



Vol LVII No. 6

September 2012

COMING EVENTS

● **Friday, September 28, 2012 - 7:30 pm at LeVan Hall at Trinity College School, Port Hope** (*See map and directions on page 4. This is a new location.*)

Speaker: **Paul O'Hara**, botanist, landscape designer and native plant expert. Topic: **Indian Trail Marker Trees in Southern Ontario.**

● **Sunday, September 30, 2012 - Outing to Mount Ararat, 8340 Lander Rd.**

Leader: **Sharon Keogh**. Walk the historic former Catherine Parr-Trail property and learn about the habitat restoration that is being done there by the owners, Sharon Keogh and David Acomba. Bring a lunch and enjoy the views of Rice Lake as you picnic on the porch after the walk.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Burnham St. and Hwy. 401 commuter parking lot for car pooling, or at Mr. Ararat at 10 a.m. **Directions:** Take Burnham St. (Cty. Rd. 18) north to Lander Rd. Lander Rd. is the first left north of Cty. Rd. 9. Pitcher's Restaurant is at the corner. Follow Lander Rd. west for about 1.5 km to #8340.

There is a small parking area along the driveway. The owners have requested a voluntary donation to the property's stewardship fund from the participants on this walk.

● **Sunday, October 14, 2012 - Outing - Birding Candlewick Woods, 8:30 a.m.**

Leader: Roger Frost. Candlewick Woods is a privately owned woodlot on the shore of Lake Ontario, just west of Port Hope. It acts as a migrant trap for songbirds. It is also a good look out for loons, grebes, and waterfowl on the lake. **Directions:** Follow Lakeshore Rd. west from Port Hope to a red barn on the south side, opposite the south end of Dickinson Rd. Park in the laneway just west of the barn.

● **Friday, October 26, 2012 - 7:30 pm at LeVan Hall at Trinity College School, Port Hope.**

Speaker; **Robert Fishlock**, Director, Ontario Nature. Topic: **Protecting Ontario's Wild Spaces and Wild Species: Ontario Nature in Action**

● **Friday, November 30, 2012 - 7:30 pm at Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario Street, Cobourg.**

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Speaker: **Kari Gunson** , Road Ecologist, of EcoKare International. Topic: **Integrating road ecology into practical road-wildlife mitigation projects in Ontario**

Christmas Bird Counts:

Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 15, 2012. Please contact Roger Frost at 905-885-9615 or ekrf@eagle.ca if you would like to participate.

Presqu'ile-Brighton Christmas Bird Count, Sunday, December 16, 2012. Please contact Maureen Riggs at 613-475-3604 or mriggs@sympatico.ca if you would like to participate.

● **Friday, January 25, 2013 - 7:30pm LeVan Hall Trinity College School, Port Hope**

Speaker: **Dr. Laurence Packer**, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies. Topic: **Bees: Importance, Biodiversity and Conservation.**

● **Friday, February 22, 2013 - Annual General Meeting -7:00 pm Cobourg Public Library 200 Ontario St., Cobourg.** More information about the AGM will be published in future *Curlews*

Speaker: **Mike McMurtry**, Natural Areas Ecologist, MNR. Topic: **The Natural Heritage Information Centre: What it is, What we do, and How you can contribute**

● **Friday, March 22, 2013 - 7:30 pm at LeVan Hall, Trinity College School. Port Hope**

Speaker: **Joe Duff**, CEO Operation Migration. Topic: **Whooping Crane Reintroduction**

(Continued on page 3)

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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 October 2012 issue should be received by September 30, 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 October Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

(Continued from page 2)

Project.

- **Wednesday, April 24, 2013 - 7:30pm at Cobourg Library, 200 Ontario Street, Cobourg**
Speaker: **Linda Givelas**, Forest Centre Property Manager. Topic: **The Ganaraska Forest: Where to go when Nature Calls.** *(Please note the change of day because of Good Friday.)*
- **June 8 and 9, 2013 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count**

Watch the Curlew and the web site for details of additional outings.

News from the Executive

The Willow Beach Field Naturalists Executive Board announces, with regret, the resignation of President Tim Tottenham. Tim has taken a position in Toronto which will not allow him enough time to continue as WBFN President. In his time on the executive, he has acted as Press Secretary and has managed to get great coverage for the club in the local press. Tim's wife, Jane, assisted him in the role and will continue to see that WBFN announcements get to the media. As well, Tim has arranged for a meeting location in Port Hope at Trinity College School's LeVan Hall. (See map on page 4.) Thank you, Tim, for all the work you have done for us in a rather short time.

Vice-President, Petra Hartwig has agreed to become acting president. This position will have to be confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting in February 2013. Thank you, Petra, and welcome to your new role. She can be contacted at 905-372-4301 or phartwig@coboug.ca. Also, please welcome Brian Maxwell in his role as 2nd Vice-president. Thanks, Brian, for offering to fill this position.

The Executive would like a few volunteers to act as greeters at our monthly meetings. Petra would be happy to hear from members willing to take on this task.

The Executive is also looking for a new Secretary. Karen Drew has filled this position for seven years. Her growing family requires more of her time, to say nothing of a full time job as a high school teacher. Thank you, Karen, for carefully recording minutes for such a long time.

This is a time of change for our Executive. Please offer them your support.

Elizabeth Kellogg and Petra Hartwig

Welcome to New Member

Suzanne Stickley, Port Hope

DIRECTIONS TO LeVAN HALL AT TRINITY COLLEGE SCHOOL



From Port Hope: Take Ward Street up the hill past the Port Hope Fair Grounds. Drive past the school on your left to the stop sign at Ward and Rose Glen. Turn left onto Rose Glen drive a short distance and take The First left turn you come to is Trinity College School. As you turn into the School you will see Le Van Hall right in front of you as you drive up. Find a place to park your car in the Parking Lot at the left or just past Le Van Hall - Please do not park along the side of the drive way as they are fire lanes. Park and come into the building and go upstairs – The Hall is on your left at the top of the stairs.

From Cobourg: Take Highway 2 to Port Hope. Pass **Quantrill Chevrolet Buick GMS Cadillac Ltd** as you are coming into Port Hope, as well, pass **Rona Cashways** on your left – just after ward you will Turn Right onto Rose Glen Road. Travel north on Rose Glen, past Ward Street. The First left turn you come to is Trinity College School. As you turn into the School you will see Le Van Hall right in front of you as you drive up. Find a place to park your car in the Parking Lot at the left or just past Le Van Hall - Please do not park along the side of the drive way as they are fire lanes. Park and come into the building and go upstairs – The Hall is on your left at the top of the stairs.

2012 Northumberland Summer Bird Count, June 8 & 9

Roger Frost

This was the 16th annual summer bird count. It was also our most productive count so far, with a record of over 18,000 birds tallied. The species total of 141 was just off the previous high of 143 in 2007.

Thirty-one observers searched the same count circle used in previous years, with the coverage as follows:

Area #1 (NW section): John Geale, David Geale, Bruce Parker, Simone Merey, Dave Shirley, Bob Short, Anne Tesluk, Rachel Smith, Carole Payne

Area @2 (NE section): Bryan Baxter, Louise Baxter, Maureen Riggs, Martha Robinson, Russell Lake, Brad Sherwin, Dennis Garrett.

Area #3 (W-central section): Susanne Williams, Louise Schmidt, Karen Drew, Kurt Appleman, Gary Little, Matt Hayward, Elliott Drew

Area #4 (E-central section): Roger Frost, Elizabeth Kellogg, Bill Newell

Area #5 (SW section): Doug McRae, Sarah Petrasek

Area #6 (SE section): Margaret Bain, Richard Pope, Rayfield Pye

The weather this year was again mixed. Saturday dawned with low overcast skies with light rain. This, I think, was the reason for the record high counts of Ring-billed Gulls, American Robins, Mourning Doves, Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles. These were about the only species that could be counted effectively while sitting in a car in the rain. By mid morning, the rain stopped and the skies cleared. There was about an hour of really good birding before the clouds moved in again. The rest of Saturday was dry, but mostly cloudy. Sunday was a near perfect day, sunny and warm with light winds.

One new species was added to the list this year, a Northern Parula, heard singing in a

swamp in Area #2. This brings the all time list to 179 species.

This site was visited a few days later, but the parula could not be relocated. However, a nice Olive-sided Flycatcher was a nice consolation prize.

Waterbirds were somewhat more numerous this year. This was mostly due to the canoe party in Area #1. Area #1 recorded the only Common Loon (2), Least Bittern (1), Blue-winged Teal (1), and Green-winged Teal (1). Not to be outdone, Area #6 found the only Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron. An amazing six American Bitterns were found by 5 teams. This was double the previous high. Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck and Mallard were all counted in record high numbers.

All of the expected raptors were recorded, although only Broad-winged Hawk and Merlin were present in record numbers. Area 1 had the only Bald Eagle. Areas 1 and 4 had the only Northern Harriers for a total of 4 birds. A single Sharp-shinned Hawk was in found in Area 6 and a single Cooper's Hawk was seen in Area 1. Northern Goshawks seem to be making a comeback with 5 birds spread over 3 areas. No goshawks at all were counted between 2005 and 2009. Perhaps the Ruffed Grouse population is reaching the high point of its cycle. The 20 recorded this year is the highest total since 2007. Area 1 had the only two Merlins. Area 4 and 5 had the only Red-shouldered Hawks, for a total of 4.

Wild Turkey cracked the 100 mark, to set a new record high. It is now hard to believe that in 1998, we actually missed turkeys on the count. Single Ring-necked Pheasants were seen in Areas 1 and 2.

Area 1 found the only Sora.

Shorebirds, as usual, were scarce. Spot-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

ted Sandpipers were found in Areas 5 and 6. Wilson's Snipe were found in 3 areas for a total of 7 birds. A record high 10 American Woodcock were counted. Not surprisingly, they were all found in areas where an effort to find nocturnal birds was made. Upland Sandpiper was missed for the second year in a row.

Ring-billed Gull was the most common species this year, with a record high 2,105 birds counted. Area 6 picked out the only Herring Gull.

Our two dove species had very different results. The total of 59 Rock Pigeons was the lowest since 1997. I suspect this species is really declining as fewer farmers are raising cattle. Or perhaps the rain kept them in the barns on Saturday morning. The 610 Mourning Doves was more than 100 birds over their previous high.

The five Black-billed Cuckoos reported were a good total in a year when there were few tent caterpillars for them to eat.

Area 1 had the only two Eastern Screech Owls. Barred Owls were in found in Areas 4 and 5, for a total of 3 birds.

Single Common Nighthawks were seen in Areas 1 and 4. The 21 Whip-poor-wills heard were in their strongholds of Areas 3 and 4.

Woodpeckers had a very good year, with all species being found in record high numbers or near record high numbers. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in Areas 1 and 5. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to expand into the count circle. Six of the 9 birds reported were in Area 5.

Most flycatcher species were found in average numbers, with only Eastern Phoebe posting a record high of 65 birds. Area 6 turned up the only Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Most swallow species were found in below average numbers. Purple Martin continues to hang on with 4 birds recorded in Area 1. The 45 Cliff Swallows counted sounds

like a good total, but 41 of them were at one colony in Area 6. Only 4 other birds were seen in the rest of the circle!

All 3 corvid species were found in well above average numbers, but no records.

Black-capped Chickadee and both species of nuthatches were all found in record high numbers.

Only Areas 5 and 6 reported Golden-crowned Kinglets.

All thrush species were recorded in above average numbers, but only American Robin posted a new high of 1,239 birds. The 76 Eastern Bluebirds was the 2nd highest total ever, and only 2 short of the high of 81 in 2006.

Twenty species of warblers were recorded this year. The highlight was the previously mentioned Northern Parula. Four groups found Blue-winged Warblers, for a total of 7 birds. Only Areas 1 and 4 reported single Golden-winged Warblers. The 8 Nashville Warblers was the lowest total since 2004. With the early spring, Nashvilles were well past their song peak by June 9. Most warblers, however, were found in better numbers than in recent years. Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler and American Redstart all posted record high counts. Hooded Warbler also had a record high count of two, with single birds in Areas 4 and 6.

Scarlet Tanagers rebounded from the 18 counted last year to the near record high of 53 this year.

Indigo Buntings also posted a record high of 185 individuals.

Eleven species of sparrows were reported this year. Only Swamp Sparrow was found in record high numbers. This was almost completely due to the canoe party of Area 1 counting over half the total of 117 birds. Most sparrow species were counted in above average numbers. The 54 Grasshopper Sparrows was

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

the lowest total since 2006. Clay-colored Sparrows were found Areas 3 and 6, for a total of 8 birds. Single Dark-eyed Juncos were reported in Areas 2 and 6, well away from the Northumberland Forest where they usually occur.

Because the hay fields had not been cut, the Bobolink total of 256 was the highest since 2005. Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle both posted record highs, but Brown-headed Cowbird tied their record low of 82 birds, set back in 1997. Area 5 found the only Orchard Oriole this year.

Finches provided a few highlights. The 33 Purple Finches counted were a record high. A single Red Crossbill in Area 6 was somewhat less than last year's record high of 48, but still a good find. The lone Pine Siskin in Area 5 was only the 3rd record for the count and was all that was left of the huge flight from last winter.

A Birder's Vacation

While on Vacation at a cottage just west of Balsam Lake Provincial Park, I was delighted to observe great bird species.

At three hummingbird feeders, there were nine Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at once and a single Rufous Hummingbird on August 13, 2012.

Two male Evening Grosbeaks landed on the roadway just feet from me, unafraid, scooping up bits of grit, August 20, 2012.

A single Sandhill Crane flew overhead August 19, and five Common Nighthawks flew over, heading eastward in the early evening of August 21. The next evening, east of Fenelon Falls, six Common Nighthawks were observed.

As a youth of the mid last century, I miss very much the large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks jostling each other for a spot at our feeders, and summer evenings when Common Nighthawks were heard overhead regularly.

- Paul Bridges

Many birders have heard stories like the one below, but are not often given the opportunity to witness this.

Hitchhiker

WBFN member, Vince Urbanski e-mailed the Editor the photograph at right with the following story.

Vince's brother and nephew were salmon fishing on Lake Ontario about a mile south of Bronte. The south shore on the American side was covered in fog. A tiny bird, the Magnolia Warbler, pictured at right, crash landed on their boat. It approached from the south, the American side. For twenty minutes, it sat there with its eyes closed. It was totally exhausted. Then it woke up and started to move around the boat, feeding on the insects on the boat. It had no fear of humans, as it would walk right under one's legs. It stayed with them for an additional hour and a half and flew away when the boat landed at the dock.

Vince Urbanski



Magnolia Warbler takes refuge on a convenient fishermen's boat.

A Banded Great Black-backed Gull in Port Hope Harbour

On August 15th, Richard Pope and I were checking the gulls perched on the break-water just west of Port Hope harbour. There were about 50 gulls and terns loafing nonchalantly on the rocks. The gulls were mostly Ring-billed, with a few Herring Gulls, and also two large, dark young Great Black-backed Gulls standing close together.

With our scopes we could see that one of the two was banded, and with some effort we were able to read the numbers on the band. The bird's right leg held a plain, wide gray plastic band and on the left leg was a bright yellow band with bold black lettering. Reading the numbers on the yellow band was difficult, even though the letters were quite big, because there was a lot of jostling and changing of positions in the crowd of gulls, and just when you thought you had it, another gull's legs would block the view! Finally we decided that the yellow band said **2R**, sideways, and this was repeated around the whole band.

I emailed the information to the Canadian Wildlife Service and within a few days got a note from Dr. Chip Weseloh who studies gull populations on the Great Lakes:

2R was one of three flightless young of the year GBBGs we banded on the St. Lawrence River, downstream from Cornwall, on an island called D-41 (really it's a land-based navigational marker) on 3 July 2012. This is the first report we have had of the bird since we banded it.

The population of Great Black-backed

Gulls in Ontario has decreased substantially in the last 20 years, mainly due to the increased incidence of avian botulism in Lake Ontario as our summers seem to be growing slowly warmer. The severity of avian botulism may also be linked to the zebra mussel invasion of the Great Lakes. Zebra mussels can concentrate botulism toxins in their own tissues, poisoning fish, diving ducks, and cormorants more readily, the toxins then moving on up the food chain. Great Black-backed Gulls are at the top of the food chain in Lake Ontario, often feasting on the corpses of botulism-stricken birds washed up on shore, and it is distressing to see how badly they have been affected.

The CWS banding programs are therefore very important in tracing the movements and survival of Great Black-backed and other gulls. So, if you are gull-watching, do take the time to check even the common species for leg bands. It's easy to report them: just send an email to the Canadian Bird Banding Office at bbo_cws@ec.gc.ca with as many details as you can supply.

Shorebirds may also show leg bands or coloured leg flags, and there is another website you can use to report these: <http://report.bandedbirds.org/search.aspx>

Getting information on where your banded bird has come from can be a very interesting benefit to your birding outing, as well as adding to national and global ornithological data.

Margaret Bain

Membership News

- The club extends condolences to Ron Oberholzer and family on the death of his wife, Cath, on August 19. Cath was active in the club and served for a time as our FON Rep.
- Audrey Wilson was featured in the Summer 2012 issue of *Ontario Nature* magazine, as one of four Ontario Nature eco-heroes.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---|----------------------|
| Brant | May 7 | 50 | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| Trumpeter Swan | May 31 | 2ad, 6 imm | mill pond, Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2 | GMCD, BP |
| Greater Scaup | Aug. 11-14 | 1m | Cobourg Harbour | KN |
| Harlequin Duck | May 15 | 1m | Presqu'ile, Chatterton Point | BG, Ontbirds |
| Long-tailed Duck | May 12 | 385 | off Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| Red-throated Loon | May 12, 13 | 2 | Lucas Point, Cob. | DGa, MB |
| | June 5-12 | 1 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| Common Loon | Apr. 9 | 55 | off Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| Horned Grebe | Aug. 7, 8 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Owen Point | FH, Ontbirds |
| Red-necked Grebe | Apr. 7 | 30 | off Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| | May 1 | 4 | Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| American Bittern | May 6 | 1 | Jewell Rd. | RF, WBFN outing |
| | May 27 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour west pier | ERM |
| Great Egret | May 28 | 2 | Calnan Rd. pond | MB |
| Green Heron | July 5 | 5 | Lake St. Marsh, PH | JG, BP |
| Plegadis ibis | Aug. 6 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Gull Island | FH, Ontbirds |
| Black Vulture | May 7 | 1 | Cty. Rd. 23 n. of Grafton | MB |
| Turkey Vulture | Jun 7 | 55 | Turk Rd. area, Hamilton Twp. | KD |
| Bald Eagle | June 13 | 1ad | Roseneath Landing | DSH |
| | June 14 | 1imm | over Wesleyville, being harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk | PB |
| | Sept. 7 | 1 | Monk's Cove, Cob. | GW |
| Northern Goshawk | Aug. 18 | 1 | Seymour Conservation Area | EK, WBFN outing |
| Merlin | July 26 | 3 | Young St., PH | SL |
| Peregrine Falcon | Aug. 31 | 1f | Cobourg Harbour, flying west | MB |
| Sora | July 18 | 2 | Lake St. Marsh, PH | EK, RF |
| Sandhill Crane | May 14 | 3 | Stacey Rd., Wesleyville | PB |
| | May 30 | 2 | Cobourg Harbour | KN |
| | May 31 | 2 | Cramahe Townline | CEG |
| Black-bellied Plover | May 26 | 50 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| American Golden Plover | May 25 | 2 | Presqu'ile natural beach | RP, MB |
| Piping Plover | May 15-18 | 1 | Presqu'ile Beach 2 | RDM, SP, m.obs. |
| Greater Yellowlegs | May 5 | 6 | Elizabethville pond | MB |
| Willet | Aug. 12, 13 | 1 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| Upland Sandpiper | May 12 | 3 | Wesleyville | PB |
| | July 7 | 1juv | Cty. Rd. 22, east of Castleton | MB |
| Whimbrel | May 24 | 7 | Cobourg Harbour breakwater | MB |
| | Aug. 16 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | ERM |
| | Aug. 17 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour breakwater | KN |
| | Aug. 19 | 1juv | Cobourg Harbour | RDM, m.obs. |
| Ruddy Turnstone | May 26 | 27 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| | May 31 | 24 | Cobourg Harbour | RL |
| Red Knot | May 25 | 4 | Presqu'ile natural beach | RP, MB |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | July 24 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Owen Point | FH, Ontbirds |
| | Aug. 7-9 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Owen Point | BG, KS, IS, Ontbirds |
| Wilson's Phalarope | May 27 | 1 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| | Aug. 12-14 | 1 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| Bonaparte's Gull | Apr. 27 | 500 | Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| Little Gull | May 6 | 1 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| Iceland Gull | May 4 | 3ad | Port Hope Harbour west pier | MB |
| | May 9 | 1ad | Port Hope Harbour west pier | MB |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | July 22 | 1juv | Presqu'ile, Owen Point | FH, Ontbirds |
| Caspian Tern | June 24 | 115 | Port Hope Harbour west pier | ERM |
| Black Tern | Aug. 17 | 2 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |

Sightings - cont'd.

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|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--|-----------------|
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Aug. 15 | 1 | Thompson Rd., PH Ward 2 | PB |
| Common Nighthawk | May 19 | 1 | Bowmanton Rd. | KD |
| | Aug. 22 | 25 | downtown Cobourg | CEG |
| Chimney Swift | May 16 | 200+ | downtown Cobourg, high count | CEG |
| Rufous Hummingbird | Aug. 4 | 1 | Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile | BG |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | May 11 | 1 | Chub Point | SMcL |
| | May 15 | 1 | Stuart St., Cob. | SMcC |
| | May 21 | 2 | Close Point, Rice Lake | VU |
| | June 13 | 1 | Roseneath Landing | DSh |
| | July 7 | 1ad | Goodfellow Rd., sw corner of Murray Marsh | MB |
| | July 15 | 2ad | Tremaine St., Cob. - known to be nesting sw. corner of King St.W./Tremaine | MB |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | May 4 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Pileated Woodpecker | May 22 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| | July 31 | 4 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK, RF |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | June 14 | 1 | Fanning Rd. swamp, Alnwick/Haldimand | EK, RF |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | May 26 | 2 | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| Thick-billed Kingbird | Aug. 28-31 | 1 | Presqu'ile | BG, m.obs |
| Philadelphia Vireo | May 31 | 2 | Ganaraska Forest | MB |
| Tree Swallow | Apr. 24 | 66 | Cobourg Harbour, on breakwater | LW |
| Purple Martin | May 16 | 2 | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| | June 13 | 3 | Roseneath Landing | DSh |
| | Aug. 16 | 1 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | July 7 | 10 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Tufted Titmouse | May 5 | 1 | Presqu'ile | FH, Ontbirds |
| Carolina Wren | June 3 | 1 | Durham St., PH | EK |
| | June 17, 18 | 1m | Albert St., Cobourg backyard, singing | MB |
| | July 14, 15 | 1imm | Wesleyville | PB |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | May 6 | 1m | Jones Rd., Castleton, singing | MB |
| Northern Mockingbird | Aug. 17 | 1 | Cobourg east end | BL, Ontbirds |
| American Pipit | July 31 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Owen Point | FH, Ontbirds |
| Cedar Waxwing | May 26, 30 | 130 | Cobourg Harbour | CEG |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | May 6 | 1 | Peter's Woods | RF, WBFN outing |
| Golden-winged Warbler | May 21 | 3 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK, RF |
| Tennessee Warbler | July 6 | 1 | Northumberland Forest | DG |
| Hooded Warbler | May 14 | 1m | Presqu'ile, Lighthouse | FH, Ontbirds |
| | May 17 | 1m | Wilkinson Tract, Pogue Rd. | RDM |
| | May 31 | 1m | Ganaraska Forest, singing | MB |
| | June 5 | 1m | Ganaraska Forest | MB |
| | June 9 | 1m | Woods n. of Lone Pine Marsh | MB |
| Cape May Warbler | May 9 | 1f | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| Northern Parula | May 8 | 2 | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | May 15 | 23 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK, RF |
| Field Sparrow | July 31 | 23 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | May 6 | 2 | Cowie Rd., Castleton | MB |
| | May 29 | 9 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK, RF |
| | July 31 | 15 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK, RF |
| White-throated Sparrow | May 3 | 100+ | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| | May 3 | 100+ | AK Sculthorpe marsh trail, PH | ERM |
| White-crowned Sparrow | May 4 | 50 | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| Dark-eyed Junco | May 7 | 3 | Cobourg Harbour | LW |
| | Aug. 27 | 1juv | Durham St., Port Hope, at feeder | EK |
| Blue Grosbeak | May 11 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Calf Pasture | DB, Ontbirds |

Sightings - cont'd.

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|--|------------|------------|--|-----------------|
| Bobolink | July 31 | 53 | Alderville Black Oak Savanna | EK, RF |
| | Aug. 21 | 150 | Marsh Rd., PH | RF |
| Rusty Blackbird | May 3 | 2 | Chub Point | MB |
| Orchard Oriole | May 19 | 3 | Lucas Point, Cob. | CEG |
| Red Crossbill | July 20 | 7 | Wesleyville yard, feeding on spruce | PB |
| White-winged Crossbill | June 21 | 1 | Presqu'ile, Fingers | FH, Ontbirds |
| Pine Siskin | June 8 | 1 | Centennial Dr., PH | ERM |
| Evening Grosbeak | June 1 | 1m | Beagle Club Rd., Northumberland Forest | DG |
| | | | | |
| Eastern Milk Snake | Aug. 25 | 1 | Wicklow Beach, road-killed | MB |
| Possum | June 29 | 1 | Ontario St. & Bloomsgrrove, PH | EK, RF |
| Black Bear | May 17 | 1 | Wilkinson Tract, Pogue Rd. | RDM |
| | early June | 2 | Presqu'ile and Brighton | DD |
| | June 13 | 1 | Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2 | BW |
| BUTTERFLIES: | | | | |
| American Snout | June 21 | 1 | east of Victoria Park Beach, Cob. | DG |
| | Aug. 24 | 1 | near Lakeport | DD |
| Fiery Skipper | July 22 | 1 | Bayshore Rd., Presqu'ile | BG |
| Giant Swallowtail | Aug. 18 | 3 | Seymour Conservation Area | EK, WBFN outing |
| | mid-Aug. | | Francis St., PH - regular visitor | RP |
| Variegated Fritillary | Aug. 17 | 3 | Francis St., PH | RP |
| Pipeline Swallowtail | mid-Aug. | | Francis St., PH - regular visitor | RP |
| | Aug 18 | 1 | east end of Victoria Park, Cob. | DD |
| Spicebush Swallowtail | mid-Aug. | | Francis St., PH - regular visitor | RP |
| Common Clearwing (Hummingbird moth) | Aug. 2 | 1 | Wesleyville yard, feeding on bergamot | PB |

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; DB=David Bree; PB=Paul Bridges; BC=Barb Charlton; GMCD=Geoff Dale; DD=Don Davis; KD=Karen Drew; RF=Roger Frost; BG=Bill Gilmour; DGa=Dennis Garratt; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; DG=David Geale; JGe=John Geale; JG=Jack Goering; CJ=Colin Jones; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; SL=Susan Laing; BL=Bill Logan; RL=Rob Lonsberry; SMcC=Sheila McCoy; SMcL=Sherwood McLernon; ERM=Ted McDonald; RDM=Doug McRae; m.obs.=many observers; KN=Ken Niles; SP=Sarah Petrask; BP=Bob Popham; DSh=Dave Shirley; DS=Don Sutherland; KS=Kevin Shackleton; IS=Ian Shanahan; VU=Vince Urbanski; BW=Ben Walters; AEW=Audrey Wilson; LW=Lori Wensley; GW=Grahame Woods

Presqu'ile's Piping Plover 2012

Don Davis sent a photo of the banded Piping Plover, which visited Presqu'ile this spring, to the Piping Plover program at the University of Minnesota and received the following reply.

“Thanks for the report of a Great Lakes Piping Plover. You’re right. This is a plover from Michigan. More specifically from North Manitou Island in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This band combination is one we use to designate which brood a chick hatched in and is reused in subsequent years, so I can’t say exactly when it hatched. It could be from 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009 or 2010. Those chicks hatched in 2009 will have a three-digit number on the light blue band, those in 2010 will have a colored dot (either red or yellow) on the light blue band. If you should have happened to see either of those marking, please let me know.”

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