



COMING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE THE VENUE FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETING. THE COBOURG LIBRARY IS UNAVAILABLE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BECAUSE OF FLOODING. MEETING LOCATIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEB PAGE, THROUGH E-MAIL LIST AND IN THE *CURLEW*. PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY.

● **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**, Cobourg Community Centre, 750 D'Arcy Street, Cobourg. Parking is on east side of building. The room number will be posted in the lobby. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY STARTING TIME.

Annual General Meeting and Speaker: **Ewa Bednarczuk**, Ecology and Stewardship Specialist, Lower Trent Conservation: **The Watersheds of Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority**.

● **Saturday March 22, 2014: Trip to Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory**. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the commuter parking lot at Hwy 401 and Hwy 45 for carpooling. The Conservatory's greenhouse is filled with lush tropical vegetation and there is an excellent collection of tropical butterflies, plus a few birds. Their cafe serves a tasty lunch. There is an admission charge of \$13.00 for adults and \$11.58 for seniors. Please advise Bill Crowley (905) 885-2123 or fisheye@eagle.ca if you are planning to attend. More information can be found on the Conservatory's web site www.cambridgebutterfly.ca. By using the web site to buy tickets on line it is possible to save 10% on the price of a ticket.

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●Friday, March 28, 2014 at 7:30 pm, Location TBA.

Speaker: **Geoff Coulson**, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, Environment Canada. Topic: **Summer Severe Weather in Ontario** – frequency of severe thunderstorms and tornados and how to stay safe.

●Saturday, April 26, 2014 - Outing to Second Marsh in Oshawa. Leader: **Rayfield Pye**.

The outing is timed to coincide with the concentration of Little Gulls, waterfowl and other spring migrants at Second Marsh. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Port Hope car pool lot at Cty. Rd. 28 and Phillips Rd. (opposite Arby's) or at the GM parking lot in Oshawa at 8 a.m. The outing will end around noon.

Membership Renewals

WBFN memberships are payable annually, on a calendar year basis. Treasurer, Rae Waring, would be happy to take your renewals at the February meeting, or you can mail them to The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3.

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THE WILLOW BEACH FIELD NATURALISTS

<http://www.willowbeachfieldnaturalists.org>

Past Pres:

President: Petra Hartwig905-372-4301phartwig@cobourg.ca

1st Vice-pres.: vacant

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

Secretary: Eva Nichols905-377-9454 enichols@bell.net

Treasurer: Rae Waring905-372-9350 waringrm@sympatica.ca

FON Rep.: Deb Panko905-372-1974 bluebird@teksavvy.com

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

Norma Wallace905-885-5552.....

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 March 2014 issue should be received by March 1, 2014. 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 March Curlew. Correspondence for WBFN should be addressed to: "The Willow Beach Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 421, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z3."

WBFN Annual General Meeting
Cobourg Community Centre, 750 D'Arcy St., Cobourg Ontario
Date: February 28, 2014
Refreshments: 7pm; **Meeting:** 7:30 pm
Agenda

Call to order

Approval of Minutes - AGM February 22, 2013

Announcements:

Silent Auction - (Some of the items up for auction are listed below.)

Reports

President's Report

Financial Report

Nomination Committee Report – Election of Officers

Sightings and next outing

Speaker Presentation: Ewa Bednarczuk, Ecology and Stewardship Specialist, Lower Trent Conservation: **The Watersheds of Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority.**

Announcement: Silent Auction winners

Next Meeting: Friday, March 28, 2014 at 7:30 pm, Location TBA.

Adjournment

Silent Auction at AGM

For several years, WBFN has held a silent auction at the AGM to support the club's education initiatives. The list of donors to date include: Dutch Oven, Cortesis Jeweler, The Cat & The Fiddle, Walmart, With All My Art, Mill Valley Trophies, York Super Pharmacy, Ganaraska Forest Centre, Ontario Parks, Backyard Seeds, Global Pet Foods, Bill Crowley, Margaret Bain, Vince Urbanski, Don Davies. More items are expected before the meeting. Thanks to our generous donors.

If you wish to donate an item or a service, please contact a member of the Silent Auction Committee:

Trish Whitney, 905-377-9854/trish.whitney@sympatico.ca

Eva Nichols, 905-377-9454/enichols@bell.net

Deborah Panko, 905-372-1974/bluebird@teksavvy.com

Petra Hartwig, 905-372-2128/windsong@hotmail.com

President's Message

A 2013 Review and Thank You

With another year behind us, it amazes me how much WBFN has accomplished! It was an unusual year of environmental concerns, of which WBFN has been asked to participate in one way or another. Although we feel passionate about saving natural habitat, and we are dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage of Northumberland County and surrounding area, our main goals remain to enjoy, develop knowledge, record and share this knowledge, and encourage the preservation, renewal and enhancement of our natural heritage. Therefore, we felt it was important enough to be supportive.

Some insight into where we were involved: early in the spring, WBFN were requested to assist in assessing the potential impact of industrial wind turbines on birds and bats as it pertains to the Clean Breeze Wind Farms; we lent support to the Port Hope Residents 4 Managing Waste Responsibly with a letter – our focus being the lack of site-specific natural heritage studies and lack of attention that has been paid to the local species at risk. Further, a letter was sent to the Clerk of the Municipality of Port Hope to be brought to the attention to members of council. Cobourg Councilor Miriam Mutton requested a submission by WBFN for our point of view and recommendation to the Town Clerk regarding the dumping and re-vegetation of the west headland of Cobourg harbour, and Gina Brouwer (a WBFN Director), who sits on the Cobourg Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, provided some comments about the value of the vegetative cover that was lost. From this issue, Margaret Bain and Richard Pope created the Advisory Committee on Natural Spaces (with much background provided by Clive Goodwin) outlining the issues regarding the destruction of the

west headland by the town's Public Works. Just last month a Memorandum was presented to Cobourg Town Council on the Naturalists' point of view that involves the Marina Expansion Plan. As stated in their Memo, the Town must find a way to respect this multi-recreational designation and its adverse effects on the natural aspects of the harbour that would impact thousands of ducks, geese and gulls. It was hard to stay neutral on the political front, but I think we managed that quite well.

Community involvement is something WBFN members seem to do well. Pam Lancaster, GRCA Stewardship Technician (and a WBFN Director), made a presentation to the Economic Advisory Committee on the Town of Cobourg Water Conservation Garden located at the corner of Ewart and Division Streets at the LUSI booster station. Once the snow has disappeared, please visit this delightful garden. In June, Bill Crowley represented WBFN at the launch of the Environmental Education and Outdoors for Healthy Childhood Development project in partnership with the Ganaraska Forest Centre. In September, WBFN was a Green Ribbon Sponsor at the Port Hope Living Green Fair hosted by The Port Hope & District Agricultural Society. Our youth representative took time to hand out brochures and helped Gina Brouwer with new poster. A tour of the Grafton Waste Management Facility was offered in September, and we supported the Alderville Black Oak Savannah with a letter of support for a grant application.

Since adding a student to our Executive Board, Milton Caldorone-Donnefer has represented WBFN well, and we are happy to have him "on board". He has been involved in a number of initiatives one of which was

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launching a recycling program through the Environmental Club at CDCI East, reporting to the Cobourg Environmental Advisory Committee. He attended the 4th Annual Youth Summit at Lake Couchiching in September along with Hannah Swain of St Mary's High School, funded by the Rotary Club of Cobourg. Through the Great Shoreline Clean Up Program, Donegan Park to Victoria Park, and some Pebble Beach areas were cleaned up. They collected in excess of 110 lbs of garbage and recyclables. As part of the Red-Gold-Green campaign, he was instrumental in the sale of re-usable water bottles at his high school, was involved in the YMCA-Nicaragua Exchange program, and he is part of the International Committee at the YMCA starting a youth program on sustainability. How he has time for his studies amazes me (apparently he is a good student, too).

Clive Goodwin updated the Bird Data Base this year and Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost have agreed to take it on which would also be useful for their own projects. Clive encourages WBFN members to use the e-Bird online program. In fact, Clive's latest report for the 'Birds of Northumberland County' forms part of the Willow Beach Website.

With the kind and generous membership dues and donations that have been contributed toward providing critical funds to help us continue offering quality programs and awards such as the Scholarship Fund and Education Awards, WBFN continues to contribute to education and engages in projects and activities. We were able to support our Naturalist Partners such as the Toronto Wildlife Centre, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Friends of Presqu'ile Park, the Owl Foundation, and FLAP.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our "Thanks and Gratitude" to the following:

- Victoria Retirement Living for providing a free meeting room complete with re-

freshments for our Executive/Board meetings

- To Bob Short for conducting the audit again for 2013
- A big thank you to Elizabeth for being Curlew Editor and facilitating the monthly sightings at the General Meetings, along with Norma Wallace, Co-Editor, Barry and Margaret Robinson for Curlew circulation, and a big thank you to George and Connie Cunningham for their years of deliveries – in all manner of weather!
- To Roger Frost for being our valuable Bird Count Coordinator, Outings Committee Chair and Sightings Compiler
- Our Activity Coordinators who take good care of Education (Karen Drew), Speakers series (Trish Whitney and Pam Lancaster), our Ontario Nature representative (Deborah Panko), and Publicity (Tim Tottenham)
- A special Thanks to Don McLeod, who has given us many names to add to our Speakers list and designs those lovely posters advertising our general meetings
- Chris and Karen Drew, and their children Elliott, Courtney and Evan – who you may have seen in Peter's Woods, either pulling up dog strangling vines, or helping remove deadfall across the trail
- Our Peter's Woods Maintenance Volunteers, who for years have helped keep Peter's Woods in pristine condition in partnership with Ontario Parks
- To Louise Schmidt for her leadership and good work as Past President;
- Brian Maxwell for his role as Acting 2nd VP
- Eva Nichols for her Secretarial skills, and assisting in directing the students to apply to the Cobourg Rotary Club for much needed funding in their application to the Ontario Youth Summit
- Bill Newell's reporting on the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative projects and the Northumberland Land Trust

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- Deborah Panko for her part as the Ontario Nature representative and making it possible for students to participate in the Youth Summit every year
- Marlynn Warling and Audrey Wilson for their monthly 50/50 draw at general meetings
- Harry Knapper, together with his beloved wife of 54 years whom he lost late last year, who bring your name tags to all the general meetings
- Barry Robinson who maintains the arduous job of keeping the membership list straight

This year a number of our Executive Board members will retire. One dedicated person has been Michael Biggar, who has been mentor and super supporter. John Geale is moving on to Chair the Northumberland Land Trust. He has been instrumental in keeping our members informed of local issues and outings, (he has offered to continue doing so). Bruce Parker helped to design our website and who has graciously offered to continue to update it. Of the Executive Officers, Treasurer, Rae Waring is retiring. Thank you all.

To the many other volunteers not mentioned here, please accept our humble thanks for a job well done.

Last but not least a big thank you to members such as you who come to the general meetings and support what we do – your participation encourages us to keep going. Together we will make it happen for 2014 – a Club you can be proud of.

I wish to add that since the WBFN Club Constitution was published in the January *Curlew*, some items required more information. Since the legal number of days notice has been surpassed, it will be withdrawn from ratification at the WBFN Annual General Meeting on February 28, 2014 and addressed again in the near future.

2014 Nominating Committee Announcement

WBFN’s Constitution provides that a Nominating Committee shall bring forward a slate of candidates for election at the Annual General Meeting. Further nominations from the floor shall be accepted, with the nominee’s prior consent, provided that they are proposed and seconded. The members of the nominating committee include President Petra Hartwig, Interim Past President Michael Biggar, Russell Lake, Brian Maxwell and Barry Robinson.

Directors Bruce Parker, John Geale and Gina Brouwer’s two year terms end in February 2014. Directors Bill Newell, Barry Robinson and Pam Lancaster will continue their terms. The Committee is pleased to announce that Tim Lawley, Maaike Berg-Nonnekes and Bridget Jokitalo will stand as directors.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates for election at the 2014 Annual General meeting:

- 1st Vice President Brian Maxwell
- 2nd Vice President Gina Brower
- Secretary Eva Nichols
- Treasurer David O’Dell
- Directors Bill Newell,
Barry Robinson, Pam Lancaster, Tim Lawley, Maaike Berg- Nonnekes and Bridget Jokitalo

The Willow Beach Field Naturalists Executive Board wish to thank Rae Waring for volunteering his time and expertise as the Treasurer over the years, and welcome David O’Dell as the incoming Treasurer.

The Committee is pleased to announce that Chris and Karen Drew, as well as Petra Hartwig have agreed to continue stewardship of Peter’s Woods.

Please advise the Nominating Committee in advance if additional candidates will be nominated during the AGM. This can also be done on our website.

*Michael Biggar: Chair
February 2014*

Willow Beach Field Naturalists Annual General Meeting Minutes
Cobourg Public Library – February 22, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order:

Petra Hartwig called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. She welcomed new members and everyone present, and reminded them of membership renewals. 59 people were present.

2. Approval of Last AGM Minutes:

Motion by Margaret Bain that the AGM Minutes of Feb. 24, 2012 be adopted. Seconded by Janette Johnston. Carried.

3. Announcements:

Petra Hartwig, the silent auction organizer, thanked the many donors and discussed how the auction would work. She mentioned that proceeds again would be going towards the WBFN Scholarship Award.

4. Reports:

a. President's Report:

Petra Hartwig reminded everyone that the 2012/13 President's report was printed in the February Curlew. **Motion** by Bill Crowley to confirm the actions of the Executive Board since the last AGM, as per Petra Hartwig's Report. Seconded by Louise Schmidt. Carried.

b. Financial Report:

Rae Waring reviewed the report in the February Curlew. Bob Short will be auditing our records this year again. **Motion** by Harry Knapper that the Financial Report be adopted. Seconded by Russell Lake. Carried.

c. Nomination Committee / Election of Board Members:

Michael Biggar presented the nomination committee report. The following names for two year terms were put forth (see the February Curlew):

President – Petra Hartwig

First Vice President – vacant

Second Vice President – Brian Maxwell

Directors – Bill Newell, Pam Lancaster, Barry Robinson

Motion by Margaret Bain that the Nomination Report as presented in the Curlew be adopted. Seconded by Jean Wilson. Carried.

Further nominations were called from the floor, three times, and none were forthcoming.

Motion by Louise Schmidt that those nominated be elected. Seconded by Tim Lawley. Carried.

Motion by Jack Goering that Petra Hartwig assumes the position of President. Seconded by Russell Lake. Carried.

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Motion by Trish Whitney that Brian Maxwell assumes the position of 2nd Vice President. Seconded by Tim Lawley. Carried.

Motion by Jack Goering that Bill Newell assumes the position of Director. Seconded by Eva Nichols. Carried.

Motion by Bill Crowley that Pam Lancaster assumes the position of Director. Seconded by Brian Maxwell. Carried.

Motion by Louise Schmidt that Barry Robinson assumes the position of Director. Seconded by Audrey Wilson. Carried.

Motion by Bill Newell that Eva Nichols assumes the position of Secretary. Seconded by Harry Knapper. Carried.

5. Announcements:

- The new student liaison and several other student attendees were welcomed.
- Deborah Panko reported on the Endangered Species Act proposed revisions and called upon members to comment.
- A presentation was made to Audrey Wilson for over 50 years of service to WBFN, and to Karen Drew for 8 years as Secretary.

6. Sightings and Next Outings:

Elizabeth Kellogg solicited bird sightings from the members present.

7. Silent Auction Winners:

Winners were announced and items were paid for and handed out.

8. Speaker Presentation:

Mike McMurry, Natural Areas Ecologist (MNR) gave an interesting slide show, "The Natural Heritage Information Centre: what it is, what we do, and how you can contribute".

Motion by Russell Lake to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Don Davis passed along the following tidbit, gleaned from January 2014 National Geographic:
Article called: *Things They Brought Back*
"Every specimen has a story," says retired Smithsonian entomologist Gary Hevel. But not all of them end well. Carl von Hagen, the naturalist who collected these paradise bird-wing butterflies in Papua New Guinea around 1900, was captured and eaten by cannibals."

Willow Beach Financial Report

Jan -Dec/2013

Opening Assets Jan1/13 \$ **9,865.63**

Consisting of:

GIC \$ 6,000.00

Bank Balance \$ 3,865.63

Receipts \$ 4,208.00

Memberships \$ 2,279.50

Undesignated Donations \$ 961.43

Raffle/Book Sale/Silent Auction/cards \$ 311.78

Interest/GST Rebate \$ 882.85

Misc (Includes bird count) \$ **8,643.56**

Total Receipts

Disbursements \$ 1,417.30

Curlew \$ 1,235.00

Meeting Expenses \$ 780.00

Insurance \$ 659.17

Administrative Expenses \$ 2,270.00

Donations \$ 283.31

HST \$ 378.90

Scholarship Reserve \$ **7,023.68**

Total Disbursements

\$ **1,619.88**

Surplus

\$ 378.90

To Scholarship Assets

\$ **11,864.41**

Closing Assets*

Consisting of: \$ 6,000.00

GIC \$ 5,485.51

Book Balance \$ 378.90

Scholarship Balance

Note1. Donations include: Operation Migration, Pt Hope Fair, Ganaraska Forest, Student Scholarship, Ont.Nature, Friends of Presquille, FLAP, Toronto Wildlife Centre, Nature Conservancy,

Note 2. Budgeted donations to school projects were not completed due to late submissions

Correction: The report of the Presqu'ile-Brighton Christmas Bird Count which appeared in the January Curllew was really the report from the 2012 Count. Below is the correct information about the 2013 Count. We apologize for the error.

Presqu'ile-Brighton CBC 2013

Twenty-six participants and one feeder watcher participated in the 49th Presqu'ile CBC on Sunday Dec. 15, 2013. One intrepid birder suggested weather conditions were a "Cake-walk", at least compared to the count he had done on Saturday. Despite the cake-walk, in common with other locations this weekend, cold conditions, 15-20cm of snow, and unploughed driveways and back roads challenged counters and kept bird numbers low.

69 species were tallied compared to a 20-year average of 79 and the 11,320 individuals was about half that found over most of the past decade. With almost no open water inland and even Lake Ontario with a wide ice edge, waterfowl numbers were down. Only Black Duck and Mallards of the dabblers were recorded and Long-tailed Duck (365), Bufflehead (57) and Common Merganser (2) were at 20-year lows. Inland birds were scarce away from feeders and this was the first count in over 20 years that no Ruffed Grouse were recorded.

Despite conditions there were some surprises and even high counts and birds were widespread enough that the common birds seen and recorded in all 10 areas included; Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Tree Sparrow and Dark-eyed Juncos.

New for the count was a Cackling Goose, upgraded from a Count Week bird in 2012.

Other unusual birds included:

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1) - Only the second in the last 20 years

Chipping Sparrow (2) - recorded for the 7th year in the last 20 years.

Iceland Gull (2) and Glaucous Gull (1) have only been seen in about half the counts in the last 20 years.

Catbird (1), a Count Week bird, was the first since 1976

High Counts (old records and years in brackets):

Mute Swan - 824 (624 in 2011)

Bald Eagle - 8 (6 in 2009)

Snowy Owl - 10 (7 in 1978)

Dark-eyed Junco - 649 (568 in 2011)

Near-record high counts included Northern Harrier (7) and Red-bellied Woodpecker (5) that missed tying the record by 1 bird each.

Many thanks to all the participants. A special thanks to May Wilson and others that contributed food to the post-count tally and to Maureen Riggs who organizes the whole thing.

*David Bree
Compiler*

Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekend

March 15-16/2014

10am to 4pm

Presqu'ile will be hosting their 38th waterfowl viewing weekend, where nature enthusiasts can come and appreciate one of the great natural spectacles on earth – the return of migrating waterfowl to their staging areas along the lower Great Lakes. Presqu'ile is well situated to experience this phenomenon with close viewing and a good variety of species. Seeing 20 different species of waterfowl in a day is not unusual and 25+ species are usually tallied during the season. During the viewing weekend, volunteers with scopes are situated at key areas to help visitors find and ID the different species. The Nature Centre and Lighthouse Centre, featuring “ducky” displays and children's activities are open 10am to 4pm. The Friends of Presqu'ile will also be there with a BBQ starting at 11am, and the Gift Store will be open.

There is a park admission fee of \$10.00/vehicle.

If you want to come learn about ducks this is a great opportunity. If you are interested in coming out and helping with duck ID or in the Nature Centre, I would be more than happy to hear from you. For more information on the event or on volunteering please contact David Bree at 613 475-4324 ext. 225 or david.bree@ontario.ca.

David Bree forwarded this note which was published in an Ontario Parks' newsletter.

Piping Plovers successfully fledge at Wasaga Beach

Patricia Davidson, Piping Plover Guardian Coordinator, Wasaga Beach

Wasaga Beach Provincial Park (WBPP) would not be complete without the distinct peeping of the petite Piping Plover; an endangered shorebird that has nested at the Park for 6 seasons. After an extirpation period of more than 30 years in Ontario, the return of the Piping Plovers to Wasaga Beach is a story worth sharing.

On par with previous years and found in the same location, the Piping Plovers boasted two nests this year. Four chicks hatched from the West nest and 3 chicks hatched 10 days later from the East nest. Survival is not always guaranteed as 2 chicks were lost; a West nest chick was attacked by an adult plover in a territorial dispute and an East nest chick disappeared shortly before fledging. In spite of this, the 2013 season was the most successful year at WBPP as there was considerably less predation and loss compared with previous years. By the second week of August, the surviving 5 fledglings were ready for the long migration down to the Atlantic coast of Florida. With their departure, the grand total of fledglings has surged to 22 individuals since the plovers first nested at WBPP in 2008.

The program would not be possible without the hard work and dedication from our Piping Plover Guardians. Each year, volunteers contribute more than 1,500 hours to monitoring the endangered shorebirds over the course of 10 weeks.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

compiled by Roger Frost

Mute Swan	Jan. 5	434	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
Canvasback	Jan. 17	2	Presqu'ile, government dock	FH, Ontbirds
	Jan. 30	1	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Ring-necked Duck	Jan. 5	1	Presqu'ile, off Salt Point	FH, Ontbirds
	Jan. 17, 20	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds
	Jan. 30	1`	Presqu'ile Bay	FH, Ontbirds
Greater Scaup	Jan. 12-29	245	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Lesser Scaup	Jan. 5	2	Cobourg Harbour	MB
White-winged Scoter	Jan. 5	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 25	1	Cobourg Harbour - Bird landed between 2 cars in a snowdrift over the road & was last seen evading capture further west.	CEG
	Jan. 28, 29	3m	Cobourg Harbour	KN
Black Scoter	Jan. 15	1m	Presqu'ile, government dock	FH, Ontbirds
Common Goldeneye	Jan. 29	125	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
Ruddy Duck	Jan. 10, 12	1	Presqu'ile, government dock	FH, Ontbirds
Wild Turkey	Jan. 16	2	Jocelyn St., PH	ERM
Great Blue Heron	Jan. 14	1	Cobourg Harbour	RDM
Bald Eagle	Jan. 4, 11	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 4	1	Sandercock & 4th Line, A/H	PC
	Jan. 26	2	Hastings	WBFN outing
Northern Harrier	Jan. 1	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 1	1	Grafton	CEG
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Jan. 9	1	Coverdale Ave., Cob., eating starling	DP
	Jan. 10, 24	1	Young St., PH	NEW
Cooper's Hawk	Jan. 30	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Northern Goshawk	Jan. 29	1imm	Cobourg feeders - catching starling	MB
Red-shouldered Hawk	Jan. 10-16	1	s. end of Ontario St., Brighton	FH, Ontbirds
American Kestrel	Jan. 14	1	Sylvan Glen Rd., PH Ward 2	CEG
	Jan. 16	1	Jocelyn St. & Toronto Rd., PH	NEW, SL
Gyrfalcon	Jan. 26	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
American Coot	Jan. 15	2	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Thayer's Gull	Jan. 3	1juv	Cobourg Harbour	RP
	Jan. 26	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	RDM
	Jan. 30	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Iceland Gull	Jan. 5, 28	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB
	Jan. 15	4ad	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Glaucous Gull	Jan. 5, 15	1ad	Cobourg Harbour	MB, RP
	Jan. 13	4	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 30	2ad, 2juv	Cobourg Harbour	RP
"Kumlien's" Iceland Gull	Jan. 30	3	Cobourg Harbour	RP
Mourning Dove	Jan. 5	83	1010 Ontario St., Cob. - high count	AEW
Snowy Owl	all Jan.	1	Cobourg Harbour	m.obs.
	Jan. 5	1	Port Hope Harbour	RF
	Jan. 12	1	Strathy Rd., Cob.	AEW
Barred Owl	Jan. 23	1	Telephone Rd.,	CEG
Great Gray Owl	Jan. 14	1	nr. 7th Line, PH Ward 2	LS
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Jan. 19	1	Presqu'ile	FH, Ontbirds

Sightings - cont'd.

Belted Kingfisher	Jan. 14	1	Alderville area	EK, RF
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Jan. 16, 27	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	all Jan.	1	Coverdale Ave., Cob.	DP
Northern Flicker	Jan. 26	1	Hwy. 45 car pool lot	WBFN outing
Pileated Woodpecker	Jan. 28, 29	1	Dunbar Rd.	BK
Northern Shrike	Jan. 10, 24	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Jan. 14	2	Alderville area	EK, RF
	Jan. 28, 29	1	6th Line, Hamilton Twp.	JGe
	Feb. 1	1	Cty. Rd. 10, s. of Canton	JGe
Blue Jay	Feb. 3	22	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Common Raven	Jan. 5, 17	1	Cobourg Harbour	CEG
	Jan. 16	1	Barrie Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
Carolina Wren	Jan. 26	1	Coverdale Ave., Cob.	DP
Eastern Bluebird	Jan. 17	7	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2	PB
American Robin	Jan. 1	1	Jamieson Rd. & 7th, PH Ward 2	LS
Northern Mockingbird	Jan. 9	1	Wesleyville	MB
Brown Thrasher	Jan. 26, 27	1	Cobourg feeders	MB
Snow Bunting	Jan. 12	75+	Lakeshore & Haskill Rd., PH Ward 2	RP, MB
	Jan. 17	200+	Hwy. 2 & Deer Park Rd., PH Ward 2	ERM
	Jan. 31	250	Port Britain shores	PB
Song Sparrow	Jan. 4	1	Cobourg feeders	MB
White-throated Sparrow	all Jan.	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW
	Jan. 8	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Red-winged Blackbird	Jan. 3	1	Wesleyville, PH Ward 2, feeder	PB
Common Grackle	Jan. 2	1	Centennial Dr., PH	ERM
Purple Finch	Jan. 23	1m	Wesleyville feeder, PH Ward 2	PB
American Goldfinch	Jan. 19	64	1010 Ontario St., Cob. - high count	AEW
Red Fox	Jan. 30	1	distinctive track across backyard & down driveway to Albert St.	MB
Coyote	Jan. 26	1	1010 Ontario St., Cob.	AEW

Observers: MB=Margaret Bain; PB=Paul Bridges; PC=Pam Crowe; RF=Roger Frost; BG=Bill Gilmour; CEG=Clive Goodwin; JGe=John Geale; FH=Fred Helleiner; EK=Elizabeth Kellogg; BK=Barry King; SL=Susan Laing; RDM=Doug McRae; ERM=Ted McDonald; ; KN=Ken Niles; Ontbirds=listserv of Ontario Field Ornithologists; DP=Deb Panko; RP=Richard Pope; LS=Louise Schmidt; NEW=Norma Wallace; AEW=Audrey Wilson.

Teen Birders Invited to Apply for Young Ornithologists' Workshop

The 2014 Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory in southern Ontario from Saturday, August 2 to Sunday, August 10. Participants from across Canada receive hands-on training in field ornithology. Activities include an introduction to bird monitoring and banding, bird identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising young birders between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. Applications are due by April 30, 2014. For more information and an application form, email lpbo@birdscanada.org or <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/>

Searching for Species at Risk throughout Alderville First Nation

Awareness is increasing about the tall-grass prairie and oak savanna grasslands growing at Alderville First Nation, particular the protection and restoration of the 50-hectare Alderville Black Oak Savanna. This natural area within Alderville and the Rice Lake Plains represents the north-eastern limit of prairie in North America. If you have been fortunate to visit this area you have likely seen the impressive reach of Black Oak branches or the majestic sway of Indian Grass and Big Bluestem growing three metres high. Perhaps you've even been lucky enough to hear the melodic songs of bird species like the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark using these native grasslands.

Alderville First Nation is home to this rare landscape but it also includes other natural areas such as shoreline along Rice Lake, streams, marsh and other wetlands, forest and fallow lands moving through the stages of ecological succession. Collectively these areas provide habitat for many aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, including species at risk. Thanks to years of information gathering, it is well documented that the Alderville Black Oak Savanna provides habitat to more than two dozen species at risk. Less is known however about the number of species at risk migrating, breeding, foraging, ranging and living throughout Alderville First Nation.

Fortunately Alderville has received funding from the Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund to undertake a landscape-scale inventory and mapping project of species at risk and their habitat to help inform conservation and development plans. Work on this project began in September 2013 and will continue until winter 2016. Ultimately this three-year endeavour will recommend conservation priorities which will help ensure species at risk, habitat connectivity, and biodiver-

sity are considered in future land-use planning.

An important start to this funding began with gathering traditional knowledge about species at risk and habitat preferences. Rick Beaver, a well-known ecologist and Alderville member interviewed members of the community of Alderville First Nation who demonstrated a familiarity with the Reserve. Respondents provided 193 species at risk observations of which 141 had been seen within the last 5 years. Fifty-two of these observations occurred prior to five years ago. A sobering excerpt from Mr. Beaver's report states that "some species have become rare in recent times, most notably Meadowlark, Bobolink, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Eastern Musk Turtle, Monarch Butterfly, American Ginseng and Butternut."

Another significant component of this project includes conducting bird surveys for priority sites which will lead to a comprehensive report on the bird species using valuable wetland, woodland and grassland habitats. Willow Beach Field Naturalist member, Roger Frost will lead this effort with help from Elizabeth Kellogg. Their work began in September 2013 during the fall migration and they have already noted several species at risk seen or heard at their survey locations.

Another project activity will be detailed mapping of our findings. These maps will be produced with assistance from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, a central partner in the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. A Frog-Watch workshop will be hosted in February 2014 with help from the Toronto Zoo Adopt-A-Pond program. This is a free event where training will be provided to recognise frog calls of different species, as well as where and when to listen for them. Trained observers

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will help conduct frog call surveys for the duration of the project and hopefully for years to come.

A BioBlitz will be hosted in June 2014. This event will include leaders from the conservation community and other volunteers willing to conduct biological surveys to identify as many species as possible in one day. Hotspots for road mortality will also be mapped and appropriate management measures will be taken to reduce roadkill. Perhaps most important to the success of this project will be the ongoing outreach and education to keep area residents informed about the project and to garner support for citizen-based reporting of species at risk. For more information or to become involved please contact the Alderville Black Oak Savanna at (905) 352-1008 or email Kristina Hubert at khubert@alderville.ca.

Kristina Hubert



Larva of Mottled Duskywing, *Erynnis martialis*, found feeding on New Jersey Tea by Dr. Chris Schmidt, Sept. 12, 2013 at Alderville Black Oak Savanna. This small butterfly is listed as a species at risk. The larva feed only on New Jersey Tea.

Outing Report - Bird Chase Outing, Sunday, January 26

Despite a dearth of really rare birds and incredibly cold temperatures, three WBFN members joined Roger Frost for this outing. While standing in the Car Pool parking lot at Cty. Rd. 45 and Division, a Blue Jay was sighted, and an American Robin and Northern Flicker were heard. Because the weather forecast for the afternoon was not good, it was decided not to travel too far.

First, the group did a tour of the former Hope Township, concentrating on the area where a Great Gray Owl has been seen for over a month, but without success. Much to our surprise, despite temperatures of -30°C , several Black-capped Chickadees could be heard singing. They were responding to the sun and ignoring the temperature.

Next stop was Hastings to search for Bald Eagles. They are often found in the open water at the dam. This time, we had success. The only open water was in the middle of the town (all the rest of the river and Rice Lake were frozen.) Here were found not one, but two different Bald Eagles.

A cross country journey back to Cobourg yielded close-up looks at a flock of 26 Wild Turkeys which were foraging around bird feeders.

A Snowy Owl was found on the ice of the breakwater at Cobourg Harbour. Surprisingly, there was open water in the harbor for ten species of waterfowl, including a single drake Redhead, as well as ice pans for roosting gulls.

By this time, the temperature had risen to -11°C and falling snow was obscuring the view. The final tally was 30 species of birds. We should have stayed a few minutes longer, though. By the time we arrived home, Clive Goodwin had posted a sighting of a Gyrfalcon which had flown by his window! Perhaps that was what had the gulls spooked.

- Elizabeth Kellogg

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Annual membership fees are:

Family - \$35 Single - \$25

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

