



Vol LVIII No. 4

April 2013

COMING EVENTS

● **Wednesday, April 24, 2013** at 7:30pm at the Cobourg Library, 200 Ontario Street

Please note the unusual date. An incorrect date was published in the March Curlew.

Speaker: **Linda Givelas**, Forest Centre Property Manager

Topic: **The Ganaraska Forest: Where to go when Nature Calls**

● **Saturday, April 27 – Nature Photography Workshop.** Leader: **Bill Crowley.** *Limit of 12 participants.* Registration is required. Contact Bill Crowley to register. 905-885-2123 or fisheye@eagle.ca

● **Sunday, May 5 - International Migratory Bird Day - Grassland Birds of Northumberland** sponsored by Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative and Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Schedule:

8:00 am - Early bird walk at Alderville Black Oak Savanna (8467 County Rd. 18), led by Willow Beach Field Naturalists and Sarah McGuire, Trent University graduate student.

11:00 am – Grassland Birds of the Rice Lake Plains – Indoor presentation by Trent University researcher Sarah McGuire

1:00 pm – Explore the grassland bird habitats at NCC's Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, Beaver Meadow Rd., Hamilton Township.

The event is free – donations welcome – and runs rain or shine. Participants can come for all or part of the day. Dress for the weather. Bring lunch if you plan to spend all day. For information, registration and directions call 905-352-1008.

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●**Sunday, May 12 – Birding Outing** to A.K. Sculthorpe Woodland Marsh (Port Hope) and Candlewick Woods. Leader: **Roger Frost**. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Lake St. parking lot, west of the marsh or at 10:00 a.m. at the orchard at Candlewick Woods, at the foot of Dickinson Rd. Outing will end around noon. **Directions to A.K. Sculthorpe Marsh:** From Peter St. (Cty. Rd. 2) in west end Port Hope, turn south on Hope St.S. Turn east on Lake St. (there is no other choice) and continue to the parking lot. **Directions to Candlewick Woods:** Take Lakeshore Rd. west from Port Hope to Dickinson Rd. Turn south at the red barn and park along the farm lane there. Contact Roger Frost, 905-885-9615 or ekrf@eagle.ca if you need additional directions.

●**Saturday, May 25th at 1:00 pm - President's Walk** - A walk along the trail in Peter's Woods Provincial Park looking at the new spring growth, listening and watching birds. Bring binoculars. This should take about 30-40 minutes. A further walk to the Pelton property for those who wish to participate (anticipate another 1 1/2 hours). As long as it doesn't rain heavily we will proceed. New trees will be planted in April at the Pelton property and Russell Lake will arrange to have prairie grass seeds to spread about while we check on how the trees we planted last year fared through the winter. Please contact Petra Hartwig at 905-269-0464 or windsong0@hotmail.com for further information. Not necessary to register.

●**June 8 and 9, 2013 - Northumberland Summer Bird Count.** If you would like to participate, contact Roger Frost, ekrf@eagle.ca or 905-885-9615

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

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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 May 2013 issue should be received by May 1, 2013. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, ekrf@eagle.ca, or Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552 for the May 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

April 2013

As Spring approaches – albeit slowly – and the song of many migrant birds arriving become more distinctive, I am reminded of a backpacking trip my eldest daughter and I took a few (too many) years ago to the community of Cambridge Bay on the southeast coast of Victoria Island at the western end of Queen Maud Gulf in the region of Nunavut. It was in June, but Spring just approaching to the area, with constant 24-hour sunshine from May 20 to July 23 and with it amazing wildlife in such a barren place.

The Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen visited the Cambridge Bay area in his ship the *Gjøa* in 1905 when he discovered the Northwest Passage. In 1918 he traversed the same route back from west to east in his new ship called the *Maud*. The Hudson Bay Company purchased this vessel as a fur trading supply ship, arriving in Cambridge Bay in 1921. The *Maud* was used for years before it sank into the harbour. Its exposed hull has been a Cambridge Bay landmark for 80 years.

We visited Ovaoyok Territorial Park with its distinctive mountain – all of 200 metres – meaning Mount Pelly. This is an important landmark and source of legend for the Inuit people and their Thule ancestors, with 5 trails totaling 20 kilometres of pristine arctic wilderness. Arctic Fox, Arctic Hare and lemmings were to be seen if you took the time to look, as there are no trees or significant bush for them to hide behind and their fur changes colour at this time of year to blend in with their surroundings. Roaming herds of Muskoxen were everywhere in abundance, looking quite ragged in their changing coats from thick and warm to thinner and sleek. I found them to be a comical looking animal with their huge bulk of a body and head on four thin stick legs with their fur ending just at the knee joint. It is hard to imagine their legs sup-

porting such weight.

We were amazed when we visited Queen Maud Migratory Bird Sanctuary – Canada's largest federally protected nature preserve. It is home to one of the greatest concentrations of nesting geese on Earth. The landscape has countless shallow lakes and huge expanses of arctic lowland – good quality wetland habitat and ideal for nesting. Although we did not see any, it is a breeding site for Red Knot (assessed as a species at risk by COSEWIC) and the rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Thayer's Gull, Sabine's Gull, King Eider, Long-tailed and Parasitic Jaegers, various shorebirds and Pacific Loon, species such as Yellow-billed Loon, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Rock and Willow Ptarmigan, Sandhill Crane, Brant, Peregrine Falcon and Rough-legged Hawk could all be seen. It was a busy place. Although we left before the flowers emerged and colour would then bring life to the area, we also missed the mosquitoes and black flies – a fair trade off!

We had our picture taken at the DEW site which remains operative today as part of the joint United States and Canadian North Warning System.

We fished for arctic char and the local people showed us how to filet them, score the flesh and hang it to dry. It dried within 3 days as the climate was very arid and it made a great jerky breakfast. We slept in our tent on the permafrost and again the local Inuit came to the rescue and loaned us their caribou pelts as a ground mat. Did you know the hair of the Caribou are hollow? This unique feature gives buoyancy to the caribou when they are swimming and insulation against the harsh climate. We ate and slept quite comfortably for the rest of our 10 day stay. However, sleep is relevant as we had a chirping friend we called *Sally*

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who sat on the roof of our tent singing her heart out once a day – we assumed it was early morning. The sun never set but it did dip a shade during the night so we had some idea what time of day it was. *Sally* stayed with us for the entire 10 day stay and we grew quite fond of her. Enjoying Spring in a part of Canada alien to us was a wonderful experience and gave us an appreciation of the migratory

habits of these wonderful birds that we would not normally have seen had we not been there.

Every Spring I now look for at least one different bird that I may have missed the year before. Do you have any such sightings or stories you wish to share with our readers? Please feel free to submit them to Elizabeth Kellogg who will be pleased to include them in our *Curlew* publication.

Petra Hartwig

Monarch butterfly numbers drop by ‘ominous’ 59%

As late winter eases into early spring, waves of migratory birds in southern Ontario are pushing northwards: waterfowl, blackbirds, some birds of prey. But one migrant, not a bird, but the Monarch Butterfly, is just now leaving its winter home in Mexico. They leave occupying less area – under 3 acres – of oyamel fir forest in Mexico’s central highlands than ever before recorded.

Numbers fluctuate, but some 10-100 million Monarch Butterflies occur in the central and eastern portion of their North American range. (A much smaller population lives from southwestern B.C. to California.) Counting those butterflies is difficult. Sometimes in late February in Mexico, the fir trees droop to the ground with the weight of hundreds of thousands of butterflies. From a distance, they look like shimmering orange snow on the fir boughs.

One way to estimate their numbers is to simply measure the area of forest in which trees are found with monarchs. For years some 5-10 hectares of forest were occupied. This past winter, only 1.19 ha hosted monarchs, a startling drop of about 60% over the previous year.

There are multiple causes for the decline: loss of the monarch’s only host plant, milkweed, from herbicide spraying of corn and soy farm fields in the U.S. and Canada; illegal logging in parts of the oyamel fir forest; heavy ecotourism in

Mexico; probably climate change in the breeding and wintering grounds.

Though over a hundred species of migratory birds, along with whales, bats and marine turtles, share North American land- and sea-scapes for their breeding grounds and wintering areas, no species symbolizes the ecological connection among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico as vibrantly as the Monarch Butterfly. It became a symbol for many things tri-national on this continent. Just as the loss of the Giant Panda would be a tragedy for China (and WWF, given our panda logo!), so would conservation prospects be set back enormously in North America by loss of the migratory wonder of the Monarch Butterfly.

So, what can you do?

Two easy steps: keep some milkweed in your backyard, cottage or farm and enjoy the butterflies whose host plant you maintain. I do this and it’s fun to see Monarch females lay eggs there every year. Second, participate in Earth Hour, turn out your lights, and vote by candlelight for society to tackle climate change, which threatens monarchs in their summer and wintering habitats. And after you’ve done taken these two steps, tell your federal MP you’ve taken action and you expect the federal government to do so, too!

*Adapted from WWF-Canada blog
by Steven Price, March 23, 2013*

Membership Renewals: This is a reminder that WBFN memberships are payable annually, on a calendar year basis. Treasurer, Rae Waring, would be happy to take your renewals at the April meeting, or you can mail them to The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3. A renewal form was included in the January issue (a yellow sheet) We value all our members and hope that you will choose to renew.

Nature Workshops at Presqu'île

NatureWorks 2013

Workshops for the naturally curious

Discover Presqu'île's rich biodiversity all year round through our popular NatureWorks courses. Experienced naturalists will guide you, first in the classroom, then out in the field. These courses fill up quickly ... so book early. The modest workshop fee of \$15 per person, \$35 per family, includes free Park entry! Workshops are suitable for children over 10yrs. Confirm dates and make reservations at 613 475-1688 extension 2. More details at www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca



Migration Mania

Saturday, May 4: 8am - 2pm

Yellow, green, indigo, orange streaking across the sky and into the new leaves of the trees in Presqu'île! It can only mean one thing: Spring Migration! We welcome the returning tropical birds and they come here in droves during April and May. Noted Park naturalist Ian Shanahan will help us sight them ... just before they move on to new nesting grounds further north. If you are new to bird life in the Park -- or want to sharpen your skills -- come for the spotting, and the tips on how to find these dazzling gems by sight and sound. Participants would be expected to bring their own binoculars.

Aerial Warfare

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Saturday, June 15: 9am – 3pm

Meet the fighter aircraft of the bug world! Deceptively pretty but murderously accurate, even without radar. The world of dragonflies is aerial combat at its best. Find out how these flying jewels emerge from their watery nursery to transform into four - winged wonders. At this time of year we hope to catch a variety of species in the different habitats around the park. Meet these colourful insects in the company of one of Ontario's keenest odonatists David Bree.

The Invaders!

Saturday, September 14 - full day

Come and see the invaders of Presqu'île and how they might be conquered. Invasive species: bugs, plants, crustaceans, fish, and others move into stay with us and eviction can be tough. Learn about the successes of biosurveillance, biocontrol and the actions of humankind. Your leader, Matt Ireland, is a specialist on marshland habitat. Classroom and field sessions included.

FREE! Nuts to you!

Saturday, October 5 – half day

We can't let squirrels and chipmunks have all the fun so come and collect the cones, seeds and nuts we need to renew our Presqu'île woodlots. Energetic volunteers harvest the fall crop and prepare seedlings for winter hardening in our nursery and greenhouses. A casual, non-strenuous affair where many hands can gain on our furry friends. Morning or afternoon, all ages. Please pre-register.

Mushroom Madness

Sunday, October 6 - full day

What's going on in the dark, dank soil beneath us? It's the fungi kingdom fruiting and we'll classify over 100 Presqu'ile varieties. With Park biodiversity staffer Phil Careless you'll learn to separate a 'picker' from a 'kicker' in the magic world of mushrooms. Great photo opportunities too!



A Brush with Nature

Sunday, October 13 - Morning: level 1; Afternoon: level 2

Back by popular demand this Fall watercolour painting course, taught by Andrew Hamilton, a noted nature painter, will leave you awash in nature's loveliness, using just three basic colours. All materials supplied, including a mat for your masterpiece. New this year: take either level 1 in the morning or level 2 in the afternoon, or join both. Stunning artistic transformations promised. Great for kids! Inquire about the special fee for both sessions.

In addition to WBFN outings, there are several Nature/Birding events this spring in southern Ontario. Perhaps readers might be interested in attending one. Some of these involve a fee and/or pre-registration, so please check the web site or phone in advance.

Spring Events

- May 11-20-2013- Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Spring Migration Spring Birding Festival. Full schedule at www.peptbo.ca
- May 12, 2013—Ganaraska Conservation celebrates Migratory Bird Week with a walk in the Ganaraska Forest, searching for flowers and spring birds. Call 905-885-8173 to register. More information at <http://www.grca.on.ca>
- May 18 and 19—Warblers and Whimbrels Weekend at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, www.friendsofpresqu'ile.on.ca
- May 24-May 27 and May 30-June 2, 2013—Huron Fringe Birding Festival, MacGregor Point Provincial Park, www.friendsofmacgregor.org
May 31, June 1, June 2, 2013—7th Annual Nature Festival. For program information, on-line registration and on-line payment, go to www.CardenNatureFestival.ca or call 705-326-1620.

Northumberland Land Trust upcoming events: These events are all weather dependent and might be re-scheduled, depending on the weather. Please get in touch with the contact person listed if you would like to attend any of these three events.

April 27 – Tree planting at the Pelton property. Contact Russ Lake at 905-372-3636 or rus-selllake@sympatico.ca for more information.

May 4 – Scots pine removal at the McEwen Property. Contact Jesse Harnden at jharnden05@gmail.com

May 14 – Trail maintenance or garlic mustard removal at the Leckey property. Contact Julie Munro at instar74@hotmail.com or 613-475-0733.

“KittyCams” Document Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats

American Bird Conservancy

A new study of house cats allowed to roam outdoors found that nearly one-third succeeded in capturing and killing animals. The cats, which wore special video cameras around their necks to record their activities, killed an average of 2.1 animals every week they were outside, but brought less than one of every four of their kills home. Bird kills constituted about 13 percent of the total wildlife kills. Based on these results, American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society estimate that house cats kill far more than the previous estimate of 1 billion birds and other animals each year.

The study was carried out by scientists from the University of Georgia and the National Geographic Society. “The results were certainly surprising, if not startling,” said Kerrie Anne Loyd of the University of Georgia, who was lead author of the study. “In Athens-Clarke County, we found that about 30 percent of the sampled cats were successful in capturing and killing prey, and that those cats averaged about one kill for every 17 hours outdoors or 2.1 kills per week. It was also surprising to learn that cats only brought 23 percent of their kills back to a residence. We found that house cats will kill a wide variety of animals, including lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, frogs and small snakes.”

Loyd and her colleagues attached small video cameras to 60 outdoor house cats in the city of Athens, Georgia, and recorded their outdoor activities during all four seasons. Loyd said the cats were outside for an average

of 5-7 hours every day. “If we extrapolate the results of this study across the country and include feral cats, we find that cats are likely killing more than 4 billion animals per year, including at least 500 million birds. Cat predation is one of the reasons why one in three American bird species are in decline.” said Dr. George Fenwick President of American Bird Conservancy.

Volunteer cat owners were recruited through advertisements in local newspapers, and all selected cats were given a free health screening. Each cat owner downloaded the footage from the camera at the end of each recording day.

The new study does not include the animals killed by feral cats that have no owners. A University of Nebraska study released last year found that feral cats were responsible for the extinction of 33 species of birds worldwide, that even well-fed cats in “managed” cat colonies will kill, that feral cats prey more on native wildlife than on other invasive creatures, and that most feral cats (between 62 and 80 percent) tested positive for toxoplasmosis (a disease with serious implications for pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems).

You can view photographs and videos from the “kittycams” at www.kittycams.uga.edu/photo/video.html.

- from *Bluebird, Journal of the North American Bluebird Society, Fall 2012, Vol. 34, No. 4. Reprinted by permission.*

Membership News

- Condolences of the club are extended to Geoff Dale on the recent death of his brother in March.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Kurt and Adele Appleman on the birth of their daughter, Maelle, on February 17.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Snow Goose	Mar. 24	1	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
	Mar. 26	4	Garden Hill pond	BW
Cackling Goose	Mar. 24	3	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
	Mar. 31	3	Osaca Rd. flooded field, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
Mute Swan	Mar. 12	1	Dale Rd. wet field e. of Theatre Rd.	SW
Trumpeter Swan	Mar. 28	2	Garden Hill pond	RoP, GMCD
Tundra Swan	Mar. 10	18	Wicklow Beach Rd.	EK, RF
	Mar. 12	25	Cty. Rd. 28, n. of Dale Rd. flooded field	LS
	Mar. 12	43	Ough's Rd. & Hwy. 28	WO
	Mar. 15	20	Deer Park Rd. n. of Cty. Rd. 2, PH Ward 2	JC
	Mar. 16	~50	off Lake St., PH	GL
	Mar. 29	5	over 6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
Gadwall	Mar. 26	1	Grist Mill Rd. pond, PH Ward 2	BW
American Wigeon	Mar. 29	19	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
	Apr. 1	8	Wicklow Beach marsh	MB
Northern Shoveler	Mar. 31	2	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Northern Pintail	Mar. 29	22	Osaca Rd. flooded field, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	Mar. 29	48	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
	Mar. 31	40	Osaca Rd. flooded field, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
Green-winged Teal	Mar. 31	3	Cobourg Harbour	KN
	Mar. 31	2	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Canvasback	Mar. 12	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Redhead	Mar. 6	48	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 19	45	Sandy Bay, Rice Lake	RF
Ring-necked Duck	Mar. 29	12	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
	Mar. 31	36	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Harlequin Duck	Mar. 23	3	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Surf Scoter	Mar. 17	3	Presqu'ile, off lighthouse	FH, Ontbirds
White-winged Scoter	Mar. 7, 9	12	Chub Point, flying west	MB
Hooded Merganser	Mar. 11	14	Dale Rd. wet field e. of Theatre Rd.	SW
	Mar. 31	17	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Ruddy Duck	Mar. 18	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 24	1f	Cobourg Harbour	MBi
Ruffed Grouse	Mar. 24	7	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
Wild Turkey	Mar. 22	90	4th Line, e. of Morrish Church Rd., PH Ward 2	PB
Red-throated Loon	Mar. 30	2	Presqu'ile, Owen Point	RDM, Ontbirds
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar. 31	1	Cobourg inner harbour	MB
Horned Grebe	Mar. 24	5	off Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
	Mar. 30	3	Chub Point	MB
Red-necked Grebe	Mar. 30	5	Chub Point	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	Mar. 24	1	Presqu'ile	AEW
Great Blue Heron	Mar. 11	1	Wicklow Beach marsh	MB
	Mar. 29	2	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 25	1	Cavan Rd., PH	AT, SM
	Mar. 6	1	Dale Rd/Cty. Rd. 28	MB
	Mar. 19	2	Dale Rd/Cty. Rd. 28	ERM
Osprey	Mar. 31	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
Bald Eagle	Mar. 20	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Northern Harrier	Mar. 20	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 6	1	Morganston Rd. w. of Cty. Rd. 25	BW

Sightings - cont'd.

Merlin	Feb. 21	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Killdeer	Mar. 12	6	Lakeshore & Haskill Rd. flooded field	MB
	Mar. 12	3	Cty. Rd. 28, n. of Dale Rd. flooded field	LS
Greater Yellowlegs	Mar. 12	1	Presqu'ile, Calf Pasture	FH, Ontbirds
American Woodcock	Mar. 12	2	Normar Rd. woods, Cobourg	MB
	Mar. 20	1	Wesleyville	PB
Iceland Gull	Mar. 6	2	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 23	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 30	5	Presqu'ile, Sebastopol Pt.	RDM, Ontbirds
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Mar. 4	1ad.	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 30	3	Presqu'ile, Sebastopol Pt.	RDM, Ontbirds
Glaucous Gull	Mar. 10	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Mar. 11	1	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Mar. 30	4	Presqu'ile, Sebastopol Pt.	RDM, Ontbirds
Eastern Screech Owl	Mar. 6	1	Presqu'ile, Bayshore & Langdon Lane	FH, Ontbirds
Great Horned Owl	Jan. 8, 15	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 26	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	EK, RF
Snowy Owl	Mar. 8	4	Presqu'ile, beach	FH, Ontbirds
Barred Owl	Mar. 2	1	Alderville Black Oak Savanna	DM
	Mar. 5, 6, 10	1	Ontario St.N., Cob.	AEW
Great Gray Owl	Mar. 8-30	1	Lakeshore Rd. e. of Wicklow Beach	ML, m.obs.
Northern Flicker	Jan. 13	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Eastern Phoebe	Mar. 31	1	Sydenham St., Cob.	MB
Northern Shrike	Mar. 10	1	Thomas Rd., Wicklow	MB
	Mar. 18	1	Cty. Rd. 18 w. of Roseneath Landing Rd.	JB
	Mar. 28	1	Welcome	KA
Horned Lark	Mar. 6	45+	Kellogg Rd. fields, PH Ward 2	MB
Tree Swallow	Mar. 31	1	Candlewick Woods, PH Ward 2	EK, RF
Carolina Wren	Mar. 2, 3	1	Roseneath Landing	DS
Winter Wren	Mar. 13	1	n. of Jack Burger Sports Complex, PH	SW
American Robin	Feb. 12	30	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Northern Mockingbird	Mar. 23, 30	1	Lakeshore/Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	MB
Bohemian Waxwing	Feb. 21	125	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 4, 5	200+	Albert St., Cobourg backyard	MB
	Mar. 6	200+	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
	Mar. 10	100+	Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, Hamilton Twp	SW
	Mar. 20	150	College & Chapel St., Cobourg - high count. Still 50 on Mar. 27	RP
Cedar Waxwing	Mar. 3	40+	Lakeshore & Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	DT
	Mar. 9	25	Thomas Rd., Wicklow	CEG
Savannah Sparrow	all Mar.	1	Presqu'ile, Bayshore Rd. feeder	FH, Ontbirds
Fox Sparrow	Mar. 6	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Mar. 2-22	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Song Sparrow	Mar. 8	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
White-throated Sparrow	Mar. 1-31	1	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Mar. 1	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
	Mar. 18	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
Snow Bunting	Mar. 6	34	Kellogg Rd., PH Ward 2	MB

Sightings - cont'd.

Red-winged Blackbird	Mar. 11	2	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
	Mar. 22	500+	Thomas Rd., Wicklow	MB
Eastern Meadowlark	Mar. 27	1	Lakeshore/Thomas Rd.	MB
Brown-headed Cowbird	Jan. 9	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Purple Finch	Mar. 9	1	McEwan Rd., Hamilton Twp.	CEG
Common Redpoll	Mar. 11	96	1010 Ontario St., Cob. - high count, all Mar.	AEW
	Mar. 17	2	Young St., PH, feeder	NEW
Hoary Redpoll	Mar. 16	1	Grist Mill Rd., PH Ward 2 - feeder	BW
	Mar. 16/17	1	Presqu'ile, Bayshore Rd. feeder	FH, Ontbirds
Pine Siskin	Mar. 1	17	1010 Ontario St., Cob. - high count, all Mar.	AEW
Evening Grosbeak	Mar. 10	30	Dunbar & Russ Creek Rd., A/H	RF, BK
	Mar. 29	2	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Virginai Opossum	Mar. 5, 6	1	Port Hope backyard	AEW
	Mar. 10	1	Elgin St., Cob., dead on road	MR
Painted Turtle	Mar. 29	1	Chemtron pond, PH	EK, RF

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; JB=Jeff Beaver; MBi=Michael Biggar; PB=Paul Bridges; JC=Jane Currelly; GMCD=Geoff Dale; RF=Roger Frost; JGe=John Geale; CEG=Clive Goodwin; FH=Fred Helleiner; NH=Naomi Higgins; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BK=Barry King; ML=Mark Leonard; GL=Gary Little; RL=Rob Lonsberry; ERM=Ted McDonald; KMCH=Kathryn McHolm; RDM=Doug McRae; m.obs.=many observers; SM=Simone Merrey; DM=Dave Mowat; KN=Ken Niles; WP=Wayne Ough; DP=Deb Panko; RP=Richard Pope; RoP=Robert Popham; MR=Martha Robinson; DS=Dave Shirley; LS=Louise Schmidt; DT=Davidson Tate; AT=Anne Tesluk; NEW=Norma Wallace; BW=Ben Walters; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson.

Welcome to New Members

The Calderon Family,
Cobourg
Carol Anne Cherry & Family, Cobourg
Patricia Doktor, Cobourg
Michael Harding, Cobourg
Nicholas Ignatieff, Cobourg
Linda Hutsell-Manning & Jim Manning,
Cobourg

On March 15, 2013, Vince Urbanski spotted a wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan on Rice Lake near his home at Close Point. Following is the history of this bird, received from the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration program.

Tagged Trumpeter Swan on Rice Lake

Thank you for reporting the Trumpeter Swan L96 at Close Point, Rice Lake on March 15, 2013. L96 is a male, hatched in 2012 to parents 902 & 131 who nest on Sturgeon Lake. He was banded on Nov. 25, 2012 at LaSalle Park in Burlington, where his family comes for the winter. He has 3, 2012 siblings, L97-L99. L96 left LaSalle Park with his family in early March.

Kyna,
Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration

WALLACE BIRDATHON 2013

Once again this year, Roger Frost will choose a suitable 24-hour period in May and set out to find as many bird species as he can within Northumberland County. And once again we hope that many supporters of the Northumberland Land Trust will sponsor him in our efforts to raise a record amount of money to be used for stewardship of the four Land Trust properties.

Last year, Roger found 134 species, which was lower than usual. But thanks to all our generous supporters, the total raised was just over \$1800, more than ever before. This has allowed the Land Trust to proceed confidently with our stewardship programs, including control of dog-strangling vine and other exotic invasives, boundary marking, trail maintenance, and planting native trees and wildflowers. This year we have set a goal of \$2000 - a nice round number that we think is attainable.

Some sponsors offer so many cents (or even a dollar) per species, although most sponsor Roger for a flat amount regardless of his species total. We hope that you will choose one method or the other and help the Land Trust cause.

You can most easily make your sponsorship by contacting John Geale at 905-342-3851 or johngeale@yahoo.com. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation and a report letting you know about all the day's sightings. In advance, many thanks!

REMINDER

Reminder: if you do not receive e-mail messages about Willow Beach events but would like to do so, please contact John Geale at johngeale@yahoo.com. And if you DO receive these messages but prefer not to, please let John know.

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 - \$35 Single - \$25

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.



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