



## COMING EVENTS

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE JANUARY MEETING. THE COBOURG LIBRARY IS UNAVAILABLE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BECAUSE OF FLOODING. IF ANYONE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACT AS A GREETER FOR THIS MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT PRESIDENT, PETRA HARTWIG AT 905-372-4301 or [phartwig@cobourg.ca](mailto:phartwig@cobourg.ca) MEETING LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEB PAGE, THROUGH E-MAIL LIST AND IN THE *CURLEW*. PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY.**

● **Friday, January 31, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.** Cobourg Community Centre, HTM Room, 750 D'Arcy Street, Cobourg. Parking is on east side of building.

Speaker: **Joan Norris** Topic: **The Close Point Turtle Project.** Turtles have been on the earth so long they can consider the dinosaurs to be a passing fad! Even so, they are at worldwide risk of extinction because of human interference. Years before the snapping turtle was designated a species at risk, Joan witnessed firsthand at her cottage on Rice Lake the plight of these amazing creatures. Enjoy a picture presentation and the heartwarming story of what Joan and friends are doing at Close Point to ensure the survival of turtles in "our own backyard".

● **Saturday, February 22, 2014 – Mammal Tracks outing** to Pratt Rd. Leader: **Don McLeod.** Meet at Hwy. 45 & 401 commuter parking at 8:30 a.m. or at Pratt Rd. and Cty. Rd. 29 at 9 a.m. Park along Pratt Rd. Morning outing only.

● **Friday, February 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm,** Location to be confirmed.  
**Annual General Meeting** and Speaker: **Ewa Bednarczuk,** Ecology and Stewardship Specialist, Lower Trent Conservation: **The Watersheds of Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority.**

## Membership Renewals

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

## Membership News

•Condolences to Harry Knapper and family on the death of his wife, Carol, on December 28. The Knappers are long-time members of WBFN. Most recently, they had the important job of looking after members' name tags. Carol's smile greeted everyone who attended meetings.

## Welcome to New Members

Whitney Lake, Cobourg

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40790538  
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSED TO  
BOX 421  
PORT HOPE, ON L1A 3Z3

### THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

<http://www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org>

Past Pres:

President: Petra Hartwig .....905-372-4301 .....phartwig@cobourg.ca

1st Vice-pres.: vacant

2nd Vice-pres: Brian Maxwell.....905-885-0969 ..... bmaxwell@cogeco.ca

Secretary: Eva Nichols .....905-377-9454 ..... enichols@bell.net

Treasurer: Rae Waring .....905-372-9350 ..... waringrm@sympatica.ca

FON Rep.: Deb Panko .....905-372-1974 ..... bluebird@teksavvy.com

Curlew Ed.: Elizabeth Kellogg.....905-885-9615 ..... ekrf@eagle.ca

Norma Wallace .....905-885-5552.....

Webmaster: Bruce Parker.....905-372-4911 ..... buice@sympatico.ca

*The editor is most grateful to those who have contributed to this issue of the Curlew. Copy for the February 2014 issue should be received by February 1, 2014. Rare or interesting sightings should be reported to Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost at 905-885-9615, [ekrf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekrf@eagle.ca), or Norma Wallace at 905-885-5552 for the February 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

### January 2014

During the “not so quiet” month of December, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists Club Constitution was reviewed to reflect a few changes since the last time it was reviewed in 2008. Please take a moment to peruse the document, on pages 12 to 15. Changes are shown with a strike through the word or sentence, followed by the change in bold, italics and underlined. On the WBFN web page, the changes are in red. This will require a “notice of motion” and the document will be brought forth at the Annual General Meeting on February 28, 2014. Members wishing to comment on the changes may do so at the time of discussion before the motion is ratified.

The Members of the Executive Board of Directors of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists at its November meeting agreed to send a letter of support to the *Port Hope Residents 4 Managing Waste Responsibly* with their request to the Ministry of the Environment. The request in this letter is for ENTECH-REM's project to be elevated to an Individual Environmental Assessment before any approvals are given to build a waste gasification plant on Wesleyville Road in the Municipality of Port Hope.

The issues that brought about our concern were the lack of site-specific natural heritage studies and the lack of attention that has been paid to the local species at risk in that area. Since bird studies and bird counts are documented in a database that contains in excess of 361,000 bird records from the County, and 14,000 records are added annually, species at risk are a major concern as are the disappearing wild plants that support our ecology (thank you Clive Goodwin). The Willow Beach Marsh, for which our club was named in 1953, is about 1.5 km from the pro-

posed site, while Candlewick Woods, where we still do bird studies, is less than 3 km away. Both are downwind!

While we agree that alternative solutions are necessary for the disposing of garbage and not using fossil fuels to create energy, it is up to us individually as well as collectively to be informed.

Another local issue where our voice will make a difference, is the Cobourg Marina Expansion Plan. The *Advisory Committee on Natural Spaces* has asked for a letter of support in protecting our small and finite harbour from over development from a naturalist's point of view. Any reduction of available space in the harbour will impact greatly upon the bird life. The Town must find a way to respect this multi-recreational designation including the uses determined to be dominant by the Parks Master Plan.

Public input is important. Make your voice heard by going to our website under “Comments” which you will find on the left of the Home page. You may leave your comments and make it attention to: “Advisory Committee for Public Spaces – Marina Expansion”. The Committee encourages everyone who has a concern and wishes to make a difference to attend the presentation to Council which will be posted on our website, and sent to those who receive email notices.

Any time that WBFN are asked to take a stand on environmental issues, we must keep our focus on the natural heritage as it affects birds and plants (and other animals) and leave political process to other groups.

On a lighter note, and one that sometimes needs a reminder, is that membership is now due. Please support the WBFN and the good they do in Northumberland County by

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

renewing your membership today. Our scholarship recipients and students we support at the Ontario Nature Summit, sets a seed in their young minds to follow in our footsteps and become good naturalists in the future.

Many thanks.

Petra Hartwig  
President

## Ontario Nature update:

Thank you to Bill Crowley for reporting in my place (bad case of laryngitis kept me housebound) at Ontario Nature's regional meeting for Lake Ontario North on November 2nd. The host group for this meeting was Friends of Second Marsh who have been working to preserve and maintain this wetland near Oshawa.

Willow Beach scholarship contributions were well received.

Paper work sent on to ON reported on work to begin to restore the West Beach headland if we can get the Town of Cobourg to cooperate as well as the transfer of Clive Goodwin's data base extending over decades to Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost.

A wide range of topics were discussed at the meeting: plant poaching, for example, American Ginseng once the whereabouts of it becomes known; ON's decision to go to court around changes being made to the Endangered Species Act; the need to better communicate to the public and field naturalists the importance of the Oak Ridges Moraine as a pure water source feeding into Lake Ontario; the need for fenced-off areas for dogs off-leash to protect native species such as the one that works well in Hannah Park in Trenton where an area for small dogs is set apart from one for larger dogs all at the entrance to the park. Bill says the marsh marigolds there are out of this world.

Otto Peter says a report will soon be circulated on the charitable status of field naturalist groups donating to activist causes. This had been raised at the Willow Beach executive meeting as well as at other clubs. He also encouraged people to join Ontario Nature and made donations as the ON membership is small compared to all the field naturalist clubs as a whole.

*Deborah Panko*

## Late Monarch Butterfly sighting- Presqu'ile Provincial

Reported by noted bird-watcher and naturalist Ian Shanahan at Presqu'ile Provincial Park during an Ontario Field Ornithologists outing, November 10, 2013:

"The highlight of the day was the SNOW GOOSE at Presqu'ile's Beach 2 that has been present for several days. A barely-alive Giant Water Bug feeding on a dead LONG-TAILED DUCK on the beach marked the most interesting find of the day! It was one of two moribund insects seen -- the other being a Monarch near the Lighthouse."

*Submitted by Don Davis*



Northumberland Land Trust

## Northumberland Land Trust Lecture Series

Tuesday February 11, 2014

Northumberland County building, 600 William St., Cobourg

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments and the lectures start at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for the evening.

Speaker: **Ewa Bednarczuk**, Ecologist and Stewardship Specialist for the Lower Trent Conservation Authority will speak on the **Seven Natural Wonders of the Lower Trent Watershed**. These areas are ecologically unique and the group includes Peter's Woods.

## Nomination Committee

Willow Beach Field Naturalists Nomination Committee has several vacancies to fill by the time of the Annual General Meeting in February. The Committee, Chaired by Michael Biggar, also includes Petra Hartwig, Brian Maxwell, Barry Robinson and Russell Lake. If you would consider serving on the Executive Board of Willow Beach Field Naturalists, any of these people would be pleased to speak with you.

Michael Biggar  
mbiggar@eagle.ca  
905-372-7407

17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Counting birds is a fun, free, family-friendly way to discover and help the birds in your community.

▶ Visit [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org) to learn more. February 14-17, 2014

American Robin by 2013 GBBC Participant Gwen Starrett

Audubon The Cornell Lab of Ornithology THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS SPONSORED IN PART BY Just-Birds University

# LONG-TAILED DUCK RESCUE

*By Audrey E. Wilson*

On November 1, 2013 at noon, after a wild night of exceptionally high winds and rains, I was alerted about a small duck folks had rescued from a gull attack east of Cobourg.

Upon delivery, it was quickly identified as a female Long-tailed Duck, which used to be known as Oldsquaw. This small chunky female had the typical brownish black back, white breast and a piebald head of its kind. Her feet and legs were bluish grey in appearance.

This particular bird appeared to be more dead than alive! She lacked the energy to hold her head upright but both wings were in good working order, which is very important. However, she appeared to be quite exhausted, water logged and had fresh blood around her head area, probably the result of being buffeted around by the high winds and surf.

After checking out her wings and legs it was decided to try to dry her out. An electric hair blower gently warmed and dried feathers especially her dense under plumage. Then she was placed into a small carton with crumpled newsprint and kept in a quiet, dark place.

Since we were on the way to the annual wine and cheese opening of Christmas at Presqu'île, we took her with us. This opening event had to be cancelled as all hydro at Presqu'île was out due to the storm. During the night it was obvious she was much better judging from noises coming from her box. Several times she readily took drinks of water offered from a cup. Since Long-tailed Ducks eat material made up basically of animal origin it was decided to focus on recovery and a quick release as soon as the high winds re-

ceded. Thus around noon the next day she was released back at Cobourg Harbour, near the marina's boat launch ramp. She quickly began to paddle, drank quantities of water and began to preen her feathers. A small raft of her kind was within seeing distance and hopefully she would join them.

These small ducks arrival in late fall is a true harbinger that winter is close at hand. Many winter along the open waters of the Great Lakes. They are considered to be one of the most expert diving species in the duck world as well as the best of underwater swimmers. It is not surprising to read accounts of lake fishermen catching some 27,000 in gill nets set at a depth of some 200 feet. Since Long-tailed Ducks are quite fishy tasting and tough they become victims that are used for fertilizer. Kortright documents upwards of 12 tons being used for this purpose in one of his reports.

I am partial to the Oldsquaw name for these small, tame and trusting little ducks full of curiosity make their gabbling calls continuously. Amongst birders, they are quite notorious for their voices sometimes referred to as the 'songbirds' of ducks. Regardless of how late at night I walk dog companions at our Presqu'île retreat in winter, I can always count on hearing their distinctive, melodious calls as they talk to each other. These sounds can come across the bay from more than a kilometer away. Hopefully, our little girl will be able to join the chorus, thanks to her observant rescuers on a most inclement day!

## PETER'S WOODS MAINTENANCE REPORT 2013

### Willow Beach Field Naturalists In Partnership with Ontario Parks

The last Saturday in April was the official opening of Peter's Woods for the season. The gate was opened at 9:00 a.m. and by the signs of foot prints and walking sticks left by the gate opening by the visitor Sign-In Box, the activity had already begun.

One of the main maintenance issues that needed attention was the visitor box sign in post. It was rotted and had a distinctive lean to it. Chris Drew kindly fashioned a 4x4 solid post set into the ground and new hinges on the lid to the Sign In box. The MNR installed toilet paper dispensers in both the male and female privies, eliminating the toilet tissue fragments we find in the spring, strewn on the floor caused by rodents looking for nesting material.

This spring offered a bounty of wild flowers. There seemed to be more than usual. The trout lilies, red and white trilliums, various ferns and mosses burst forth with vigor. For bird lovers there is no shortage in bird songs if you can identify them – finding them sitting still long enough to identify them is another matter! Ferns and scouring rush swathed the forest floor with lush hues of green and will stay green throughout the winter. They make a beautiful contrast to the white snow that is the backdrop.

A hearty THANK YOU to the Peter's Woods Maintenance Volunteers, without whom we could not keep this delightful conservation area in pristine condition. They were a big help again this year by keeping us informed if limbs that had fallen across the trail, and when Visitor Guides were low. A great big Thank You to all.

Most of them have been volunteering for many years, and are always enthusiastic to put in one more year.

We keep a spreadsheet of where visitors

come from, and every year the list seems to increase to ever widening geographic corners. The groups that visit come away from Peter's Woods with a renewed awe at how delightful it was to walk through this old growth forest. Some of the groups that visited were: CR Gummow Child Care, Fleming College Urban Forestry Tech., Pine Ridge Car Club, Canada Girl Guides, and Falconhurst (Baltimore). Forest Bird Monitoring was carried out by Bryan Baxter.

Chris and I closed the gates on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, after first walking around the trail to ensure we made our maintenance list for next spring. On behalf of Curt Morris, our representative from the MNR, we would encourage visitors to park their cars at the open area at the curve of the road (where the entrance to the road allowance is) to ensure no accidents occur. The hill north of the Peter's Woods entrance is a hazard as drivers can't see parked cars until it is almost too late. Be safe and enjoy the woods in its winter covering.

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' next spring 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  
December 30, 2013

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORTS

### Port Hope-Cobourg CBC

On Saturday, December 14, the 43rd Port Hope-Cobourg Christmas Bird Count was held. The weather was cold with temperatures ranging from -18°C to -13°C. Wind was NE from 30 to 50 km/hr. Snow started in the afternoon, becoming heavy by 3:00 p.m. Thirty-seven observers braved these conditions to tally 15,843 birds of 68 species. An additional 6 species were seen during count week. This was the lowest species total since 1999.

Great Gray Owl was the only new species recorded.

Other highlights were:

- 4 Bald Eagles - tied record high
- 1 Red-shouldered Hawk
- 231 Wild Turkeys (2nd highest count)
- 4 Snowy Owls - tied record high
- 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- 2 Winter Wren - tied record high
- 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets
- 1 Hermit Thrush

6 Common Redpoll

Low totals were recorded for:

- 19 White-breasted Nuthatch - lowest ever
- 892 Black-capped Chickadees - lowest since 2000
- 2 Northern Shrike - lowest since 1993

Count Week species included:

- Northern Pintail
- American Coot
- Thayer's Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Lapland Longspur

The count was followed by a pot luck at New Hope United Church at Welcome. Thanks to all who participated. A special thanks to Janet Lake and Connie Sakuma who cleared up and washed the dishes after dinner.

*Roger Frost  
Compiler*

### Presqu'ile-Brighton CBC

Twenty-nine participants took part in the 48th Presqu'ile CBC on Sunday Dec. 15th. Weather conditions were -2C to 5C above, drizzle, interspersed with rain and occasional less damp periods. Wind was generally light. No snow and no ice.

Generally the numbers of birds were down across the board, the 13,667 birds counted being 68% of the average from the last two years. The near steady rain and a lower number of participants may have had much to do with that. But warm weather with open water

everywhere, and a broad sample of boreal irruptives, pushed the species total up to 85, well above the 20 year average of 74. So far there are an additional 5 count week birds recorded as well.

The new bird for the count was two Red-throated Loons, that had previously only been tallied as a Count Week bird in 2001.

Record highs, with old record in brackets, were had for:  
Canada Geese - 2499 (2270 in 2008)



Gadwall - 52 (34 in 2001)  
Northern Pintail - 16 (4 in 1999)  
Black Scoter - 10 (2 in 2002) - also only the 3rd time recorded in last 20 years  
Hooded Merganser - 262 (142)  
Red-bellied Woodpecker - tied at 6  
Northern Cardinal - 74 (67 in 1995)  
and Bohemian Waxwing missed the record of 937 by 1, a recount is being considered.

Other notable birds that have been seen in less than 1/4 the counts over the last 20 years included:

Wood Duck - 4th time in last 20 years  
Northern Shoveler - 4th time in last 20 years  
Barrow's Goldeneye - 3rd time in last 20 years  
Hoary Redpoll - 4th time in last 20 years  
White-winged Crossbill - 4th time in last 20

years

Species missed included any wren after 4 straight years of having at least 2 species. Raptors, Gulls, American Crows, American Robins, House Finches and European Starlings were all markedly down from last year, with crows being 95% down from the record year of 2011.

Thanks to all the participants, particularly Maureen Riggs for organizing this count.

A more detailed synopsis is available upon request.

*David Bree  
Compiler*

### **Rice Lake Plains Christmas Bird Count**

The first Rice Lake Plains Christmas Bird Count was held on January 1, 2014. Nineteen field observers and 11 feeder watchers tallied 5545 birds of 41 species. One additional species (Purple Finch) was recorded during count week.

Like most Ontario counts, the weather was cold with temperatures ranging from -12°C to -18°C. Fortunately, winds were light and there was no precipitation. All still water was frozen with moving water only partly open.

Highlights included:

Great Blue Heron – 1 – a very sad looking bird  
Bald Eagle – 1  
Ruffed Grouse – 38  
Wild Turkey – 246  
Belted Kingfisher – 1  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 9  
Brown Creeper – 13  
Carolina Wren – 1

Cedar Waxwing – 821  
Eastern Towhee – 1  
Lapland Longspur – 1  
Common Redpoll – 6  
Northern Flicker – 1  
Eastern Screech Owl – 10

The only winter finches seen count day were American Goldfinch and the six Common Redpolls.

Surprisingly low counts were tallied on American Robin (3) and Northern Cardinal (31).

Thanks to all the participants. Special thanks to Alderville First Nation for the use of the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Nature Centre for the count down gathering.

*Roger Frost  
Compiler*

## RECENT SIGHTINGS

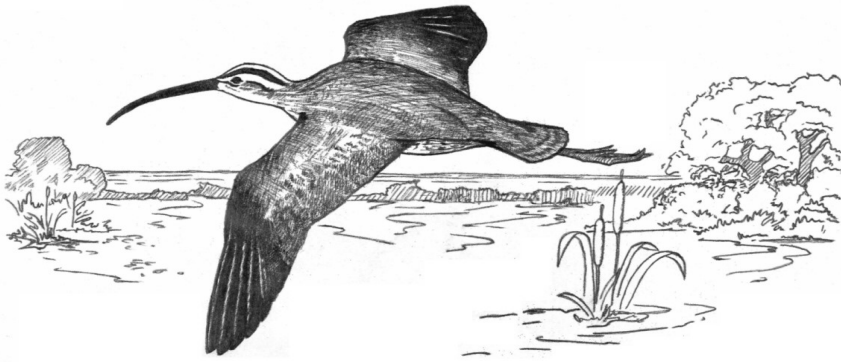
*compiled by Roger Frost*

Snow Goose	Nov. 3	1	Calnan Rd. pond	CEG
Gadwall	Nov. 17	1	Garden Hill pond	EK, RF
Northern Shoveler	Nov. 10	1	Cobourg Harbour	IS, Ontbirds
Redhead	Nov. 2	200	off Lake St., PH	RF
Greater Scaup	Nov. 2	2000	off Lake St., PH	RF
Lesser Scaup	Dec. 7	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Surf Scoter	Nov. 2	2	off Lake St., PH	RF
	Nov. 14	1	Chub Point	MB
	Nov. 15	5	Chub Point	MB
Black Scoter	Nov. 2-3	10	off Lake St., PH	EK, RF
	Dec. 6	1	Port Hope Harbour	SM
Bufflehead	Nov. 2	80	off Lake St., PH	RF
Wild Turkey	Nov. 5	2	Victoria St. & Highland Dr., PH	EK, RF
	Nov. 22	2	Jocelyn St. & Lynn Cres., PH	ERM
Red-throated Loon	Nov. 15	1	Chub Point	MB
Double-crested Cormorant	Dec. 9-11	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG, ERM
Turkey Vulture	Nov. 30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 30	1	Presqu'ile, Beach 3	PO, Ontbirds
Bald Eagle	Nov. 3	1	6th Line, Hamilton - last sighting	JGe
	Nov. 26	2	Macklin Rd. Marsh, A/H	EK, RF
	Dec. 30	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Dec. 13	1	over Dale Rd. & Cty. Rd. 28	ERM
	Dec. 14	1 imm	flying west over downtown Cob.	MB
	Dec. 14	1	Cty. Rd. 2, e. of Gage's Creek	CB
Northern Goshawk	Dec. 18	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 27	1F	Centennial Dr., PH, feeding on Mourning Dove	ERM
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov. 13	1	7th & Jamieson, PH Ward 2	LS
Golden Eagle	Nov. 8	2	McArthur St., Cob.	RF
	Nov. 7	1ad	Walker Rd. s. of Lone Pine Marsh	MB
Virginia Rail	Nov. 5	1	Stoney Creek Marsh, Alnwick/Haldimand	EK, RF
American Coot	Nov. 3-5	8	Cobourg Harbour (high count)	CEG
	Dec. 13	3	Cobourg Harbour	RP
	Dec. 19	1	Cobourg Harbour (last)	CEG
Pectoral Sandpiper	Nov. 2	1	Garden Hill pond	RF
Bonaparte's Gull	Dec. 9	2	Cobourg Harbour (last)	CEG
<b>Laughing Gull</b>	Dec.5-8	1	Presqu'ile, Owen Point	DM, Ontbirds
Thayer's Gull	Dec. 12	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Dec. 11	1imm	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Glaucous Gull	Nov. 23-30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 8	1	Port Hope Harbour	EK, RF
Eastern Screech Owl	Nov. 5	1	Coverdale Ave., Cob.	DP
	Jan. 1	1	Burnley	MB
Great Horned Owl	Dec. 28	2	s. of Baltimore, duetting	AB

## Sightings - cont'd.

Snowy Owl	Nov. 28	3	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Nov. 30	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 6	2	Port Hope Harbour	ERM, EK
	Dec. 11	2	Cobourg Harbour, then singles to Dec. 28	CEG
	Dec. 16-26	1	Kellogg farm, w. of Welcome	JL
	Dec. 19	1	Croft St., PH	JGe
	Dec. 25	1	eastbound 401, OnRoute Service Centre	KL, Ontbirds
	Dec. 28	1	Northumberland Hills Hospital	SW
<b>Great Gray Owl</b>	Dec. 14	1	7th Line, PH Ward 2	BW
	Dec. 29	1	7th Line & Grist Mill, PH Ward 2	EK, RF, CL
Northern Shrike	Nov. 5	1	4th w. of Mast Woods, PH Ward 2	JC
	Nov. 23	1	Morton Rd. s. of Cavan, Hamilton	SW
	Dec. 7 & 12	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Dec. 11	1	Wesleyville Rd., PH Ward 2	PB
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Nov. 29	3	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Jan. 1	1	Lakeshore & Willow Beach Rd., PH Ward 2	DT
<b>White-eyed Vireo</b>	Nov. 3	1	Presqu'ile, Beach 2	RDM
Carolina Wren	Nov. 17	1	Durham St., PH	EK, RF
	Jan. 1	1	Burnley	MB
Hermit Thrush	Nov. 30	1	Durham St., PH	EK
<b>Varied Thrush</b>	Dec. 20-26	1m	McEwan Rd., Cob.	MJ
Gray Catbird	Dec. 5-14	1	Presqu'ile, Bayshore Rd.	BG, Ontbirds
Northern Mockingbird	Dec. 19	1	Lakeshore Rd., PH Ward 2	PB
Brown Thrasher	Nov. 11	1	Cobourg backyard	MB
	Dec. 22	1	Pebble Beach, Cob.	TW
Lapland Longspur	Dec. 18	25	Dickinson Rd., PH Ward 2	RF
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov. 24	1	Lake St. Marsh, PH	GL
Common Yellowthroat	Nov. 12	1	Alderville First Nation Reserve	EK, RF
Fox Sparrow	Nov. 3	1	Durham St., PH	EK
	Nov. 4	1	6th Line, Hamilton - last sighting	JGe
White-throated Sparrow	Nov. 12	1	Deblaire St., PH	GMCD
White-crowned Sparrow	Dec. 30	1	Spragge Cres., Cob.	RL
Rusty Blackbird	Nov. 5	2	6th Line, Hamilton - last sighting	JGe
Common Grackle	Dec. 21/28	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
	Dec. 29	3	s. of Baltimore	AB
Baltimore Oriole	Nov. 20	1	Presqu'ile, Pioneer Trail	FH, Ontbirds
Brown-headed Cowbird	Dec. 23	1m	Cobourg feeder	MB
	Dec. 27	2	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
Purple Finch	Dec. 27	5	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Dec. 30	1f	Cobourg feeder	MB
House Finch	Dec. 26	20-25	Danforth Rd., Hamilton Twp.	MBi
River Otter	Nov. 5	6	Alderville First Nation Reserve	EK, RF
Porcupine	Nov. 28	1	7th nr. Campbell Rd., PH Ward 2	LS

**Observers:** CB=Chris Barnes; MB=Margaret Bain; MBi=Michael Biggar; PB=Paul Bridges; AB=Ann Brightman; JC=Jane Currelly; GMCD=Geoff Dale; RF=Roger Frost; BG=Bill Gilmour; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JGe=John Geale; FH=Fred Hel-leiner; MJ=Mike Johnston; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; RL=Russell Lake; JL=Jim Lamb; GL=Gary Little; KL=Keith Linton; CL=Chris Lyons; RDM=Doug McRae; ERM=Ted McDonald; SM=Simone Merey; DM=Dave Milsom; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=listserv of Ontario Field Ornithologists; PO=Paul O'Toole; DP=Deb Panko; RP=Richard Pope; LS=Louise Schmidt; IS=Ian Shanahan; DT=Davidson Tate; BW=Ben Walters; SW=Susanne Williams; AEW=Audrey Wilson; TW=Trish Whitney



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

## Willow Beach Field Naturalists (WBFN) Constitution

*Adopted: April 1959*

*Revised: January 1971; February 2000; February 2008; February 2014*

### 1. Name

The Willow Beach Field Naturalists Club is incorporated as a charitable organization and is commonly known as “The Willow Beach Field Naturalists”, hereinafter referred to as the “WBFN”.

### 2. Vision and Goals

The WBFN is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage of Northumberland County and surrounding area. The goals of the WBFN are to:

- Enjoy our natural heritage;
- Develop knowledge of the natural heritage of the area, and record and share this knowledge;
- Encourage and promote the preservation, renewal and enhancement of our natural heritage.

The WBFN will provide opportunities for its members and others in the community (both individuals and organizations) to engage in projects and activities that will further these goals.

### 3. Affiliation

The WBFN shall be affiliated with the ~~Federation of Ontario Naturalists~~ .Ontario Nature.

### 4. Executive Board

- a) The affairs of the WBFN shall be managed by the Executive Board which consists of the Officers of the Corporation (President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past-President), 6 Directors at Large, and Activity Coordinators appointed from time to time by the President in consultation with the Officers and Directors. Vacancies in Officers and Directors shall be similarly filled and ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.

- b) Officers and Directors shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for two years.
- c) Activity Coordinators shall hold office for the duration of the activity or until replaced by the President in consultation with the ~~Officer or Director~~ Members of the Executive Board.
- d) At meetings of the Executive Board, a majority of its members shall form a quorum.

### Duties of Officers

- a) President – shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the WBFN, shall make any necessary day-to-day decisions (in consultation with as many of the ~~Officer or Director~~ Members of the Executive Board as is reasonable), and shall be a secondary financial signing officer if required. In the absence of the President, he/she can appoint a Vice-President to act in his/her place;
- b) Vice-Presidents – shall act in the place of the President, during any absence or inability to act in which case the Vice-Presidents would be required to decide how to share the President's duties;
- c) Secretary – shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board and Annual General Meetings and shall conduct correspondence as requested;
- d) Treasurer – shall be the primary financial signing officer for the WBFN, shall receive and keep secure all funds in the Operating account and or Investment the Property account, shall make any necessary payments, shall complete all required reports for the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), make any necessary payments, and shall maintain a current membership list. The Treasurer shall take in dues and inform the Membership Chair, and record dues in the ledger with other receipts to be sent out via mail.

### 6. The Property Account –

As per the direction of the Executive Board when the Northumberland Land Trust was formed, the Executive Board shall administer the Property Account by transferring funds on a matching dollar for dollar basis to the Northumberland Land Trust upon their request.

### 6. Membership and Fees

- a) Membership is open to individuals, families and organizations that support the Vision and Goals of the WBFN.
- b) Life Members may be appointed by the Executive Board on the recommendation of the Past President, and are not subject to Annual Membership fees.
- c) Membership fees may be set from time to time by the Executive Board and must be ratified by the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.

- d) Membership shall be based on a calendar year. Membership fees are due in advance. A first time member privilege may be offered from September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Failure to renew fees by May 31<sup>st</sup> shall terminate all membership rights and privileges.
- e) All members shall have voting rights at the general membership meetings and Annual General Meetings, except that organizational memberships are entitled to one vote only.

## 7. Fiscal

- a) The fiscal year of the WBFN shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>;
- b) The Members of the Executive Board shall ~~make all major financial decisions.~~ obtain the agreement of the club members for any financial decision above a dollar limit set by the Executive and approved by the members. Transactions included in the yearly budget would not require further member agreement;
- c) The Executive Board shall ~~recommend an auditor for appointment at a general membership meeting at an Annual General Meeting or at a general membership meeting. The auditor shall not be an Executive Board member or relative of an Executive Board member. The auditor shall review annually the accounts and financial reports,~~ a Review Engagement to review financial statements to determine whether the statements are reasonable and worthy of belief. As a soliciting corporation financial statements will be made publicly available;
- d) The WBFN shall be carried on without purpose of financial gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions shall be used in promoting its objectives;
- e) In the event of the dissolution of the WBFN, all its remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more Canadian charitable organizations dedicated to the protection of Canada's natural heritage.

## 8. Meetings

### General Membership Meetings

- a) The general membership will be engaged at least six times per year in activities pursuing the goals of the WBFN. A quorum shall consist of no less than 25 members.

### Annual General Meeting

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 60 days of the close of the fiscal year;
- b) A minimum of twenty-one ~~day's~~ days' notice shall be given to all members of the date and location of the Annual General Meeting;
- c) The President or an ~~Officer~~ another Member of the Executive Board of the WBFN shall preside at the Annual General Meeting;

d) A quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall consist of no less than 25 members of the WBFN.

## 9. Elections

- a) A nominating committee, chaired by the Immediate Past-President and consisting of one or more Past-Presidents, the President and two other members appointed by the Executive Board, shall bring forward a slate of candidates for election at the Annual General Meeting;
- b) Further nominations from the floor shall be accepted, with the nominees' prior consent, provided that they are proposed and seconded.

## 10. Protection of ~~Officers and Directors~~ Members of the Executive Board

- a) No ~~Officer or Director~~ of the Member of the Executive Board of the WBFN shall be liable for the acts, receipts, neglects, or defaults of any other ~~Officer or Director~~ Member of the Executive Board or for joining in any receipts or other act for conformity, or for any loss or expense happening to the WBFN for insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of the WBFN shall be invested, or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortuous act of any person with whom any of the monies, securities or effects of the WBFN shall be deposited, or for any loss, damage, or misfortune whatever, which shall happen in the execution of the duties of his/her office or in relation thereto unless the same shall happen through his/her own dishonesty;
- b) Every ~~Officer or Director~~ Member of the Executive Board of the WBFN and his/her heirs, executors and administrators, and estate and effects, respectively, shall ~~from time to time and~~ at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the WBFN, from and against:
  - all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which ~~such Officer or Director~~ any Member of the Executive Board sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him/her, for or in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by him/her, in or about the execution of the duties of his/her office;
  - all other costs, charges and expenses, as authorized by the Executive Board which he/she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs of his/her office, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his/her own willful neglect or default.

## 11. Amendments

This constitution may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any Annual General Meeting provided notice of proposed change(s) shall have been mailed by authority of the Executive Board to each member at least twenty-one days before such meeting.

*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.



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

