



The Blue Bill

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Submissions should be in MS Word format or in "plain text" format (PC or MacIntosh) or unformatted in the body of an e-mail.

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President's Page

Gaye Beckwith

"Too far, too many people, and too hot." This was my wife's response when I suggested visiting our nephew who teaches in Bangkok. But she encouraged me to go, confident that Ryan would take good care of me.

After a long Canadian winter and a long flight, I was thrust into the vibrant, colourful life of Thailand, and its capital city Bangkok. My first day we travelled by TukTuk to a large park in the city center. Trees, ponds, statues, and 38°C heat. I, of course, was looking for birds and Ryan couldn't recall having seen any in the park during his previous visits. After a few hours we had photographed and identified 10 species including Peaceful Doves, Chinese Pond Heron, and the Common Iora. Flowers and trees were in full bloom and the pink Lotus flower, which is sacred in Thailand, was a stand-out. Monitor lizards, some 2 metres long, are common in Bangkok parks, walking about or swimming in the ponds.

Ninety-seven percent of Thailand's 70 million people are Buddhists which creates a stark contrast to life here in North America. Temples and shrines are common and the lack of Christian symbols was evident even to a religious minimalist like myself. I was there for Good Friday, but saw no indication of its importance to much of the world.

The Songkran Festival, the celebration of the Thai New Year, begins on April 13th and is an extended holiday for

many Thais. Historically it began with monks splashing water on Buddha statues to cleanse or refresh them. The tradition continues, and Songkran has become a country-wide 3-day waterfight. Streets are lined with locals dousing cars and pedestrians, including tourists, with pails of water, hoses and waterguns. At temperatures near 40°C, soakings are usually appreciated.

The city of Ayutthaya, an hour by train northwest of Bangkok, is home to ancient temples including Wat Mahathat, where we saw the famous Buddha head entwined in the roots of a Bodhi tree.



This temple goes back to the 14th century and was destroyed by the Burmese army in 1767 when Ayutthaya was the capital of Siam. The heads of Buddhas were lopped off, and this one survived protected in the roots. Even two and a half centuries later the ruins are an impressive sight.

My nephew recently sent me a picture of this Buddha head with water up to its

chin. As I stood in April admiring the uniqueness of the head I was oblivious to the fact that the ground was only a few feet above sea level. Beginning in October, floodwaters caused by rains in the north inundated Thailand's lower regions as high tides pushed swollen rivers backwards. The Chao Praya River running through Bangkok flooded its banks and caused hardship and damage for much of Bangkok. Teaching at Ryan's school has been postponed until waters recede to safe levels. Thankfully by the end of November the waters partially receded and Thais can see a drier situation in the near future. This situation gives the world a preview to what may happen as sea levels rise.

A trip like this has many highlights. A few are described below.

Visiting a camp where elephants, used to move logs during the peak of the Thai lumber industry, are 'retired' and 'work' for tourists. Between 1945 and 1975 Thailand forest cover dropped from 60% to 34% and it lost close to 28% of the remaining cover in the next decade. The government banned commercial logging of forests in 1989 and thousands of elephants became 'unemployed'. They were placed in camps rather than be destroyed. Thailand hosts a thriving tourist industry employing thousands of Thais who train and care for these elephants. Tourists can ride elephants and watch performances which demonstrate how intelligent these creatures are.

During a trip to the Chiang Mai region of northern Thailand we rented motor

scooters and drove to a park featuring hot springs. The boiling waters gushed from the ground as geysers and flowed through the park in channels while picnickers soaked their feet. This was with air temperatures of 35-40°C. One activity in which most people, including us, partook was to buy several eggs in a basket and hang them in the thermal pool until they were cooked. The temperature was posted at 105°C and times were listed for soft or hard results.

Thailand has identified almost 3000 caves and many are special places for people and animals. The few we ventured into were dotted with buddhas and shrines, some dating back centuries. Thirty-one of Thailand's 107 species of bats roost in caves. At one cave long-tailed monkeys greeted visitors and 'begged' for bananas sold at the cave entrance. The pecking order was evident as young monkeys gave way to more senior members, avoiding a nasty bite. The underground caverns formed by water flowing through limestone possess many beautiful examples of stalagmites and stalactites.

Southern Thailand is a hotspot for islands with beautiful beaches and vistas. We visited Patong Beach on the Island of Phuket. The waters of the Andaman Sea were warm and inviting and it was hard to imagine in this idyllic location, the chaos caused by the tsunami that hit the area in 2004. Surprisingly there was a noticeable lack of water birds along the coastal areas.

The opportunity to experience the Thai people and their culture was the real

highlight. Thai people are very industrious. Each day I saw hundreds of vendors, people of all ages, lining busy streets selling goods or food to make a living. Everyone is busy. Happening upon a Buddhist funeral in Bangkok was humbling, while across the street a man foraged for scraps of metal by swimming in a polluted canal. Sharing space with thousands of worshippers at the Grand Palace and standing still in a

busy skytrain station daily at 5:00 pm when the President's song is broadcast were strange experiences.

Thank you Thailand for broadening my horizons.

P.S. I'll show photos from my trip at the members' meeting December 15th.

Fall Round-up Nov 05-06 2011

Ron D. Weir

The 46th KFN Fall Round-up took place between 1500h Saturday Nov 5 and 1500h Sunday Nov 6. Participants numbered 26. During Saturday, sun and scattered cloud made birding pleasant without wind and a temperature about 14°C. The night remained clear but with increasing SW winds through Sunday with temperatures from 8°C to 14°C.

A total of 114 species was realized, below the 41-year 1970-2010 average of 120. The cumulative total remains at 240 species. Noteworthy finds are Ruddy Duck in numbers, Trumpeter Swan, Barrow's Goldeneye, ten wader species, seven species of finches including redpoll, and both species of crossbills.

Totals in the table have had known duplications removed; total individuals for a species may not equal the sum of the contributions from each party.

The composition of the parties and the sites visited are given before the table. Following the count, birders met at the

home of Marian and Joel Ellis for a potluck supper. Marian and Joel were excellent hosts and a warm thank-you is extended for their continued hospitality.

Party #1: Alex & Erwin Batalla, Betsy & Gaye Beckwith, Hugh Evans, Rose-Marie Burke, John Cartwright (Amherstview sewage lagoons, Elevator Bay, Lemoine's Pt., Gr. Cataraquei R., Howe I., Elginburg, Florida Rd, downtown Kingston).

Party #2: Kevin Bleeks, Bea & Jay McMahon (Wolfe & Simcoe I., L. Cataraquei Cr., Elevator Bay, Gr. Cataraquei R.).

Party #3: Mark Conboy, Philina English (Opinicon L., QUBS, Rideau Locks, Chaffey's Lock south to Kingston, Amherstview sewage lagoons, Elevator Bay, Collins Bay).

Party #4: Kurt Hennige (Amherst I., Big Cr. Rd. from Old Hamburg Rd. to County Rd. 7).

Party #5: Joel Ellis, Peter Good, Kathy Innes, Paul Mackenzie, Bud Rowe, Ron Weir (Pr. Edw. Pt., Kingston area, Adolphustown, Sillsville, Wilton Cr. at Morven, Amherstview sewage lagoons).

Other: John Haig, George Vance.



Mute Swan by Martin Edwards

Party #6: Sharon David (Howe I.)

Party #7: Chris Lyons, Janet Scott (Amherst I.)

Party #8: Ben & Bruce Di Labio (Amherstview sewage lagoon, Amherst I., Kingston area.)

Species	Individuals								
Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Rd-thrted Loon	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Loon	5	5	48	24	46	4	-	122	254
Pd-billed Grebe	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	7
Horned Grebe	2	-	4	12	355	-	-	23	396
Rd-necked Grebe	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	5	10
Dbl-crstd Cormrnt	2	22	2	18	6	-	-	-	40
Great Blue Heron	2	6	4	2	6	1	-	2	23
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Snow Goose	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Canada Goose	2000	4000	1925	225	6600	35	x	200	12000
Mute Swan	-	-	2	5	12	-	-	4	23
Trumptr Swan	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
Tundra Swan	50	70	53	30	134	-	70	86	323
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Gadwall	50	5	23	4	145	-	-	65	292
Amer Wigeon	50	30	3	-	345	-	-	-	398
Amer Black Duck	4	7	13	5	19	-	-	32	80
Mallard	40	188	292	68	275	4	-	40	907
Nrthrn Shoveler	20	10	10	-	92	-	-	-	132
Nrthrn Pintail	10	10	54	2	140	-	-	-	216
Grn-wingd Teal	20	-	30	1	55	-	-	2	108
Redhead	6	1525	-	5	150	-	-	6	<u>1692</u>
Rng-neckd Duck	200	1	50	-	625	-	-	43	919
Greater Scaup	50	2700	277	28	6200	-	-	4000	13255
Lesser Scaup	4	4	60	-	80	-	-	70	218

Species	Individuals								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Wht-wingd Scoter	-	4	-	-	25	-	-	1	30
Long-tailed Duck	-	16	-	3	250	-	-	15	284
Bufflehead	20	30	143	8	365	-	-	95	561
Comm Goldeneye	10	2	58	45	75	-	-	235	425
Barrow's Gldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1♂	1
Hooded Merganser	10	6	457	2	60	-	-	7	542
Common Mergnsr	20	13	129	75	125	-	-	9	371
Rd-brstd Mergnsr	10	570	3	40	75	-	-	400	1098
Ruddy Duck	3	1	-	-	21	-	-	-	25
American Coot	10	15	42	-	150	-	-	-	217
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	1im	-	-	-	1im
Northern Harrier	1	11	-	12	2	-	2	12	40
Shrp-shndd Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Rd-shouldrd Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	10	9	4	5	16	1	3	19	67
Rgh-legged Hawk	2	4	-	7	-	1	6	30	50
American Kestrel	2	3	-	1	-	1	-	4	11
Merlin	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rng-nckd Pheasant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ruffed Grouse	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Wild Turkey	50	35	16	-	-	-	-	-	101
Blk-bellied Plover	4	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	4
Am Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Killdeer	1	-	6	2	7	-	-	-	16
Greater Yellowlegs	2	-	3	1	5	-	-	1	8
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Smplmtd Sandpipr	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	4
Wt-rmpd Sandpiper	2	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	4
Dunlin	8	-	7	1	14	-	-	2	25
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
Bonaparte's Gull	50	3	182	6	285	-	-	6	532
Ring-billed Gull	100	200	575	57	115	-	-	54	1101
Herring Gull	5	5	81	38	18	6	-	22	175
Grt Blk-bckd Gull	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	8	12

Species	Individuals									
	Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Rock Pigeon		10	19	48	8	115	-	-	45	245
Mourning Dove		10	4	10	16	11	55	-	2	108
E. Screech Owl		1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Great Horned Owl		-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Barred Owl		-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Long-eared Owl		-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
Short-eared Owl		-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
N. Saw-whet Owl		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Belted Kingfisher		-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Rd-bellid Wdpckr		1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2
Downy Woodpecker		6	-	1	2	2	3	1	1	16
Hairy Woodpecker		4	-	4	1	1	-	-	1	11
N. Flicker		-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	5
Pileated Woodpeckr		2	1	4	1	1	1	-	-	10
Northern Shrike		1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	5
Blue Jay		12	32	30	6	18	25	-	31	154
American Crow		8	24	12	21	36	7	-	11	119
Common Raven		-	1	6	4	1	-	-	-	12
Blk-cpd Chickadee		12	39	27	19	30	8	-	40	175
Rd-brstd Nuthatch		-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	4
Wht-brstd Nuthatch		6	1	4	3	2	5	2	4	27
Brown Creeper		1	-	3	-	1	1	-	1	7
Winter Wren		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gldn-crwnd Kinglet		-	-	4	2	4	-	-	2	12
Eastern Bluebird		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hermit Thrush		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
American Robin		20	19	20	120	154	-	-	11	344
European Starling		100	320	59	835	190	-	x	2250	3754
American Pipit		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	4
Cedar Waxwing		20	6	2	18	125	-	-	16	187
Yllw-rmpd Warbler		-	-	-	1	12	-	-	-	18
Am Tree Sparrow		20	16	8	31	3	-	-	18	96
Savannah Sparrow		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Fox Sparrow		-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Song Sparrow		-	3	1	4	1	-	-	2	11
Wht-thrtd Sparrow		2	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	7
Dark-eyed Junco		20	2	5	18	20	3	-	6	74

Species	Individuals								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Party									
Snow Bunting	20	90	1	-	30	-	-	30	171
N. Cardinal	6	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	16
Red-w Blackbird	40	21	13	512	22	8	x	6	622
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Rusty Blackbird	3	-	-	20	55	-	x	2	80
Common Grackle	2	-	1	62	-	2	x	-	67
Brwn-hdd Cowbird	1	-	-	3	-	-	x	1	5
Purple Finch	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	5
House Finch	6	14	-	2	3	-	-	3	28
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Wht-wngd Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pine Siskin	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	22	50
Am. Goldfinch	20	27	10	14	60	-	-	16	147
House Sparrow	2	19	5	5	50	-	x	40	121
SPECIES	72	52	68	75	87	21	18	74	114
PARTICIPANTS	7	3	2	1	6	1	2	2	24

Kingston Teen Nauralists Activites Sep-Nov 2011

Trip to St. Lawrence Isl. N. P.

Elise Wallis

For those who didn't attend the September 10th Teen trip to St. Lawrence Islands National Park (SLINP): you missed out on a great time! It was a beautiful breezy sunny day. We arrived at the Park at 10am to meet with Marianne, a park naturalist. We learned about the unique location of the Park, and how it is in the range of many migrating species, as well as learning the effects of climate change on the area.

Then we met Willow, the Black Rat Snake. We each got a chance to hold her, and learn the characteristics of Black Rat

Snakes, and how they differ from other species (did you know they can imitate a rattle snake by moving their tail on dry leaves, even if they have never seen a rattlesnake before?).



Photo by Anne Robertson

We did an exercise on how to determine the population of deer (and by extension, other animals as well) in an area. We set up a plot, counted deer droppings, made of chocolate of course, apparently they were tasty, but I couldn't say from personal experience).

After lunch, what everybody came there for - geocaching! First, we performed an exercise with the GPS's finding small landmarks (and answering natural history questions), and then found the geo-cache hidden in the area. That one was hard to find. I won't tell you where it is, though so that you'll have to go and find it for yourself. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to look for the geo-caches on the trails, but it was a lovely afternoon well-spent. If the Teen Naturalists ever do another geo-caching trip, I really encourage you to go.

Owl Banding at Pr. Edw. Pt. B. O. *Margaret Beckett*

On Friday September 14th I went owl banding with the Kingston Teen Naturalists. After the long drive and the Glenora Ferry, we arrived at the Observatory. We hiked down to the old lighthouse where the field naturalists used to band birds.

By the time we were back it was dark enough to be able to set up the nets. But when we returned, the nets were up and another bander explained what they had done. We were joined at the site by David, the head bander. There were ten nets placed strategically around a vocal lure, an audio player that played the call

of the male Saw-whet Owl. We waited for an hour and went back to the nets and found we had caught one. They banded her and took measurements and then allowed me to release her.



photo by Anne Robertson

We were surprised that when they put her wing under ultraviolet light it glowed pink. Our group looked at her and we were astounded by how human she looked. Of all the birds banded that night she looked most human. She was smaller than I expected but a sturdy bird. In total we caught 22 birds that night. Each and every one was astounding. We all had a chance to let them go and to learn the bander's grip to hold them. An amazing experience.

Report on Bird Project 2011 *Anne Robertson*

On November 12, five Teens met at McArthur Hall to learn some bird identification and work on our Bird Project. With help from Diane Lawrence, Shirley French and Connie Gardiner came up with a complete list of bird species held under the KFN permit. The permit was first issued in 1988 and the collection may accept

“accidentally killed migratory birds, specimens donated by authorized collectors and forfeited seized birds. Specimens will be used for educational purposes.”

First the frozen bird specimens collected during the past year were identified and tagged with a small label using the code for the species. (e.g. the code for Blue Jay is BLJA, the code for Northern Saw-whet Owl is NSWOW, the code for Sharp-shinned Hawk is SSHA.) These birds were then laid out ready for freeze-drying at Queens.

After a short break we began the main portion of the workshop. Birds that had been preserved last year were re-identified, placed in zip-lock plastic bags and labeled. Each label shows the order, family, scientific name, common name and code. The labeled bags were then sorted into categories in different boxes. We have about 55 Families of birds in the Kingston area and they may be grouped more or less as Waterbirds, Raptors, Owls, Woodpeckers, Ground Birds and Perching Birds. The Perching birds were subdivided with separate boxes for thrushes, warblers and sparrows. There was also a box for broken birds and one for baby birds and as always a box for those difficult to identify! We could use an expert on sparrows in the hand!

After lunch we completed the sorting and finalized our guesses as to the total number of birds there were. The third part of the workshop consisted of listing all the species and the number of each species. This has not been done before and now we know where the gaps in the

collection are. The birds are used for educational purposes for learning identification, for teaching in school classes, for bird carvers to see a specimen and for displays at events.

We were lucky to receive a \$1,000 grant from Union Gas this year, one of few Centennial grants awarded in Ontario. Birds smaller than Robins are preserved by freeze-drying; larger specimens must be handled by a taxidermist which is more expensive. We have several species mounted for display including Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Screech Owl and a spread-eagled immature Red-tailed Hawk.

We plan to make kits with a selection of species that may be borrowed by schools. Multiple specimens of a species are useful for comparison of plumage and setting up these kits. Birds get damaged and worn with handling, but we want them to be handled and used.

All in all a rewarding and worthwhile workshop, always enjoyed by the participants. Below is a list of the birds we presently hold, a total of close to 500 of about 100 species (out of 377 possible species).

- Common Loon (mounted)
- Red-necked Grebe
- Great Blue Heron (mounted)
- Mallard (female)
- Blue-winged Teal
- Ring-necked Duck
- Bufflehead
- Osprey
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk (mounted)	Swainson's Thrush
Rough-legged Hawk	Hermit Thrush
American Kestrel	Wood Thrush
Ruffed Grouse	American Robin
Spruce Grouse	Gray Catbird
Sora	Brown Thrasher
Common Moorhen	Bohemian Waxwing
Killdeer	Cedar Waxwing
Wilson's Snipe	European Starling
American Woodcock	Red-eyed Vireo
Ring-billed Gull	Blue-headed Vireo
Mourning Dove	Tennessee Warbler
Black-billed Cuckoo	Nashville Warbler
Eastern Screech Owl	Yellow Warbler
Barred Owl	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Grey Owl	Magnolia Warbler
Long-eared Owl	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Short-eared Owl (mounted)	Yellow-rumped warbler
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Nighthawk	Blackburnian Warbler
Chimney Swift	Bay-breasted Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blackpoll Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Black and White Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	American Redstart
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Ovenbird
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Hairy Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler
Northern Flicker	Wilson's Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Canada Warbler
Great-crested Flycatcher	Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Kingbird	Northern Cardinal
Purple Martin	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Rufous-sided Towhee
Cliff Swallow	American Tree Sparrow
Northern Shrike	Chipping Sparrow
Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Blue Jay	Rusty Blackbird
American Crow	Common Grackle
Black-capped Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Oriole
White-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Grosbeak
Brown Creeper	Purple Finch
Marsh Wren	House Finch
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Pine Siskin
Eastern Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Veery	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	

Kingston Butterfly Summary for 2011

John Poland

This was the year of the Giant Swallowtail in the Kingston area. These large showy butterflies were only first recorded in our area in 2006; quite a few were seen in 2008 and 2009, but they were only seen at Prince Edward Pt last year. This year they were very common. Many were seen in gardens in the city, but they were also encountered on the shield all the way from Second Depot Lakes to Charleston Provincial Park.



Giant Swallowtails by John Poland

They are now breeding in our area with two or three broods, and have likely expanded their range in North America. Their food plant is prickly ash which is common here. Time will tell if they become a common sight in summer.

Four other butterflies which are normally fairly rare were seen in larger numbers this year. The Buckeye was seen within the Kingston area, where a second brood was also observed, but unlike the Giant Swallowtail, it is unlikely that the species will overwinter here. The rarely seen Dion skipper was

observed in several locations in good numbers. The Silver Spotted Skipper is generally seen a few times each summer, but this year seemed to be found at many locations. Finally the Grey Hairstreak, normally recorded two or three times a year, was seen much more frequently. This butterfly has two populations in the Kingston region, one resident which feeds on Sweet Fern, and one that migrates up from the south. This second category is generally not observed but this year clearly was present. Also, the resident population did well, and at the Second Depot Lakes area, three broods were observed.



Grey Hairstreak by John Poland

Rare butterflies recorded this year included the Brown Elfin, Tawny Crescent (at the Bioblitz), Hackberry Emperor, and Acadian Hairstreak. The

Dreamy Duskywing and Milbert's Tortoiseshell were only seen on a single occasion whereas the Striped Hairstreak, Appalachian Brown, Painted Lady and Silver-bordered Fritillary were not spotted this year.

The Wild Indigo Duskywing is now common in the Toronto area where it feeds on Crown vetch which has become a popular groundcover garden plant. Duskywings resembling the Wild Indigo were seen in Prince Edward County including Prince Edward Point in late August to early October and also near Sandhurst on the way to the Glenora ferry. However, no positive identification was obtained since the field marks are very similar to the Columbine Duskywing which is common here. However, the second

brood of the Columbine Duskywing appeared in mid-July so this butterfly might soon be added to the KFN checklist. A Satyr Comma was reported in the Toronto Entomologists' Annual report for 2009 at the Cataraqui Conservation area but could not be independently confirmed.

Three other butterflies not on the KFN list are getting nearer to our area. These are the Variegated Fritillary seen at Sandbanks P. P. on 14 September, the Mottled Duskywing seen at Marmora on 31 May and the Fiery Skipper seen at Presqu'île P. P. on 11 September.

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Reported Butterfly Sightings for Kingston area for 2011

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Black Swallowtail	12 May	21 Sep	2-3
Giant Swallowtail	5 Jun	11 Oct	2-3
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	25 May	10 Jun	1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	15 Jun	22 Aug	2
Mustard White	30 Apr	19 Aug	2
West Virginia White	6 May	12 May	1
Cabbage White	23 Apr	11 Oct	3+
Olympia Marble	13 Apr	21 May	1
Clouded Sulphur	10 May	9 Nov	3+
Orange Sulphur	6 Jun	9 Nov	3+
Harvester	23 Jul	24 Jul	2
American Copper	30 May	15 Jul	2-3

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Bronze Copper	30 Jun	8 Oct	2
Bog Copper	11 Jul	13 Jul	1
Coral Hairstreak	10 Jul	1 Aug	1
Acadian Hairstreak	7 July	7 July	1
Hickory Hairstreak	7 July	7 July	1
Banded Hairstreak	30 June	27 Jul	1
Brown Elfin	5 May	5 May	1
Hoary Elfin	5 May	8 May	1
Henry's Elfin	30 Apr	21 May	1
Eastern Pine Elfin	27 Apr	25 May	1
Juniper Hairstreak	23 May	18 Jun	1
Gray Hairstreak	21 May	9 Oct	2
Eastern Tailed Blue	12 May	14 Oct	3+
Spring Azure	25 Apr	26 May	1
Summer Azure	30 Jun	14 Sep	2
Silvery Blue	12 May	9 Jul	1
Great Spangled Fritillary	27 Jun	8 Sep	1
Aphrodite Fritillary	2 Sep	2 Sep	1
Meadow Fritillary	25 May	27 Jun	2
Harris Checkerspot	15 Jun	20 Jun	1
Northern Crescent	12 May	5 Oct	1
Pearl Crescent	25 May	10 Sep	2-3
Tawny Crescent	11 Jun	11 Jun	1
Baltimore Checkerspot	15 Jun	23 Jun	1
Question Mark	12 May	21 Sep	2
Eastern Comma	30 Mar	9 Nov	2
Gray Comma	12 Apr	9 Nov	2

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Compton's Tortoiseshell	3 Apr	11 Jul	1
Mourning Cloak	3 Apr	6 Nov	1
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	1 Aug	1 Aug	2
American Lady	30 Apr	9 Nov	3+
Common Buckeye	19 Jul	9 Oct	2
Red Admiral	1 May	28 Oct	2
White Admiral	10 Jun	1 Aug	2
Viceroy	10 Jun	27 Sep	2
Monarch	28 May	10 Nov	2-3
Hackberry Emperor	20 Jun	20 Jun	2
Northern Pearly Eye	27 Jun	1 Aug	1
Eyed Brown	23 Jun	1 Aug	1
Little Wood Satyr	3 Jun	13 Jul	1
Common Ringlet	31 May	20 Sep	2
Common Wood Nymph	5 Jul	2 Sep	1
Chryxus Arctic	12 May	12 May	1
Silver Spotted Skipper	15 Jun	20 Jul	2
Northern Cloudywing	30 May	10 Jul	1
Dreamy Duskywing	10 Jun	10 Jun	1
Juvenal's Duskywing	5 May	23 Jun	1
Columbine Duskywing	12 May	1 Aug	2
Arctic Skipper	3 Jun	20 Jun	1
Least Skipper	10 Jun	14 Sep	2
European Skipper	10 Jun	21 Jul	1
Leonard's Skipper	24 Aug	7 Oct	1
Indian Skipper	3 Jun	20 Jun	1
Peck's Skipper	11 Jun	20 Sep	2

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Tawny Edged Skipper	20 Jun	14 Sep	1-2
Crossline Skipper	7 Jul	9 Jul	1
Long Dash	11 Jun	24 Jul	1
Northern Broken Dash	27 Jun	1 Aug	1
Little Glassywing	24 Jun	1 Aug	2
Delaware Skipper	7 Jul	9 Oct	1
Hobomok Skipper	25 May	10 Jul	1
Broad Winged Skipper	7 Jul	1 Aug	1
Dion Skipper	7 Jul	11 Jul	1
Dun Skipper	7 Jul	7 Sep	1
Common Roadside Skipper	3 Jun	3 Jun	2

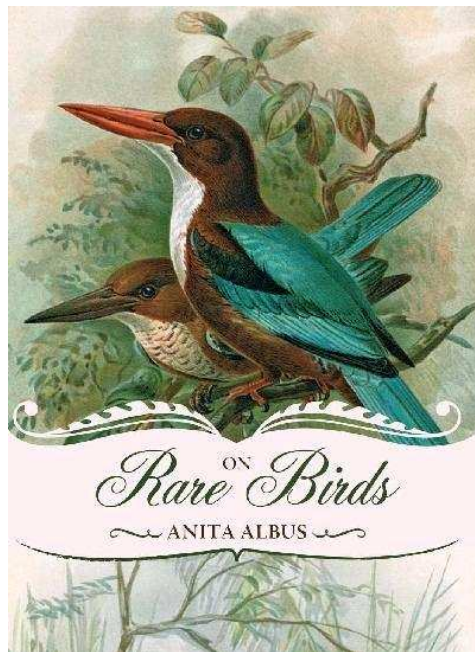
Book Review: "On Rare Birds" by Anita Albus

Mark Andrew Conboy

A rare bird is a pleasure to behold. Be it a vagrant from afar, common elsewhere but almost unheard of in your part of the world, or a genuine rarity, one of those species of which only a few individuals can be found anywhere on Earth. As a birder, the allure I feel towards rarity meant that my interest was piqued when I saw the title of Anita Albus's latest book: *On Rare Birds*. A quick flip through the book immediately increased the appeal because *On Rare Birds* is illustrated with

fabulous colour renderings of dozens of species. Plates range from reproductions

of medieval line drawings depicting oddly proportioned ibises to stunning new paintings of kingfishers and parrots by the author herself.



On Rare Birds is an exploration of extinct and rare birds from around the world through words and art. Part One summarizes the demise of the passenger pigeon, the great auk, the Carolina Parakeet and several tropical parrots. Part Two is

about globally rare birds such as the bald ibis, a species which has disappeared from most of its former breeding range in northern Africa over the past two centuries. Puzzlingly, Albus also includes several species in her "rare" birds section that are not really rare at all, among them the Barn Owl. Barn owls are easily found in many parts of their nearly world-wide range. I've seen Barn Owls hunting at dusk beside the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or roosting in an airport hangar in Liberia, Costa Rica. Why Albus decided to include the Barn Owl and a few other not so rare species is unclear to me. Barn Owls have declined in much of their range, but they are far from being counted among the rarest birds on Earth today.

The accounts Albus gives for each of her chosen species (rare or not), were

originally written in German and were translated into English by Gerald Chapple. The text seems to have lost something in translation. It can at times be a confusing and frustrating read. New ideas are introduced mid-paragraph before old ones are finished. Some thoughts or musings remain unfinished or go nowhere. Although it is obvious that a great deal of research has gone into the book, it lacks a fundamental understanding of the natural history of birds.

Though the words might leave a reader with something more to be desired, the artwork certainly does not. I'd recommend *On Rare Birds* for readers who are looking for an artful discourse on birds rather than a scientific natural history of extinction and rarity.

KFN Outings Fall 2011

Field Trip to Prince Edward Point

Ron D. Weir

The September 25 Field Trip to Prince Edward Point (PEPt) included 16 participants. The day was sunny with light ENE wind, and temperatures rose from 13°C in early morning to 22°C by afternoon. The waters along the north shore of the peninsula were calm, making viewing easy. Abundant thick leafy vegetation made it challenging to see songbirds in the trees. A few raptors were seen overhead, but the wind direction was not right to promote a strong hawk flight. Songbirds were present in pockets. Small groups of Blue

Jays passed overhead. The list of the 75 bird species is in the following table.

Tree Frogs were calling; migrating Monarch Butterflies were numerous. Poison Ivy and Dog Strangling Vine abounded. The leaves of some trees had begun their colour change.

On the return journey to Kingston, some of the group visited the Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, where we found: Great Blue Heron 1, Turkey Vulture 2, Gadwall 3, American Wigeon 3, Black Duck 1, Mallard 80, Northern Shoveler 3, Ring-necked Duck 2, Lesser Scaup 6, Bonaparte's Gull 150, Barn Swallow 1.

Birds Observed on September 25 2011 Trip to Prince Edward Point		
Common Loon 2	Eastern Wood-Pewee 1	Nashville Warbler 2
Horned Grebe 5	Eastern Phoebe 10	Northern Parula 1
Dble-crstd Cormorant 30	Blue-headed Vireo 1	Magnolia Warbler 1
Great Blue Heron 1	Warbling Vireo 1	Blk-thrted Blue Wrblr 3
Turkey Vulture 8	Red-eyed vireo 6	Yllw-rumped Warbler 45
Canada Goose 35	Blue Jay 75	Blk-thrtd Green Wrbler 1
Mallard 5	American Crow 10	Palm Warbler 10
Greater Scaup 5	Barn Swallow 2	Bay-breasted Warbler 6
Common Merganser 3	Blk-capped Chickadee 6	Blackpoll Warbler 5
Northern Harrier 2	Wht-breasted Nuthatch 1	American Redstart 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 10	Brown Creeper 1	Common Yellowthroat 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1	Gldn-crowned Kinglet 1	Wilson's Warbler 1
American Kestrel 4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3	Scarlet Tanager 1
Black-bellied Plover 4	Veery 1	Eastern Towhee 8
Sanderling 35	Gray-cheeked Thrush 1	Chipping Sparrow 2
Bonaparte's Gull 1	Swainson's Thrush 2	Song Sparrow 2
Ring-billed Gull 20	Hermit Thrush 1	Wht-throated Sparrow 25
Herring Gull 1	American Robin 15	Wht-crowned Sparrow 2
Rock Pigeon 1	Gray Catbird 4	Northern Cardinal 1
Mourning Dove 10	Brown Thrasher 2	Red-winged Blackbird 6
Ruby-thrtd Hummingbird 1	European Starling 60	Eastern Meadowlark 1
Belted Kingfisher 3	American Pipit 1	Rusty Blackbird 3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1	Cedar Waxwing 15	Common Grackle 20
Downy Woodpecker 1	Tennessee Warbler 2	Purple Finch 1
Northern Flicker 1	Ornge-crowned Wrblr 1	American Goldfinch 30

Ramble on the Catarauqui Trail

Joe Benderavage

On the morning of October 4, 14 "ramblers" arrived at the Perth Road Village entrance to the Catarauqui Trail, led by Anne Robertson. At the outset, she cautioned us on the virulence of Wild Parsnip, even when it only consists of an umbelliferated plant skeleton, leafless and flowerless in autumn. Fair-haired and red-headed people are particularly affected. The cool, overcast sky threatened rain, but only delivered fine showers sporadically.

We were near a swampy area. We found many species of flora, among them Bladder Champion, New England Aster, Hairy Willow Herb, Wild Ginger in a community of ginger plants connected by a stolon and Christmas Fern, which has spores on the backs of its pinna and stays green all year. We noticed Agrimony, Early Meadow Rue, Star Duckweed and Little Duckweed, American Knapweed, Sweet White Clover, Evening Primrose, Winterberry, 'Blue Devil' Bugloss, and Pearly Everlasting.



Wild ginger community

We saw Heart-Leaved Aster, Burr Marigold seed, Bittersweet Nightshade (a member of the Tomato family), Dodder (in the Morning Glory family) growing over all the plants nearby, and Wild Grapes as well as Water Hemlock, Baneberry ("Doll's Eyes"), Calico, Horseweed, Ragweed, and Mullein. Among the trees observed were Ash, Maple (both notable for their opposite leaves), Hop Hornbeam, Yellow Birch, Manitoba Maple (or Box Elder), Cedar, and a large Willow. A bank of Grey

Dogweed shrubs was visible along part of the path.

Fauna sighted included White-throated Sparrow and probably White-crowned Sparrow, for they often travel together. As well, we saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Kingfisher, a turtle on a rock, Red Squirrel, Sulphur butterfly, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-breasted Nuthatch. We noted Turkey Vultures circling about and riding thermals. We discovered a pair of *Bombus bimaculatus* mating on a Heart-leaved Aster. These Two-spotted Bumblebees have stingers that can be used repeatedly, and spend winter underground.

We saw evidence of a Cattail Moth; its caterpillar weaves a web around fluffy the Cattail seedhead. The web will act as a bag to catch seeds that fall from the Cattail's central stalk. This provides enough warmth for its several inhabitants to survive winter. We did see a caterpillar rolled up in a Sumac leaf; sheet and funnel spider webs; and a defunct beaver dam and lodge.

Forty-eight species were seen and discussed on this Ramble.

Point Petre is a Magnet for Nature Enthusiasts

Terry Sprague

If someone were to approach you and ask about 'ponds' in Prince Edward County, you can almost bet they have lived in Newfoundland. They will be quick to inform you that in Newfoundland, a 'lake' is something

that happens when you have a hole in your boot!

Similarly, it is easy to determine whether or not someone is from 'away', by how they pronounce Point Petre. As

the story goes, earlier maps depicted St. Peter's Bay, described as being south and a little east of Little Sandy Bay. Point Peter would thus be the southern arm of St. Peter's Bay. At some point the spelling was transposed to become Point Petre, a long time ago indeed, as maps of the 1800s had already established the current spelling. However one chooses to pronounce it, Point Petre has collected a potpourri of stories involving both joy and anguish, and continues to attract the curious and the adventurous.

Some describe Point Petre as a place of magical energy and spiritual cleansing. Doubtless this is why a recording company chose, with no hesitation, to record two sounds of nature CDs at this remote location, capturing the true essence of Point Petre. It is a favourite destination of artists and photographers and stargazers. Speaking from a vantage point just east of Point Petre, one Kingston astronomer stated, "Looking south over Lake Ontario, Point Petre looks every bit as dark as Nirvana." And that's what stargazers like.

Point Petre is situated within the infamous Marysburgh Vortex, a place of anomalous activity where missing ships and aircraft have fuelled theories of paranormal explanations. The treacherous waters around Point Petre prompted the building of a 19 metre high lighthouse in 1833. That lighthouse was unceremoniously destroyed amid considerable debate in the 1960s, and replaced with the current structure, a slightly shorter cylindrical tower in 1967. The new tower stands on the

grounds of a meteorological research station.

History abounds here, for the land around Point Petre had been used as an artillery range since 1938, and the area continued in that role with the formation of Royal Canadian School of Artillery. Point Petre was chosen as a site for a series of miniature test versions of the Avro Arrow. The limestone point of land is also a transmitter site for the Military Aeronautical Communications System based at CFB Trenton.



Where mortar, recoilless rifle and anti-tank rocket training once took place, today the property is a provincial wildlife area. Occasional remnants of its past life can be found among the dogwoods and red cedars that predominate. Narrow gravel roads with names like Army Reserve Road speak of this earlier time, and side roads leading to the lake are only for the brave at heart.

If you can reach its interior and the associated wetlands former pastures and sparse woodlands, it is a place apart. A place where gulls chatter and

herons nest, field sparrows and towhees project their songs across abandoned fields. As one wildlife researcher once stated, "I was there for a full day and saw nary a soul."

Pronounce it Point Pee-ter or Point Pee-tree. The corruption of its name has not diminished the perpetual appeal of its rocky shores, nor its plethora of spring wildflowers, wildlife and photographic

opportunities. Since the day mid-Victorian artists referred to it as "Pointe Pétreux", it has, in fact, contributed admirably to Prince Edward County's natural heritage.

Terry Sprague is a naturalist, free-lance writer and KFN member who lives in Prince Edward County. See his website at www.naturestuff.net or e-mail him at tsprague@kos.net.

Autumn Season Aug 1 to Nov 30 2011

Ron D. Weir

Migration unfolded as normal with night flights coinciding with N-NW-W winds and also coincident with the usual raptor flights through Prince Edward Point. The wader flight through the Kingston area was excellent thanks to a lowering of one pond at the Amherstview Sewage Lagoons. The warmer than usual autumn until the end of November protracted the migration, but in spite of this welcome weather, songbirds proved scarce at the close of the reporting period.

Rarities during the period include Northern Gannet, Gyrfalcon, Willet, Hudsonian Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Leconte's Sparrow, and Nelson's Sparrow.

Latest Ever Departures

Green Heron: Nov 03 (1) Davis Lock, Kingston KFN (1979 Oct 27)

Species Accounts

Red-throated Loon: Oct 26 to Nov 13 (6 in all) Kingston, KFN

Common Loon: peaks Oct 23 (200) Amherst I., BR; Nov 6 (254) PEPT, KFN.

Horned Grebe: peaks Oct 23 (80) Amherst I., BR; Oct 23 (84) and Nov 6 (396) PEPT, KFN.

Red-necked Grebe: peak Nov 6 (10) Kingston, KFN.

Northern Gannet: Oct 23 (1 im), 25 (2 im) Amherst I., BR, BMD. (6th autumn since records began in 1948). (photo).

Great Egret: Aug 12 to Nov 2 (45 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Turkey Vulture: peaks Oct 3 (500), Oct 6 (600) PEPT, DO

Snow Goose: Oct 3 to Nov 15 (13 in all) Kingston area, KFN.

Brant: Oct 11 (35) onwards, Kingston, KFN.

Canada Goose: peak Nov 6 (12,000) Kingston, KFN; Oct 23 (1 shot, banded in northern Quebec 2010) MC

Trumpeter Swan: Nov 22 (30) Narrows Lock, MC (excellent number).

Tundra Swan: peak Nov 6 (323) Kingston, KFN.

Northern Shoveler: peak Nov 6 (132) Kingston, KFN.

Redhead: peak Nov 6 (1,692) Kingston, KFN.

Surf Scoter: Oct 3 to Nov 26 (11 in all) Kingston, KFN.

White-winged Scoter: Oct 28 (400) PEPt, VPM.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Nov 6 (1♂) Amherst I., BMD, BD.

Ruddy Duck: Aug 23 to Nov 14 (36 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Sandhill Crane: Nov 1 (3) Crosby, MC (only sighting reported).

Osprey: last bird Nov 11 (1) PEPt, VPM.

Bald Eagle: Aug 20 to Nov 30 (53 in all), peak Oct 3 (33) PEPt, DO

Sharp-shinned Hawk: peaks Sep 26 (225), Oct 3 (350) PEPt, DO

Northern Goshawk: Aug 20 to Oct 27 (15, low numbers, typical of a non-irruptive year) Kingston area, KFN.

Rough-legged Hawk: peak Nov 6 (50) Kingston, KFN.

Golden Eagle: Oct 3 to Nov 20 (6 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Merlin: Aug 18 to Nov 6 (29 in all) Kingston area, KFN.

Gyr Falcon: Nov 4 (1 grey) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, ST.

Peregrine Falcon: Aug 16 to Nov 30 (11 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Black-bellied Plover: Sep 8 to Nov 16 (215 in all), peak Oct 5 (6) Amherst I., AKR, VPM.

American Golden Plover: Aug 26 to Nov 6 (17 in all) Amherst I., KFN.

Willet: Sep 2 (1) Amherst I., JC.

Whimbrel: Sep 1 (1) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, KH; Sep 2 (2) Kingston airport, CG.

Hudsonian Godwit: Sep 2 (1) Amherst I., JC.

Red Knot: Sep 2 to 14 (12 in all) Amherst I., KFN.

Sanderling: Sep 1 to Oct 13 (200+) Amherst I./PEPt KFN.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Sep 8 to Nov 9 (28 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Baird's Sandpiper: Aug 24 to Oct 13 (4 in all) Amherst I., Kingston, KFN.

Stilt Sandpiper: Sep 2 to 8 (3) Amherst I., KFN.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Aug 29 to Nov 16 (23 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Aug 12 to Oct 5 (1) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, JHE, AKR *et al.* (This bird moulted from summer breeding plumage to that of winter. It was interesting to see the weekly change). (photo).

Red-necked Phalarope: Aug 26 to 31 (2) Amherstview Sewage Lagoon, KH.

Franklin's Gull: Sep 10 (1) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, KFN. (photo).

Little Gull: Aug 22 (1) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, KH; Oct 31 (1) PEPT, BR.

Forster's Tern: Sep 4 (1) Amherst I., VPM. (photo)

Snowy Owl: Nov 25 (1) onwards, Amherst I., KFN.

Black-billed Cuckoo: to Sep 29 PEPT, KFN.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: to Oct 23 Amherst I., BR.

Common Nighthawk: peak Aug 17 (45) PEPT, migrants, DO.



Snowy Owl by Martin Edwards

Red-headed Woodpecker: Oct 19 (1 im) Howe I., SD.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Aug 5 to Nov 16 (14) Kingston, KFN.

Bank Swallow: Aug 28 (450 migrants) PEPT, DO.

Barn Swallow: Aug 28 (1800 migrants) PEPT, DO.

Tufted Titmouse: Sep 25 (1) PEPT, DO.

Carolina Wren: Sep 25 (1) Bath, BR.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: night flights Sep 13/14 (180 per hour x 5 hours = 900) Kingston, RDW.

Swainson's Thrush: night flights Sep 13/14 (720 per hour x 5 hours = 3,600), Sep 22/23 (4,200 h x 5 h = 21,000) Kingston, RDW.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Sep 24 to Oct 10 (15 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Connecticut Warbler: Sep 3 to 25 (5 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Leconte's Sparrow: Oct 9-12 (1) Amherst I., VPM, BR *et al.* (photo).

Nelson's Sparrow: Oct 5 (2), 9 (1) Amherst I., KFN.

Rusty Blackbird: peak Oct 25 (550) Amherst I., BMD.

Purple Finch: Sep 25 onwards, light migration.

Red Crossbill: Nov 6 (1) PEPT, KFN.

White-winged Crossbill: Nov 4 (3), 6 (1) Amherst I., KFN.

Common Redpoll: Oct 25 (2); Nov 6 (1) Amherst I., BMD.

Pine Siskin: Oct 2 onwards, moderate flight, birds still present.

Evening Grosbeak: Oct 29 (1) Morton; Nov 10 (1) Opinicon, MC, PE.

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Kingston Field Naturalists 3+