



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

Janis Grant

As the new President of the Kingston Field Naturalists, I am struck by the number of Past-presidents who are still active club members and who, in many cases, are still serving on the Executive doing very important work on your behalf. I would like to thank all our Past presidents for their continued interest and involvement in the KFN and look forward to their guidance and support during my term.

Chris Grooms, during his presidency from 2008 to 2010, did a superb job of carrying out the club's objectives. Chris has, among many initiatives, been a driving force in setting up a KFN-sponsored scholarship at QUBS, taken a leading role in the Chimney Swift Project at Queen's University and most recently led KFN's efforts to set up a Management Plan for the Owl Woods. He continues to chair the Owl Woods Management Committee and through his efforts has obtained a grant from the Kingston Community Foundation to produce a management plan.

Chris worked with Chris Hargreaves, Erwin Batalla and the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists to prepare a resolution on wind farms which was passed at the Annual General Meeting of Ontario Nature. The resolution asks that the Ontario government place a moratorium on wind farm development within 5 km of National Parks, Provincial Parks and Important Bird Areas until multi-year radar studies of bird migration are conducted. If the

studies determine that proposed sites have significant bird migration concentrations, the resolution calls for the government to protect them from wind farms.

These projects have been important in furthering KFN's objectives to

- acquire, record and disseminate knowledge of natural history
- stimulate public interest in nature and in the protection and preservation of wildlife and natural habitats
- acquire, receive and hold lands for the purpose of preserving their natural flora and fauna, and to encourage and assist other organizations and individuals to do likewise.

I would like to thank Chris for the work he has done and wish him continued success in endeavours on the club's behalf.

I would also like to welcome to the executive, Gaye Beckwith, our new Vice-President and Dale Christensen our new Member-at-large.

We will miss Hugh Evans our former Past president, who is moving off the Executive this year. Like many other Past presidents, I'm sure Hugh will continue to be involved in KFN activities.

Protect Yourself Against Ticks

Adapted by Janis Grant

Ticks carrying Lyme disease have been found in the Kingston region, including Lemoine Point, Prince Edward County, St. Lawrence Islands National Park and the Frontenac Arch. If you attend field trips, or visit these areas on your own, we recommend that you take precautions against tick bites. Please read this information on Lyme disease, adapted from a brochure from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is an infection caused by the corkscrew-shaped bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. In Ontario, these bacteria are spread by the bite of blacklegged ticks (formerly called deer ticks), *Ixodes scapularis*. The blacklegged tick can be found sporadically throughout the province.

What are ticks?

Ticks are closely related to spiders. They are typically small when unfed, (1 to 5 mm in length), and all active stages feed on blood. They cannot fly and they move quite slowly. Ticks usually come in contact with people or animals by positioning themselves on tall grass and bushes. They may take several hours to find a suitable place on the host to attach to feed. Most tick bites are painless. The majority of bites will not result in disease because most ticks are not infected with the agent of Lyme disease.

In Ontario, blacklegged ticks are more

commonly found in areas along the north shores of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. Locations with established blacklegged tick populations infected with the Lyme disease agent, include: Long Point Provincial Park, Turkey Point Provincial Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Point Pelee National Park, Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area, and the St. Lawrence Islands National Park area.

The precise boundaries of these established tick populations are difficult to define but it is anticipated that some of these populations will continue to expand into neighbouring areas. Blacklegged ticks are also known to feed on migratory birds and as a result, they can be transported throughout the province. Therefore, while the potential is low, it is possible for people to encounter blacklegged ticks, or to be infected with Lyme disease from the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, almost anywhere in the province.

How do ticks transmit Lyme disease?

Blacklegged ticks are the only type of tick in Ontario that can consistently transmit Lyme disease in Ontario. Even with a bite from an infected blacklegged tick, there is only a small chance of getting Lyme disease. Ticks feed on blood by inserting their mouthparts (not their whole bodies) into the skin of a person, or an animal. Ticks feed slowly and their body gradually enlarges as it feeds, making it more visible. It usually

takes from 3 to 7 days for a blacklegged tick to take a complete blood meal.

Ticks are most likely to transmit infection after being attached for more than 24 hours of feeding because the bacteria requires time to migrate from the tick's gut to its salivary glands. Because of this delay, prompt detection and removal of ticks is one of the key methods of preventing Lyme disease.

What are the symptoms?

Early symptoms of Lyme disease usually occur within one to two weeks, but can occur as soon as three days or as long as a month, after a tick bite. If you develop: fever, headache, muscle and joint pains, fatigue and a skin rash, especially one that looks like a red bull's eye (called *erythema migrans*), promptly seek medical advice. It is important to tell your doctor when and the geographical location of where you were bitten by a tick. Not all patients with Lyme disease will develop the bull's eye rash.

Treatment

In most circumstances in Ontario, antibiotic treatment is not necessary if someone has been bitten by a tick. If a tick is discovered attached to a person, the tick should be promptly removed. The tick can be identified through a doctor and/or public health unit. If the tick is a blacklegged tick, it will be tested for Lyme disease.

Medical attention should be sought if any symptoms of early Lyme disease develop within 30 days of removal of the tick. In rare instances, antibiotic

treatment may be recommended if the tick was attached for a long time (more than 24 hours), the person had been visiting an area where Lyme disease is relatively common, or the tick is not available for testing and the patient has symptoms of early Lyme disease. If symptoms of Lyme disease develop, antibiotics should prevent further complications. The earlier treatment is received, the better. If the initial infection is not treated, symptoms involving the heart, nervous system or joints can occur.

How do I avoid ticks?

Wear light-coloured clothing. It makes ticks easier to see and remove before they can attach to feed.

Wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt.

Wear closed footwear and socks.

Tuck your pants into your socks.

Use a tick repellent that has "DEET" (following the manufacturer's directions for use). Apply it to your skin and outer clothing. Avoid your eyes and mouth, as well as cuts and scrapes.

Put a tick and flea collar on your pet and check them for ticks periodically.

If you frequent the areas where blacklegged ticks are established, examine yourself thoroughly for ticks. It is important to do this each day. Pay special attention to areas such as groin, scalp and armpits. Use a mirror to check the back of your body or have someone

else check it.

What do I do if I find an attached tick?

Prompt removal of ticks from your skin will help prevent infection, since transmission of the Lyme disease agent usually requires the tick to be attached for more than 24 hours.

Using fine-tipped tweezers, carefully grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Pull it straight out, gently but firmly.

Don't squeeze it. Squeezing the tick can cause the Lyme disease agent to be accidentally introduced into your body.

Don't put anything on the tick, or try to burn the tick off.

After the tick has been removed, place it in screw-top bottle (like a pill vial or film canister), and take it to your doctor or local health unit. They can send it to the Ontario Public Health Laboratory for identification. Establishing the type of tick may help to assess your risk of acquiring Lyme disease.

It is important to remember where you most likely acquired the tick. It will help public health workers to identify areas of higher risk.

Thoroughly cleanse the bite site with rubbing alcohol and/or soap and water

Lyme disease testing

Blood tests to support a diagnosis of Lyme disease are performed at the Ontario Public Health Laboratory. The

diagnostic tests that are used are approved by federal regulators in Health Canada. The testing protocol follows the recommendations of the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network, as well as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the USA.

The CDC and the Public Health Agency of Canada caution health care professionals and the public regarding the use of private laboratories offering Lyme disease testing in the USA, as these "for-profit" laboratories may not follow the same testing protocols as most Canadian provincial and federal or United States federal or state laboratories. For more information on this, please see the following link: <http://www.cdc.gov/MMWR/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5405a6.htm>

Who can tell me more about Lyme disease?

Talk to your doctor, or contact your local public health unit for more information.

The Kingston, Lennox and Addington Public Health Unit can be reached at 613-549-1232.

In Memory of Faith Avis

John Cartwright

Editor's note: our Honorary President, Faith Avis, died on February 6. This issue contains two articles in her memory by people who knew her well. John Cartwright concentrates on her passion for community work, which included many contributions to the KFN, and Kathy Innes recalls some good times spent in the field with Faith.

Faith's outstanding traits were her enthusiasm for life and her commitment to helping others, particularly those who needed help most. As a good daughter of Saskatchewan, she learned early to work with others for the betterment of the community, and to inspire them with her enjoyment in doing so. She could be forceful in her views, but even when she disagreed with you, she could make it clear that this was a disagreement over subject matter, not personal animosity. Over the years she built up a wide network of friends, and in turn these were ready to help her when she needed it.

I came to know Faith when she and Wally arrived in Kingston in 1946, after Faith had finished Carleton University's new graduate diploma programme in journalism. As I recall, they stayed with us briefly both then and a few years later, and with her warmth and readiness to listen became almost a second mother to me. Wally took an appointment at the Royal Military College, while Faith undertook the challenge of bringing up three very bright and very, very active boys.

Somehow, she also found time to be heavily involved in a full-time job and numerous volunteer activities. She was invited in the early 1960s to establish a public relations department at Kingston General Hospital, and was its director for 17 years, persuading the hospital administration to begin commenting openly on issues and problems as they arose.

She did volunteer work for a wide variety of organizations, such as the OSU Library Fund which provided books for schoolchildren in Ghana. Her most important volunteer work was in the Kingston branch of the Elizabeth Fry Society, which provided help for the women in the notorious Prison for Women, a part of the 19th century Kingston Penitentiary, where emphasis was on punishment rather than rehabilitation.

Beyond helping prisoners become re-acquainted with the outside world through day release and other programmes, Faith and the other members of the Society lobbied the government to provide facilities which might actually help rehabilitate these women, many of whom had long histories of being abused and degraded. Eventually these efforts paid off with the closing of the Prison for Women in 2000 and the reassignment of the women to less harsh facilities in their home provinces. Faith eventually was to write a book about this struggle, Women in Cages, though unfortunately

due to the bankruptcy of the publisher, only a few copies ever became available.

Meanwhile, she and Wally had built one of the first permanent homes on Cartwright Point, and she quickly became involved in establishing various organizations such as the community dock and roads committees. I like to think that it was living on the Point that kindled her interest in nature; in any event, she gradually became an avid birder and particularly after Wally's premature death in 1979, active in the Kingston Field Naturalists.

Even in the last few years, when she was having some difficulty getting around, she would still participate in the semi-annual Round-ups and other outings, as well as remaining active on the Executive. Just last August, my wife and I took her to Prince Edward County, where we sampled migrant birds and good County wines in equal measure.

Faith leaves us with warm memories of a person who lived life to the full, was always willing to help others, and inspired all of us with her readiness to act to get things done. We miss her.

Birding Trips with Faith Avis, 1991-2005

Kathy Innes

With gusto, Faith joined trips to enjoy places, people and, especially, birds in many parts of the world. She and her Tilley hat visited all continents; the Tilley company sent her a free hat after her old one wore out. I remember six fine trips with Faith.

1. Southern California, December 21, 1991-January 5, 1992

This was the first for the foursome of Josette Arassus, Laurie Wright, Kathy Innes and Faith. Visiting birding areas around Monterey, Morro Bay, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Borrego Springs and Palm Springs, we saw 184 species.

The first night was memorable for the zest with which Faith, fortunately wearing a bib, revelled in Dungeness crab. We celebrated New Year's Eve in a French restaurant, where Faith managed

a caviar and lobster appetizer, a pheasant entrée, and lemon mousse. The rest of us dined equally well. More usual were Denny's breakfasts, and picnic lunches. Happy hour was a time to review bird lists, accompanied by Scotch and pistachios.

2. Costa Rica, March 6-13, 1994

Our second trip began at small Tapanti Lodge, whose driver, Hector, took us in an ancient, smoke-belching Land Rover to mountainous forests. He laughed when Faith photographed him driving, and seemed amazed that a woman of her age could tackle the rigours of hiking in the forests.

In hot, dry Guanacaste, we rose at five and birded until heat forced siestas. One day our driver Dimitri put a couch in the back of the truck, to take us to a

lagoon teeming with birds. He also trucked to a huge river, and to a ranch. Faith enjoyed it tremendously.



3. California and Nevada, December 20, 1995-January 3, 1996

We were off again, in California to Death Valley, Palm Springs and Borrego Springs; and in Nevada we went to Beatty, Las Vegas and the Hoover Dam. In Death Valley three of us walked the Zabriskie Point trail, while Faith drove to meet us at the end of the hike. One evening she and Laurie had a vigorous discussion about physics, which she characteristically concluded with statements about the necessity to speak out about that in which one believes. At the end of the trip, she had us help her plan a big dinner party at 5 Oriole Lane, for twenty-four KFN guests.

4. Manitoulin Island, August, 1998

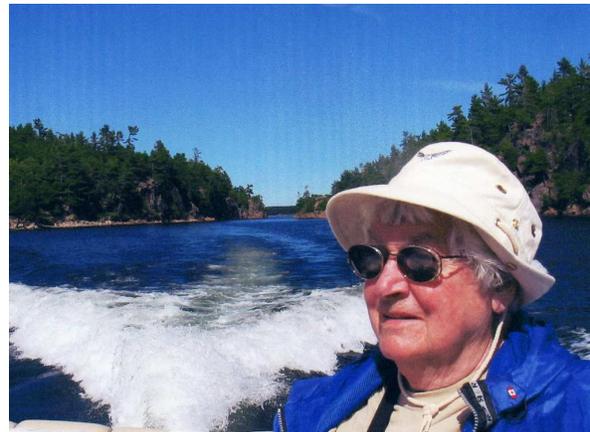
Faith wrote a full-page account for the Kingston Whig-Standard of this trip with me. With her journalist's eye she described enthusiastically our experiences with people, places and nature. Of a birding highlight, she wrote, "Our best birds of the day were a

trio of Leconte's Sparrows, an adult and two young, perched on fence posts."

5. Grand Manan Island, N. B., August 18-26, 2001

This time the group consisted of Bea and Jay McMahan, with Faith and Kathy. We stayed at charming Whale Cove Inn, and spent our days birding and whale watching.

A highlight was a visit to the home of Ken, Mary and Kenneth Edwards. At low tide Kenneth gave us an explanation of sea life, as we explored their wonderful shore. Mary outfitted us with woollies for our chilly voyage to view Right Whales. To the happy hour routine of pistachios, Scotch and bird lists was added the challenge of the day's Globe and Mail crossword.



6. Saskatchewan, June 22-July 7, 2005

Faith, now eighty years young, wanted to make one more road trip, in order to be at the homecoming at her birthplace, Spaulding. We shared nearly 7,000 kilometres of driving; she managed to reach 130 km/h on one flat piece of

prairie road. It was heart-warming to be part of her visit to family and friends, to attend her school reunion and to see her family home.

The birding highlight was an evening's bumpy ride with a local naturalist. He was equipped with a large, old Dodge station wagon, but no telescope, no binoculars, nor any bird book. He regaled us with nature stories as we bucketed over grassy tracks. We saw lots of wildlife, including Yellow-

headed Blackbirds, Snow Geese, Willets, Black-crowned Night Herons, White Pelicans, Grebes, a pair of Sandhill Cranes, baby Skunks, a Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, and a velvet-antlered Mule Deer, picturesquely posed in acres of budding wild roses.

Throughout these trips Faith pursued birds, enjoyed new places, and engaged with people, always with physical stamina and intellectual curiosity. What a great companion.

Spring Season March 1 - May 31 2010

Ron D. Weir

The ice melt along the eastern end of Lake Ontario occurred early, enabling the diving ducks to be widely dispersed. As a consequence, many were probably overlooked. The main movement of Canada Geese towards the arctic was on time and their numbers were high. High numbers of Snow Geese were noted for the second spring in succession; perhaps their migration route has been pushed slightly towards the west to include Kingston.

Summer-like weather dominated the latter part of April and the migrant passerines arrived. Subsequent cold conditions shut down the passage for a few weeks until near mid-May when very heavy movement and groundings occurred for the flycatchers, vireos and warblers. As usual, several species overshot their more southerly nesting range to end up in the Kingston area.

Rarities during the period included Tricolored Heron, Black Vulture, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, White-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Lark Sparrow and Yellow-headed Blackbird.



Willet 29May Amherst I. by Bruce di Labio

Record Early Arrivals

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 20Apr (1) Kingston, RDW; prev. 22Apr05

Blackpoll Warbler: 30Apr (1) PEPT, JHE, RDW prev. 04 May 69

Species Accounts

Red-throated Loon: 2May (1) PEPT, JHE, RDW.

Common Loon: peak 2May (140) PEPT, JHE, RDW.

Red-necked Grebe: 4Apr to 2May (14 in all), Kingston, KFN.

Least Bittern: 22May (1) Moscow marsh, KFN.

Great Egret: 19May (1) Collins Bay, L & P McCurdy.

Tricolored Heron: 25-26May (1) Amherst I., VPM *et al.* (6th spring ever)

Black Vulture: 28Mar (1) Prince Edward, RTS.

Snow Goose: peak 14Mar (4000) Lansdowne, JHaig; remainder 15Mar to 1Apr (19) Kingston, KFN.

Canada Goose: peak 16Mar (27,000) Kingston city, SNaylor.

Cackling Goose: 17Mar (1) Kingston city, NLB, 28Mar (2) Hay Bay, BAW, RDW.

Brant: 13 to 29May, peak flocks 17May (1600) Kingston city, 17May (650) Camden East, KFN; 17May (400) West Brother's I., DVW.

Eurasian Wigeon: 21May (1 male) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, VPM, BRowe.

Canvasback: 4Mar (4) Wolfe I., VPM (only report).

Harlequin Duck: 24Apr to 27May (up to 9 birds) PEPT, m. ob. (4th spring ever, nine birds are unprecedented).

Surf Scoter: 4Apr (2), 25Apr (2) PEPT, KFN.

Long-tailed Duck: peak 5Apr (2000) PEPT, KFN.

Sandhill Crane: 30Mar onwards (14 in all) Kingston area, KFN.

Bald Eagle: 1Mar to 31May (18 in all) Kingston area, KFN.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 14Apr (29) & 21Apr (18) Kingston, JHE, RDW. Two survey routes.

Rough-legged Hawk: last one 4May Amherst I., VPM.

Golden Eagle: 10May (1) PEPT, RTS.

Merlin: 1Mar to 31May (11 in all) Kingston, KFN.

Peregrine Falcon: one nest in downtown Kingston, KFN.

Black-bellied Plover: 4 to 29May (7) Amherst I., KFN.	Bonaparte's Gull: peak 18Apr (10,000) Amherst I., PJG.
American Golden Plover: 25Apr to 1May (5) Amherst I., KFN.	Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2-3Mar (1) Lansdowne dump, VPM, NLB.
Greater Yellowlegs: 8Apr to 26May (28 in all) Kingston, KFN.	Black-billed Cuckoo: from 7May (1) Elginburg, EB.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 12Apr to 26May (21 in all) Kingston, KFN.	Yellow-billed Cuckoo: from 25May (1) PEPt, RTS.
Solitary Sandpiper: 2 to 23May (6) Kingston area, KFN.	Snowy Owl: last bird 2Apr (1) Amherst I., VPM, BRowe.
Willet: 29May (1) Amherst I., BMD <i>et al.</i> (photo).	Barred Owl: 24Apr (21) Canoe Lake road, JHE, RDW.
Whimbrel: 29May (1) Amherst I., KFN	Short-eared Owl: peak 24Mar (18) Amherst I., PJG.
Marbled Godwit: 4 to 14May (2 birds) Amherst I., KFN.	Red-headed Woodpecker: 8-11May (1) Buck Lake, RBoston, 9May (1) PEPt, RTS.
Ruddy Turnstone: 14 to 29May (10) Amherst I., KFN.	White-eyed Vireo: 2May (1) PEPt, RTS.
Western Sandpiper: 16Apr (1) Amherst I., KFN (4 th spring ever).	Tufted Titmouse: 11Apr (1) Howe I., SDavid.
Short-billed Dowitcher: peak 26May (30) Amherst I., KFN.	Red-breasted Nuthatch: weak return flight, KFN.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 13 to 18Apr (1) & 30Apr (1) Amherst I., VPM & A. Kuhnigh.	Carolina Wren: 25Mar (1), 23May Kingston, C Grooms & VPM.
Wilson's Phalarope: 30Apr onwards (at least 13 females) Amherst I., KFN.	N. Mockingbird: 11Apr to 23May (2 different birds) PEPt & Kingston, KFN.
Red-necked Phalarope: 24May (1) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, VPM.	Blue-winged Warbler: 3 to 15May (6 in all) Kingston area, KFN.

Prairie Warbler: 2May (1) PEPT, JHE, RDW.

Connecticut Warbler: 14May (1) PEPT, VPM, BRowe.

Hooded Warbler: 16May (1) PEPT, DOkines.

Summer Tanager: 15May (1 male) PEPT, RTS.

Lark Sparrow: 14May (1) PEPT, VPM, BRowe.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: 6May (1) Hay Bay, CFleming.

Contributors: E. Batalla; B.M. Dilabio; J.H. Ellis; P.J. Good; Kingston Field Naturalists (3+); V.P. Mackenzie; North Leeds Birders; R.T. Sprague; B.A. Weir; R.D. Weir; D.V. Weseloh

Kingston Field Naturalists Annual Report 2009-2010

Membership

John Critchley

KFN has 403 paid Adult memberships including 17 Life members and 12 Young Adult members. The Adult membership is evenly split between Individual and Family memberships, increasing the actual membership to 597 voting members. There are 48 Junior and 14 Teen memberships.

Members will notice that their mailing label indicates the type of membership and the expiry date. The system of sending out personalized renewal notices is working well. Renewal notices are sent out with the March Newsletter and reminders, if necessary, are sent out with the May and June newsletters. The majority of members renew their membership before the end of the fiscal/membership year and receive their Membership Cards with the May Newsletter. The renewal notices form part of the hardcopy audit trail for tracking payment of membership fees and donations so it is important to return them. A big thank-you to those

who renew promptly and don't require further reminders.

Membership Secretary John Critchley manages the membership database, sends up to three renewal reminders, prepares charitable receipts and thank-you letters for the treasurer, sends out the e-mail notices for e-Blue Bill recipients and prepares mailing labels. Thank-you to volunteers Audrey Brown and June Fitchett who fold and mail the Newsletter and Norma Graham who mails The Blue Bill and on occasion does double duty for the combined mailing of The Blue Bill and the Newsletter.

KFN 60th Anniversary Celebrations 2009 Connie Gardiner, Hugh Evans, Janis Grant

With pride and a sense of accomplishment, KFN celebrated its 60th year in four different ways. Histories of the KFN at 5 (by Bob Stewart), 25 (by Helen Quilliam) and 50 years (Mike Evans) were reprinted in the Blue Bill and a new article chronicling the past 10

years was written by Erwin Batalla. We invited John Cartwright, a Charter KFN Member, to be our speaker at the October General Meeting. Gaye Beckwith added historical photos submitted by members to the pre-meeting slide show at the AGM and at the May Dinner meeting.

It was great fun to celebrate with a special breakfast at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary on September 27 after an early morning bird walk. We invited those in Kingston for the Ontario Nature Fall Regional Meeting on September 26 to join in this celebration, organized by Anne Robertson and her team. We are grateful to all who helped to organize a successful and fun celebration.

Conservation *Chris Hargreaves*

Over the last twelve months we:

- participated in the Kingston Wetlands Working Group, regarding a CRCA master plan for Collins Creek, and remedial work on Highgate Creek

- surveyed Collins Creek for Phragmites, and were pleased to establish that there was less Phragmites along the Creek, than there was along Highway 401 which crosses the Creek

- lobbied John Gerretsen regarding the siting of wind turbine farms close to critical areas for migratory birds

- opposed a nursery development near the Bayview Wetland; the proposal was turned down

- commented on a new Natural Areas and Parkland Acquisition Policy for Kingston, being considered by the City of Kingston Administrative Affairs Committee

- followed the progress of Kingston's new Official Plan, now approved by the Ontario Municipal Board

- monitored the evolution of the Sustainable Kingston Draft Plan.

But what important issues have we missed? More help is needed to review issues coming before the City of Kingston Council and committees!

Many thanks to everybody who's helped the Conservation Committee over the past year: Maureen Addis, John Anderson, Erwin Batalla, Carolyn Bonta, Sharon Critchley, Mike Evans, Elaine Farragher, Shirley French, Chris Grooms, Phillida Hargreaves, Margaret Henderson, and Lesley Rudy.

If anybody else can help in the coming year, particularly with regard to monitoring the City of Kingston Council and committees, please contact Chris Hargreaves, (613-389-8993).

Nature Reserves *Erwin Batalla*

The Helen Quilliam Sanctuary (HQS) benefits from a reduced tax rate because of its status as a managed forest. Every ten years, the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) requires that we report on the steps we take to maintain the trails, inventory the wildlife and perform educational

programs at HQS. This year, with the assistance of a MFTIP official approver, we completed this ten-year report. With recent increases in market value assessment, it is crucial that we maintain this reduced tax rate for the Sanctuary.

In spring, we conducted annual trail maintenance at HQS with the help of 16 members. In late winter, KFN Teens installed 4 Wood Duck boxes on a pond at the south end of the Sanctuary. A few days earlier, a small group of adult KFN members punched holes through the ice and installed supporting poles. This program was an initiative of Ducks Unlimited administered by Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

To maintain the grassland habitat on our Amherst Island property, we rent the land to a farmer whose cows graze there from May to October. We have dealt with this drover for the past twenty years; this year we renewed our contract with him for another ten years. The solar-powered water pumping system which supplies the cows with fresh water continues to function well with the help of a number of volunteers, including George Vance, Peter Good, Bud Rowe, Hugh Evans and Janet Scott. In early spring, Ducks Unlimited (DU) paid for a new fence on the northern boundary, and will make changes to the dyke and the control structure that regulate the water level of the pond.

The KFN monitors properties for the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Nature. This insures that these properties are maintained according to their respective management plan. This

year, we conducted monitoring at the Greenwood Property, Lost Bay Reserve (Cameron Smith and Bud Rowe), Roziland Island (John Poland, Anne and Barry Robertson) and Evan's Wood.

Speakers

Chris Grooms

The following is a list of speakers and topics at general meetings in 2009-2010.

September: Todd French, *A Current Assessment of Pollutant Trends in the Great Lakes and Their Interconnecting Channels*

October: John Cartwright, *KFN at 60*.

November: Kay Chornook, *Walking with Wolf*.

January: Chip Weseloh, *Colonial Waterbirds*.

February: Barrie Gilbert, *The Role of Grizzlies and Pacific Salmon in Coastal BC Ecosystems*

March: Kristen Keyes, *Short-eared Owl Monitoring Project*.

April: Philip Careless, *The Buprestid Hunter-Enlisting a Native Wasp in the Search for Beetles*

May: Richard Pope, *The Reluctant Twitcher*

Publicity

Janis Grant

The KFN, with the help of dedicated volunteers, participated in the Fall Leisure Showcase at the Invista Centre in September 2009. Our focus was on

families and children interested in becoming Junior or Teen Naturalists. Over the year, we placed a number of paid ads in local newspapers including the Whig Standard Spring Leisure Magazine and Spring Activity Guide, Profiles Kingston "Summer in the City" and Kingston This Week.

The Whig Standard ran an article about the Christmas Bird Count in January featuring photographs by Rose-Marie Burke. Members of the executive met with Cataraqui Regional Conservation Authority (CRCA) education staff in November to discuss ways to work together to promote nature education to young people. As a result, KFN, with special help from Bud Rowe, assisted with the CRCA Owl Prowl and Family Day. CRCA publication "Cat Tales" ran an excellent article about KFN in their winter edition.

President Chris Grooms, Susie Rance, Murray Seymour and Gaye Beckwith made improvements to the KFN website and display board. Murray created a beautiful poster which will be on view at the CRCA Outdoor Centre and Sustainability Centre. Gaye creates a slideshow each month featuring KFN events and photographs by club members. He assembled a special slide show for our 60th Anniversary celebration and for the May dinner featuring photographs from KFN's past.

The Kingston Young Field Naturalists with the help of 12-year-old David Loughheed have created their own website as part of the KFN site. See

<http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/youth/index.html>

Thanks to Chris Grooms, Rose-Marie Burke, Anne Robertson, Hugh Evans and Gaye Beckwith for their work in facilitating and participating in these activities and for their superb photograph contributions.

Newsletter

John Diemer

Members received a newsletter in June, September, October, November, December, February, March, April, and May that informed them of Club activities and issues, including general meetings/presentations, field trips, special activities, membership issues, and conservation matters.

The Blue Bill Alexandra Simmons

The 4 issues of the Blue Bill published in the 2009-10 KFN year contained 131 pages submitted by over 25 individuals.

Species records consisted of seasonal bird occurrence reports, spring and fall round-ups, Christmas counts and a yearly summary. Other local species data were odonate sightings and the Bioblitz censuses. Descriptions of 8 teen and 9 general Field Trips appeared. The KFN 60th Anniversary events were described, histories of the Club at 10, 25 and 50 years were reprinted, and an update of the last 10 years was published. Natural History articles covered ospreys, bird names, snakes, red knots, snowstorms, and snipes. Communication from the Executive was

in the President's Page, Annual Reports and Financial Statements.

Beginning with the December 2009 issue, members had the option to select a link to the Electronic version of the Blue Bill on the KFN Website instead of the paper copy mailed to their home. Currently, 58% of members have chosen the electronic version. This will reduce costs and resource use.

Thank you to Norma Graham for mailing the Blue Bill and to Susie Rance for posting the electronic version on the KFN Website.

All members are invited to submit Natural History related articles to the Editor at alerwin@kos.net.

Rare Birds Committee Ron D. Weir

Four meetings were held during the year 2009. All seven of our Committee members responded with a judgement on each of the 19 records for which an assessment was requested.

Twelve records were supported by a combination of written reports and photographs. Seven sightings were not accompanied by any documentation, although credible birders were involved in the sightings. This assessment resulted in accepting 11 records, classing one as indeterminate (hybrid gull) and judging seven as indeterminate due to a lack of documentation. Two of those species accepted are new to the Kingston bird list that now stands at 374 species.

The photos of the hybrid gull found at the dump at Lansdowne were referred to experts outside the KFN, but a definitive identification has not been forthcoming.

Field Trips

Kurt Hennige

As the Field Trips chairperson, I would like to thank all 23 volunteers who led and/or organized 37 events. Without your great leadership we could not offer so many different events in a year. This includes Field Trips, Round-ups, Public Walks and Christmas Bird Counts. Participation varied from a few to 46. While the majority of members participating in events were local, some events attracted members from as far as Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Places visited included Prince Edward Point, Helen Quilliam Sanctuary, Amherst Island, NCC Napanee Plain Scheck site, K&P Trail Kingston, Kingston Waterfront, Chaffey's Lock & QUBS, Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Perch River in New York State, Thousand Islands, Menzel Centennial and Presqu'île Provincial Park Brighton.

Leaders & Organizers were Erwin Batalla, Chris Bellemore, Ann Brown, Howard Bridger, Wendy Briggs-Jude, Mark Conboy, Hugh Evans, Mike Evans, Peter Good, Kurt Hennige, Paul Mackenzie, Jay&Bea McMahan, Gerald Paul, Darren Rayner, Bud Rowe, Gary Ure, Janet Scott, Carol&Murray Seymour, Terry Sprague, Owen Weir and Ron Weir.

Rambles**Anne Robertson**

The enjoyment of participants sharing knowledge in the field is evidenced by the number of members who take part in rambles. More people participated in at least one ramble this year (73, up from 65 and 50 in the previous two years). The range in numbers for any one ramble remains roughly constant from 5 to 22 members. The average number for the last two years was 13.

This year 21 trips explored a variety of habitats in a variety of weather including snow, rain and cold. We visited Helen Quilliam Sanctuary, Elbow Lake and Big Sandy Bay; we walked on the Rideau, K&P and Cataragui trails. We went to Gould Lake, Parrott's Bay and Depot Lakes Conservation Areas. We visited some private properties. We hunted for fossils near Bath. We explored a variety of sites and had a good time discovering and learning about nature nearby.

Thanks to John Comish for showing us the Gananoque Wildlife Area, to the owners of private properties we visited and to Paul Mackenzie for leading a ramble in my absence. This is a great opportunity to share nature information. It is a stimulating, social, educational and physical activity!

Ontario Nature **Jacqueline Bartnik**

As your Ontario Nature Representative, it is my responsibility to attend two Regional Meetings, one in spring and one in fall. At these meetings each club presents describes activities that occur

in their club through the year. We are also informed on ON activities. For example, for the KFN I explained the Chimney Swift project and Loggerhead Shrike project.

I attended the Spring Regional Meeting on May 3 at the Petawawa Research Centre hosted by Upper Ottawa Valley Nature Club. The Fall Regional Meeting on September 12th was hosted by KFN on Amherst Island help from Janet Scott.

I order and sell the Christmas cards. We still have 10 packs of cards which were not sold, so in October these will be available at a reduced rate.

Junior Naturalists **Anne Robertson**

Thirty nine Juniors registered in September. For the first time, two further registrations were accepted in January. Meetings continue to be held at McArthur Hall twice a month and in the field once a month. This year we again divided the members into three age groups each led by two or three leaders. We had eight leaders as well as Diane Lawrence who takes on a lot of responsibilities and provides suggestions and resources. We thank them all: Allison Neill (three years), Allison Board (three years), Kyle Bender (two years), Brynlynn Gray (two years), Derek Gray, Erin Jaggard, Jennifer Bailey and Lindsay Theirault. We are lucky to have so many leaders coming back each year.

Sixteen meetings were held; besides the registration and introduction meeting, the topics covered were Lepidoptera,

Woody Plants, Astronomy, Misunderstood Creatures, Seasonal Crafts, Bears, Exotic Species, Legs, Extreme Weather, Aerialists, Invertebrates in the House, Plants and People, Earth Day, Bird Walk and Wild Food Picnic. Six field trips took place to Foley Mountain Conservation Area, Elbow Lake (property of Nature Conservancy Canada), Robertson Cottage, Amherst Island (Owl Woods), Depot Lakes Conservation Area.

Our cleanup effort this year on the K&P trail near Harrowsmith. Besides Clean up day Juniors give back to nature through the Christmas collection, which went to World Wildlife Fund to help protect Polar Bears. At our advocacy meeting on Earth Day we cut out our footprints and wrote on our pledges to improve our care of the Earth. These footprints were later displayed on car windows or front doors in the hope of spreading the information.

In May we participated in the first ever Regional Youth Naturalists Field Trip sponsored by Ontario Nature. Eleven Kingston Youth met with six Macoun Club (Ottawa) Young Naturalists at the Perth Wildlife Area for a rainy day of activities. This may be the start of something new.

This year we chose maroon for our annual t-shirt and sweatshirt sales. These are sold at cost and any small profit is put into our Christmas coin collection together with money from bottle returns from the cleanup. This year for the first time, no projects or photos were submitted for the Roland

Beschel or the Nan Yeomans prizes and there were no takers for the Stirrett Nature Camp scholarship.

Efforts were been made to increase the visibility of the Juniors through displays and outside educational activities: CRCA (Rose-Marie Burke), Leisure Show (several KFN members) in September and various engagements with other organizations including Girl Guides (Diane Lawrence, Mac Brown), KFLA Health Unit walkers program and the Schoolboard Status of Women committee nature walk among others. We hope this will increase the number of registrants to the Junior program which has been slowly declining.

Thank you to all who helped with our endeavours.

Teen Naturalists Anne Robertson

This year 14 teens joined the group and ten trips were organized. Participant numbers varied from 4 to 8 with an average of 5. Our first trip in August, an Herpetofaunal survey with Ontario Nature, was cancelled. In September we had a Canoe trip to Otter Lake with the highlight of finding fresh water jellyfish. This was written up in Blue Bill by Matt (Vol. 56 #4). In October we climbed Rock Dunder in rain and wind. Cerridwyn wrote up this trip in Blue Bill (Vol 56 #4). November took us to Elbow Lake (property of the Nature Conservancy of Canada) to learn about the EMAN (Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network) project with Shirley French. Alison wrote up this trip (Vol 56 #4).

The December Bird Identification Workshop was again very popular.

In January we went to Mudpuppy night in Oxford Mills. Drew reported on this trip in Blue Bill (Vol 57 #1) In February we installed 4 Wood Duck Boxes at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. Adam recorded this event (Vol 57 #1). March was our Wolfe Island Birding trip: a survey of winter raptors and count of geese and turkeys, with Erwin Batalla. A cold Night Hike was held in April with Gary Ure. Adam wrote up this trip (Vol 57 #2). In May we participated in the Regional Youth Field Trip at The Perth Wildlife Area with our Juniors. Matt wrote up this trip for Blue Bill (Vol 57 #2). Teens are invited to the BioBlitz in June. A big thank-you to David who set up the Youth website attached to the KFN website. This is new and exciting.

Two special events took place this year. In October Adam accompanied Diane and Anne to a Children and Youth Program of Ontario Nature event near Toronto. This was an exploratory meeting prior to setting up a provincial Youth Council. Following on this event Adam and Drew attended the Youth Summit north of Toronto in June 2010, organized by Ontario Nature. It has an appealing program geared to high-school-age budding naturalists.

Our field notebooks continue to be an important part of each trip providing a record of observations and activities, and are a good habit to get into. Field guides were presented to participants of the 2009 Birdathon. Teens helped with

the table decorations for the KFN 60th birthday dinner in May 2009.

Thanks too to all our drivers, mentors and role models, Diane, Shirley, Gary, Erwin, Philina and Mark. We do appreciate the time you spent with these young people.

Education

Shirley French

As education chair I help out with some of the events offered to Junior and Teen Naturalists. This includes participating at the BioBlitz and compiling the BioBlitz invertebrate list for the Blue Bill. In fall I went with the Teens and Anne Robertson on a field trip to the NCC property. This was a demonstration of the citizen science project at Elbow Lake where Viviane Paquin and I monitor a forest plot each September using the Environment Canada EMAN (Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network) protocol.

At the Christmas Junior Naturalist meeting, as in previous years, I took photos of the Junior leaders so that Anne can give them out at the end of year in thanks for all their hard work.

In April, Diane Lawrence and I judged the 2010 Frontenac Lennox & Addington Science Fair (FLASF) at McArthur Hall, Queen's University. Gift certificates for a book were given for two primary level projects and one junior level project. We did not have a trophy winner this year.

The Chryxus Arctic Butterfly

John S. Poland

On April 23, six friends went for a hike around the trail at Rock Dunder near Morton. Murray Seymour was behind the others honing his skills with a new camera when his eye caught the flash of a bright orange butterfly. He took a single distant but clear photograph and was able to identify the butterfly as a Chryxus Arctic. This led to several visits on subsequent days that established that there was a group of at least 30 of these Arctics, not only on top of Rock Dunder, but also on the bluffs on the trail leading to it going in a clockwise direction.

The Chryxus Arctic, *Oeneis chryxus*, is one of 11 Arctics found in Canada. Only the Chryxus Arctic is on the KFN List of Butterflies of the Kingston region and it is only seen irregularly, generally in May; many of the early butterflies found in our area were 2-3 weeks early this year. They have been observed along the Cataragui trail east of Perth Road Village, generally only singly. The only other Arctic that might be seen in our region is the Jutta Arctic whose range stretches south to Algonquin Park and which has been seen at the Mer Bleue bog near Ottawa. The Jutta's habitat, however, is black spruce bogs, whereas the Chryxus prefers dry rocky outcrops. The Chryxus's food plants are grasses, *Danthonia spicata*, poverty oat grass, in particular.

There are several sub-species of the Chryxus Arctic spread across the country, all with slightly different appearances. The sub-species *strigulosa*

which is found in Eastern Ontario, is somewhat smaller and more brightly coloured than the others. These butterflies are characterized by a bright orange upperside which is seen during flight but only briefly when on land. There are two to four black eye-spots on the forewing and one or two on the hindwing. Females are a little paler and more heavily marked than males. The *strigulosa* seen at Rock Dunder appeared to have a high number of eye-spots.



Chryxus Arctic by John Poland

The butterflies spend much of their time basking in the sun with their wings closed at right angles to the sun's rays for maximum warmth. In this position one observes a mottled brown hindwing with fine black and white striations and the front edge of the brown forewing. The Algonquin Park Guide to Butterflies describes a method of obtaining a photograph of the Chryxus by getting it

in your shadow and moving to keep it there until it opens its wings briefly as it chills. Either the butterflies in Algonquin were very sleepy, or the ones here are ultra-sensitive, but whatever the case, getting within shadow distance let alone netting reach proved quite impossible. Nevertheless some good photographs of this wary strong flier were obtained.

In our region, there is one brood per year in spring while in some locations such as Manitoba the life cycle takes two years with the result that this butterfly is only seen in good numbers every two years there. In the Great Lakes area there is a tendency for the butterfly to occur in higher numbers in even-numbered years, so it will be interesting to visit Rock Dunder in spring for the next few years to see if this holds true and, indeed, if their appearance there is an annual occurrence. The grouping of these butterflies for mating in leks is unusual for butterflies. Such behaviour is found in some bird species such as

sharp-tailed grouse, gamecocks and certain hummingbirds. It's a bit like a singles bar where one is more likely to meet a partner in the crowd; the butterflies, if dispersed evenly, would rarely meet a mate.



Chryxus Arctics Mating by Murray Seymour

The abundance of these butterflies, though not rare, is extremely local. Perhaps a local "hot spot" has now been found in the Kingston region.

Kingston Teen Naturalists Trips March-May 2010

Wolfe Island Raptor Survey *Alison Zilstra*

On March 13, the Kingston Teen Naturalists went to Wolfe Island to collect data about the effects of the wind turbines on the distribution of raptors. The trip was led by Anne Robertson and Erwin Batalla, and participants were Adam, Adrian, Phoenix and Alison. The weather was not the best, at a mild 5°C, overcast with drizzle and a light breeze. Unfortunately the raptors did not

approve of this weather either, spending their day hiding hunched in the trees.

The area surveyed, the west end of the island, was split into four areas, 1, 2, 3 and 4. The group headed through the areas in order, beginning with area 1. In 45 minutes spent in Area 1, only one raptor was found, an adult Bald Eagle sitting on the ice. In Area 2, no raptors were found, and in Area 3 two Red-Tailed Hawks were observed. Area 4, the area with the fewest wind turbines,

contained one American Kestrel and an immature Bald Eagle. The other part of the survey was to record the number of turkeys, swans and geese for all the quadrants. Since there were few raptors, this part of the survey took up most of the trip. Twenty-three turkeys, 55 swans and 650 geese were seen, with the majority of the goose total coming from a field full of a whopping 300 geese.

Since 'Naturalists Notice Nature', we also observed Robins; Red-Winged Blackbirds; Black-Backed, Ring-Billed and Herring Gulls; Common, Hooded and Red-Breasted Mergansers; Goldeneye; Buffleheads; male Pheasants; Horned Larks and three White-Tailed Deer. While waiting for the ferry, Erwin treated the group to a cup of hot chocolate after their long day of observing and surveying.

Teen Night Hike Adam Rossiter

On April 9th a group of 6 teens joined Anne and Gary Ure on a night hike along the Catarauqui trail west of Perth Road. The purpose of the trip was to see and hear woodcock, snipe and owls and frogs of various species. Unfortunately it was very cold, with temperatures going from 5° to 2° later in the night.

We didn't see any owls, but we practiced owl calls, including calls for the Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) and Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). The Saw-whet owl is relatively small (20 cm long with a wingspan of 50 cm), hunts at night for mice and voles and may also eat large insects and songbirds. The larger barred owl (43-61

cm long with a wingspan of 130 cm) also hunts for mice, voles and squirrels, as well as amphibians and smaller birds.

We heard several species of frogs, though not as many as we had wished for. We heard Spring Peepers (*Pseudocaris crucifer*) and the Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*). Spring peepers are small, nocturnal frogs that are 1.9- 3.5 cm long and found throughout the eastern United States and Canada. Their calls are one of the most familiar frog calls in the East. The sound of spring peepers is one of the first signs of spring. Their voice is a high-pitched peep occasionally with a short trill. Western Chorus Frogs are the eastern counterpart of the Boreal Chorus Frog, which is more widespread. Western Chorus frogs are first heard on warm nights in early spring. Their voice is a rising rasping trill lasting 1 or 2 seconds.

Along the trail to the marshes and lakes, we noticed and discussed Dutchman's-breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Both of these plants' seeds are spread by ants, a process called myrmecochory. The seeds have fleshy structures rich in protein and lipids attached to them, called elaiosomes, which attract ants. The ants take these seeds to their nests, feed the elaiosomes to their larvae; then take the seeds outside of their nest, where the seeds germinate.

We saw a Great Blue Heron fly over and land on a log on the lakeshore. On the same lake, we were lucky to be able to watch two otters playing and resting on a beaver lodge. Other wildlife included

geese and ducks. On the return, at dusk, we heard a Snipe and shortly afterwards the peent call of a Woodcock. These two birds have distinctive aerial displays. The winnowing aerial display of the Common Snipe is made as the bird fans out its tail feathers as it plunges towards the ground. The tail feathers vibrate in the wind creating the winnowing.

We drove to some other sites, but found that very few frogs were active, most likely because of the cold. In the end, we didn't hear as many frogs as we hoped for, but saw many other things that we didn't expect, making it a great trip.

Regional Youth Field Trip *Matt Mooney*

On May 8th, Kingston Junior and Teen Naturalists ventured up to the Perth Wildlife Conservation Area to meet young naturalists from other parts of Eastern Ontario. On this rainy morning there were: Matt, Amy, Adam, Phoenix, Ronan, Rowan, Rachel, Min Ju, Keegan, Damon, and William from Kingston and Dawn, Gabriel, Ian, Jordan, Nathan and Robyn from the Macoun Club in Ottawa. The Kingston contingent left early in the morning going from Duncan MacArthur and working hard to find all the "en route" things Anne had laid out for us.

Once we arrived there was time for a quick snack before the other groups showed up. We all joined together to play some ice-breakers led by Gabe Comozzi from Ontario Nature: Rock, Paper, Scissors naturalist-style.

We split into two groups, each group focusing on different things. One group went for a ramble in the bush while the other learned what to do to be a good birder. During the ramble with Rob Lee we learned how night crawlers pull leaves over their burrows and how this is causing the soil to erode. Rob also told us that the leaves of many cherry plants contain cyanide and can kill mosquitoes in a closed container. We captured tadpoles and frogs for identification. Now being thoroughly wet we returned to the trail center for lunch.

After lunch the two groups switched and we learned from Anne how to be good birders. She told us we had to be able to focus our binoculars quickly and be able to use our sense of hearing as well as seeing to identify and locate birds. Going on a short hike we used our vision to look high and low in the trees and on the ground for birds. Following that, we walked into a field where we used our binoculars to watch Red-winged Blackbirds, and Baltimore Orioles eating caterpillar larvae from the blossoms on an apple tree. After this we did a listening exercise to attempt to hear some birds in the forest. However the rain was coming down hard, and the birds had receded into the forest and stopped calling.

When we all joined together again we discussed what we had learned that day and gave a big round of applause to Anne, Gabe, and Rob. After cleaning up in the outdoor center we proceeded home. It's a good thing naturalists don't melt in the rain.

Birds and Other Wildlife Don't Pay Taxes

Terry Sprague

"I pay taxes too," has become such a tiresome phrase; we find it being applied in some bizarre situations. This was the comeback, laced with graphic explicit, from the operator of a remote-controlled airplane approached by a concerned resident last spring when he was seen harassing a nesting osprey along the Moira River in Belleville. Understandably, the bird was stressed, and was seen repeatedly trying to attack the strange interloper. While harassment of protected birds of prey is an offence under the Migratory Birds Act, the perpetrator excused his actions by adding that ospreys were "a dime a dozen."

It is this cavalier attitude which ultimately led to the downfall of the bald eagle, a species still recovering after struggling for more than 60 years from the effects of DDT and indiscriminate shooting of the birds. Ospreys suffered a similar fate, and while not yet "a dime a dozen", have recovered admirably, thanks to the efforts of individuals and conservation organizations that have brought the osprey back from the brink of extinction by providing nesting sites like the one along the Moira River.

We are making progress, albeit at a snail's pace. Fortunately, gone are the days when newspapers would run photos of successful hunters standing beside a wolf hanging by the neck from a tree limb. It has been a while since we last heard of a cat being set afire or a

dog being dragged behind a car. However, a local Councillor was quoted in one newspaper as suggesting that any coyote seen should either "be shot or run over". Not controlled humanly by an organized predator control program, but "run over". We still see motorists going out of their way to run over snapping turtles laying their eggs along the roadside, and obscene gestures from motorists, dare we stop and hold up traffic while we usher slow-moving turtles across the road. Never have we seen such utter disregard for those with whom we share this earth.

So it was a breath of fresh air to deliver a presentation to 170 students at Kente Public School in Ameliasburgh on our natural heritage, which included not only some pretty boring stuff on local geology, but a few profound statements on the flora and fauna of the area, and the effects on wildlife of intensive development. Anyone who has tried to hold the interest of elementary school students for more than 30 minutes on any subject can well understand my concern when faced with 170 students sitting on an unforgiving gymnasium floor, for almost an hour. As I merged into the real heavy Chief Seattle type statements, it would have been possible to hear a pin drop.

For several minutes questions were raised about the content of the presentation and a few came forward as the classes dispersed, "totally inspired" as one Grade 8 student commented,

wanting to know why more isn't being done to save what we have left, a very difficult question to answer.



Enjoying our natural heritage at Prince Edward Point. By Terry Sprague

Why aren't we doing more to save what we have? Why are massive wind turbines being planned for a stretch of Prince Edward County shoreline, officially designated a decade ago as an Important Bird Area? Why do we massacre roadside trees annually with

powerful bush hog type rotary mowers, and why is it necessary for volunteers to come out each spring to collect truckloads of roadside garbage? Why are we treating our natural heritage, unique land forms and flora and fauna, with such disregard? Rather than placing the importance of our natural heritage somewhere below the level of sewer rats, we should be striving to save what we can, while we can, and rejoicing when we succeed with birds like the osprey along the Moira River.

If I somehow inspired the students of Kente Public School to take a closer look at what is happening to the natural world around us, then surely they inspired me, and other presenters that day as well. These students will be our future leaders, and decision-makers. One day they will "pay taxes too."

Spring Round-up 2010

Ron D. Weir

The KFN's 53rd Spring Round-up took place from 1500h May 22 to 1500h May 23. The weather on Saturday afternoon was sunny with near calm conditions at 20 to 24°C that developed overnight into a light breeze. By dawn, the temperature was 16°C. Clear conditions prevailed on Sunday with the temperature reaching 22 to 26°C, depending on location along Lake Ontario or inland. The final tally of species was 186, below the 37-year (1973-2009) average of 199.

Areas visited included Amherst Island, Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, Bath

area and Parrott's Bay, Camden East including Camden Lake, Canoe Lake Road and area, Opinicon Road and area, Collins Bay and its watershed, Howe Island, Kingston City including Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Newburgh, Prince Edward Point, Wilton Creek, Morven; Hay Bay area.

No new species was added to the cumulative total, which stands at 288 species. For a complete tally of the Spring Round-ups from 1960-1991, see Blue Bill [39](#) 28-36 (1992). For 1992 to 2009, see Blue Bill [39](#) 44-49 (1992), [40](#)

125-131 (1993), 41 48-53 (1994), 42 63-70 (1995), 43 70-74 (1996), 44 60-66 (1997), 45 49-54 (1998), 46 81-89 (1999), 47 58-63 (2000), 48 52-59 (2001), 49 90-96 (2002), 50 40-44 (2003), 51 47-52 (2004), 52 42-48 (2005), 53 77-82 (2006), 55 37-42 (2007), 55 42-47 (2008), 56 49-54 (2009).

Noteworthy finds are Red-throated Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Surf Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle with nest of 2 young, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Clay-colored Sparrows, and Orchard Orioles. The shortage of shorebirds is noteworthy.

Participants were invited to the home of Marian and Joel Ellis for the potluck supper and species tabulation. On behalf of all, I would like to thank Marian and Joel for being great hosts.

Party #1: Sharon David

Party #2: Rose-marie Burke

Party #3: Ken & Andrew Edwards

Party #4: Linda & Chip Weseloh

Party #5: Lynn Bell

Party #6: Erwin & Alexandra Batalla, Betsy & Gaye Beckwith, Hugh Evans, Darren Rayner

Party #5: Joel Ellis, Peter Good, Kathy Innes, Bud Rowe, Catherine Teolis, Ron Weir

Party #8: Kurt Hennige, Gary Ure, David Okines, four Montreal birders.

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

Species	Party Number								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Red-thrtd Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Loon	1	2	20	-	x	x	8	1	34
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	1	-	-	x	1	-	3
Dbl-crstd Cormornt	4	-	x	32	x	x	750	x	790
American Bittern	-	-	1	-	-	x	4	-	6
Least Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Great Blue Heron	1	5	30	-	x	x	21	-	59
Green Heron	-	-	1	-	-	x	-	-	3
Turkey Vulture	-	4	6	3	-	x	6	x	21
Canada Goose	6	3	x	-	x	x	275	x	288
Brant	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	20	22
Mute Swan	-	-	4	-	x	x	2	-	8
Trumpeter Swan	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Wood Duck	-	-	6	3	-	-	4	1	14
Gadwall	-	-	50	3	-	x	37	-	90
American Wigeon	-	-	5	-	-	x	10	-	16

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Mallard	-	2	x	26	x	x	80	x	112
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	7	-	-	x	6	-	14
Northern Shoveler	-	-	6	-	-	x	8	5	20
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Lesser Scaup	-	-	8	-	-	x	3	3	15
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	x	3
Surf Scoter	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Wht-winged Scoter	-	-	50	-	-	-	2	x	53
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	15	-	x	-	3	x	20
Comm Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Bufflehead	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hooded Mergansr	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	6
Comm Mergansr	-	-	11	22	x	x	3	-	38
Rd-brstd Mergansr	-	-	300	-	-	-	35	x	336
Virginia Rail	-	-	5	-	-	x	2	-	8
Sora	-	-	2	-	-	x	1	-	4
Comm Moorhen	-	-	1	-	-	x	1	-	3
Osprey	-	1	6	-	x	x	7	x	17
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Northern Harrier	-	-	4	-	-	x	3	x	9
Shrp-shinnd Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Broad-wingd Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	4	-	-	x	3	-	8
American Kestrel	-	-	1	-	1	x	2	-	5
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Rng-nckd Pheasant	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	x	3
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	x	4	x	6
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	x	x	3	-	5
Bck-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Semipalmted Plover	-	-	6	-	-	x	9	-	16
Killdeer	-	-	x	1	x	x	25	x	30
Grtr Yellowlegs	-	-	-	1	-	x	1	-	2
Lsr Yellowlegs	-	-	3	-	-	x	3	1	8
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	x	1	1	4
Spotted Sandpiper	-	1	2	-	x	x	16	x	22
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	2	-	-	x	2	-	5
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Semipalm Sandpipr	-	-	31	-	-	-	1	-	32

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Least Sandpiper	-	-	30	-	-	x	61	7	99
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Dunlin	-	-	15	-	-	-	105	x	121
Shrt-billd Dowitchr	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	x	3
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	8	-	x	x	10	x	21
Amer Woodcock	-	-	6	-	-	x	2	-	9
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	8	-	-	-	14	x	23
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Ring-billed Gull	-	1	x	23	x	x	95	x	122
Herring Gull	-	-	10	9	x	x	1	-	22
Grt Blck-bckd Gull	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	x	5
Caspian Tern	1	-	9	1	x	x	26	x	40
Black Tern	-	-	-	-	-	x	50	-	50
Rock Pigeon	-	-	x	3	x	x	5	-	11
Mourning Dove	8	2	x	7	x	x	20	x	41
Blck-billed Cuckoo	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	1	8
Yllw-billed Cuckoo	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Estrn Screech-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Barred Owl	-	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	6
Short-eared Owl	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Comm Nighthawk	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	4
Whip-poor-will	-	3	20	1	-	-	1	-	25
Chimney Swift	-	-	1	-	-	x	4	x	7
Rby-thrtd Humbrd	1	5	1	-	-	x	2	x	10
Belted Kingfisher	-	1	5	-	-	x	7	x	15
Rd-bellied Wdpckr	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Yllw-belld Sapsckr	-	-	1	-	-	x	-	-	2
Dwny Woodpecker	2	1	3	1	-	x	1	x	10
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	1	-	-	x	1	x	5
Northern Flicker	1	-	10	2	x	x	5	x	21
Pileated Woodpckr	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Olve-sided Flyctchr	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Eastrn Wd-Pewee	-	1	20	-	-	x	11	12	45
Yllw-belld Flyctchr	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	x	5
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	x	6
Least Flycatcher	-	-	15	1	-	x	1	x	19
Eastern Phoebe	1	5	6	-	-	x	1	x	15
Grt Crstd Flyctchr	1	7	50	1	-	x	16	x	77
Eastern Kingbird	1	10	200	4	x	x	50	x	268

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Yllw-thrted Vireo	-	-	3	-	-	x	-	-	4
Blue-Headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Warbling Vireo	-	-	x	18	-	x	65	x	86
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	x	3
Red-eyed Vireo	1	18	x	-	-	x	18	x	40
Blue Jay	6	4	x	1	x	x	56	120	190
American Crow	-	3	20	1	x	x	20	x	47
Common Raven	-	2	1	-	-	x	-	1	5
Horned Lark	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	5
Purple Martin	-	-	x	1	-	x	25	x	29
Tree Swallow	2	5	x	52	x	x	30	x	93
N Rgh-wngd Swllw	-	-	x	1	x	x	35	x	40
Bank Swallow	-	-	x	-	-	x	12	-	14
Cliff Swallow	-	-	x	-	x	x	206	x	210
Barn Swallow	2	-	x	22	x	x	30	x	58
Blk-cap Chickadee	2	4	30	-	-	x	11	x	51
Rd-brstd Nuthatch	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wht-brstd Nthatch	3	10	x	-	-	x	-	x	16
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
House Wren	1	-	x	6	x	x	31	x	42
Sedge Wren	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marsh Wren	-	-	6	1	-	x	15	-	23
Rby-crwnd Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bl-gry Gnatcatcher	-	-	12	-	-	-	6	x	27
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	6	10
Veery	-	-	20	-	-	-	2	x	23
Gry-cheekd Thrush	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	x	2
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	x	5
Hermit Thrush	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	4
Wood Thrush	1	-	30	1	-	x	2	x	36
American Robin	5	5	x	45	x	x	85	x	124
Gray Catbird	2	-	x	15	x	x	18	x	39
Nrthn Mockingbird	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Brown Thrasher	1	-	20	-	x	x	18	x	42
European Starling	5	-	x	30	x	x	75	x	114
Cedar Waxwing	3	-	400	-	x	x	253	300	450
Gldn-wngd Wrblr	-	-	1	-	-	x	-	-	2
Tennessee Wrblr	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	4
Nashville Wrblr	-	-	4	-	-	x	2	-	7
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Yellow Wrblr	2	1	x	75	x	x	100	x	182
Chstnt-sided Wrblr	-	1	6		x	-	10	x	19
Magnolia Wrblr	-	-	5	-	-	-	6	x	12
Cape May Wrblr	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Blck-thrtd Bl Wrblr	-	-	-	-	-	2	x	3	
Yllw-rumpd Wrblr	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	1	7
Bk-thrtd Grn Wrblr	-	2	20	1	-	x	6	x	31
Blckbrnian Wrblr	-	-	2	-	-	x	1	x	5
Pine Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	x	1	-	4
Bay-brstd Wrblr	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	x	4
Blackpoll Wrblr	-	-	3	7	-	x	10	5	26
Cerulean Wrblr	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Blck-&-wht Wrblr	-	2	x	-	-	x	2	x	7
American Redstart	-	-	x	1	-	x	28	x	33
Ovenbird	-	5	x	1	-	x	3	-	11
Nrthrn Wterthrsh	-	-	2		-	-	1	x	4
Louisn Wterthrsh	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mourning Wrblr	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	6
Comm Yellowthrt	-	-	x	3	-	x	36	x	42
Wilson's Wrblr	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Canada Wrblr	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	13
Scarlt Tanagr	-	7	30	1	-	x	3	x	43
Eastern Towhee	1	9	25	-	-	x	11	x	48
Chippng Sprrw	-	25	x	-	x	x	19	x	48
Cly-colrd Sprrw	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Field Sprrw	-	1	6	-	-	x	10	x	19
Savnnh Sprrw	-	-	x	-	x	1	22	x	26
Grsshppr Sprrw	-	-	3	-	x	x	4	x	10
Song Sparrow	2	30	x	8	x	x	65	x	110
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	0	-	-	x	19	x	31
Wht-thrtd Sprrw	-	-	10	-	-	x	5	x	17
Wht-crwnd Sprrw	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	x	3
Nrthrn Cardinal	2	-	2	3	-	x	4	x	13
Rs-brstd Grosbeak	3	1	40	-	x	x	7	x	54
Indigo Bunting	-	-	x	-	-	x	3	x	6
Bobolink	3	-	x	-	x	x	25	x	32
Rd-wngd Blackbrd	6	30	x	27	x	x	190	x	257
Estrn Meadowlrk	-	-	x	-	x	x	25	-	28
Common Grackle	6	9	x	40	x	x	55	x	114
Brwn-hdd Cowbrd	5	-	x	8	x	x	35	x	52
Orchard Oriole	1	-	2	-	-	-	4	x	8

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Baltimore Oriole	5	5	x	16	x	x	35	x	65
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
House Finch	-	-	x	2	-	-	2	x	6
Amer Goldfinch	4	2	x	8	x	x	30	x	48
House Sparrow	-	-	x	-	x	x	20	x	24
Party Total	39	43	145	49	50	115	155	46	185
Participants	1	1	2	2	1	6	6	7	31

Dedicated Conservationist Receives Provincial Conservation Award for Work to Create Nature Reserve

Chris Grooms

The KFN is proud to announce that Cameron Smith, conservationist, volunteer and longtime KFN member is the 2009 recipient of Ontario Nature's W.E. Saunders Natural History Award.

Author and environmental columnist, Cameron Smith was the driving force behind the establishment of Ontario Nature's Lost Bay Nature Reserve near Gananoque. From his home near Lost Bay on the Gananoque River, Cameron noted the environmental significance of the undeveloped property surrounding the Bay and approached the landowner in the mid 1990's about purchasing it. This tract of Canadian Shield has rocky ridges and grassland, upland forests and a provincially significant wetland and is home to threatened species such as Blanding's Turtles, Bald Eagles and Butternut Trees. Cameron undertook a successful campaign among the Lost Bay cottagers, other area residents and environmental organizations such as the KFN to raise funds. In October 2000, the Lost Bay Nature Reserve became a reality. For close to a decade afterwards,

he tirelessly campaigned and fundraised to add land to the western half of this ecologically-important property. In October 2009 he was instrumental in adding 59 hectares to the reserve. It now encompasses more than 100 hectares of Canadian Shield and provincially significant wetlands, home to several rare or endangered species. The reserve contributes to the Algonquin to Adirondacks natural corridor and lies within the Frontenac Arch-Thousand Islands Biosphere Reserve. Cameron has also written over 600 columns on the environment for the Toronto Star.

The Kingston Field Naturalists nominated Cameron for the W.E. Saunders Natural History Award this spring. It is awarded to an individual who has achieved a significant goal related to an aspect of natural history or natural science research, raising public awareness of natural history, demonstrating local leadership, saving a natural area, or generating conservation funds or publications.

KFN Outings April-May 2010

Ramble to Cane Property

Joe Benderavage

On April 20, we assembled to meet the owner of the Cane property on Middle Road to receive information about what to expect in the area. We proceeded past a rail fence, where we noticed two Manitoba Maple trees, female and male.



Male Manitoba Maple

As we advanced, we became aware of the sound of Chorus Frogs, which must make the loudest sound for its size of any animal, heard Leopard frogs and saw a Barn Swallow.



Female Manitoba Maple

There were Black Cherry and Prickly Ash (“toothache bush”), Chokecherry and Gooseberry bushes. We noticed Lichens upon a rock, and learned they were made up of several components, crustose, foliose, and fruticose, that live in a symbiotic relationship. The base tightly attached to the rock was the crustose form; the foliose form was flat and grew upon the rock in two dimensions; and the fruticose part had three dimensions, with a part that came up and away from the rock and contained many fruiting bodies composed of little cups with brown interiors, where spores are produced. When raindrops splash into the cups, spores splash out. Lichens also digest rock, but very slowly.



Trout Lily Blossom and Foliage

We discovered Trout Lily (Adder’s Tongue; Thorn Lily; Dogtooth Violet) which is in the Lily family, and is not a violet. If this plant has only one leaf, it probably has been grazed, or is a younger plant, and it won’t have enough energy to produce flowers. We encountered a Willow Bush with flowers so tiny they were best seen with

a magnifier. An Early Flowering Sedge had male flowers at the tip and female stigmas on the bottom. It reminded us of a mnemonic: "Sedges have edges, Rushes are round, and Grasses have lashes, wherever they're found." (The "lashes" are ligules, tiny ridges that bind a grass leaf to the stem.)

We heard, then saw, a Pine Warbler, identified by its yellow breast. We found nests of a Yellow Warbler stacked one above another because, in the first nest, a Brown-headed Cowbird had laid an egg. When the warbler returned and saw the egg, it rebuilt its nest on top of the first one to prevent the Cowbird egg from hatching.

When we found European Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard, we were reminded that they are invasive species. We learned that Red-berried Elder has its flowers arranged along the stem, that each basal leaf of Field Pussytoes has one vein, and that Butternut Hickory has a yellow bud at the tip of its branches. We identified Bedstraw, as well as a juvenile Ribbon Snake. A Cabbage White Butterfly was identifiable by black spots on white wings. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker fed on sap (and on insects attracted to sap), as it worked its way up and down a tree trunk. We saw a Turkey Vulture in flight just as the ramble ended.

Ramble to Meisel Woods
Joe Benderavage

Tuesday May 4, 2010, at the property of John Meisel, between Crow Lake and Beaver Lake, a Ramble commenced for

16 stalwart hikers. Amid an onslaught of mosquitoes and blackflies, a Mayfly with three tails was examined. Its presence indicated a healthy aquatic ecosystem nearby. A Hudsonian Whiteface Dragonfly was netted, admired, recognized and released. A Spring Peeper Frog was heard.

Wild Sarsaparilla and its unusual pale green flowers were scrutinized. Yellow flowers on a plant indicated that it was Barren Strawberry. The appellation of True Solomon's Seal was decided upon for a plant after we sighted its flowers under its leaves. We saw that leaves of Round-leaved Hepatica were like lobes of liver, hence its name. We learned that Wild Lily of the Valley must have two or more leaves in order to flower. We could see yellow flowers that dangled like bells on the Bellwort plant. We noted the presence of Poison Ivy.

Sounds of a Pine Warbler came from a stand of White Pine trees. We heard a Northern Flicker, a Pileated and a Downy Woodpecker and the Ovenbird's renowned "cher TEE cher TEE". An American Emerald dragonfly was identified. A Duskywing Butterfly was captured and then let go, while a pair of Chipmunks were swathed by a blanket of dead leaves as they scurried noisily through and under them. Canada Geese, and probably a Heron, were heard but not seen. A Spring Azure butterfly was netted and a Boreal Bluet Damselfly were netted. A Garden Snake was seen and a Peewee and a Great Crested Flycatcher were heard

We spotted six Painted Turtles, sunning on a log in a small lake. A highlight was the sighting of an upside-down Swallowtail Butterfly grasping the branch of a small plant which camouflaged it well. The butterfly had recently emerged from its chrysalis and was still pumping air into its wings. It was a slow process to watch, so we planned to check it on the return trip.

Flora sighted were Pussytoes, Sweet Fern, White Trillium, Trout Lily, Wintergreen, Beech Drops (parasitic on Beech Tree roots), Mitrewort (or Bishop's Cap), Gaywings (or Fringed Polygala), Columbine, Jewelweed, Goosefoot Lettuce, Early Flowering Saxifrage, Stemmed Violet, Partridge Berry (the fruit of which is fused), and a Morel, with which perhaps every good story should end, for when we came back to see the Swallowtail Butterfly, we could find no trace of it.

Evening Bird Walks Joe Benderavage

Eleven birdwatchers convened on May 5 near the beginning of the Rideau Trail for a walk which commenced at 6:30 p.m. with Erwin Batalla leading. We heard a White-throated Sparrow. In the environs of the marsh, a Grackle and a Robin were seen among distant trees, while many Red-winged Blackbirds were seen in flight or resting atop a cattail. A Yellow Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat were seen and heard. We bushwhacked from the path to an off-trail area that was more in the open. From there we could see a Northern Harrier, an American Goldfinch, and the elusive White-

throated Sparrow. A speedy Red-breasted Nuthatch passed overhead. An Eastern (Rufous-sided) Towhee trilled: "Drink your TEEEA!". I had only water, which I drank anyway.

On May 12, the evening bird walk began near the southern entrance to Lemoine Point CA. Leader Gary Ure showed us a White-throated Sparrow and a White-crowned Sparrow that shared the pathway with us. Further on, we heard an Eastern Towhee. Amid trees and a bower of Red Osier Dogwood we saw male and female Cardinals. Lower down, an elusive Rose-breasted Grosbeak was deemed to be female, because of the buff wash on its breast. Starlings, Chickadees, and Mourning Doves were sighted. A Baltimore Oriole was spotted high in the trees, and closer to the water's edge, still high up, a female was consuming nectar from the blossoms of Red Oak trees. Cowbirds were visible, as were Red-winged Blackbirds. A Blue Jay and a Tanager were heard. A Warbling Vireo was reported, and a Downy Woodpecker. I was so startled by my first cognisant sighting of a Yellow Warbler that I forgot to call out its name.

Trilliums grew in the shaded floor under the trees. A Catbird mewed. I watched an Eastern Kingbird launch from its high leafless perch with slow, fluttering flights to catch flies for its supper. A Ring-billed Gull soared overhead. A Song Sparrow, two Robins, two Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a White-crowned Sparrow, identifiable by its all-grey breast, closed this satisfying hike.

*Field Trip to Prince Edward Point
Ron Weir and Paul Mackenzie*

The May 16 KFN field trip to Prince Edward Point saw 15 members take part. It was sunny with almost no wind and temperatures from 8°C in early morning to 18°C by afternoon. Migrant and locally-nesting birds abounded, conditions that provided newcomers with ample opportunity to see species repeatedly to commit field marks to memory. Pockets of migrants were found in numerous places along Long Point peninsula as the birders made their way to the Wildlife Area. Leaves were in various stages of opening, which at times made it difficult to see singing warblers in the trees. Spring flowers, including abundant Blue Phlox, were still blooming among the trees.

Typical of May were small groups of Blue Jays migrating even as local jays are on their nests. Banding studies with band returns showed that jays head well to the NE towards Quebec City. Four broods of Canada Geese were seen with parents. They were 1 pair with 4 chicks, 1 pair with 5 chicks, 1 with 10 chicks and another with 12 chicks. Hugh Evans showed the group a nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. A total of 107 species was tallied within the Prince Edward County section of the Kingston count circle. That list is shown in the table.

Also present at Traverse when our group arrived were 30+ cars associated with the Spring Birding Festival organised by Terry Sprague.

Common Loon 8	Least Flycatcher 15	Yellow-rumped Warbler 50
Double-crested Cormorant 210	Eastern Phoebe 6	Black-thr Green Warbler 15
Turkey Vulture 4	Great-crested Flycatcher 1	Blackburnian Warbler 5
Canada Goose 120	Eastern Kingbird 15	Palm Warbler 4
Mute Swan 2	Yellow-throated Vireo 1	Bay-breasted Warbler 5
Mallard 2	Warbling Vireo 15	Cerulean Warbler 1
White-winged Scoter 31	Red-eyed Vireo 10	Black-and-white Warbler 3
Long-tailed Duck 150	Blue Jay 60	American Redstart 10
Red-breasted Merganser 25	American Crow 10	Ovenbird 5
Sandhill Crane 1	Horned Lark 2	Northern Waterthrush 2
Osprey 2	Purple Martin 3	Common Yellowthroat 10
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Tree Swallow 30	Scarlet Tanager 8
Red-tailed Hawk 1	Rough-winged Swallow 15	Eastern Towhee 15
American Kestrel 1	Cliff Swallow 250	Chipping sparrow 30
Merlin 2	Barn Swallow 40	Clay-colored Sparrow 5
Semipalmated Plover 2	Black-capped Chickadee 10	Field Sparrow 12
Killdeer 6	House Wren 10	Song Sparrow 20
Lesser Yellowlegs	Winter Wren 1	Lincoln's Sparrow 1
Upland Sandpiper 2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10	Swamp Sparrow 2
Least Sandpiper 6	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 6	White-throated Sparrow 10
Pectoral Sandpiper 2	Swainson's Thrush 1	White-crowned Sparrow 5
Dunlin 1	Hermit Thrush 1	Northern Cardinal 2
Ring-billed Gull 40	Wood Thrush 2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak 6

Herring Gull 1	American Robin 50	Indigo Bunting 4
Caspian Tern 4	Gray Catbird 15	Bobolink
Mourning Dove 6	Brown Thrasher 10	Red-winged Blackbird 30
Rock Pigeon 4	European Starling 30	Eastern Meadowlark 10
Ruby-thr Hummingbird 1	Cedar Waxwing 2	Common Grackle 40
Belted Kingfisher 1	Golden-winged Warbler 6	Brown-headed Cowbird 15
Chimney Swift 1	Tennessee Warbler 2	Orchard Oriole 3
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1	Nashville Warbler 15	Baltimore Oriole 30
Downy Woodpecker 1	Northern Parula 15	House Finch 2
Northern Flicker 1	Yellow Warbler 75	American Goldfinch 15
Eastern Wood Pewee 6	Chestnut-sided Warbler 10	House Sparrow 6
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler 5	
Willow Flycatcher 2	Black-thr Blue Warbler 15	

Geological Field Trip Hugh Evans

On Saturday May 8th a group of six people lead by Mabel Corlett met to explore some of the important features of the geology in the Kingston region. The weather undoubtedly had an effect on the turnout as over a centimeter of rain fell over the previous night and only ended as we started the trip. Strong winds gusting to 70 km per hour developed during the morning.

The first site visited was a rock cut along the Moreland-Dixon Road several miles east of Inverary where unconformities or gaps in the geological record can be seen. At the top is a thin soil cover of Pleistocene unconsolidated sediments (recent) over flat-lying Ordovician limestone laid down in a sea about 500 million years before present (mybp). Beneath this are metamorphic rocks tilted at an angle that are a product of the Grenville Orogeny about 950 mybp. They were buried to considerable depth where they were heated and compressed before being once again exposed at the surface. At the contact between the limestone and the

metamorphic rock is some shale and conglomerate where fragments of the metamorphic rock are mixed into the limestone. There are fingers of diabase intrusions in the metamorphic rock that are younger than it but older than the limestone.

We then crossed the Cataraqui River and traveled several miles east of Highway 15 on Sand Hill Road where a large hill can be seen. It is a kame or a delta-like deposit formed at the edge of a glacier and is composed of rounded boulders embedded in sand. From Sand Gully Road, further along Sand Hill road an esker can be seen. It is a sub-glacial river deposit and is connected to the kame.

The trip provided an insight into the geological history of the Kingston region and left one wondering at the events that occurred in the gaps of the geological record.

Correction to The Blue Bill Volume 57 #1, March 2010

The following table was unintentionally omitted from the Kingston Christmas Count Report by Ron D. Weir beginning on page 2 of Volume 57 #1.

Table 3 is a summary of the high species tallies for Ontario during the past seven years.

Table 3: Comparison of selected Christmas Counts in Ontario: 2003 to 2009

Count	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1. Blenheim/Rondeau	100	103	111	108	100	115	115
2. Long Point	110	98	105	106	109	105	98
3. Kingston	103	104	103	104	Can'd	106	101
4. Point Pelee	94	91	103	94	98	93	92
5. Hamilton	101	102*	100	101	103	103	98
6. Toronto	89	89	91	102	81	89	87
7. Niagara Falls	98	95	90	92	96	91	95