



Vol LVII No. 3

March 2012

COMING EVENTS

- **Friday, March 30, 2012 - General Meeting** at Cobourg Public Library, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: **Paul Elliott** from Trent University. Topic: **Bats and their conservation.** (*See page 2 for a note about North American bats now considered endangered.*)
- **Saturday, March 31, 2012 - Durham shore waterfowl outing.** Meet at County Rd. 45 & Hwy. 401 commuter parking lot at 8 a.m. or at the Oshawa pier at 9 a.m. Leader: **Richard Pope**
Directions to Oshawa pier: Take 401 to Harmony Road Exit and head south on Farewell Street. Keep going south past the turn to Oshawa Second Marsh (Colonel Sam/Wentworth). Turn right (west) on Harbour Road and proceed to the T junction at Simcoe Street. Turn left (south) on Simcoe and proceed south past the park and Robinson house and follow the road as it curves left. Turn right immediately into the parking lot where we will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- **Sunday, April 15, 2012, 2:00 pm. - Outing** to the **Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre** on Telephone Road. Leader: **Mark Rupke.** The hike will look for the first signs of spring flowers and life in the vernal pools. Please note that the paths are now suitable for a wide range of mobility. Directions: Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre is on the north side of Telephone Rd., approximately 1.5 km west of Burnham St. and east of Theatre Rd. There is a small parking lot, but some cars will have to park along Telephone Rd.
- **Saturday, April 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - Official opening** of Peter's Woods for the season. Contact Petra Hartwig, phartwig@cobourg.ca or Chris Drew, 905-342-2904, drew@eagle.ca if you would like to assist.
- **Friday, April 27, 2012 - General Meeting** at Cobourg Public Library, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: **Chris Robinson** of Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Topic: **The Lake Ontario Salmon Restoration Program.** Chris will speak about the biology and history of Atlantic salmon in Lake Ontario, provide an overview of the restoration efforts underway to

(Continued on page 2)

bring them back more than a century after they were extirpated. He will focus on the work being done in the Cobourg area.

● Sunday, May 6, 2012—Outing to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. This is a joint event with the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. Meet at 8 a.m. at Peter's Woods for a bird hike led by Roger Frost. At 11:30 a.m., the group will travel to the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Nature Centre. Bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. After lunch, there will be a walk on the savanna. Participants can take in the entire day, or just a part of it. For more details, contact Roger Frost at 905-885-9615 or ekrf@eagle.ca

Three Bat Species Listed as Endangered

An emergency assessment subcommittee of COSEWIC assessed the status of Tri-colored Bat (formerly known as the Eastern Pipistrelle) (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Little Brown Myotis (formerly known as the Little Brown Bat) (*Myotis lucifugus*), and Northern Myotis (formerly known as the (Long-eared Bat) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in Canada. All three species were assessed as Endangered. The subcommittee concluded that the unprecedented mortality in Canada's native bat species from the pathogen responsible for White-nose Syndrome, poses a serious and imminent threat to the survival of each of these species.

Interesting note that US researchers have estimated that the bat die-off will cost North American agriculture \$3.7 billion dollars annually!

More information can be found here: http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct7/Bat_Emergency_Assessment_Press_Release_e.cfm

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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 2012 issue should be received by March 31, 2012. 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 Message March 2012

The Annual General Meeting held on February 24 was a success thanks to the 60 members who braved the weather and supported the club by their presence and took part in the Silent Auction organized by Alison who really did a fantastic job – Many thanks Alison. I also want to thank all those who helped gather the many different articles that were up for bidding. This year we made \$1,139.00. The biggest raffle prize was the 2012 Provincial Park Annual Pass donated by Tom Mates, Superintendent of Presqu'île Provincial Park. As in past, Audrey Wilson managed to obtain this coveted prize for us.

We owe thanks to Trish Whitney for organizing this special evening, making coffee/tea, doing the cleanup, and to Ann Biggar for providing the delicious treats. John Geale gave a wonderful slide show and talk on the Galapagos Islands – many thanks John!

Congratulations to the 2012 members of the Executive Board who continue to have accepted new positions for some and for others who renewed their commitment to WBFN for another term. I look forward to working with you and moving ahead. To our renewing general members and new members, the Board appreciates your support.

This winter has been a very odd winter. Spring seems to have been just around the corner since Christmas with a very few reminders of that we were still in the Winter Mode. We have had Robins in our back yard all winter and had one sit on a branch outside our window and sing as if spring had arrived on New Year's Day. On the 24th of February we had a racoon amble across our back yard and visit the neighbours.

I look forward to Spring when the warm weather arrives and the roses (hopefully) start growing again and bringing forth the blooms of summer.

Finally I want to thank Louise Schmidt for her unwavering sense of duty to WBFN and all the hard work she has done. I look forward to her words of wisdom as she takes over the Past President's role and is there to guide and help me.

I look forward to any comments or suggestions you might have and look forward to meeting you at our next monthly meeting and on our outings.

Tim Tottenham
President



A visitor to the Tottenham's garden several years ago.

THE 2011 BIRDING YEAR IN REVIEW

by Clive E. Goodwin

It was an interesting year for birds. We had two new records for the County. There was a gull bonanza in late winter, there were a number of other memorable sightings, and the unsettled spring produced some excellent but very localized birding.

These reviews always end up with parts of two winters: the January-February of the first, and December of the next! In 2011 there was a particularly dramatic contrast between the two. The two late winter months were relatively cold, snowy and quite “birdy”, while last December was mild, open and quiet - an unexceptional start to what has proved to be one of the quietest winters in recent memory.

Cobourg harbour especially was exceptionally productive in February and into early spring. Gulls were all over the huge mounds of ice and carpeted the frozen waters in between. Estimates of 5000 or so birds somehow seemed inadequate: the numbers were simply overwhelming. There were up to seven species present much of the time, plus three rarities. High counts included two Thayer's, 15 Iceland, four Lesser Black-backed (the last two species our most ever), and 10 Glaucous (but to be surpassed by 15 at Port Hope, also our most ever). The mix was unusual, with fewer Glaucous and more Iceland than usual, and young birds uncommon, especially Iceland.

The Great Black-backed situation was particularly intriguing: the birds that once summered in the area were almost gone two years ago due to botulism, and recovery had seemed slow. Normally in fall numbers build up early and then decline rapidly after the New Year. In 2011 numbers built up to yet another record high of well over 44 present on February 13!

The first rarity to appear was a Black-legged Kittiwake, our third in winter. This cooperative and delightful little gull, present

from February 9 to 14, seemed determined to be seen! By contrast the other two rarities, both races of a species that is likely to be ‘split’, were seen only briefly - the North American Mew Gull, and the European Common Gull. Our third ever Mew Gull appeared on February 13, briefly, and so was missed by many. The Common Gull, which appeared as winter was winding down and was photographed on March 23, was one of the first ever seen in the Province. As such it is still under the more formal review such extreme rarities receive.

But, doubtless to the relief of many, the winter was not all gulls! Cobourg harbour in February also yielded a young King Eider that stayed for the next month. At Presqu'île, the wintering Barrow's Goldeneye continued into March, and a Boreal Chickadee that had arrived in the fall chickadee flight stayed into late March as well. Bald Eagles were reported in record numbers. Late lingerers from fall usually turn up earlier in the winter, but a very late sapsucker spent two weeks at a Port Hope feeder in January. And a light, late flight of Snow Buntings - likely the return flight of birds moving north - included unusual numbers of Lapland Longspurs.

Winter is the time incursions sometimes occur of northern birds, driven south by food shortages. The large incursion in 2010-11 was of Bohemian Waxwings, the largest such movement we have ever recorded, but it seemed to taper off very rapidly in the New Year. However, the winter finch movements peaked later, with Pine Siskins in large numbers in January, a much smaller flight of redpolls, mostly in February, including scattered Hoaries recorded mostly at feeders, and more isolated reports of crossbills.

Curiously, it turned out that Bohemian Waxwings kept appearing long after the mea-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ger five reports from January and February. There were 18 spring records between March 1 and May 10, with substantial flocks of up to 300 birds in April, and the spring period logged an amazing 1579 birds (although probably including repeated counts of a large flock in Brighton), but still a completely unprecedented event for a bird that, just four short years ago, we quite accurately described in the Website as a “rare winter visitor.”

When spring finally arrived it was an unsettled affair with cool, wet, and foggy conditions. Not coincidentally, it also yielded some very good spring birding. Birds crossing the lake would find themselves overtaken by poor weather and fog, and head for the nearest land along the shorelines. However, the groundings were localized and apparently the poor weather (particularly the fog) inhibited birdsong, and indeed activity generally. Although birds were often present, the overall picture turned out to be rather quiet. The rarest of the less common small landbirds reported included two Yellow-throated Warblers, one at Presqu’ile and another at Cobourg, presumably reflecting a small ‘invasion’ of this species into the Province. On May 7 Cobourg also recorded a Worm-eating Warbler that proved elusive later, while Presqu’ile had a Prothonotary Warbler on June 2. A Tufted Titmouse, one of the southern species that is expanding its range slowly northwards, also appeared briefly in the Park on April 19, just three weeks or so after the last sighting there of the Boreal Chickadee, a northerner too far south!

The spectacle of the season, and probably of the entire year, was on April 23 at Presqu’ile, when 32 American Avocets in high breeding plumage spent some hours on the beach. Avocets are not unheard of here: there have been nine birds recorded since 1951, but all of them were singles!

There were no other dramatic shorebird groundings on the Park beaches this year (in

fact, the high lake water levels seemed to result in mediocre shorebird flights in both spring and fall), but endangered Piping Plovers were seen for the second consecutive year. One of this year’s two sightings was a banded bird. It was traced to northern Michigan, where it was banded as a young bird in 2010.

The spring waterfowl story was one of continued expansion. Six Greater White-fronted Geese at Roseneath equaled our previous high in 2008, and a Ross’s Goose near Port Hope on March 15 was our first-ever in spring. The Brant flight was exceptionally heavy, with 1400 at Presqu’ile and 400 at Cobourg, both on May 11. Eurasian Wigeon continue to appear more often: the waterfowl flocks at Presqu’ile included two in spring, last seen on March 28, and one reappeared on October 26, staying until freeze-up.

We tend to think of Gyrfalcons as winter visitors, but a bird in 2011 (they occur at roughly two-year intervals) was in Cobourg harbour on March 12. The raptor sighting of the year, however, was our first-ever Swainson’s Hawk, seen briefly but well at Presqu’ile on May 8. This was our first new bird for the County since 2006, and it would prove to be one of two for the year!

A sighting of an ibis in flight at Presqu’ile on May 13 was perhaps a precursor of things to come. On July 15 and again on July 24 researchers in the huge Ring-billed Gull colony on Gull Island in the Park also saw an ibis and were able to film it, but again it was not identified to species. A long period elapsed, with a bird turning up briefly in Port Hope, also unidentified. Finally it was settled that the Presqu’ile bird was a White-faced Ibis, another first for the County, before it finally vanished on September 12.

Apart from the ibis summer was typically quiet, with few noteworthy reports. The Summer Bird Count on June 4-5 recorded a Louisiana Waterthrush for the first time, and the birds were later found to be nesting. Prob-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

able holdovers from the spring migration included an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a couple of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, a Swainson's Thrush and two Blackpoll Warblers. Record high counts included 99 Wild Turkeys, 385 Cedar Waxwings and a very surprising 48 Red Crossbills, but numbers were generally on the low side. The most pronounced declines were in swallows, with Northern Rough-winged Swallows reduced to three individuals, and Tree and Bank Swallows also continuing their long-term decline. White-throated Sparrows were down to an all-time low of 17 birds, although this may have been a one-time anomaly.

Fall often seemed like a continuation of summer. In contrast to spring there were relatively few days where heavy influxes of landbirds occurred, and most migrants apparently over-flew the County. The rather sparse number of reports included a White-eyed Vireo at Presqu'ile on October 22, a Lawrence's Warbler (one of the named Golden-winged and Blue-winged hybrids) in Candlewick Woods on August 23, and a very late Brewster's Warbler (the other named hybrid) at Cobourg on October 1.

Waterbirds, by contrast, yielded several noteworthy sightings. Eiders made the headlines again, as not only were two different King Eiders seen at Presqu'ile, but two Common Eiders appeared there on September 21. These were the first for the County apart from an inadequately documented bird in 1976. After the waterfowl hunt had opened another bird, or more likely one of the two from

Presqu'ile, turned up at Chub Point on October 1. It remained for the next three days, often playing hide-and-seek with observers. The attention it generated, together with an accessible mixed flock of scoters present there, were probably instrumental in the County's third Pacific Loon being located, on October 19.

Returning to Presqu'ile, the Barrow's Goldeneye reappeared there in late November, and an Eared Grebe spent almost two months off Owen Point from September 8 on. And while shorebird numbers were low on the beaches, Western Sandpiper, Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher and Red-necked Phalarope all put in appearances (the latter seen over three weeks). Also seen was another Black-legged Kittiwake, on November 6.

Possibly the most intensively viewed waterbird of the fall, however, for the brief time it was alive, was a moribund Pomarine Jaeger sitting on the beach in Cobourg harbour on November 13. Pomarine Jaeger sightings here are few (about eight birds in total) but any jaeger sitting on shore is almost unheard of. This unfortunate bird barely survived the morning.

Which brings us to winter phase 2. The precursors were on October 12, when a very early Northern Shrike was first seen, and the third week in November, when Snowy Owls began to appear. That early shrike presaged the heaviest flight on record - so far. The owl flight is a moderate one, but it has done much to enliven a December that was remarkable only for its lack of winter weather and bird-life.

2012 Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop

2012 Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, from Saturday, August 4 to Sunday, August 12. 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 and 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 through the Hugh T. Lemon Memorial Student Award to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April, 30, 2012. For more information and an application form, contact LPBO at lpbo@birdscanada.org.

**Willow Beach Field Naturalists
Ontario Parks**

**PETER'S WOODS
2011-2012**

Saturday, April 21st will be the official opening of Peter's Woods for the season. The gate will open at 9:00 a.m., and although no hordes of tourists or locals will flock its gate, a gentle hare and the song of a sparrow may welcome us.

Most of the board walk sections have been put in place in the low lying areas but a few more will be put down once things dry up a bit. Chris Drew and Bill Newell worked diligently to assemble the sections for last summer, while Audrey Wilson (and her charge, Millie) supervised the operation.

There are a few items of maintenance that need attention, but 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 – and they have. The new brochures have been quite popular with a few suggestions from visitors which will be passed on to the MNR.

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 will be coming up and bursting with life. For bird lovers there is no shortage in bird songs if you can identify them. Ferns and scouring rush will once again swathe the forest floor with lush hues of green.

A hearty THANK YOU to the Peter's Woods Maintenance Volunteers – without whom we could not keep this delightful conservation area in pristine condition. Most of them have been volunteering for many years, and are always enthusiastic to put in one more year. There is a special couple we do wish to thank above and beyond, and that is **Fran and Les Jack**. Fran and Les could be seen with bucket and broom in hand, and always made sure there were brochures in the Visitor's box. The Jacks have retired for now and we wish to say "many, many thanks for your dedication".

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.

And of course, please stay on the trails.

Petra Hartwig and Chris Drew, Co-coordinators of Volunteers for Peter's Woods
March 2012

Silent Auction a Success

Over 60 people braved snowy weather to attend the club's Annual General Meeting in February. There was a fun atmosphere as people browsed the silent auction tables, placing bids. The auction was a great success, **raising over \$1100** for the club's environmental education activities. The most heated bidding was for the coveted Presqu'ile Provincial Park's annual pass and for Marilyn Waring's apple pies.

Thank you to the following members, friends of WBFN, and businesses for their donations: Presqu'ile superintendent Tom Mates, naturalist David Bree, and staff; Squirrel Buster Co., Greta Holmes' Backyard Seeds; Mill Creek Seed Co; Don Davis; Chris Lyons; Wayne Brooks; Maureen Riggs; Alison Elliott and Ben Walters; Gilmer's Home Hardware; Louise Schmidt; Richard Pope; Bill Crowley; Margaret Bain; Rae and Marilyn Waring; Trish Whitney; Larry Fell; Marg Robinson; Pet Valu; Harry and Carol Knapper; and several anonymous donors. **Thank you also to the many club members who helped organize donations or set up/take down the auction:** The Tottenham's, Louise Schmidt, The Waring's, Michael Biggar, Petra Hartwig, Audrey Wilson and Marg Short.

- Alison Elliott, Coordinator of the auction

Community Tree Inventory - A Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity

The environmental, social and economic benefits of trees in your neighbourhood are far reaching in the context of the 'urban forest'. Conservation of the trees in the urban forest is vital to a sustainable and healthy community. To aid in establishing management goals, the Town of Cobourg is looking for volunteers to undertake a detailed tree inventory. The pilot project for the community inventory will cover a study area between King Street to University Avenue East and College Street to D'Arcy Street. A Public Open House for volunteers and interested citizens will be held on Tuesday, March 20th, 2012 at 7pm in the Citizen's Forum (2nd Floor) at Victoria Hall, 55 King Street West..

The inventory provides an opportunity for the Town to raise awareness and educate the public about the value of trees. The Town of Cobourg GIS mapping has already numbered and mapped all boulevard and park trees. In addition to trees on Town property, the community benefits derived from trees on private property can be measured and goals can be determined for preservation of the urban forest canopy as a whole.

The proposed "NeighbourWoods" tree inventory program has been created by Dr. Andy Kenney at the University of Toronto. This program assists in the collection of information on individual trees and their surrounding environments. Such information is grouped into tree location, site characteristics, tree species name, tree size, tree condition and conflicts with surrounding infrastructure as well as other trees. The NeighbourWoods program is a standardized procedure for inventory collection and data entry for the layperson which is consistent, technically correct and reduces the potential for error. Another advantage of this program is the identification and evaluation of plantable spots which can be used for future tree planting plans.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for Cobourg citizens to learn new skills and become involved in the conservation of our urban forest for future generations. Contact Rory Quigley at the Town of Cobourg for more information at 905.372.4555 or email trees@cobourg.ca. To learn more about the program visit the Urban Forest Stewardship Network <http://ufsn.ca/>

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Greater White-fronted Goose	Feb. 3-6	1	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Snow Goose	Feb.23-27	1	Garden Hill pond	CEG, MB
Cackling Goose	Feb. 3	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Feb. 5	8	Garden Hill pond	BW
Trumpeter Swan	Feb. 3	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, LW
	Feb. 13, 20, 27	2	Garden Hill pond	MB
Tundra Swan	Feb. 6	5	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Wood Duck	Feb. 1-18	1f	Cobourg Harbour	m.obs
	Mar. 1	2	Cobourg Harbour	ERM
Gadwall	Feb. 5	3	Garden Hill pond	BW
	Feb. 25	1	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Northern Pintail	Feb. 5	20	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2	BW
	Feb. 13, 20, 27	76	Garden Hill pond	MB
	Feb. 14	100	Garden Hill pond	RF
Green-winged Teal	Feb. 14	1	Garden Hill pond	RF
Lesser Scaup	Feb 1	2	Cobourg Harbour	LW
	Feb. 13, 20, 27	2	Cobourg Harbour	KN
White-winged Scoter	Feb. 2	1	Cobourg Harbour	GMCD, RoP
Barrow's Goldeneye	Feb. 1-21	1m	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Hooded Merganser	Feb. 27	1m	Garden Hill pond	MB
Wild Turkey	Feb. 23	20	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
Pied-billed Grebe	Feb. 27	1	Presqu'ile PP - record early date	FH, Ontbirds
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 12	1	Castleton	SP
	Feb. 12	1	near Warkworth	SP
Northern Harrier	Feb. 1	1	2 km. w. of Burnley	BN
	Feb. 13, 20, 27	1m	Dale Rd. & Cty. Rd. 28	MB
	Feb. 20	1m	Cty. Rd. 10 & Con 7	MB
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Feb. 12	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Cooper's Hawk	Feb. 2	1	Hope & Young St., PH	NEW
	Feb. 19	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Red-shouldered Hawk	Feb. 18	1	Brighton	RF, WBFN outing
American Kestrel	Feb. 5	1	Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	Feb. 13	1	Telephone Rd. nr. 401	LS
	Feb. 28	1	Home Depot, Cob., with vole	MB
Merlin	Feb. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Feb. 26	1	Wilson Rd., A/H	RF
Peregrine Falcon	Feb. 16	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Coot	Feb. 1-Mar. 2	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Sandhill Crane	Mar. 1	1	Candlewick Woods	JS
Mew Gull	Mar. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	RF
Thayer's Gull	Feb. 28	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
Iceland Gull	Feb. 1-28	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Feb. 3	4	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 2	1imm	Cobourg east pier	MB
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Feb. 4	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Feb. 8	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Feb. 9	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Glaucous Gull	Feb. 4	10	Cobourg Harbour	KN, ERM
	Feb. 3 & 17	5	Cobourg Harbour	CEG

Sightings - cont'd.

Great Horned Owl	Feb. 6	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2, calling	LS
Snowy Owl	Feb. 1-18	1	Cobourg Harbour	m.obs
	Feb. 7-23	1-4	Presqu'ile PP	FH, Ontbirds
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Feb. 12	1	Guideboard Rd., Welcome	KMcH
Northern Flicker	Feb. 14	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
Pileated Woodpecker	Feb. 26	1	s. of Baltimore	AB
Northern Shrike	Jan. 15	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Feb. 5	1	McClelland Rd. n. of Dale Rd.	JGe
	Feb. 7	1	Lakeshore Rd. w. of Port Hope	PB
	Feb. 10	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 13	1	Canton Cemetery	MB
	Feb. 15	1	Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	CEG
	Feb. 20	1	Close Point, Rice Lake	VU
Horned Lark	Feb. 19	7	Stewart Rd. off Centreton Rd.	AEW
	Feb. 23	10+	Dickinson Rd., PH Ward 2, singing	MB
Eastern Bluebird	Jan. 6	4	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Feb. 9	2	Sky Valley Dr., Hamilton Twp.	HvdV
	all winter	4-8	2 km. w. of Burnley	BN
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Feb. 26, 28	1	Pebble Beach Dr., Cob.	TW
Townsend Solitaire	Feb. 24	1	Carroll Cres., Cob.	DG, Ontbirds
American Robin	Feb. 7	40+	Lucas Point, Cob.	CEG
Northern Mockingbird	Feb. 3-?	1	Yeovil St., PH	EK
	Feb. 8	1	Lakeshore Rd & OPG Wesleyville	PB
	Feb. 23	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	CEG
Bohemian Waxwing	Feb. 26	6	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 27	57	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 5	15	Brown's Rd., PH Ward 2	MA
	Mar. 6	100	Roseneath area	FHa
Cedar Waxwing	Feb. 14	65	Telephone Rd.	CEG
	Feb. 17	65	Lakeshore Rd. w. of Port Hope	MB
	Mar. 1	200+	Cobourg backyard	HG
Savannah Sparrow	Feb. 1-29	1	Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
White-throated Sparrow	Feb. 1-7	2	Cobourg backyard	MB
Lapland Longspur	Feb. 12	1	Speechley Rd., A/H	EK, RF
	Feb. 23	1	Dickinson Rd., PH Ward 2, singing	MB
Snow Bunting	Feb. 14	75	Centreton Rd.	RF
Red-winged Blackbird	Feb. 27	2	Clapperton Rd., Hamilton Twp.	CG
	Feb. 27	20	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
Brown-headed Cowbird	Feb. 8	1m	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 23	5	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Purple Finch	Mar. 2	4	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
White-winged Crossbill	Feb. 4	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
	Feb. 14	21	Centreton Rd.	EK
	Feb. 21	20	North Cold Springs	SW
	Feb. 25	20	North Cold Springs	SW
Pine Siskin	Feb. 7	51	Alderville Black Oak Savanna	EK, RF
	Feb. 12	100	Scot's Line, A/H	EK, RF
	Feb. 25	12	Bulls Mill Rd. w. of Cty. Rd. 45	SW
Evening Grosbeak	Feb. 5	1	Dunbar & Russ Creek, A/H	BK

Sightings - cont'd.

Raccoon	Feb. 27	1	Young St., PH	NEW
Mink	Feb. 25	1	carrying a chipmunk across #45, n. of Baltimore	AEW
Eastern Chipmunk	Feb. 10	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Feb. 29	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Coyote	Feb. 2	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Fisher	Feb. 1	1	2 km. W. of Burnley	BN
Woolly Bear caterpillar	Feb. 6	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2, walking across the road	LS
Caterpillar of <i>Virginia Ctenucha</i>	Feb. 5	1	crawling on Anderson Rd., PH Ward 2	EK, RF

Observers: MA=Margaret Appleman; MB=Margaret Bain; PB=Paul Bridges; AB=Ann Brightman; GMCD=Geoff Dale; RF=Roger Frost; DG=Dennis Garratt; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FHa=Francis Hay; FH=Fred Helleiner; CG=Connie Gardner; JGe=John Geale; HG=Harvey Gold; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BK=Barry King; ERM=Ted McDonald; KMCh=Kathryn McHolm; m.obs.=Many Observers; BN=Bill Newell; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=OFO listserv; SP=Sarah Petrasek; RP=Richard Pope; RoP=Robert Popham; JS=Jim Sculthorpe; VU=Vince Urbanski; HvdV=Herman van der Veen; NEW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; LS=Louise Schmidt; LW=Lori Wensley; TW=Trish Whitney; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson;

Monarch Butterfly Tags Recovered

Don Davis has recently learned of two Monarch tags which were recovered in Michoacan, Mexico. These two butterflies were tagged during the Monarchs and Migrants Weekend, held September 5 and 6, 2008 at Presqu'ile Provincial Park.

- MCC 780, tagged on September 5, 2008. Tag purchased at El Rosario on Feb. 28, 2012
- MCC 982, tagged on September 6, 2008. Tag purchased at El Rosario on Feb. 28, 2012

Don tagged only 395 Monarchs that fall, mostly at the Presqu'ile event, so this represents a good recovery rate.

Cookies, made from this recipe by Jane Tottenham for the WBFN Soup hike in January, proved very popular with all present. Jane has kindly offered to share the recipe.

Oatmeal-Whole Wheat Cookies

- 1 cup soft butter or margarine
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup oats, quick-cooking or regular uncooked
- 1 cup raisins

Cream butter, sugar, and flavouring until fluffy. Stir in flour and oats, then add raisins, mix until blended. Roll into small balls and place on an ungreased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart and press with a fork which has been dipped in flour or warm water so they do not stick. Bake in the oven at 350° F. for 12 – 15 minutes. Makes about 3 – 4 dozen.

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