The Blue Bill

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President's Page

Kurt Hennige

On December 03, 2014, I attended the Napanee Plains Partner Meeting organized by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Wildlife Preservation Canada, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. At the Napanee Firehall, 26 people gathered, representing 20 different organizations working in the Napanee Plains Area. The Napanee Multi-species Recovery Strategy was given to all participants prior to the meeting.

The purpose of this event was to make organizations aware of each other's mandates and current work priorities within the Napanee Plains area, specifically Alvar habitat and species work. The aim was to discuss overlapping projects between partners and potential future projects, and to create a possible working group of organizations that can share information/work on projects. Equally important was establishing contacts/networking between organizations to increase capacity and to identify opportunities for agencies to work together towards common objectives.

At the meeting, presentations were made by the organizations and a round table discussion followed regarding the recovery strategy. Based on the discussion at the meeting, several topics were of interest to the majority of people. Those included:

- Mapping of protected area(s)
- Bioblitz
- Alvar workshop/conference
- Alvar pamphlets/booklet
- Long-term shrike assessments and landowner contacts.

Why should Napanee Plains Alvars be protected?

- They are globally rare habitats found only in a few places on earth
- They support many rare plants (Juniper Sedge), birds (Loggerhead Shrike) and invertebrates (Juniper Hairstreak)
- They demonstrate how plants and wildlife adapt to living in harsh environments.

With the rapid increase of solar farms in the Napanee Plains, many smaller Alvars– despite containing different rare plants that could be restored by removing invasive plants– are not considered significant wildlife habitat and are being destroyed.

Very few of these Alvars with their own distinctive ecology in the Napanee Plains are protected, and there is little public awareness of their destruction. The increased securement of priority Alvars and a booklet specific to the Napanee Plains Alvars are urgently needed and should be supported by KFN.

Juniper (Olive) Hairstreak

Loggerhead Shrike

Kingston and Area Christmas Counts

Ron D. Weir

The period for carrying out the annual Christmas Counts was 14 Dec 2014 to 05 Jan 2015, which represents fixed dates each year. As usual for this very late autumn and early winter, ice had formed on shallow bays and parts of the St. Lawrence River, but for the most part Lake Ontario was open. Much colder and wintry conditions prevailed well to the north of the Kingston, which presumably was responsible for pushing into our area large numbers of waterfowl in time for Counts. I would like to thank the participants of all the local counts for their efforts often in less than ideal weather. Christmas Counts are a labour of love.

- Shown below in Table 1 are selected statistics for the local counts. Table 2 contains the species totals for the past 23 years. Shown are the long term average species totals that can be compared with the results for this year's Count.

Table 1: Statistics on Individual Counts in 2014 for the Kingston Area

	17 Dec Delta	20 Dec Prince Edward Pt.	14 Dec Kingston	22 Dec **Westport**	18 Dec 1000 Islands	**02 Jan** Amherst Island	21 Dec Napanee	31 Dec Gananoque
Species	41	74	104	42	55	74	66	56
Birds	2,682	10,588	79,629	3,154	7,777	3,564	10,211	7,566
Participants	15	29	49	20	14	36	14	21
Precipitation	Light rain	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
temp low/ ºC	1	-10	0	-6	-1	-4	-6	-13
temp high/ ºC	4	-1	3	-4	-1	-3	-1	-6
Weather	Cloudy	Clear/Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy/Clear	Cloudy/Clear	Clear/Cloudy

Table 2: Twenty-three year Average (* = Count was not done)

Count	**1991**	**92**	**93**	**94**	**95**	**96**	**97**	**98**	**99**	**2000**	**01**	**02**	**03**	**04**	**05**	**06**	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**avg 1991-2014**
PE Point	61	61	64	61	76	67	64	61	80	61	72	58	82	71	76	71	65	63	55	55	69	70	63	74	66
Kingston	95	96	113	99	101	97	106	104	107	102	111	109	103	103	103	104	*	106	101	102	105	108	96	104	103
Westport	37	55	50	46	36	48	45	41	49	44	54	47	*	*	*	52	34	36	33	37	51	47	39	42	44
Napanee	44	46	42	52	52	56	51	38	58	49	50	56	51	58	50	56	51	57	60	59	59	58	51	66	54
1000 Is.	61	55	74	58	53	57	54	56	68	56	61	51	61	57	60	64	60	55	50	63	54	55	55	55	59
Amherst	51	47	51	n/a	54	57	66	57	51	58	71	60	53	36	64	54	54	57	56	57	69	61	54	74	57
Delta										**38**	**37**	**40**	**38**	**43**	**38**	**48**	**40**	**42**	**42**	**40**	**38**	**44**	**41**	**41**	**40****
Gananoque																								**56**	**-**

Shown in Table 3 is a summary of the high species tallies for Ontario during the twelve years 2003 to 2014. The totals are from <<birds.audubon.org/Christmas-bird-count>>. Those marked with an asterisk are from Ontario Birds 'ONTBIRDS'.

Table 3: Comparison of Selected Christmas Counts in Ontario 2003 to 2014

Count	2003	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Blenheim	103	103	111	108	100	115	115	103	108	107	98	?
Long Pt	98	98	105	106	109	105	98	106	111	112	92	107
Kingston	104	104	103	104	Cancelled	106	101	102	105	108	96	104
Pt Pelee	91	91	103	94	98	93	92	96	98	97	91	81*
Hamilton	102	102	100	101	103	103	98	98	105	99	98	99
Toronto	89	89	91	102	81	89	87	93	87	98	97	87
N Falls	95	95	90	99	96	91	95	86	98	92	93	90
Oshawa	84	84	85	98	82	80	86	91	91	95	80	101
Wdhouse	76	76	96	99	76	83	86	82	86	91	92	91

The detailed species list for the local area Christmas Counts is presented in Table 4. Where record numbers of individuals occurred, the number is underlined. The entry cw designates a sighting within the count week, which is defined as three days before and three days after the count day.

Table 4: Kingston Area Christmas Counts 2014-15

Count	17 Dec Delta	20 Dec PE Point	14 Dec Kingston	22 Dec Westport	18 Dec 1000 Is.	02 Jan 2015 Amherst I.	21 Dec Napanee	31 Dec Gananoque
Common Loon	1	3	16	-	1	1	3	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	***1***	-	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	***8***	***8***	-	-	***1***	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	***1***	-	-	-	-	-
Grebe (sp)	-	-	***(2)***	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Corm.	-	***3***	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	-	-	***2***	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	-	cw	1	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	1	-	90	-	-	-
Cackling Goose	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Canada Goose	224	1,013	40,374	387	1900	977	5414	2626
Mute Swan	-	108	126	-	18	8	26	47
Trumpeter Swan	cw	-	-	1	12	-	70	29
Tundra Swan	-	82	1143	-	-	95	178	56
swan (sp)	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Gadwall	16	14	248	-	-	1	14	22
American Wigeon	-	-	***40***	-	-	-	-	13
Am. Black Duck	-	67	906	3	52	19	19	-
Mallard	73	324	9,625	7	1140	253	516	171
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	cw	13	-	-	-	-	7
Green-winged Teal	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	233	***825***	-	-	50	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	2	13	***95***	1	-	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	3243	***2,127***	-	60	10	18	-
Lesser Scaup	-	12	***16***	-	-	-	-	-
Scaup (sp)	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	1	2	-	-		-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	62	10	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	1,872	4554	-	6	34	16	-
Bufflehead	-	72	188	-	1	15	3	8
Common Goldeneye	14	632	1,045	6	47	585	123	42
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hooded Merganser	2	11	***109***	-	5	-	2	35
Common Merganser	65	79	***1109***	16	1429	24	20	935

Count	17 Dec Delta	20 Dec PE Point	14 Dec Kingston	22 Dec Westport	18 Dec 1000 Is.	02 Jan Amherst I.	21 Dec Napanee	31 Dec Gananoque
Red-breasted Merg	2	244	8449	-	12	47	13	77
Ruddy Duck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Duck (sp)	-	30	(250)		7	(75)	-	(300)
American Coot	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	cw	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	7	25	15	13	42	9	8	16
Red-tailed Hawk	29	19	45	12	22	34	29	33
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	10	1	9	23	1	6
Buteo (sp)	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
American Kestrel	-	-	7	-	-	8	2	1
Merlin	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	cw
Gyrfalcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Hawk (sp)	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	1	15	6	10	4	-	5	12
Wild Turkey	159	39	342	181	95	-	52	67
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	8	10	109	6	40	1	420	15
Herring Gull	48	40	135	-	151	20	144	63
Iceland Gull	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Great Black-back. Gull	2	4	15	-	27	-	69	2
gull (sp)	-	3	-	-	16	-	2	30
Rock Pigeon	236	103	924	140	215	60	634	493
Mourning Dove	78	92	460	159	118	119	293	134
Eastern Screech Owl	-	2	***4***	-	-	-	1	1
Great Horned Owl	-	2	3	-	-	1	2	5
Snowy Owl	-	-	48	-	-	10	-	-
Barred Owl	1	2	3	7	-	1	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	1	-	-	10	-	-
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	2
Red headed Woodp.	**-**	**-**	cw	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Red-bellied Woodp.	***1***	***4***	11	***3***	***7***	***5***	***2***	***5***
Yellow-b Sapsucker	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

Yearly List of Birds - KFN 2014

Mark D. Read

There were 272 species of birds seen within the Kingston Area in 2014, a 50km radial circle centred on MacDonald Park, Kingston. Compared with the 34 year average of 279 (1980-2013), 2014 was down on species but certainly an improvement over the low of last year. The distribution over the past 33 years is given in the following table.

Table 1: Annual total bird species for the Kingston Area 1980 to 2013

Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total
1980	278	1990	279	2000	282	2010	281
1981	277	1991	281	2001	285	2011	277
1982	276	1992	281	2002	287	2012	273
1983	282	1993	293	2003	282	2013	264
1984	285	1994	283	2004	280	(2014	272)
1985	271	1995	280	2005	278		
1986	277	1996	285	2006	274		
1987	279	1997	283	2007	272		
1988	270	1998	283	2008	272		
1989	273	1999	278	2009	281		
Av.	277		283		279		274 (273)

One new species, Willow Ptarmigan, was added to the list in 2014 which now stands at 382. This bird, found by Eugene Nichols, was reported from Point Peninsula, Jefferson County, NY on 24th April. Rarities reported during 2014 include Great Cormorant, White Ibis, American Avocet, Acadian Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Northern Wheatear, Lark Bunting, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Other good finds among those species not seen every year were Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Cattle Egret, Willet, Red-necked Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Forster's Tern, Great Gray Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gyrfalcon, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Nelson's Sparrow.

Seen outside, but near, the Kingston circle were several species of interest. A Greater White-fronted Goose and a Ross's Goose were both present at Montario, Jefferson County, NY on 02 Dec. A Glossy Ibis was at the 'Hamilton Wetland', Prince Edward County on 20 July. A Chuck-will's-widow was present on Hilltop Road, Prince Edward County, 19 May – 29 Jun. A Townsend's Solitaire was seen at a property near Sandbanks Provincial Park, Prince Edward County, 16-29 Nov. Finally, a Kirtland's Warbler was present at Fort Drum, Jefferson County, NY, 04-18 Jun.

Table 2. List of bird species seen in the Kingston area during 2014 with date of first sighting and associated observers.

Species	Date	Observer
Snow Goose	15 Mar	MVAB
Brant	06 May	KJH
Cackling Goose	01 Apr	MVAB, KJH
Canada Goose	01 Jan	KFN
Mute Swan	01 Jan	KFN
Trumpeter Swan	05 Jan	SLD, CTH
Tundra Swan	01 Jan	KFN
Wood Duck	01 Feb	BLB
Gadwall	01 Jan	KFN
Eurasian Wigeon	09 Apr	PS
American Wigeon	04 Jan	RDW
American Black Duck	01 Jan	KFN
Mallard	01 Jan	KFN
Blue-winged Teal	05 Apr	DGDR
Northern Shoveler	04 Jan	RDW
Northern Pintail	04 Jan	RDW
Green-winged Teal	27 Mar	CTH
Canvasback	10 Jan	EDB, RPou
Redhead	01 Jan	KFN
Ring-necked Duck	02 Jan	JRB
Greater Scaup	01 Jan	KFN
Lesser Scaup	04 Jan	RDW
King Eider	27 Feb	SLD, CTH
Harlequin Duck	18 Apr	MJP
Surf Scoter	12 Apr	MD
White-winged Scoter	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Black Scoter	04 Jan	RDW
Long-tailed Duck	01 Jan	KFN
Bufflehead	01 Jan	KFN
Common Goldeneye	01 Jan	KFN
Barrow's Goldeneye	12 Apr	MD
Hooded Merganser	01 Jan	KFN
Common Merganser	01 Jan	KFN
Red-breasted Merganser	01 Jan	KFN

Ruddy Duck	11 Apr	EDB, JSB
Ring-necked Pheasant	05 Jan	AA
Ruffed Grouse	01 Jan	MDR
Willow Ptarmigan	24 Apr	EN
Wild Turkey	02 Jan	KFN
Red-throated Loon	09 May	KFN
Common Loon	06 Apr	WTD
Pied-billed Grebe	23 Mar	MDR
Horned Grebe	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Red-necked Grebe	08 Feb	KJH
Double-crested Cormorant	19 Mar	DGDR
Great Cormorant	08 May	BLM, RS, HVZ
American Bittern	13 Apr	JRB
Least Bittern	24 May	EDB
Great Blue Heron	09 Jan	MDR
Great Egret	08 Apr	RPof
Cattle Egret	02 Nov	JRB, MVAB, MDR
Green Heron	11 Apr	MJa
Black-crowned Night-Heron	07 Apr	EDB, MVAB, MDR
White Ibis	24 Aug	RL
Turkey Vulture	20 Jan	CM
Osprey	25 Mar	SED
Golden Eagle	31 Mar	JET
Northern Harrier	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Sharp-shinned Hawk	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Cooper's Hawk	01 Jan	KJH
Northern Goshawk	03 Jan	SED
Bald Eagle	01 Jan	KFN
Red-shouldered Hawk	01 Jan	MEC, LJN
Broad-winged Hawk	18 Apr	PRM
Red-tailed Hawk	01 Jan	KFN
Rough-legged Hawk	01 Jan	JRB
Virginia Rail	26 Apr	GD
Sora	18 Apr	JSB
Common Gallinule	25 Apr	JSB
American Coot	02 Jan	KJH, JRB
Sandhill Crane	31 Apr	RL, FP, NA
American Avocet	08 Nov	RKB, BAH
Black-bellied Plover	17 May	JCa, MDR, AKR
American Golden-Plover	25 Aug	EDB
Semipalmated Plover	11 May	MDR, AKR
Killdeer	23 Feb	JJH

Spotted Sandpiper	26 Apr	KRG
Solitary Sandpiper	06 May	KFN
Greater Yellowlegs	13 Apr	KJH
Willet	22 Aug	KJH
Lesser Yellowlegs	23 Apr	JET
Upland Sandpiper	25 Apr	KJH
Whimbrel	15 Sep	BER
Ruddy Turnstone	26 May	VPM, DVCW
Red Knot	31 May	OFO
Stilt Sandpiper	29 Aug	EDB
Sanderling	06 Jun	JH
Dunlin	17 May	JCa, MDR, AKR
Baird's Sandpiper	22 Aug	MDR
Least Sandpiper	07 May	KFN
White-rumped Sandpiper	31 May	LHB, DJM
Pectoral Sandpiper	21 Apr	OFO
Semipalmated Sandpiper	23 May	KJH
Short-billed Dowitcher	11 May	KFN
Wilson's Snipe	29 Mar	VPM, AKR
American Woodcock	21 Mar	KJH, MDR
Wilson's Phalarope	28 Apr	VPM, AKR
Red-necked Phalarope	17 Aug	MDR
Parasitic Jaeger	21 Sep	AS
Bonaparte's Gull	03 Apr	VPM
Little Gull	10 Apr	JRB
Ring-billed Gull	01 Jan	JRB, SED, PAA
Herring Gull	01 Jan	KFN
Iceland Gull	05 Jan	JRB, MDR
Lesser Black-backed Gull	21 Apr	MWPR
Glaucous Gull	05 Jan	JP
Great Black-backed Gull	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Caspian Tern	10 Apr	PJB
Black Tern	08 May	BLM, RS, HVZ
Common Tern	27 Apr	LO, TR
Forster's Tern	12 Oct	JSB
Rock Pigeon	01 Jan	KFN
Mourning Dove	01 Jan	KFN
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	23 May	PRM
Black-billed Cuckoo	17 May	MVAB
Eastern Screech-Owl	03 Jan	SED
Great Horned Owl	02 Jan	SJC, KJH

Snowy Owl	01 Jan	KFN
Barred Owl	05 Jan	JP
Great Gray Owl	01 Jan	JP, MJR
Long-eared Owl	08 Feb	OFNC
Short-eared Owl	15 Jan	JRB
Northern Saw-whet Owl	24 Feb	JCoo
Common Nighthawk	13 May	TAN
Eastern Whip-poor-will	14 Apr	DO
Chimney Swift	28 Apr	TG
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	08 May	SED
Belted Kingfisher	05 Jan	SLD, CTH
Red-headed Woodpecker	01 Jan	KJH
Red-bellied Woodpecker	01 Jan	JRB, SED, BAH
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	04 Jan	GU
Downy Woodpecker	01 Jan	KFN
Hairy Woodpecker	01 Jan	KFN
Black-backed Woodpecker	14 Dec	EDB
Northern Flicker	03 Jan	VPM
Pileated Woodpecker	02 Jan	SJC, JCG, KJH
American Kestrel	01 Jan	KFN
Merlin	04 Jan	PJB
Gyrfalcon	21 Nov	JRB
Peregrine Falcon	04 Jan	RDW
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May	BER
Eastern Wood-Pewee	10 May	KFN
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	09 May	YS
Acadian Flycatcher	04 Jun	HM
Alder Flycatcher	17 May	JET
Willow Flycatcher	14 May	MDR
Least Flycatcher	01 May	MDR
Eastern Phoebe	31 Mar	RMB
Great-crested Flycatcher	27 Apr	PS
Eastern Kingbird	03 May	RS
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	17 Jun	AKP
Loggerhead Shrike	09 Apr	KJH
Northern Shrike	01 Jan	KFN
White-eyed Vireo	12 Oct	RCA
Yellow-throated Vireo	08 May	KFN
Blue-headed Vireo	24 Apr	JRB, VPM
Warbling Vireo	03 May	RDW
Philadelphia Vireo	12 May	JET
Red-eyed Vireo	09 May	KFN

Blue Jay	01 Jan	KFN
American Crow	01 Jan	KFN
Common Raven	01 Jan	KFN
Horned Lark	06 Jan	JET
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	18 Apr	WTD
Purple Martin	17 Apr	JET
Tree Swallow	29 Mar	JH
Bank Swallow	27 Apr	BC, DDa
Barn Swallow	08 Apr	KJH, DO
Cliff Swallow	17 Apr	JET
Black-capped Chickadee	01 Jan	KFN
Tufted Titmouse	01 Jan	SED
Red-breasted Nuthatch	04 Jan	MDR
White-breasted Nuthatch	01 Jan	KFN
Brown Creeper	04 Jan	MDR
House Wren	10 Apr	JRB
Winter Wren	15 Feb	BGB
Sedge Wren	08 Jun	CJG, KJH, DK
Marsh Wren	28 Apr	JD,GD,SS
Carolina Wren	02 Apr	NLB
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	21 Apr	OFO
Golden-crowned Kinglet	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13 Apr	KFN
Northern Wheatear	21 Sep	AS
Eastern Bluebird	04 Jan	KJH
Veery	29 Apr	VPM
Gray-cheeked Thrush	14 May	TJ
Swainson's Thrush	09 May	RB, KJH, SL
Hermit Thrush	07 Apr	EDB
Wood Thrush	05 May	JCoo
American Robin	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Gray Catbird	03 May	RDW
Brown Thrasher	13 Apr	BAH, TAN
Northern Mockingbird	28 Apr	RS
European Starling	01 Jan	KFN
American Pipit	11 May	KFN
Bohemian Waxwing	13 Oct	GP
Cedar Waxwing	02 Jan	KJH
Lapland Longspur	06 Jan	JET
Snow Bunting	01 Jan	JRB
Ovenbird	29 Apr	DDe
Worm-eating Warbler	10 May	MJP, MB

Louisiana Waterthrush	26 Apr	PJG, VPM, AKR
Northern Waterthrush	28 Apr	BER
Blue-winged Warbler	10 May	PEPtBO
Golden-winged Warbler	08 May	KJH
Black-and-white Warbler	02 May	EDB, CMY
Tennessee Warbler	09 May	RBe, KJH, SL
Orange-crowned Warbler	14 May	TJ
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr	KFN
Mourning Warbler	12 May	TC
Kentucky Warbler	11 May	LB, MJu
Common Yellowthroat	03 May	RDW
Hooded Warbler	09 May	RBe, SL
American Redstart	07 May	KFN
Cape May Warbler	09 May	RBe, SL
Cerulean Warbler	11 May	DDe, PH
Northern Parula	08 May	KFN
Magnolia Warbler	08 May	KJH
Bay-breasted Warbler	09 May	MJR
Blackburnian Warbler	08 May	JRB
Yellow Warbler	24 Apr	GL
Chestnut-sided Warbler	06 May	NLB
Blackpoll Warbler	10 May	WR
Black-throated Blue Warbler	08 May	JRB
Palm Warbler	21 Apr	OFO
Pine Warbler	14 Apr	PRM
Yellow-rumped Warbler	01 Jan	VPM, MDR, AKR
Prairie Warbler	13 May	RBr
Black-throated Green Warbler	30 Apr	JF
Canada Warbler	09 May	RBe, SL
Wilson's Warbler	10 May	RKFE
Yellow-breasted Chat	01 Jun	JCoo
Eastern Towhee	16 Feb	CC
American Tree Sparrow	01 Jan	KFN
Chipping Sparrow	12 Apr	SLD, CTH
Clay-coloured Sparrow	05 May	BLM
Field Sparrow	07 Apr	MDR
Vesper Sparrow	21 Apr	EDB
Lark Bunting	19 Jun	SJ
Savannah Sparrow	09 Apr	EDB, MDR
Grasshopper Sparrow	10 May	KFN
Henslow's Sparrow	27 May	BP
Nelson's Sparrow	21 Sep	MDR

Fox Sparrow	02 Jan	MEC, LJN
Song Sparrow	03 Jan	VPM
Lincoln's Sparrow	03 May	MJP
Swamp Sparrow	07 Apr	MDR
White-throated Sparrow	01 Jan	BGB, SED
White-crowned Sparrow	23 Apr	JCG
Dark-eyed Junco	01 Jan	KFN
Scarlet Tanager	08 May	RBr, BDL
Northern Cardinal	01 Jan	KFN
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	29 Apr	CTH
Indigo Bunting	08 May	RB,SL
Dickcissel	14 May	RKB
Bobolink	06 May	KJH
Red-winged Blackbird	17 Feb	SN
Eastern Meadowlark	22 Mar	TMW
Rusty Blackbird	24 Jan	SF
Common Grackle	01 Feb	JCou
Brown-headed Cowbird	02 Jan	SJC, JCG, KJH
Orchard Oriole	09 May	PEPtBO
Baltimore Oriole	01 May	KJH
Pine Grosbeak	11 Oct	TAN
House Finch	01 Jan	SED
Purple Finch	11 Jan	SLD, CTH
Red Crossbill	02 Nov	RDW
Common Redpoll	02 Jan	SJC, JCG, KJH
Pine Siskin	02 Aug	PJB
American Goldfinch	01 Jan	KFN
Evening Grosbeak	18 Aug	MEC, LJN
House Sparrow	01 Jan	KFN

Mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory: Kingston Region 07-11 Jan 2015

Ron D. Weir

The Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory (MWWI) was carried out throughout North America during January 2015 and 19 different observers surveyed the Kingston region from Ivy Lea, Hill and Wellesley Islands on the eastern side, all the way to Prince Edward Pt. on the western side, and north along the Rideau to Westport. Extensive ice everywhere hampered finding waterfowl. Over the span of a few days, many thousands of waterfowl departed Kingston responding to the deep freeze. From the aerial survey portion, the Canadian Wildlife staff covered the St. Lawrence R. from Ivy Lea to Kingston, offshore sections of Wolfe and Amherst Islands, and the offshore islands and adjacent areas of Waupoos and Prince Edward Point, and the Bay of Quinte. Participants were Shannon Badzinski (CWS), James Barber, Erwin Batalla, Mike Burrell, Alex Batalla, Kevin Bleeks, Hugues Bonin, Mike Burge, Barbara Campbell (CWS), Sharon David, Bill Depeu, Kathy Felkar, Peter Good, Paul Mackenzie, Jay & Bea McMahon, Shawn Meyer (CWS), Mark Read, Bud Rowe, Ron Weir. The results shown in Table 1 below were forwarded to Barbara Campbell of the Canadian Wildlife Service. When the CWS staff flew over the Kingston area, they located some waterfowl beyond the access of the ground observers and these sightings are included in Table 1. The total of 51,129 is made up by 28 species. The tally the 20 Bald Eagles from the land observers is also included in Table 1.

The weekend of the census saw sun and cloudy conditions with intermittent blowing snow. Temperatures varied from -13 ºC to -7 ºC with fairly strong winds from the W-SW. The visibility was good but conditions were cold with uncomfortable wind chill. The results of the survey for all Lake Ontario sites on the Canadian side have been collated by Mr. Glenn Coady of Toronto. That summary is shown as Table 2 that also includes the overall total from Kingston. Areas surveyed along Lake Ontario from east to west were Kingston, Quinte, Presqu'ile, Port Hope, Durham, Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara.

The overall summary for Lake Ontario provided in Table 2 with the compliments of Glenn Coady in Toronto. The distribution of the high numbers in the table is heavily biased towards the western end of the lake.

Thanks to all the KFN members who participated in the annual survey.

Table 1 (next page): Waterfowl Summary for Kingston 07-11 January 2015. All sites were either partially or completely frozen.

Species	Rideau R. Catara R.	Ivy Lea	Howe I.	Kingston	Amh. I.	Wolfe I.	Bath Rd.	Hay Bay	Waupoos	Prince Edward Point	**Bay** of Quinte -Napanee	Totals
Common Loon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Grebe	-	-		-	-	-	1			-		1
Red-necked Gr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cackling Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Canada Goose	900	550	5000	1500	1175	9803	8500	-	2750	150	-	35278
Mute Swan	5	5	-	10	-	5	30	-	4	2	15	76
Tundra Swan	-	40	-	-	-	108	-	-	-	-	-	148
Trumpeter	50	8	8	-	-	18	4	-	-	-	-	88
swan sp.	33	-	-	-	17	290	-	-	262	20	-	(624)
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Gadwall	-	-	-	65	-	35	2	-	-	-	-	102
Amer. Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Black Duck	-	3	-	45	-	47	20	-	-	2	-	117
Mallard	-	127	-	1200	42	265	150	-	-	15	-	1799
N. Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Pintail	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
(dabblers)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	1	25	-	-	135	-	-	-	-	161
Ring-n. Duck	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	25	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	80
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
White-w. Sc.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	7
Long-t. Duck	-	-	60	122	585	10	-	-	-	6445	-	7222
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	52	2	3	-	-	25	-	82
Com Golden.	-	228	12	25	275	122	110	-	-	125	-	897
Hooded Merg.	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Comm. Merg.	-	323	25	67	111	275	25	-	-	2900	-	3726
Red-br Merg.	-	25	2	-	61	2	-	-	-	6	-	96
merganser (sp)	-	318	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	318
Amer Coot	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
divers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(250)	-	(250)
Totals	990	6,577	5,108	3,134	2,318	11,037	8,984	-	3,016	9,698	17	51,129
Party hours	2	3	3	9	3	4	5	-	-	4	1	34
Observers	2	3	1	4	1	2	3	-	-	3	2	21
Bald Eagle	-	3a	3a	1a,1u	2a,1u	3a,1i	1i	-	-	1a,1u	1a,1u	20

Species	Kingston	Quinte	Presqu'ile	Port Hope	Durham	Toronto	Hamiton	Niagara	Total
Red-throated Loon						1	1	4	6
Common Loon	1					2	1		4
Pied-billed Grebe									
Horned Grebe	1				1	2	1	1	6
Red-necked Grebe	1					1			2
Double-crested Cormorant				1		2	49	2	54
Tundra Swan	148					1			149
Trumpeter Swan	88					168	150		406
Mute Swan	76		265	2	3	180	92		618
Greater White-fronted Goose									
Snow Goose	1					3			4
Brant									
Canada Goose	35278	477	448	2111	2637	27899	8488	1580	78918
Cackling Goose	3					3			6
Wood Duck	2					1			3
Green-winged Teal						1	5		6
American Black Duck	117	7		31	20	261	169	37	642
Mallard	1799	450		1025	137	8707	2944	753	15815
Northern Pintail	2					7	1		10
Northern Shoveler						2	135		137
Gadwall	102				11	648	23		784
Eurasian Wigeon									
American Wigeon	2					14	2		18
Canvasback							185	1	186
Redhead	161			26	1	856	17	16	1077
Ring-necked Duck	30						25		55
Greater Scaup	80		170	36	362	21670	2087	1805	26210
Lesser Scaup	3					29	249	1	282
Scaup sp.			57			3			60
King Eider						1			1
Harlequin Duck						7	1		8
Long-tailed Duck	7222	13	1438	116	124	3824	7691	22765	43193
Black Scoter									
Surf Scoter	1					8	95		104
White-winged Scoter	7			2	7	59	558	1186	1819
Common Goldeneye	897	10	503	517	1437	2395	3090	2729	11578
Barrow's Goldeneye									
Bufflehead	82	1	20	24	224	907	301	529	2088
Hooded Merganser	6					12	88	1	107
Common Merganser	3726			27	31	264	578	535	5161
Red-breasted Merganser	96	12	1	138	720	847	222	1328	3364
Ruddy Duck						2	138		140
American Coot	5					3	57	2	67
Swan sp.	624					2			626
Merganser sp.	318								318
Duck sp.	250	15				3		200	468
Mallard X Black Duck						16	18		34
Total Birds	51129	985	2902	4056	5715	68811	27461	33475	194534
Total Species	**28**	**7**	**7**	**13**	**14**	**34**	**30**	**18**	**36**
Participants	21	1	4	8	5	31	15	11	96
Party-hours	34	7	8	11	12	61	18.75	15.5	167.25
Bald Eagle	20	3	1		1	4	11	9	49

Table 2: Lake Ontario Mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory Compiled by Glenn Coady

Kingston Region Birds – Winter 2014/15 (Dec 1st – Feb 28th)

Mark D. Read

The KFN reporting area is centred on MacDonald Park, Kingston and extends for a radial distance of 50km. An interactive map showing the KFN circle is available on the website. If errors are noted or significant observations omitted in the following report, please do contact me and I will update accordingly. We also encourage you to submit ***all*** future sightings, so that a better understanding of our region's birdlife can be achieved. Members already using eBird can very easily share their sightings with 'Kingston FN'. Alternatively, please email, phone or post records directly to me (contact details are found inside the front cover).

In total, **127 species of bird** were recorded in our region during the reporting period, one up on last year's total of 126. The vast majority of sightings were obtained from eBird – 65% of which were shared with the KFN account. In total, more than 130 observers logged 1736 checklists, equating to almost 13,100 sightings. Just 77 of those checklists were received via phone/email/word of mouth, further indicating the popularity of eBird. Over 254,000 individual birds were recorded, though many of these were, of course, the same birds seen on subsequent days.

The winter of 2014/15 was another exceptionally cold one though, unlike last year, the cold didn't really begin to bite until early January. Virtually all water was frozen, only the locks of the Rideau system remaining ice-free. Finches were better represented this winter though some, like Evening Grosbeak, had already moved on/through by the end of November. Bohemian Waxwings showed up towards the end of the winter. Snowy Owls had another good season and, unlike last year, Short-eared Owls were more widespread. Here are the highlights of Winter 2014/15:

Snow Goose: There were several records but most referred to the same individual seen at/near Bath from 4 Dec (BER) to 11 Jan (RDW). Also 2 on Wolfe Island 7 Dec (RoM, MWPR), 2 at Amherstview 8-9 Dec (BER, EDB, MDR), 1 on Howe Island on 22 Dec (BLM) and a high count of 525 at Westcott Beach SP, Jefferson County, NY on 2 Dec (JSB).

Cackling Goose: A single bird was seen at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons on 9 Dec (EDB) and 3 were noted at Bath on 11 Jan (RDW).

Mute Swan: Widespread throughout the region. By far the highest count was the 252 counted on Lake Ontario near Kaiser Crossroad, Prince Edward County on 29 Jan (MDR).

Trumpeter Swan: Regular along the Rideau Canal, the highest count this winter was 65 at Chaffey's Locks on 1 Feb (MDR). Other high counts were 51 at Outlet (Charleston Lake) on 27 Jan (DLFF) and 50 at Lower Brewers Locks on 10 Jan (EDB).

Tundra Swan: This species was present in good numbers throughout

December and early January, with a high of 338 recorded on Wolfe Island (CBC Sector 1) on 14 Dec (JRB, VPM, AKR). The last report was of 3 on Lake Ontario near Kaiser Crossroad, Prince Edward County on 29 Jan (MDR).

Wood Duck: A pair was present throughout the winter period at Springside Park, Napanee (many observers).

Eurasian Wigeon: The male bird first found on 28 Nov in Kingston's Inner Harbour was last seen on 1 Dec (many observers).

American Wigeon: Numbers dropped during the period from a high of 150 in Kingston's Inner Harbour on 1 Dec (JRB), with the last 2 seen at Invista on 10 Jan (RDW).

Northern Shoveler: The last record was of two birds noted at Belle Park on 1 Dec (EDB, MDR).

Northern Pintail: Just a handful of records were received with the last being a pair at Invista, Kingston on 10 Jan (RDW).

Canvasback: The 2 birds seen near Gananoque on 11 Dec (JET) were the only birds seen all winter.

Redhead: Numerous observations during the early winter with high counts of 350 in Cataraqui Bay on 9 Dec (MDR) and again on 14 Dec (WTD, MDR) dropping to just 4 sightings in February.

Ring-necked Duck: A total of 100 birds were counted in Cataraqui Bay on 7 Dec (JRB), where birds remained until mid-January. The last record was of 26 seen at the upper reaches of the Inner Harbour, below the 401, on 1 Feb (MDR).

Greater Scaup: Widespread throughout the region, though perhaps less so than last winter. The maximum count of 3240 was recorded at Prince Edward Point on 20 Dec (TLH, PBH).

Lesser Scaup: Just 15 records of this species, mostly from early December. The highest count was 10 seen on 1 Dec in the Inner Harbour (EDB, MDR).

Harlequin: A female seen at Grass Point SP, Jefferson County, NY on 23 Jan (JSB) had apparently been present for at least a week.

Surf Scoter: Just 2 records, both from Prince Edward Point: 1 on 20 Dec (TLH, PBH) and another on 11 Jan (RDW).

White-winged Scoter: Unusual records were 1 at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour 5-12 Jan (JRB, MDR *et al*.) and 1 at the Glenora ferry 20-26 Feb (JJH, BER).

Black Scoter: Two records, the first of 3 at Westcott Beach SP, Jefferson County NY on 2 Dec (JSB) and the second of 1 at Prince Edward Point on 20 Dec (TLH, PBH).

Ruddy Duck: Two birds lingered in Kingston's Inner Harbour to 1 Dec (many observers) but the last was of 1 on Wolfe Island on 7 Dec (RoM, MWPR).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Scarce this winter with just 2 records from Amherst Island, 19 Dec (JET) and 24 Jan (BER), and 2 from Jefferson County NY at Point Peninsula Bird CA on 25 Jan (MaB) and Chaumont on 7 Feb (LeE).

Wild Turkey: Widespread. The high count of the season was an impressive 450 recorded on Wolfe Island 14 Jan (BLM).

Red-throated Loon: A lone bird at Pillar Point, Jefferson County, NY, 14 Dec (JSB) is the only record.

Common Loon: The last birds of the season were 2 seen along the Bath shoreline on 12 Jan (KJH).

Horned Grebe: A few birds lingered into early January but the last was 1 seen 11 Jan at Bath (RDW).

Red-necked Grebe: Plenty of single birds early in the season at several locations including Kingston and Amherst Island but the last was seen at Prince Edward Point on 11 Jan (RDW).

Double-crested Cormorant: The last record was of 4 birds at Cressy Point, Prince Edward County on 13 Dec (BER).

Great Blue Heron: The last record for the area was an immature bird on Wolfe Island on 13 Jan. It was found dead a couple of days later (MDR).

Turkey Vulture: Just one report of a single bird at Collins Creek on Perth Road on 9 Dec (EDB).

Golden Eagle: Just 1 record from a fairly typical location, Chaffey's Lock Road, were 1 was seen on 22 Feb (SLD, CTH).

Northern Harrier: Widespread reports earlier in the season but absent by February.

Cooper's Hawk/Sharp-shinned Hawk: Both species were reported throughout the winter but Cooper's outnumbered Sharp-shinned by 4:1.

Northern Goshawk: Just 2 reports; an immature at Lemoine Point CA, Kingston on 9 Dec (WTD) and 1 at Canandaigua, Jefferson County, NY on 22 Feb (LiD). A third report of a bird at Newboro on 7 Jan was just outside the circle (NLB).

Rough-legged Hawk: A good year for this species with the majority of records coming from the islands. A total of 26 birds were counted on Amherst Island on 15 Dec (BLM).

American Coot: Sightings came in from just two locations; Invista and the Inner Harbour. Invista was most consistent and held birds all winter. A maximum of 30 was seen at Doug Fluhrer Park on 2 Dec (JET).

Sandhill Crane: The two birds seen flying low over Beechgrove Complex, Kingston on 1 Dec constitute the only record (TAN).

Bonaparte's Gull: The last record was of 23 birds at the Montreal Street Apartments, Kingston on 1 Dec (EDB, MDR).

Iceland Gull: Several records early in the winter from Kingston, Bath and Lansdowne with the last being 2 birds at Violet Dump on 13 Jan (PJG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A single bird at Cataraqui Bay, Kingston (MDR, KTN) on 13 Dec and another on Amherst Island on 14 Dec (SLD, CTH) are the only records.

Glaucous Gull: Several records earlier in the season, particularly from Heritage Point, Bath but the 5 at Lansdowne Dump on 20 Jan (JET) were the maximum recorded.

Snowy Owl: Another good year for this species though perhaps less widespread than last. High counts were 20 on Wolfe Island on 22 Dec (BLM) and 22 on Wolfe Island on 14 Jan (BLM). The high count for Amherst Island was 12, seen on 15 Dec (BLM).

Long-eared Owl: A poor year with no more than 2 birds recorded during the winter period – all from Amherst Island.

Short-eared Owl: A better year than last with fairly consistent sightings from both Wolfe and Amherst islands throughout the winter period. The highest count was of 10 birds seen on Amherst Island on 2 Jan (ZeC, ReS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A poor year for this species with just 1 bird seen in the Owl Woods on rare occasions. Another was found freshly dead near Bath on 9th Feb (MDR).

Belted Kingfisher: This species was fairly well documented in December and early January. The last sighting was of 1 at Upper Brewers Locks on 1 Feb (EPB, MVAB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: A female was seen fairly frequently at a feeder near Bedford Mills from 28 Dec to 4 Feb (MEC, LJN). Another was seen at Ivy lea on 8 Feb (KFN).

Black-backed Woodpecker: A female, first seen on 14 Dec at Little Cataraqui Creek CA (EDB *et al*.), was last reported 27 Jan (EDB).

Northern Flicker: Most of the 14 widespread reports came in from earlier in the season but one bird was seen throughout the winter at Lemoine Point CA (many observers).

Gyrfalcon: A grey morph, seen and photographed, on Wolfe Island on 22 Jan (RoB) was not relocated despite a good search.

Peregrine Falcon: Almost all sightings came from Kingston and, other than one report of 2 birds on 17 Feb (MDR), all pertain to singles.

Northern Shrike: Not an easy bird to find this year, with no consistent sightings from any one specific location, though 'Amherst Island' did fairly well. A total of 28 sightings were received.

Horned Lark: Widespread observations throughout the winter but high counts came during February with the arrival of spring migrants – 80 were counted on Wolfe Island on both 11 and 18 Feb (MDR).

Tufted Titmouse: Just one sighting was received from within the circle of a bird near Henderson, Jefferson County, NY on 22 Jan (KaS). Another sighting along the Thousand Islands Parkway on 23 Feb was less than 1 km outside the circle (JVW).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Again rather scarce this winter with the only consistent location being Tree Frog Farm, Verona where a high count of 8 on 26 Dec (TAN) was significant.

Winter Wren: This species was seen at just 3 locations, with 2 birds at Big Sandy Bay on 14 Dec (JVW); 2 at Little Cataraqui Creek CA on 14 Dec (EDB *et al*.), and 1 at Tree Frog Farm, also on 14 Dec (TAN). A bird continued to be seen at Little Cataraqui Creek throughout the winter.

Carolina Wren: One bird was seen on several dates in the general vicinity of the Tett Centre, Kingston throughout the winter (JCG, MDR), with other records from 100 Ft Park on 7 Dec (JRB, MDR), Wolfe Island on 14 Dec (JRB, VPM, AKR), Cartwright's Point on 15 Jan (BER), and Ray's Bay, Jefferson County, NY on 19 Jan (JSB).

Eastern Bluebird: Birds were seen on 2nd Concession, Amherst Island on several dates from 14 Dec (SLD, CTH) when 6 birds were seen until 2 Jan (JRB, MDR) when just 2 birds remained. Another bird was at Prince Edward Point on 20 Dec (TLH).

Hermit Thrush: Several reports this winter: 1 at Amherst Island Marshes on 8 Dec (KFN), 2 at Prince Edward Point on 13 Dec (BER), 1 on Amherst Island on 13 Dec (JoC, WVH), 1 on Amherst Island on 2 Jan (KFN), 1 downtown Kingston on 14 Jan (PRM), and 1 at Little Cataraqui Creek CA on 31 Jan (CPR).

Brown Thrasher: One individual overwintered at Camden East and was seen from 4 Dec to 25 Jan at least (WVB).

Northern Mockingbird: Just one record of a single bird on Howe Island on 16 Dec (BER).

Bohemian Waxwing: Just 6 records, though more were seen into March: 4, Prince Edward Point, 20 Dec (TLH); 1, Prince Edward Point, 15 Jan (PBH); 25, Upper Brewers Locks, 1 Feb (EPB, MVAB); 47, Graham's Road, 2 Feb (SLD, CTH); 1, Tree Frog Farm, Verona, 4 Feb; and 1, on Washburn Road, Sunbury, 14 Feb (MVAB).

Lapland Longspur: A fairly good winter for this species with the majority of records in January and early February. All but 4 records came from Wolfe Island where 45 were seen on 17 Jan (KJH).

Snow Bunting: A good winter with widespread and consistent sightings. Two high counts came in on the same date – 14 Jan – when 785 were seen at Cape Vincent (BiP) and a further 355 were seen on Wolfe Island (MDR).

Orange-crowned Warbler: There were several records of this species across Ontario this winter and we had our own on County Rd 8, Prince Edward County on 13 Dec (BER).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Just 4 records this winter: 1, Invista, 14 Dec (WTD); 1, Heritage Point, Bath, 16 Dec (MDR); 2, Prince Edward Point, 20 Dec (TLH); and 1, Napanee CBC south sector, 21 Dec (KSB, KJH).

Eastern Towhee: One bird was recorded on the Napanee CBC on 21 Dec (BLB *et al*.) and another on Amherst Island on 14 Jan (DIG).

Field Sparrow: A single bird was seen on County Rd 8, Prince Edward County on 13 Dec (BER).

Savannah Sparrow: Five birds were seen on Wolfe Island on 14 Dec (KJH), 1 in the Napanee CBC south sector on 21 Dec (KSB, KJH), and 1 on Ridge Road, Napanee (CJG, LNR, MDR) on 21 Dec. A further 4 birds (possibly those of December) were seen on Wolfe Island from 14-31 Jan (MDR *et al*.).

Fox Sparrow: Just one record of a single bird at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre on 14 Dec (CHB, MAJ).

Swamp Sparrow: Reported from Amherst Island, Elginburg, Marshlands CA and Napanee CBC.

White-crowned Sparrow: Just 2 reports with 1 bird seen 9-10 Jan at Camden East (BLB) and another on Amherst Island on 14 Jan (BJL).

Dark-eyed Junco: An 'Oregon' form, showing orange flanks, present at a feeder near Camden East from 31 Oct was last seen on 25 Jan (WVB).

Eastern Meadowlark: Two records were received from Wolfe Island on 14 Dec (KFN) and another bird was seen on Amherst Island on 6 Jan (ADH).

Rusty Blackbird: One bird was regular at a feeder near Gananoque from 29 Dec onwards (JET) and up to 10 birds were present at a feeder on Howe Island from 2 Feb (SED). Other late winter records included 2 on Wolfe Island 15-20 Feb (MDR *et al*.).

Common Grackle: A single bird was seen on Amherst Island on 6 Dec (MJO, MDO); 1 was on Howe Island 13-16 Dec (SED *et al*.); 1 was on Amherst Island on 1 Jan (ReS, ZeC); and 1 was at a feeder near Gananoque 23 Jan (JET).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Seen throughout the winter at several locations with high counts of 50 near Elginburg on 23 Jan (EDB) and 30 at Lansdowne on 1 Feb (MDR).

Purple Finch: All but 1 record came in during December. On 11 Jan, 3 birds were seen at Prince Edward Point (RDW).

Common Redpoll: A good winter for this species with widespread sightings, particularly as the season progressed. A high count of 225 was made on Amherst Island on 15 Dec (BLM).

Hoary Redpoll: Birds were seen at just 3 locations; 1-2 birds on Washburn Road, Sunbury, 5 Jan onwards (MVAB *et al*.); 1-2 birds near Bedford Mills, 25 Jan – 6 Feb; and 1 bird near Millhaven 7 & 22 Feb (KJH).

Pine Siskin: A good winter for this species, particularly earlier on with a

high count of 40 birds seen at Hay Bay on 21 Dec (CJG, LNR, MDR).

Evening Grosbeak: There was just a single record of 1 bird at a feeder near Gananoque on 2 Dec (JET).

Other species observed during the reporting period: Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mallard, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Observers: Bonnie L. Bailey (BLB), Erwin D. Batalla (EDB), James R. Barber (JRB), Erica P. Barkley (EPB), North Leeds Birders (NLB), Roland Bastarache (RoB), Kevin Bleeks (KSB), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger (JSB), Carolyn H. Bonta (CHB), William V. Bradford (WVB), Matthew Brown (MaB), Mike V. A. Burrell (MVAB), Mark E. Chojnacki (MEC), John Cooper (JoC), Zeke Cornell (ZeC), Sharon E. David (SED), Stephanie Davison (SLD), Mireille Delisle-Oldham (MDO), William T. Depew (WTD), Linda Dietsche (LiD), Lee Ellsworth (LeE), Dawne L. F. Fiegen (DLFF), D. Ida Gavlas (DIG), Peter J. Good (PJG), Janis C. Grant (JCG), Chris J. Grooms (CJG), Jeff J. Haffner (JJH),Chris Heffernan (CTH), Kurt J. Hennige (KJH), William von Herff (WVH), Tyler L. Hoar (TLH), Peter Hogenbirk (PBH), Aaron Hywarren (ADH), Michael A. Johnson (MAJ), Bonnie Livingstone (BJL), Rory Mackay (RoM), V. Paul Mackenzie (VPM), Paul R. Martin (PRM), Brian L. Morin (BLB), Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), Kingston Teen Naturalists (KTN), Linda J. Nuttal (LJN), Todd Norris (TAN), Michael Oldham (MJO), Bill Purcell (BiP), Mark D. Read (MDR), Bruce E. Ripley (BER), Chris P. Robinson (CPR), Arthur K. Rowe (AKR), Lesley Rudy (LNR), Michael W. P. Runtz (MWPR), Karen Soule (KaS), Rebecca Suomala (ReS), James E. Thompson (JET), Ron D. Weir (RDW), Josh Van Wieren (JVW).

eBird 202

Mike Burrell

eBird 202: Advanced tips and tricks

In eBird 101 (*Bluebill* 61(2): 63-73) we showed you the basics behind submitting checklists and exploring the data. In the second instalment, eBird 202 (*Bluebill* 61(3): 125-129), we built on what we learned in eBird 101 to learn some advanced options and tips when entering data. In eBird 202, we'll continue to build on what we have learned previously, with an emphasis on some of the less known options and tips for getting more out of your eBird experience.

Location management

In eBird 101 we showed you how to select a location for your checklists. Over time, you can build up quite a list of locations and it is a good idea to do some house keeping once and a while. For this, you'll want to go to your locations list, which is accessible by clicking "My eBird" and then selecting "Manage my locations" from the right-hand margin or by going directly: http://ebird.org/ebird/MyEBird?cmd=manageLocations

Hotspots

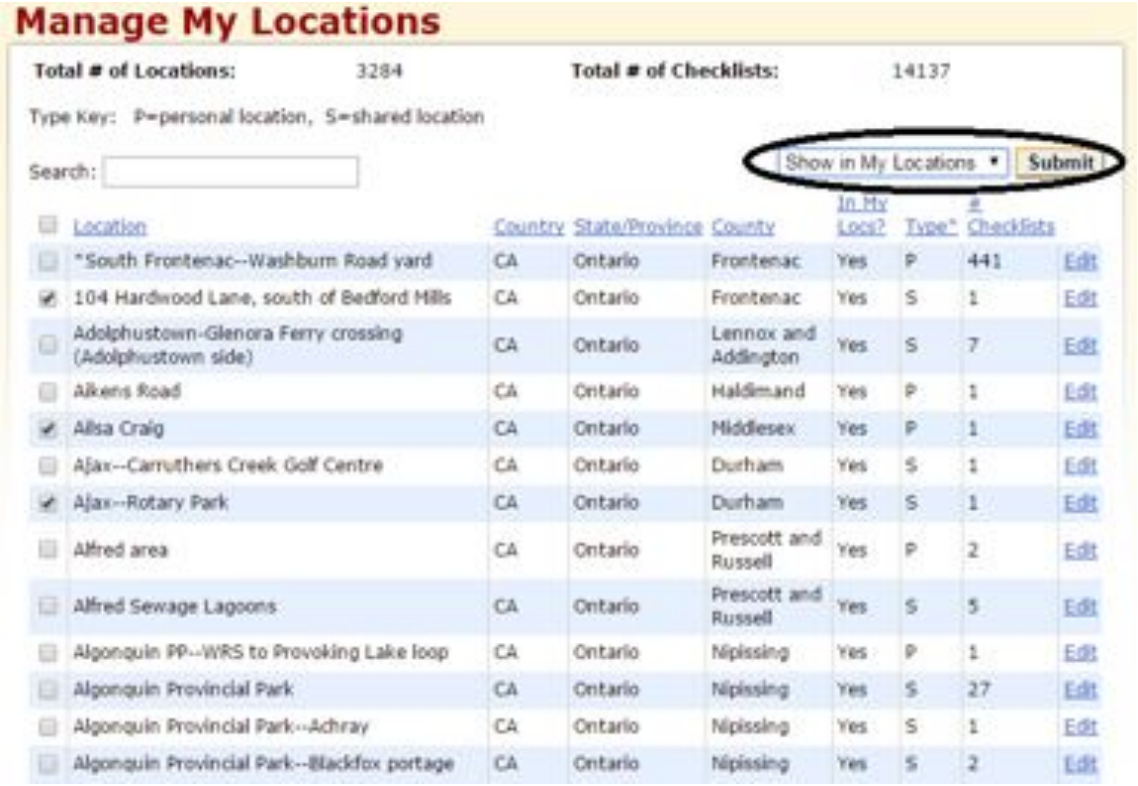
The most common form of house-keeping involves keeping your location list up-to-date with hotspots. The term Hotspot is a bit of misnomer that causes a fair bit of confusion. Hotspots aren't necessarily "hot", but rather they represent birding locations that are likely to be visiting by more than one or two birders. They could be a popular stretch of road (generally less than 10 kilometres in length), a park, a lookout onto a lake, or a field that has a good shorebird or waterfowl spot in it. The main point of hotspots is to consolidate eBird data from multiple accounts into a single map location. That being said, new hotspots are constantly being created in the system and you likely have some locations in your account that should be turned into, or merged with, hotspots.

When you're looking at your list of locations (Figure 1) you can look at the "Type" column (note that you can sort your list by any of the columns by clicking the header) – "P" are personal locations and "S" are shared locations.

Suggesting a personal location for hotspot status

If you see any personal locations that should be hotspots you can click the checkbox to the left of the location name and then select "suggest as hotspots" from the options dropdown menu (circled in Figure 1). Once you have selected the option to suggest these sites as hotspots, click the "submit button". This is a good way to submit several locations at once as a hotspot. Once a location has been submitted as a hotspot it goes through a review process by a volunteer to make sure it is appropriate to be turned into a hotspot that will be available to everyone.

Another way to suggest a personal location as a hotspot is to click the blue "edit" button that corresponds to that location in your location list. This will open up the location page for that location (Figure 2). From there, you can click the "Suggest as Hotspot" link and you are done. This approach works well, but is slower if you have multiple locations to suggest.



Manage My Locations

Total # of Locations: 3284 **Total # of Checklists:** 14137

Type Key: P=personal location, S=shared location

Search:

Show in My Locations Submit

	Location	Country	State/Province	County	In My Locs?	Type*	# Checklists	
	*South Frontenac--Washburn Road yard	CA	Ontario	Frontenac	Yes	P	441	Edit
✓	104 Hardwood Lane, south of Bedford Mills	CA	Ontario	Frontenac	Yes	S	1	Edit
	Adolphustown-Glenora Ferry crossing (Adolphustown side)	CA	Ontario	Lennox and Addington	Yes	S	7	Edit
	Aikens Road	CA	Ontario	Haldimand	Yes	P	1	Edit
✓	Ailsa Craig	CA	Ontario	Middlesex	Yes	P	1	Edit
	Ajax--Carruthers Creek Golf Centre	CA	Ontario	Durham	Yes	S	1	Edit
✓	Ajax--Rotary Park	CA	Ontario	Durham	Yes	S	1	Edit
	Alfred area	CA	Ontario	Prescott and Russell	Yes	P	2	Edit
	Alfred Sewage Lagoons	CA	Ontario	Prescott and Russell	Yes	S	5	Edit
	Algonquin PP--WRS to Provoking Lake loop	CA	Ontario	Nipissing	Yes	P	1	Edit
	Algonquin Provincial Park	CA	Ontario	Nipissing	Yes	S	27	Edit
	Algonquin Provincial Park--Achray	CA	Ontario	Nipissing	Yes	S	1	Edit
	Algonquin Provincial Park--Blackfox portage	CA	Ontario	Nipissing	Yes	S	2	Edit

Figure 1: "My locations" list. Note the black circle over the options drop-down menu.

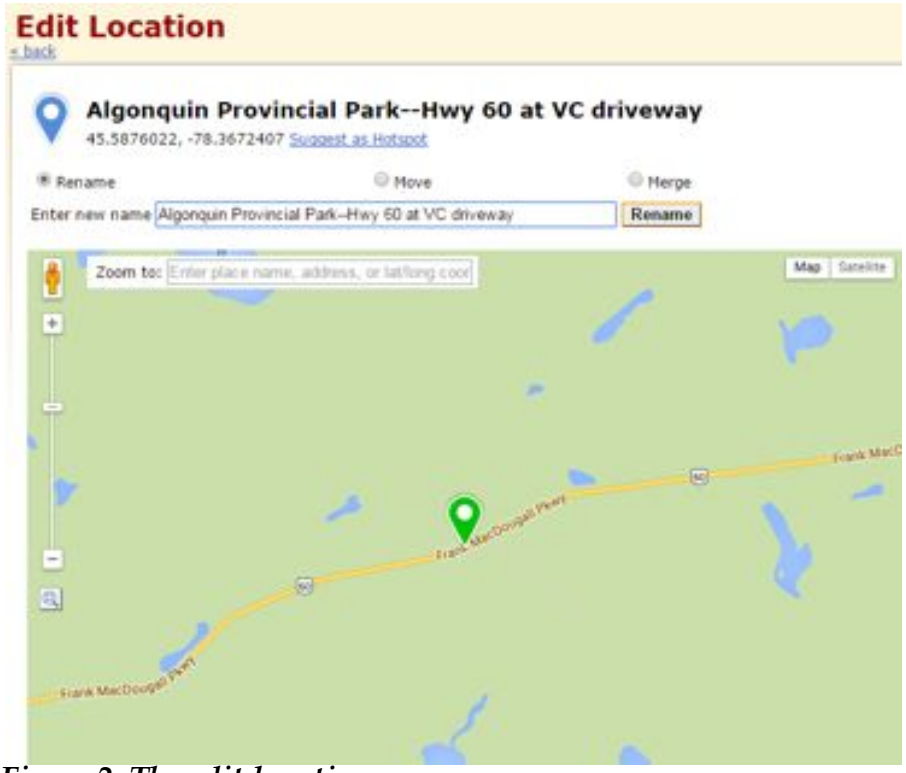


Figure 2: The edit location screen

A note about location ownership

Whoever creates a location is the "owner" of that location. Only the owner can change the official name, move, merge, or suggest a location as a hotspot. So that means that if I create a location, then share a checklist with someone else, they will have that location in their account but will not be able to suggest it as a hotspot. If you have a shared location in your account you can open the edit location screen for it and below the location name there will be text like the following "Shared location owned by XXXX" to indicate who the owner is. If you think a shared location should be moved, merged, or made into a hotspot, you'll have to get in touch with the owner and ask them to do it. All hotspots are technically "owned" by eBird, so only an eBird administrator can move, merge, or change the official name.

De-cluttering your location list

As time goes on, you'll inevitably accumulate a large list of locations. This can grow to the point that it makes finding a particular location to submit data for or to explore becomes difficult. Below are some tips for "cleaning up" your list of locations.

Renaming/re-ordering

One trick is to re-order your location list. To do this, you just have to rename the locations, since eBird automatically sorts your location list in alphabetic order. If you have a couple locations that you regularly submit data for, try adding an asterisk (*) in front of the location name; this way it will move to the top of your list. You can get even more complex using a hierarchy of 2, 3, or even 4 asterisks at the front of the location name to sort your favourite sites to the top of your list. Likewise, you could add a "zz" to the front of a location name if you don't want to see it, so that it appears at the very bottom of your list. Some people get quite complex with their location naming conventions adding country, province, and even county codes to the front of their location names so they sort out nicely (for example, adding "CA-ON-FRON" in front of a Kingston location). Whatever you decide, renaming locations is a great way to stay organized. Keep in mind that even if you don't own a location (i.e. a hotspot) you can still rename it – the renaming will only affect how the location appears in your account so everyone else still sees the original.

To rename a location, find it in your list of location and click the "edit" button to open the edit locations screen (Figure 2). From there, make sure the "Rename" radial button is selected, then edit the name in the box and click the "Rename" button to the right. Make sure the name in bold at the top of the screen changes to your new name before closing the window or clicking the back button.

Merging

It's quite possible that you will accidentally create a duplicate location. For your sanity and to keep the eBird maps as tidy as possible, these are important to correct. To merge one location into another, open the edit location screen for the location you don't want to keep. In the example below, I accidentally created a location for Marshlands Conservation Area, even though there is already a nearby hotspot for the same location, called "Kingston—

Marshlands CA". Whenever possible, it is best to use a hotspot so that your data for that location is combined with everyone else's data. Once you have opened the edit location screen (Figure 2), select the "Merge" radial button (Figure 3). By clicking the merge option, eBird will display your location with a green pinpoint and other nearby locations either as blue (personal) or flaming orange (hotspot). Find the location you want to merge your location with, click it and the text "Merge # checklists with [destination location name]" will appear. In this example the text reads "Merge 1 checklists with Kingston—Marshlands CA", which tells me that I had one checklist in my duplicate location and the destination location is titled "Kingston—Marshlands CA". Confirm that the location to merge with is the one you wanted. In most cases, you'll want to delete your location after you have merged the data with the destination location, so the "Delete after merging" checkbox is checked. This just means that once all of your checklists are switched to the destination location eBird will delete your old location. If everything looks good, go ahead and click the "Merge" button and you are done!

NOTE: if the merge option does not appear, it means one of the following things:

a) You are not the owner of the location; only location owners can merge locations
b) There are no checklists associated with this location. If that's the case, there will be an option to just delete the location.

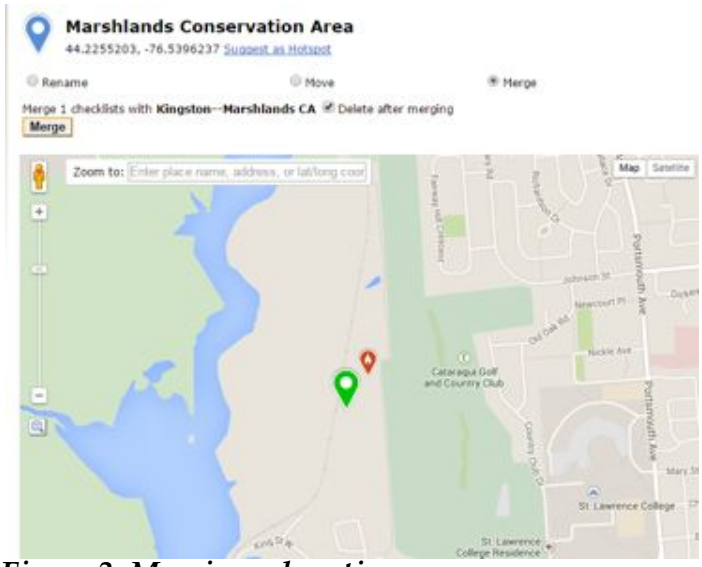


Figure 3: Merging a location

Hiding locations

As your eBird entries continue to build, your list of locations will inevitably grow – but many of these locations are unlikely to be used ever again, especially if you regularly travel to new places for birding trips. eBird offers a way to hide locations from the list of locations that you use for data entry. This is really handy because you could remove all but your most visited locations, so that when you go to enter your data, you can quickly find the location in your "my location" list in step 1 of data entry. If you can't find a location in the list, they will still show up on your map and can be selected that way.

To hide a location from your location list, open up the "manage my locations" (Figure 1). Select the locations you want to hide by checking of their checkboxes (Tip: you can select a block of locations by clicking the first one in the list, then holding the shift key and clicking the last in the list; this will select all locations between the first and last that you clicked). Once you have selected the locations you want to

hide, select "hide from my locations" from the options dropdown menu (circled in Figure 1) and then click the "submit" button. You can reverse this decision by selecting the locations and then selecting "show in my locations" from the dropdown menu. Whether a location is shown in your location list or not is indicated with a yes or no in the "In my Locs" column.

Preferences

eBird offers a variety of ways for you to customize your eBird experience. Below we'll go over a few of the helpful options that can be set using the eBird preferences settings. To open the Preferences menu, sign in to eBird, and there will be a "Preferences" link at the top of the screen beside your name.

On the preferences page, you can set all sorts of things; most of these are self-explanatory so have a look. A couple important ones are the ability to hide or show your checklist comments. Checklist comments are the ones you enter on the same screen as the date and your effort. These typically include details about things like the weather, where exactly you were, people you were with, etc. By default, these comments are private (only visible to you and eBird reviewers) but if you regularly put important information in here that you want to be visible to everyone else on eBird, by all means, select the option to show your checklist comments. You should note that species comments (the comments you put in the notes section for each species on your checklist) are always visible to the public.

On the preferences page you can also toggle your privacy, such as opting out of the "Top100" or hiding your name to the public. Select the options you are most comfortable with. Even if you choose to be anonymous, your name will still be visible to eBird editors so they can contact you for details about your sightings.

Conclusion

In this issue we've explored some of the options for getting more out of eBird. In eBird 203 we'll explore some of the ways to really explore the details of the eBird data exploration tools.

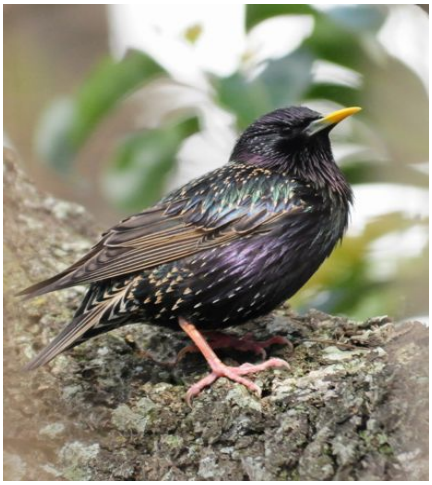
In the meantime if you have any questions about using eBird don't hesitate to contact Mike Burrell (613-442-0020, mburrell@birdscanada.org).

Janet's Jottings - Spring

Janet Scott

How do I know that Spring is coming? We don't have a Weather Groundhog like Wiarton Willie, or even a groundhog of any kind on Amherst Island as an indicator. I could say that I consulted Bruce Findlay about the weather but I think he too is hiding out in someplace warm as are many of our Island Snowbirds. That one day of zero on March 4th after a February of sub-zero temperatures made us all think a little about spring. Why do I say that Spring is coming? I have to admit that a Little Bird told me. Well now I may be eccentric and have been known to hoot once in a while but DO I TALK TO BIRDS ? Not really but I listen and observe.

Those noisy Starlings that so many have come to detest are telling us in subtle ways that Spring is just around the corner. Their beaks that have been dull and dark since Fall are beginning to turn the cheery yellow of sunshine and of buttercups and their outer feathers are growing in with iridescent hues of blues and purples.



European Starling (Kurt Hennige)

Over the silent silo of Wayne Fleming's barn can be seen a pair of Ravens circling and soaring in an age-old dance of love. Their huge wings stretched out to ride the vagrant thermals warmed by the strengthening rays of the sun. Their soft, guttural croaks are almost whisper soft in morning air. One of them has been carrying sticks to their nesting site even on those sub-zero days.

The Horned Larks have returned from points south and are already pairing in the fields west of the Stella Forty-foot. They leave the side of the road as your car approaches and immediately fly low and disappear into the melted patches. They are hanging out along the Third Concession near the Henderson Farm and fly to melted areas along the road and in Diane's laneway.

Killdeer returned to Amherst Island on March 4th. Bonnie Livingstone and Sally Bowen heard them on their bird survey and Judy Bierma and I saw one at the East end by Mark Ritchie and Cherry Allen's farm. Soon their noisy cries will be heard as the snow recedes in the pastures.

Killdeer (Kurt Hennige)

As the sun's rays feel warm on your face and thoughts of green growing things are triggered within us by Terry McGinn's reports of starting his gardening plants we plan and think of Spring but the tiny Nuthatches jumped into breeding mode and began handing each other sunflower seeds and doing a whirly, dervish kind of dance in the old tree by the feeder. Had to be love! Isn't that when we behave weirdly?

Shortly after this March Beacon is sent out the Red-winged Blackbirds will have returned and the whole Island will know it is Spring with the loud Okarees from every pasture and cattail and the peace and quiet of a winter's siesta is no more!

Field Trip To Howe Island (December 7, 2014)

Gaye Beckwith

On a cold but sunny morning 8 KFN members met Leader Sharon David at the Howe Island ferry to begin our field trip to the island.

We travelled the island checking out bays waterfowl. Both Tundra and Mute Swans were seen along with many Goldeneye, Canada Geese, and mallards. We also saw a spattering of Gadwalls, a couple of Hooded Mergansers, several Black Ducks, Long-tailed ducks and Common Mergansers. Two loons were present and a few Ring-Billed Gulls and one Herring Gull.

Along the roads we saw the expected species, crows, Bluejays, Starlings, and Goldfinches.

Our biggest surprise came when Ken Robinson spotted a Snowy Owl sitting on a shed roof. Sharon said this was the first confirmed sighting by KFN, of a Snowy Owl on Howe Island.

Five Red-tailed Hawks, two Bald Eagles and a male Northern Harrier were also seen soaring about in different parts of the island.

For a complete list of the 31 species seen on Howe Island checkout the checklist submitted to eBird.

Bird Nerd Bonus

James Barber

1. **What is this species?**
2. **What species looks very similar to this?**
3. **What are some notable field marks differentiating these 2 species?**
4. **What interesting behaviour does the family name for these species (*Lanius)* refer to?**
5. **Where is the best place in the Kingston area to find this species?**

1. Loggerhead Shrike 2. Northern Shrike 3. Loggerhead is smaller, no barring on chest, and mask extends above stubbier bill. 4. *Lanius* means "butcher" – Shrikes impale their prey on thorns and barbs. 5. Napanee plains Important Bird Area.