Winter Birding

As the years go by I like winter less and less, but I've found a way to cope … winter birding.

The winter birding period lasts from December 1st to the last day of February and for me it's a chance to study our birds when conditions are at their toughest. There are many opportunities to get out and enjoy our winter waifs – Christmas bird counts, January waterfowl counts, self-directed exploration or simply feeder watching. You may be very surprised at what shows up. Ontario has about 340 species of birds which have tried to overwinter at one point or another. Beyond the obvious jays, woodpeckers and chickadees, with luck and effort one might find hummingbirds, flycatchers, shorebirds, swallows, orioles or vireos! But don't expect that every year. You have to work hard at this to find the rare stuff. For most, the simple pleasure of seeing cardinals, nuthatches and doves is enough – for me I love those guys but I also like the challenge of seeing what else is trying to survive and why. My all-time winter list is at 265 species - not bad but it could be better – I added six new species this winter alone – Tennessee, Palm and Wilson's Warbler, Northern Parula, Painted Bunting and Eurasian Tree Sparrow – pretty high quality stuff! So when the days get gloomy, head out to the fields and forests and see what's out and about – surprises abound!

Close to Home

Kids for Birds

by Jay Thibert

Photos used with permission from

Snapd Clarington

An enthusiastic group of more than 40 kids descended on the Nonquon Environmental Education Centre to be part of the third annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4Kids) in North Durham. They learned how to identify some of our common winter birds through a visual quiz and by examining

some of the Centre's taxidermy. They were taught binocular basics and with field guides in hand we were off to explore the frozen trails of The Nonquon.

Our young birders ranged in age from 5 to 13 and they came prepared to be outdoors on a crisp November morning. Leaders guided them through the wetland trails exploring all the clues that connected the wetland with birds - nests, cavities, food and of course live birds. Our "citizen scientists" saw 11 species and 73 individual birds that Saturday morning and they learned that recording their sightings can help deepen our understanding of birds. Black-capped Chickadees were our most often seen bird at 30 and the most friendly as they ate seeds from many small hands. A solo Sharp-shinned Hawk landed and then flashed over our heads at the beginning of our morning. Here is what we saw:

Canada Goose 20
Sharp- shinned Hawk 1
Mourning Dove 10
Downy Woodpecker 1
Hairy Woodpecker 1
Blue Jay 4
Common Raven 2
Black- capped Chickadee 30
White- breasted Nuthatch 1
American Tree Sparrow 1
American Goldfinch 2

The first Christmas Bird Count just for kids happened in 2007 in Sonoma, California. It was a youth- and family- oriented alternative to the century-old traditional CBC that was well established in North America. In 2010 Birds Studies Canada promoted the concept in Canada. In 2012 North Durham Nature held its first Kids count on the Trails of Uxbridge then in 2013 North Durham Nature and Friends of Nonquon teamed up and moved the count to the Nonquon Environmental Education Centre to take advantage of the Centre and the chickadee feeding stations. The local Scout and Girl Guide groups were keen to locate at the Nonquon Environmental Education Centre again for 2014 completing some badge work at our event. There was also good participation from families this year.

These young birders are our future naturalists and conservationists and it was a delight to see their excitement and to observe how knowledgeable many are. We saw lots of birds and had a great deal of fun outdoors.

Special thanks to the organizers and leaders from North Durham Nature and Friends of Nonquon: Cara Gregory, James Kamstra, Cathy Scragg, Bev Thibert and Jay Thibert.

Secret Gardens

Exploring North Durham's Nature

Uxbridge Countryside Preserve

"Where the Countryside comes to Town"

Text and photos by Derek Connelly

Secretly tucked behind the major shopping area on Highway 47 as you enter Uxbridge from the southwest, is a little bit of countryside we call The Countryside Preserve. It's not big compared to other natural areas nearby but it is handy for residents of Uxbridge and is becoming very popular. On a sunny weekend the parking lot is full, as dog walkers, joggers, mountain bikers and even horseback riders take to the 6 kms. of marked trails, to enjoy 57 hectares (140 acres) of rolling meadowland, woodland, wetlands and ponds.

The new public property was opened in October 2005 after the Township of Uxbridge purchased the private land that included a golf course, tennis court, ponds and tree plantations. Now, nature is taking it slowly back to its original state while humans attempt the classic "balance" of recreation, conservation and preservation.

The Countryside Preserve is on the Oak Ridges Moraine and contains the headwaters of Uxbridge Brook, a provincially significant wetland so there is something to "preserve". The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority provides management advice and produced a management report in 2008 for the Township.

The Preserve is part of the Uxbridge trail system that is coordinated by a group of active volunteers. The trails loop around and through the fields and forests and beside small creeks and ponds. A series of numbered posts match a map found at two kiosk entrances. The posts are numbered from 1 at the main entrance and are positioned in a clockwise direction to post 10 at Observation

Hill. From here the posts' order makes an "s" pattern through the central part of the Preserve returning you to the start. Of course, you can head in any direction you wish. Each post is oriented northwards and some have a

map showing roughly where you are situated in the Preserve. Older unmanaged trails exist along the Wooden Sticks Golf Course boundary to the east, but in consideration for the golfers' game and to avoid errant golf balls, visitors are discouraged from heading in that direction. New trails are under construction with a desire to make them more enjoyable and sustainable so heavy use and weather won't wear them away too quickly.

Interpretive signs describe various habitat views and their flora and fauna while a series of artist's paintings show scenes in different seasons.

Observation Hill provides a 360 degree view of the surrounding land and is a favorite destination. In winter this is a great toboggan hill for those willing to make the snowy trek. In summer, some joggers prefer the straight up run while others take a more gradual trail. On the top, a bench, one of three in the Preserve provides a nice rest stop. One morning I watched a couple of deer grazing from here and at night during Canada Day I watched fireworks from Elgin Park and other communities as far away as Port Perry and Sunderland. The view, however, is disappearing as the trees grow and fill in the parkland.

Some of the ecological challenges the preserve and volunteers face are invasive species mainly successful non-native plants such as Scots Pine, Dog Strangling Vine and Buckthorn to name a few. These species are invading the meadows from the forest and trails. Native common milkweed, goldenrod, strawberry and much larger introduced blackberry bushes and various grasses are plentiful in the meadows. The natural process of succession is turning the meadows into thickets and forests. This habitat change doesn't favor the survival of species at risk such as Monarch Butterflies, Bobolinks and other grassland bird species that might choose the Preserve's meadows as their home. The loss of the meadow is also a concern for visitors who enjoy walking through the open spaces and the views that are part of it.

To slow down the succession in the meadows, volunteers have organized Scots Pine thinning parties, removing smaller trees before they

get too big and creating brush piles for wildlife habitat. Plantings of native grasses, shrubs and small trees continue in selective areas and bird boxes are monitored to assist cavity nesting birds. Future habitat enhancements for wildlife and plants are planned as the volunteer support grows.

Of course, my interest has always been the birds. Grassland birds breeding here include the sparrows such as Clay-colored, Grasshopper, Field, Song and Savannah which are usually heard before they are seen. A number of warblers nest in the marsh, thickets and forests including: American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Chestnut - sided, Mourning, Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers to name a few. Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Orioles and Red-eyed Vireos are also heard during the summer while Turkey Vultures soar over the meadows and perhaps a Broad-winged Hawk will fly by. Listen for the rhythmic tapping of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker or the pounding of a Pileated Woodpecker as they search for insects in old trees. American Woodcock are heard and seen in the spring displaying their unique courting flight. The diversity of habitats in the small space of the Countryside Preserve provides homes for many species of birds. The small bird boxes successfully help Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, House Wrens, Black-capped Chickadees and the occasional Flying Squirrel and Deer Mouse. The larger bird boxes found on taller trees have been occupied by Eastern Screech-Owl, along with a variety of squirrels. Coyotes, fox, porcupine, mink, weasel and deer have also been seen in the Preserve.

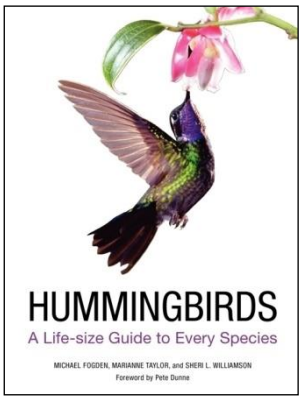
Wildflowers are another treat to enjoy especially in the spring and there is more than goldenrod and milkweed to see during the summer. Have you seen Hepatica, Devil's Paintbrush, Columbine, Red or White Trillium, Dog- tooth Violet, Mullein, Marsh Marigold, Viper's Bugloss or Bindweed?

The Uxbridge Brook has a number of ponds which border the Preserve to the west. Other ponds in the Preserve are spring fed. The ponds' Wood and Green Frogs announce themselves each spring and summer while Midland Painted Turtles often need a sunny day and a log or rock to catch some rays before they show themselves. In the cold water of the Uxbridge Brook, trout and other fish explore their aquatic world.

The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve is no secret anymore but if you are looking for an enjoyable couple of hours walking in the countryside this might be the spot. A map of the trails and access can be found on the town website:
http://www.town.uxbridge.on.ca/sites/default/files/Preserve_Map1.jpg

Book Review

Hummingbirds – A Life-size Guide to Every Species. 2014. *by Michael Fogden, Marianne Taylor and Sheri L. Williamson*. Harper Design, New York, N.Y. Hardcover 400 pages. $29.99 CDN (ISBN 978-0-06-228064-0).



Hummingbirds are only found in the Western Hemisphere and occupy a unique niche amongst the world's avifauna. Their adaptations are myriad and they can be found from sea-level to the highest slopes of the Andes, from the southern tip of Argentina to Alaska, from deserts to lush tropical jungles, and from the wildest places to the most urban. They all feed on nectar in one form or another and supplement their diet with insects and other invertebrates. Hardy and resilient, they are marvels to watch and study.

This new book by Fogden and his consorts is an intriguing effort to try to document all of the world's species in a single volume. This alone is a daunting task as the authorities disagree on how many species there actually are. For example, Operation Rubythroat lists 339 species, HBW Illustrated Checklist - 363, Avibase - 336, Animal Diversity Web - 328, and the World of Hummingbirds - 356, while Fodgen says there are 337. The title premise of the book may therefore be flawed as clearly there are more species than are covered by Fogden's book.

But let's look beyond that since most (at least 93%) of the world's hummers are described therein – this in itself is an incredible accomplishment. A quick tour of the Introduction of the book allows us to explore the evolution, systematics, taxonomy, colour/iridescence, flight, feeding/energetics, pollinating influences, courtship, nesting, moult, feather care and migration of this complex group of birds. That chapter alone might be worth the cost of admission!

The body of the book is of course dedicated to the species accounts, where each hummer is given excellent coverage in text and supporting maps and paintings. The first thing that will catch your eye is the excellent painting of each species, but wait – is it possible that it is truly life-size? Absolutely – every species is depicted in its full glory and size! For a few of species this was a bit of a challenge since the Giant and Sword-billed Hummingbirds and the Black-tailed Trainbearer are all large species. This is actually a nice feature as it is often difficult to decide how big a bird is when looking at most field guides. Remembering how complicated

it is to ID hummers, size is a huge part of the problem solving formula. Every species account includes a detailed description of the species, its food and

some behavioural information. This is augmented with a great map that is easy to read and that shows its distribution. The sections close with information on size, weight habitat and altitude preferences.

One thing I could not understand was why 76 species of hummingbirds were described and a range map was provided but no illustration accompanied the text. That meant that the book really only dealt in depth with 261 species. Puzzling?! In response the authors simply state that the rarest and least frequently seen are not pictured. To me that makes no sense. I would want a "complete" guide to deal with all birds, not just the more common ones.

So here's what I liked: (1) the introductory chapter is excellent and informative; (2) the paintings are superb; (3) the text is descriptive and shares much, but not all, pertinent information about the species; and (4) the maps appear accurate for most species and are easy to read and interpret. I did not like the fact that mostly males are depicted. Often it is the females and young that are most problematic to the observer. In fairness, almost every book on the market fails in this depiction, but there was an opportunity to go beyond that was missed for the most part in my opinion. I also think the index could have been a little more fulsome. For example, if you wanted to see how many "Brilliants" there are, you have to know their entire name, as no entry exists for Brilliant, Black-throated or Brilliant, Green-crowned, etc. Instead you need to look up each one individually by Black-throated or Green-crowned Brilliant in this case. Seems like a small point but it's not. It's a simple fix and I hope the authors consider this in future editions.

Teasers: How many different "last name" can hummers have (e.g. hummingbird, coquette, emerald, etc.)? How many hummers don't have a first name? Do hummingbirds flap their wings faster than other birds? What group of hummers have the weirdest bill? Does a male's good looks or flight dance attract the most females? If the Bee Hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world, what is the 2nd smallest?

So, should you buy this book? Despite the limitations of the missing species and illustrations, this is still a valuable and worthwhile book. Few other species-focussed books exist covering the hummingbird complex and this one is beautifully produced. Not quite a monograph, which itself is designed for ornithologists not general birders, this volume is and will continue to be of use to any birder, whether the professional ornithologist or the arm-chair traveller. I do recommend getting this book for your library.

Answers to Teasers:

1. How many different "last name" can hummers have (e.g. Hummingbird, Coquette, etc.)? Answer: 56 - in addition to those listed elsewhere in the review, a few others are Awlbill, Barbthroat, Brilliant, Comet, Coronet, Sungem, Whitetip, Visorbearer, Puffleg, Mountaineer, and Lancebill, etc. – all very colourful and descriptive names.
2. How many hummers don't have a first name? Answer: 2 – Blossomcrown and Snowcap
3. Do hummingbirds flap their wings faster than other birds? Answer: Yes

and no – Giant Hummingbird flaps at 10 beats/sec, while the Northern Mockingbird flaps at 14. Smaller hummers flap faster – 56 beats/second on average but the Amethyst Woodstar flaps at 80 beats/second!

4. Which hummers have the weirdest bill? Answer: Sicklebill and Awlbill
5. Does a male hummingbird's good looks or flight dance attract the most females? Answer: Usually not – the number and quality of nectar producing plants in the territory overrides pretty plumages, song and display flights.
6. If the Bee Hummingbird (5") is the smallest bird in the world, what is the 2nd smallest - the Gorgeted Woodstar (5.8").

Perfect for Stargazing

by Nancy Melcher

Its yearly trip around the sun leads Earth past a constantly changing backdrop of stars. Imagine placing a lamp in the centre of a room, then walking around the room looking at the walls. Every view will be different. Look back to the lamp, and you can't see what's directly opposite you. The same is true for the views of the stars, planets, moon, and other astronomical objects.

Our night sky has some constant favourites, including the Big and Little Dippers, Cassiopeia's prominent "W", and the Milky Way, but we are treated to a changing tapestry of constellations each season. Winter nights bring star patterns into view which are obscured behind the sun during the long days of summer.

On a clear night, dress warmly and go outside. Find a safe, dark place well away from overhead lights. A countryside hilltop with a clear view is ideal, but a park or field will do. Look for the Big Dipper in the northern sky. Seven bright stars form the shape of a long-handled pot. This star pattern (asterism) is part of the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear, which moves as the night progresses, but is always in view.

The whole sky seems to spin around one point, the 'pole' of the sky. This is where the star Polaris sits, and it's easy to find. Join the two stars at the end of the Big Dipper's pot with an imaginary line: extend it outwards/upwards to Polaris. This star is the end of the handle of the Little Dipper, also formed by seven stars, which curves back toward its larger cousin.

If Polaris was the centre of an umbrella, and the Big Dipper was at one edge of the canopy, then at the opposite edge you would see a big "W" formed by five bright stars. This is Cassiopeia, named after the queen in Greek mythology. She sits on the edge of the Milky Way, a faint ribbon of stars that streams across the winter sky from East to West. You'll need to be away from the glare of lights to fully appreciate this edge-on view of our galaxy, and the millions of stars that make it up.

The southern sky holds one of my favourite constellations, Orion, the Hunter. Let your eyes wash along the Milky Way to the other side of the sky. You'll see three very bright stars close together in a row, forming Orion's belt. Four more bright stars represent his shoulders and feet. With a bit of imagination you'll make out his raised club and outstretched shield, and a sword dangling from his belt. Binoculars can reveal the Orion Nebula, which is part of a cluster of objects in his sword.

Further to the east, rising later in the evening, shines Sirius, the brightest star in our heavens, along with nearby Procyon. They are the "dog stars", accompanying Orion on his hunt. There are many more marvels awaiting adventurers who choose to brave the chill of a crisp, clear winter night. Go outside and look up. There are amazing wonders to see!

Orion

Orion, the Hunter, is by far the most famous winter constellation. Orion's belt, which is made of three bright stars in a straight line, makes the hunter easy to find in the night sky. One of Orion's legs is the star Rigel, one of the brightest stars in the night sky. His two shoulders are made of the stars Bellatrix and Betelgeuse. Other bright stars make up the two arms, one which holds a shield, and another that carries a club.

Greek mythology tells two stories - Orion was a famed hunter, and in one story boasted that no creature could kill him. Hera then sent a scorpion to sting the hunter. Orion smashed the animal with his club, but not before he was poisoned.

A different story tells of the love between Orion and the goddess, Artemis. One day, Orion was swimming out in the sea. Apollo, who very much disliked the man, bet his sister that she couldn't hit the object in the sea with her bow. Artemis didn't realize it was her lover, and shot Orion with an arrow. When she later found out what she had done, she honored the hunter by putting him in the sky.

Club Outings & Talks

Walks

Wed Jan 21 Winter trail work at Jim Bailee NR with Toronto Field Naturalists - Derek and Charles

Mon Feb 16th Snowshoe and Nature for families with Friends of Nonquon

March 7 - Birder Feeder tour Derek Connelly

Talks

Note: all talks on a Thursday night at 7 p.m. Bring a mug to enjoy a coffee or tea. We alternate between Uxbridge Senior's Centre and Port Perry – Scugog Library.

Jan 22 - ***Birds of Galapagos*** with Geoff Carpentier - Uxbridge Seniors Centre – this will also be our first Annual General Meeting so come on out and help us celebrate our first year!

Feb 26 – ***The Ever Changing Nature of Lake Scugog*** – Scugog Lake Stewards, Port Perry

Mar 26 - ***Canoeing the Wind River***, ***Yukon*** with Jay Thibert- Uxbridge

April 23 – ***FLAP – The Lights that kill our Songbirds*** – Michael Mesure- Scugog Memorial Library, Port Perry

Beyond Our Borders

International Hawk Migration Week

During the Hawk Migration Association of North America's (HMANA) first annual International Hawk Migration Week, more than 1.2 million migrating hawks, eagles, and vultures were tallied at 100 sites throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. In total 29 raptor species were counted, with the vast majority being Broad-winged Hawks, since the count took place at the peak of their migration.

Is it sexy to poison oneself for love?

A new study reveals that Male great bustards (Otis tarda) eat a diet consisting in part of poisonous beetles, which may actually help them get a date.

Scientists already knew the large birds, which are native to parts of Europe and Asia, snack on toxic insects to clear their guts of certain intestinal parasites, including bacteria, nematodes, and tapeworms.

But the new research, published this week in PLOS ONE, shows that males eat substantially more blister beetles than females, a strategy that makes them appear healthy – and thus sexier – during courtship rituals. If true, the findings may be the first known case of a male "self-medicating" to attract females, according to the study authors.

Photograph by Franz-Josef Kovacs

Baby it's cold outside!

The Andean Hillstar is a tiny miracle of nature that faces death each and every night. Living at altitudes up to 16,400 feet (about 5000 m.), this hummingbird has to adapt to conditions that would kill most birds. First of all, the air is so thin it can't hover effectively like other hummingbirds, so it perches on the

plants and feeds. At night, the temperature drops to about -20^{0}C, so it has to go into a state of torpor where its respiration and metabolic rate drops to near critical levels. In the morning as the temperature of the Alto Plano, where it lives in Bolivia and Peru, rises, it shakes off the cold of the night and resumes as if nothing happened. Next night – same thing!

Remember to always enjoy Nature – because you never know … !

2014 Uxbridge Christmas Bird Count

A balmy day of birding with temperatures reaching +7 C for 30 participants in the field and 19 at the feeders yielded 53 species (ties total found in 2012) for the 10th anniversary of the official Uxbridge Christmas Bird Count. Over 8700 individual birds were recorded - our second highest ever (in 2011 over 10,000 were recorded). Two new species included Swamp Sparrow and a Winter Wren were added to the count which now stands at 79 species since it started. Evening Grosbeaks were also seen after an absence since 2005. Highest counts of Canada Geese, and Trumpeter Swans were recorded though low counts of Mallards and no Black ducks were seen except a lone Black/ Mallard hybrid in count week. High counts of woodpeckers (e.g. Downy, Hairy, Flicker and Red-bellied) were seen although a low count of Pileated was reported. High numbers of chickadees, nuthatches and kinglets were also recorded. Finch numbers were patchy with Snow Buntings being reported as individual birds, only 6 Purple finches were found at one feeder and a flock of 19 Evening Grosbeaks and over 200 Common Redpolls appeared in another flock supporting predictions based on abundant food in the north. A high Great Horned Owl (13) and Screech-Owl (4) count may reflect a higher owling effort with our youngest adult birder Mark Dorriesfield staying up all night counting the hoots! Participation was up at the feeders (19 this year and 12 last) but field watcher numbers stayed the same although there were a few new faces. Thanks to birders from Toronto, Ajax and Whitby, who joined the strong support of birders and feeder watchers from North Durham. Special thanks to Alan and Anne Wells who hosted our potluck supper count wrap up and Kim Adams who patiently inputted data amid the birding heckling and camaraderie.

Uxbridge CBC	Total	Highest Ever Count
Canada Goose	2741	2741
Trumpeter swan	42	42
Mallard	43	169
Mallard x Black Duck	Count week	2
Ring- necked Pheasant	Count week	5
Rough Grouse	17	17
Wild Turkey	85	251
Great Blue Heron	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	6
Cooper's Hawk	2	4
Red-tailed Hawk	36	43
Rough-legged Hawk	1	**2**
American Kestrel	1	4
Merlin	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	4	149
Herring Gull	2	4
Rock Pigeon	650	694
Mourning Dove	302	664
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	4

Great Horned Owl	13	13
Barred Owl	1	2
Belted Kingfisher	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	9	9
Downy Woodpecker	80	80
Hairy Woodpecker	57	**63**
Northern Flicker	3	3
Pileated Woodpecker	4	21
Northern Shrike	3	10
Blue Jay	409	511
American Crow	632	1428
Common Raven	20	38
Black-capped Chickadee	1168	1193
Red-breasted Nuthatch	111	11
White-breasted Nuthatch	85	85
Brown Creeper	8	8
Winter Wren	2	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16	22
American Robin	9	285
European Starling	582	1486
Cedar Waxwing	1	118
American Tree Sparrow	149	554
Song Sparrow	Count week	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	435	875
Snow Bunting	44	1355
Northern Cardinal	59	121
Red-winged Blackbird	2	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	2
Purple Finch	6	14
House Finch	27	193
White-winged Crossbill	1	39
Common Redpoll	367	976
Pine Siskin	5	259
American Goldfinch	386	1739
Evening Grosbeak	19	28
House Sparrow	77	210

By Derek Connelly compiler.

Beaverton Christmas Bird Count – December 30, 2014

This was our 40th year for the Beaverton Count and we celebrated with the largest number of observers in the field and great birding weather – cold, clear and calm. Unfortunately, the number of birds seen isn't always determined by the weather on the day as much as the weather of the past week or month. Cold weather preceding the count created frozen ponds and most of our portion of Lake Simcoe froze as well. The lack of snow cover allowed birds to satisfy their food needs in the woods rather than at feeders where observers could easily count them. Despite these limitations, we had a moderately successful day.

Geoff Carpentier was able to find a corner of Lake Simcoe with open water in the morning and counted large numbers of Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneyes. He also saw 4 kinds of gulls including 2 Bonaparte's Gulls that were seen for only the second time on our count history. Geoff also saw 2 Bald Eagles, down from the 12 that had been seen two days before. Twenty-five other observers were beating the bushes from Beaverton and Woodville down to Sunderland trying to coax passerines out into the open where they could be counted.

Some of the highlights of the day included 4 Snowy Owls, 7 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 12 Common Ravens (a count record), and count week Red-breasted Mergansers and Northern Flicker. We had very good numbers of Black-capped Chickadees, Cardinals and Blue Jays. As always, one measures the count's success on what you didn't see and the misses include Northern Harrier, Eastern Screech-Owl, Horned Lark, Brown Creeper and Song Sparrow.

At the end of the day, we were satisfied to have 44 species (slightly above average) and

the realization that a small patch of open Lake Simcoe put us above average and an almost snowless landscape kept us from achieving greater numbers. Many thanks to the North Durham Naturalists who helped on the day.

Beaverton CBC	Total	Highest Ever Count
Canada Goose	52	1242
Scaup Sp.	CW	
Com. Goldeneye	45	339
Com. Merganser	525	1292
Red-br. Merganser	CW	2
Ruffed Grouse	16	27
Wild Turkey	129	592
Bald Eagle	2	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	6
Cooper's Hawk	2	7
Northern Goshawk	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	27	47
Rough-legged Hawk	6	20
American Kestrel	CW	12
Bonaparte's Gull	2	89
Ring-billed Gull	3	381
Herring Gull	515	846
Great Black-backed Gull	10	10
Rock Pigeon	512	805
Mourning Dove	333	847
Great Horned Owl	4	15
Snowy Owl	4	6
Belted Kingfisher	1	2
Red-bellied Woodp.	7	8
Downy Woodp.	46	74
Hairy Woodpecker	44	60
Northern Flicker	CW	2
Pileated Woodp.	5	15
Northern Shrike	6	14
Blue Jay	419	484
American Crow	329	762
Common Raven	12	12
B. C. Chickadee	879	912
Red-br. Nuthatch	17	34
White-br. Nuthatch	57	69
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2	22
American Robin	1	52
European Starling	465	2529
Cedar Waxwing	20	604
Am. Tree Sparrow	149	461
Dark-eyed Junco	255	375
Snow Bunting	68	4805
Northern Cardinal	58	101
House Finch	25	282
Common Redpoll	96	556
Pine Siskin	8	201
Am. Goldfinch	233	1142
House Sparrow	63	900

By John McLean compiler

Newsletter Editorial Board

Note: All photos and text by Geoff Carpentier unless otherwise stated

Geoff Carpentier – Editor

John McLean – Proof-reader

Nancy Melcher - Proof-reader

For more information about NDN

For more information about North Durham Nature

Visit our website at:

www.northdurhamnatureclub.com

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