansers. Canada Geese were present in significant numbers (no Cacklers observed) and a large number of Mute Swans (30+) were also present. The most unusual sighting for this time of year was an American Coot. Rumour has it that this little fellow survives the frigid temperatures living underground in the conduits feeding into the harbour.

Thanks goes to Richard as well as Margaret Bain and John Geale who had their spotting scopes set up for everyone to have excellent views of the waterfowl. I would encourage anyone interested in waterfowl identification to check out the Cobourg harbour as well as Presqu'île Provincial Park, as huge numbers of birds in mature plumage will be migrating through the area during the next few weeks.

- Michael Biggar

Richard Pope further reports that:

Seconds after everyone but Margaret left, a first-year Iceland Gull plopped down right in front of us. I don't forgive this behaviour lightly.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Mute Swan	Feb. 4	39	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Trumpeter Swan	Feb. 4-10	max. 4	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
	Feb. 23	1	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	RF
	March 3	1	Harwood dock	SW
Tundra Swan	Feb. 4-10	max. 9	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Wood Duck	Feb. 18	1m	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Gadwall	Feb. 18	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Wigeon	Feb. 18	10	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Canvasback	Feb. 6-19	1-2	Cobourg Harbour	KN, CEG, LW
Redhead	Feb. 18	2000	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Ring-necked Duck	Feb. 28	1m	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	March 1	5	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Greater Scaup	Feb. 18	6000	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
	Feb. 20	2368	PH lakefront	EK, RF
Lesser Scaup	Feb. 20	3	PH lakefront	EK, RF
King Eider	Feb. 26-28	1m	Cobourg Harbour	LJ, m.o.bs
	March 1	1	foot of D'Arcy St., Cob.	CS, Ontbirds
White-winged Scoter	Feb. 13	5	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Feb. 13	~40	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Barrow's Goldeneye	Feb. 1-March 3	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Ruddy Duck	Feb. 18	1m	Cobourg Harbour	MB, LW, Mbi
Great Blue Heron	Feb. 3	1	over Deer Park Rd. & Cty. Rd. 2	SL
	Feb. 7	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Bald Eagle	Feb. 8	1	over Harwood	RB
	Feb. 7-15	1imm	Cobourg Harbour	m.obs.
	Feb. 15, 22	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB, CEG
	Feb. 21	1juv.	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Northern Harrier	Feb. 20	1	flying west over downtown Cobourg	MB
Northern Goshawk	Feb. 4	1	Union Rd., Cramahe Twp.	BSt
	Feb. 11	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb. 27	2	Stuart St., Cob.	SMc
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 20	1	Centreton area	RF
Merlin	Feb. 1	1	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Feb. 8	1	Bloomsgrrove Ave., PH	RBa
	Feb. 25	1	Cty. Rd. 45, 3.5 km s. of Hastings	GC
Peregrine Falcon	Feb. 22, 28	1	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
American Coot	Feb. 6-27	1	Cobourg Harbour	m.obs.
	Feb. 28	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Purple Sandpiper	Feb. 4	1	Cobourg Harbour	LW
Black-legged Kittiwake	Feb. 9	1imm	Cobourg Harbour	SP
	Feb. 13-14	1imm	Cobourg Harbour	SM, m.obs.
Mew Gull	Feb. 13	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	RDM, m.obs.
Herring Gull	Feb. 13	5000+	Cobourg Harbour	m.obs.
	Feb. 13	3000	PH waterfront	RF
Thayer's Gull	Feb. 6-28	1ad+	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Feb. 13	1	PH waterfront	RF
Iceland Gull	Feb. 13	6	PH waterfront	RF
	Feb. 14	15	Cobourg Harbour - high count	MB
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Feb. 13	2	PH waterfront	RF
	Feb. 14	4 ad	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Glaucous Gull	Feb. 13	15	PH waterfront	RF
	Feb. 14	10	Cobourg Harbour - high count	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

Great Black-backed Gull	Feb. 13	44+	Cobourg Harbour - high count	MB
	Feb. 13	75	PH waterfront	RF
Great Horned Owl	Feb. 17	2 calling	Wesleyville	PB
	Feb. 21	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
Barred Owl	Jan. 29	1	Lacy & Jibb Rd., w. of Camborne. Collision viction. Taken to Owl Rehab. Centre in Vineland. As of Feb. 28, doing well but has lost sight in one eye.	AEW
	Feb. 19	1	Orchard Ave., Cob.	DG
	Feb. 25	1	Friendly Acres Rd., Trent Hills	GC
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Feb. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Feb. 11	1	Peace Park, Cob.	BS
	Feb. 20	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
	Feb. 25	1	Choate Rd., PH Ward 2	SM
Belted Kingfisher	Feb. 3	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Feb. 21	2(pr.)	Gore's Landing feeder	TH, JW
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Feb. 12	1	Young St. PH, feeder	RBa
Northern Shrike	Feb. 5	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Feb. 8	1	Marriot Rd., Alnwick-Haldimand	CW
	Feb. 13	1	Cranberry Rd.	EK, RF
Gray Jay	Feb. 21	1	Eddystone Rd., Grafton	B&AR
Horned Lark	Feb. 10	50+	former Dale Rd. sod farm	CEG
Boreal Chickadee	Feb. 1-20	1	Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Feb. 20	26	Northumberland Forest	RF
Brown Creeper	Feb. 17	1	Pebble Beach Dr., Cob.	TW
Carolina Wren	Feb. 21	1	Gore's Landing feeder	TH, JW
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Feb. 20	1	Pebble Beach Dr., Cob.	TW
Eastern Bluebird	Feb. 11-13	4	Massey Rd., Canton	GdA
Hermit Thrush	Feb. 7	1	Loyalist Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
American Robin	Feb. 23	40	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Feb. 25	50+	Willow Beach Rd. & Lakeshore	PB
Northern Mockingbird	Feb. 20	1	Port Hope west end	EK
Bohemian Waxwing	Feb. 23	15	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Eastern Towhee	Feb. 20	1	Laurie Lawson Outdoor Ed. Centre	AEW
American Tree Sparrow	Feb. 20	38+	Wesleyville	PB
White-throated Sparrow	Feb. 6-24	1	Cobourg backyard singing	MB
Red-winged Blackbird	Feb. 23	1m	Wesleyville	PB
Rusty Blackbird	Feb. 8	1m, 1f	Harwood feeders. Male present for 3 weeks	RB
	Feb. 12-24	1	Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Common Grackle	Feb. 22	1m	Wesleyville	PB
Brown-headed Cowbird	Feb. 19	1m	Cobourg feeders	MB
	Feb. 22	1	Stuart St., Cob.	SMc
Lapland Longspur	Feb. 10	3+	former Dale Rd. sod farm	CEG
	Feb. 15	2	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	EK, RF
Purple Finch	Feb. 23	4	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
	Feb. 26, 28	2	1010 Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
Red Crossbill	Feb. 18	1	s. of Colborne	JF, KB
	Feb. 20	13	Northumberland Forest	RF
	Feb. 21	15	Busch Rd. & Dunbar	AEW
White-winged Crossbill	Feb. 15	7	Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Common Redpoll	Feb. 16	49	1010 Ontario St. N., Cob.	AEW
	Feb. 19, 20, 21	60+	Deblaquaire St., PH	GMCD
	Feb. 24	30	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 27	110	Cobourg feeders - high count	MB
	Feb. 27	70+	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	March 1	160	Lakeshore Dr., Cob.	BP

Sightings - cont'd.

Hoary Redpoll	Feb. 15-27	1	Cobourg backyard feeder	MB
	Feb. 17, 24	1	Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
	Feb. 19, 20, 21	1	Deblaire St., PH	GMCD
Pine Siskin	Feb. 2	1	1010 Ontario St. N., Cob.	AEW
Evening Grosbeak	Dec. 31/10	20	Marriot Rd., Alnwick-Haldimand	CW
	Feb. 19	17	Dunbar & Russ Creek Rd.	BK
	Feb. 20	38	Dunbar Rd.	RF
Big Brown Bat	Feb. 6	1	Cobourg	RW
Raccoon	Feb. 7	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	TS
Ladybug	Feb. 17-28	1	Young St., PH , daily	NEW

Observers: GdA=Gill de Auer; MB=Margaret Bain; RBA=Reinhard Bahr; MBi=Michael Biggar; RB=Randy Bird; KB=Kim Braat; PB=Paul Bridges; AB=Ann Brightman; GC=Geoff Carpentier; GMCD=Geoff Dale; JF=Jo Foster; RF=Roger Frost; JGe=John Geale; CEG=Clive Goodwin; DG=David Gunn; TH=Tom Hall; FH=Fred Hel-leiner; LJ=Lenny Jaynes; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BK=Barry King; SL=Susan Laing; SM=Scott McKinlay; SMC=Sheila McCoy; RDM=Doug McRae; m.obs.=Many Observers; SM=Simone Merey; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; BP=Bruce Parker; SP=Sarah Petrusek; RP=Richard Pope; B&AR=Bill & Allison Reid; LS=Louise Schmidt; TS=Ted Schmidt; BS=Betsy Smith; CS=Charles Smith; BSt=Barb Stevenson; NEW=Norma Wallace; RW=Rae Waring; JW=Jane Weekes; LW=Lori Wensley; TW=Trish Whitney; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson; CW=Cherlyn Wilson..

WALLACE BIRDATHON 2011

We are pleased to announce that Roger Frost has again agreed to be our celebrity bird-er for the Wallace Birdathon. This event is named in honour of Charlie and Norma Wal-lace, who initiated it about 25 years ago; Norma continued it until recently, and has given the Northumberland Land Trust permission to take over its organization. It is one of the Northumberland Land Trust's major fund-raisers, and raised over \$1200 in 2010.

For those unfamiliar with the Birdathon concept, the idea is that Roger has 24 continu-ous hours to identify as many bird species as he can, and supporters are asked to spon-sor him for so many cents per species or for a flat donation.

Roger will attempt to beat last year's 149 species, and we hope to beat last year's dollar total. We hope you will sponsor Roger, and you may make your pledge by contacting John Geale at johngeale@yahoo.com or 905-342-3851. The tentative date for the Birdathon is May 15, and we urge you to submit your pledge as soon as possible; so that we can send you a tax receipt, we need your name, address including postal code, and the amount you wish to pledge.

Many thanks for your support!

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.



P.O. Box 421
Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3

