



Kingston Field Naturalists

March 2019

KFN

A registered charitable organization and a member of Ontario Nature
Box 831
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4X6

KFN Website
and links to other sites:
<http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

Blog: <http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.blogspot.com>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Kingstonfieldnaturalists>

flickr:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/90930627@N06>

Membership Inquiries:
John Critchley
613-634-5475
johncritchley@bell.net

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September to April **Social begins at 7:00 pm.**
Ongwanada Resource Centre, Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston

Thursday 21 February

Mark Read, Park Naturalist, Murphys Point Provincial Park, will present: A Quick Guide to Citizen Science

Mark has international experience as a teacher and naturalist. Since moving to Canada, Mark has been working at Murphys Point Provincial Park as their Senior Naturalist. In 2018, Mark won the Sandy McBeath Outstanding Seasonal Interpreter Award.

Join Mark this evening as he showcases some of the best citizen science projects out there. This will be a celebration of the achievements and genuine contributions to science these projects have made.

Thursday 21 March

Bob Montgomerie, Professor Evolutionary Biology at Queen's University will present Our Enduring Fascination with Birds' Eggs

Dr. Bob Montgomerie has been on faculty at Queen's since 1980. He grew up in the wilds of downtown Toronto where he was introduced to birds at the Royal Ontario Museum and at Long Point Bird Observatory. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1979 from McGill University for studies on the foraging ecology of Mexican hummingbirds. In 2010 he received the American Ornithologists' Union's Elliott Coues Award, which "recognizes extraordinary contributions to ornithological research."

Bob's research on sexual selection and parental care in birds has taken him around the world to study diverse species from the high arctic of Canada, to the tropical forests of Costa Rica. He is now studying the evolution of egg colours and shapes, as well as writing a weekly essay on the history of ornithology at <https://amornithhistory.org/blog/>

It's Membership Renewal Time Again!

If your membership is due for renewal, you will receive a green Membership Renewal Form in the mail. To renew your membership please RETURN THIS FORM along with your cheque today. Donations to all our funds are always welcome and charitable receipts are issued for donations of \$10.00 and over.

The Blue Bill is available in an electronic version. On the Renewal Form you will see a line "e-Blue Bill" which indicates if you have signed up to decline the paper version and to receive an e-mail notification when the new issue is available. If the answer is "No" and you wish to switch to the e-Blue Bill just check the box and ensure that your e-mail address on the form is correct.

The Renewal Notice Form serves as the backup hard copy for the membership database as well as an accounting audit trail, plus it greatly simplifies my job.

PLEASE RETURN THE GREEN FORM with your cheque.

If you have decided not to renew your membership, you can avoid receiving further renewal notices by writing "do not renew" on the green form and returning it, or by phoning or emailing John Critchley.

Questions? .. Call John Critchley at 613-634-5475 or johncritchley@bell.net



Red Breasted Nuthatch on feeder
photo by Janis Grant
See GBBC page 2

RAMBLES are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms. Contact Anne Robertson for more information (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca)

Tuesday 19 February 9:00 am to noon Bayview Bog

Meet on north side of Taylor Kidd Blvd at a gate 5 km west of Collins Bay Road and 1.5 km east of County Road 6, near #4236. Dress warmly and bring a snack.

Tuesday 5 March 9:00 am to noon Rogers Side Road trails

Meet at the north end of Rogers Side Road (5.5 km east of the causeway on Hwy 2- north side).

Tuesday 19 March 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Second Depot Lake trails

Meet Invista Centre 1350 Gardiners Road (NW corner of parking lot). Bring lunch.

Tuesday 2 April 9:00 am to noon Nicholson's Point (Edgeware Road).

Meet Gardiners Town Centre (Bath Road at Gardiners) Tim Hortons. Bring a snack.

FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER EXCURSIONS

Monday 18 February (Family Day) 8:45 am to noon Snowy Owls on Wolfe Island

Please note time! The Wolfe Island ferry now leaves Kingston on the hour.

Leader: Erwin Batalla (simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144) This is an excellent opportunity to see Snowy Owls on Wolfe Island. Bring your family and friends as this event is open to the public. We will meet at 8:45 am at the Kingston ferry terminal to car pool. We plan to return around noon.

Saturday 2 March 8:15 am to noon Amherst Island

Leaders: Janet Scott (613-389-4608 or jiscott at kos.net) and Bonnie Livingstone (613-389-8516 or bonnie.livingstone at gmail.com) Meet at 8:15 am at the ferry dock for carpooling. Besides Snowy Owls and raptors, there should be some early spring migrants present. Bring a lunch and dress warmly. Return to the mainland around noon.

15 – 18 February 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count

The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages birdwatchers of all ages across North America in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day, or for as long as you like each day of the event. **To read more about the GBBC, visit: www.birdcount.org**

Saturday 27 April 9:30 am to noon Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Clean-up

Meet at the gravel pit at 9:30 am. Tools such as brush clippers and hammers are useful but not essential. Come and explore the trails, look for early spring flowers, butterflies and birds while helping with trail maintenance and signage. Refreshments will be available at noon at the gravel pit. Contact Erwin Batalla (613-389-0144 or simbat at bell.net) if you plan to come and to arrange car-pooling.

OF INTEREST

Monday 25 February 7:00 pm The New Science of Migration in Belleville

NASA and citizen scientists are working together to help migrating shorebirds! Pamela Stagg, radio host of *The County, Naturally*, will explain how revolutionary collaborations are changing our knowledge of bird migration. Quinte Field Naturalist meeting: Sills Auditorium, Bridge Street United Church, Belleville. All welcome. For info, contact Denice at denicejohn at live.ca

Wednesday 27 February 7:00 pm Managing Invasive Species in Elginburg

Ontario Woodlot Association, Limestone Chapter presents several landowners' perspectives including Richard and Kate's personal experience with Dog-strangling Vine (their dog is still OK, too). Talk at Elginburg United Church Hall, 2170 Unity Road in Elginburg. For info, contact Dave Sexsmith at 613-373-9334 or owalimestone at gmail.com

JUNIORS

MEETINGS

at McArthur Hall Rooms A313 and A317 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.



Thursday 14 February **MATING DISPLAYS**
Thursday 28 February **EDIBLE INSECTS**
Thursday 14 March March Break. NO MEETING
Thursday 28 March **GRASSLAND BIRDS**

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday 23 February 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Bayview Bog

Games in the snow (we hope!). Dress warmly for playing in snow. Bring lunch with something warm in a small thermos and all in a small backpack. Please sign up by Thursday 21 February. Car seat where required by law must be supplied. Volunteer drivers appreciated.

Saturday 23 March 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Waterfowl at Presqu'île

Meet at McArthur Hall. Bring snacks and lunch. Dress warmly.

Please sign up by Thursday 21 March (or at meeting on Thursday 28 February!)

TEENS

Details of Teen meetings are sent to members about a week before the trip. Your response at that time is appreciated so transportation can be organised and other arrangements made.



Saturday 9 March 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Elbow Lake

Environmental Education Centre. Hike with trail apps. Please download Elbow Lake Trail Apps to your phone if you can. Access via: ELEEC Trail apps. Meet Kingslake Plaza (Division St south of Hwy 401). Details in email.

Next meeting Saturday 13 April

Club News and Updates

We welcome new members: Justin Peter, Soahil Bajwa, R. James Little, Tom Wheatley, Sonia Verjovski, Lori Mainland, Kenneth Ross, William and Marion Birdsall, John Starret, and Daphne Christie and Michael Bauer.

BioBlitz 2019

The 2019 BioBlitz will be held at the Lennox Generating Station (Ontario Power Generation) on Bath Road, Friday 14 June to Saturday 15 June 2019. If you would like detailed information, contact Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

The Land Conservancy for Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington is currently raising funds to acquire the 200 acre Millen property near Parham. The goal is to raise \$250,000 to cover acquisition costs, including survey, appraisal and legal fees, and to endow funds to cover the on-going costs of property ownership and stewardship. **At the January KFN general meeting** a motion was passed *that the members of Kingston Field Naturalists approve a donation of \$7,000 from the Habitat Preservation Fund to the Land Conservancy for Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington to be used toward the purchase of the Millen property.*

CHANGES TO ONTARIO'S PLANNING LEGISLATION GOOD NEWS!

The Ontario Government has withdrawn its proposal for a new "Open-For-Business Planning By-Law" (OFB-ZBL). This means that all the potential changes to the Province's Planning legislation that were mentioned in the KFN's January newsletter have been withdrawn. The OFB-ZBL was proposed in Schedule 10 to Bill 66 - *The Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act* - that will be debated at Queen's Park in February. Schedule 10 has been removed from Bill 66, but other proposals in Bill 66 have not been changed.

Many thanks to everybody who responding to the concerns and request for action expressed in the KFN newsletter and many other places.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REVIEW

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is beginning a review of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. The aim of the review is "to improve protections for species at risk, consider modern and innovative approaches to achieve positive outcomes for species at risk, as well as to look at ways to streamline approvals and provide clarity to support economic development."

The KFN Conservation Committee will be following this review closely.

The Review is described on the Environmental Registry of Ontario at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4143> where individuals can leave comments until 4 March 2019.

There is an interesting, thorough analysis of the first 10 years of ESA implementation, conducted by Ontario Nature, Ecojustice and the David Suzuki Foundation. Find this report at: <https://davidssuzuki.org/science-learning-centre-article/without-trace-reflecting-10th-anniversary-ontarios-endangered-species-act-2007/>

For more information contact John Donihee (donihee at telusplanet.net).

News from Bill Evans

Bill Evans gave a terrific talk to the KFN some years ago; he was our expert witness at the Amherst Island Environmental Review Tribunal. He is still fighting wind turbines! On Friday 8 February Bill sent this news from south of the border:

A big win for birds today in New York State. The wind developer of the proposed Galloo Island Wind Project (~30 km SSE of Kingston) withdrew its application. This would have been a terrible wind energy location for birds, perhaps the worst in North America in that the project was only a mile from the largest inland seabird colony in eastern US (Little Galloo Island). The wind developer had barely considered this colony in their avian risk assessment. I had estimated 65 Caspian Tern and 775 Ring-billed Gull fatalities annually. The wind developer was seeking a permit to kill about 185 Bald Eagles over the next ten years. The application was withdrawn because the outcome was not looking good for the developer on multiple fronts.

For more information see: <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx...>