



The Blue Bill

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

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President's Page

Gaye Beckwith

In mid-June, several KFN members worked our way through the halls of KGH, armed with nets and boxes, to an inner courtyard where a mother mallard was stranded with 16 ducklings. I had received a call from Valerie, a worker at KGH, looking for assistance to rescue this trapped family, which for the past two weeks was being cared for by concerned employees of the hospital.



The round-up was quick and effective. The mother was caught first in a fishing net, then the ducklings were scooped up and transferred to boxes. Even my five-year-old grandson was able to catch one in his butterfly net, all part of educating the younger generation. Retracing our steps through KGH with our quarry, we released the mallard family into Lake Ontario to everyone's delight.

This is a nice example of our club providing person-power and expertise to nature-related requests from the general public. Queries arrive by email

or telephone and cover a variety of situations, including extricating tadpoles from a pool cover, identifying plant species near a new development, observing a leucistic robin, animal tracks in snow, assisting a graduate student doing research on chimney swifts, listing books on birding in the Kingston area, supporting efforts to inform the public about the effects of cats on songbirds, providing people to conduct surveys related to solar and wind energy projects, leading nature walks for groups like Queen's students and seniors, and speaking to elementary and high school students.



Not all the calls and emails the club received in the last year were as easy or as fun to deal with as the duck rescue. Many involved the executive making decisions, forming committees and writing reports and letters. Dealing with Ontario's Green Energy Act and its subsequent rush to place wind turbines in Important Birding Areas is an example of such a request.

By far the most common request received by KFN was for information on where and when to visit the Kingston area, particularly Amherst Island, to see owls and other birds in this rich environment. Requests have come in from all around Ontario, Quebec and the United States. These requests led to many visits and trips led by our members.

As a result the executive decided to put together a web-based 'Birding in the Kingston Area' resource with maps and suggestions to help birders find their

way around the area. Mark Conboy has started this task with an excellent synopsis of birding the Opinicon Road from Perth Road to Chaffey's Locks. By the fall we will have this on our website, with plans to expand the resource to include other birding hotspots in our region. Wolfe and Amherst Islands and the Napanee Plain are other examples.

Thank you to all those who make this club work so well. Have a great summer!

Editor's note: The KFN's Honorary President, Dr. Martin H. Edwards, died while birding in the Amazon on February 16. He was remembered at our May dinner by John Cartwright, Paul Mackenzie, Kenneth Edwards and Mike Evans. This section contains articles about Martin as well as two pieces that that he wrote for The Blue Bill in 1957 and 1958, on topics related to some in this issue.

Martin Edwards, World Traveller, World Birder

Terry Sprague

What I remember most about Dr. Martin Edwards was his sense of humour. A well-known Kingston birder, Martin passed away in mid-February while on a birding trip in Brazil with his son.

It was in the 1960s when I first met Martin, and I well remember how he arrived late to a meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature) in Toronto. He blamed his car, a Volvo, a make of car that I seem to recall him cherishing and enthusiastically endorsing for much of

his life. This one, however, did not receive a passing grade, as he pantomimed how the car huffed, heaved, and limped its way into the city, only to expire upon arrival as though totally exhausted by the effort. After animating his way across the room as he described the car's gyrations, he had me collapsing in a chair, laughing hysterically. "Now I know why the commercials say that nine out of 10 Volvos sold in the last decade are still on the road. That's because they haven't had time to get the tow trucks out to haul

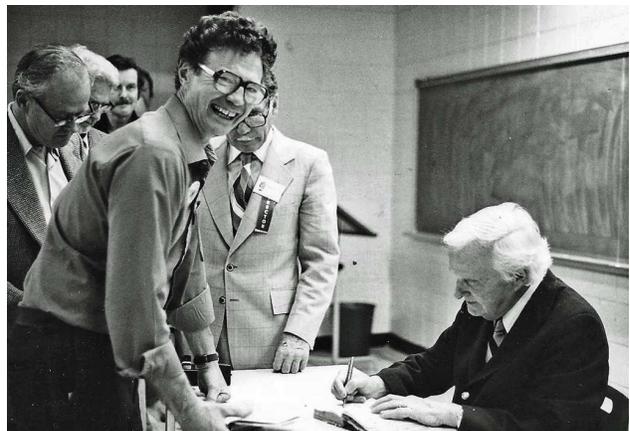
them all off the road!" he laughed, his trademark huge smile never faltering despite the problems he had in arriving. Obviously, the car was able to redeem itself, as the Volvo continued to be his favourite make throughout his life.

Another time, Martin and I were on a group field trip on Amherst Island, seeking out a shy, retiring Henslow's sparrow that was supposed to be in a meadow, just off the road. Martin was hard of hearing, so he always carried an outdated 1950s style hearing aid with him to assist in pulling in the barely audible hicough double notes of the Henslow's. The ear piece was inserted firmly into his ear, and a thin double cord trailed down to the main unit in his hand containing the amplifier and microphone that would normally be tucked in his shirt pocket. With a look of determination he held the unit out in front of him and panned it back and forth as he tried to pick up the indiscernible notes from the bird. The unit was cranked up to full volume and none of us dared speak for fear of blowing off his right ear.

I was the only one in the group who noticed that a small herd of Herefords had started to gather along the fence across the road behind us. As they rubbed their necks on the wire fence and sniffed at us in curiosity, one of them let out a powerful bellow that caused Martin to rip the receiver from his ear and fling it to the ground, all the while his characteristic smile never disappearing.

That Martin was birding in the Amazon when he died suddenly is appropriate,

as he would not have wanted it any other way. Martin spent his professional life as a physicist, but on weekends, days off, and after he retired, he was a world traveller, always seeking out new bird species for his list. In fact, Martin earned a spot in the Guinness World Book of Records observing every family of birds in the entire world. His life list of species reached almost 8,500, the highest total for any Canadian. His attempt to hold on to that record often entailed return visits to remote countries after ornithologists had split certain bird families, requiring him to seek out a species of bird from the new family.



Martin Edwards has his Peterson field guide signed by Roger Tory Peterson. Photo by Terry Sprague

Throughout his life, he penetrated dense jungles in Africa, rainforests in the Amazon, explored the biomes of desert locations, searched for honeycreepers in Costa Rica, looked for penguins in Antarctica, and listened for kookaburras in Australia, and was even picked up once for wandering into a restricted area with binoculars. At 85 years of age leading up to the day when he died, Martin was still on the go, seeking out new birds in some far-off country. In

earlier years when I would approach him about being a guest speaker, his brow would furrow a bit, and with that perpetual smile, would reply, "I better check my calendar first to see if I am even in the country on that date".

Martin took a strong interest in natural history, and over the years assumed a leadership role in the preservation of nature and conservation. Martin's doctorate was in Physics which he taught at the Royal Military College in Kingston. Retiring after 41 years in 1995, he continued as an Emeritus Professor until his death. But he also contributed

research on the effect of pesticides on colonial water birds in the Great Lakes in the days prior to the ban on DDT.

He was President of the Kingston Field Naturalists, President of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, President of the Canadian Nature Federation and Canada's representative to the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

Terry Sprague is a professional naturalist, free-lance writer and KFN member who lives in Prince Edward County.

Dr. Martin Edwards - Birder extraordinaire

John Cartwright

From the time he arrived in Kingston in 1954 as a young professor of physics at RMC, Martin plunged into the activities of the KFN (or Kingston Nature Club as it was then), taking part in all manner of activities, birding above all. His enthusiasm, humour, and field skills, along with his encyclopedic knowledge of many subjects, quickly made him a valued member of the KFN.

The first major trip I took with him was to Cape May during spring migration in 1957. Martin's sharp eyes picked off our first look at the Cattle Egrets which had just spread that far north, as well as smaller gems such as Lawrence's Warbler. (*Editor's note: Martin's account of this trip, published in the Blue Bill in 1957, is reprinted following this article.*)

Later, when I had just begun to appreciate neo-tropical birds, he called me in March 1975: "John, Bird Bonanzas is running a trip to Costa Rica - are you interested?" I hesitated for almost 0.5 seconds before replying "When?" Fortunately it was in the gap after my classes ended and my students wrote their exam, and thus we began a binge of tropical birding trips: Peru, Colombia, and Brazil among other places.

By this time Martin was deeply hooked on world listing, and a few years later found himself in a close race with another birder to see who would be the first in the world to see species from all the world's bird families. In his drive to see all the world's bird families, Martin

made extraordinary efforts in many remote places.

For example, to see the elusive Kagu, the sole member of its family, with only a few hundred individuals still existing, Martin made two trips to New Caledonia. On the first trip, he played a tape he had been given of a Kagu calling, but had no response. When he returned to Canada he learned that the call which had been taped was a warning to other Kagus that there was danger and that they should keep away.

Martin made a second trip, this time with recordings of Kagus conversing in the wild. When he drove into the reserve where the birds were, planning to sleep overnight in his car, the warden assured him that in the morning the gate would be open so that he could catch his flight home. At dawn, Martin heard the Kagus calling and managed to entice one near the car for an excellent view. When he went to leave the reserve, he discovered the warden had gone into town for the day, locking the gate behind him. The gate-posts were made of wood, and Martin remembered seeing a saw in a shed by the warden's house, so he cut down the post, left a note and some money to pay for a new post, and managed to catch his flight.

His efforts were not in vain; he and the other birder finished in a virtual tie for who was first to see all the bird families, and this placed him in the Guinness Book of Records from 1988 to 1992, when the book decided to discontinue this particular type of record. He also gave himself the far more demanding task of seeing at least one member of

every genus, and by the time of his death had seen more than 90% of all the world's bird genera, as well as a total list of 8456 species, the highest life list of anyone not just in Canada but in all of North America. His last life bird, seen the day before his final illness struck, was a Black-bellied Gnatcatcher, a striking little black-and-rufous bird that skulks in dense undergrowth in a limited area of Amazonia, seen by very few birders.

Lest anyone think that Martin was too obsessed by listing to find time for anything else, it should be noted and celebrated that he served as president of the Kingston Field Naturalists, playing an important role in securing the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary, and at different times was President of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature). President of the Canadian Nature Federation (now Nature Canada), and Canada's representative on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), where he played a major role in getting that organization's finances in order. He served as a one-man Royal Commission set up by the Ontario government to investigate a mass die-off of ducks on Toronto Island, a study which called attention to the hazards of industrial pollution before this became a matter of widespread concern. His leadership and volunteer efforts helped the conservation community immensely during his lifetime. He was a generous supporter of conservation overall.

When I think of Martin and his passion for birds throughout his lifetime, it reminds me of the power of birds to

inspire our love of nature. It was an honour to know Martin and to bird with him. I will miss my friend, his humour, warmth, goodwill and wealth of knowledge about birds, but I take comfort from the fact that he inspired many other people to take an interest in nature and the need to protect it.

In the words of his son David, his father's love of birdwatching was the "combination of the chance to see something new, the chance to be outdoors and the curiosity of different beautiful birds... once you start on that, it becomes a great passion".

Away to Cape May

Martin H Edwards, The Blue Bill Vol. 4 #3 (1957)

On Thursday May 9th, John Cartwright, Hugh Evans, Gary and Anne Hanes and I mapped out our best route to Cape May, New Jersey. Gary and Anne had driven down from Ottawa after supper, and had just loaded their camping equipment into the trunk of my car. We had decided to sleep out if possible, making our own breakfasts and lunches, and eating one meal a day in restaurants. After careful reading of Pettingill, "A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi", we decided to aim directly for southern New Jersey, reserving northern parts for the return trip.

By 6 a. m. Friday we were on our way out of Cartwright's Point, the car trunk loaded to the brim, the headlights pointing at the telephone wires. Canadian Customs men at Ivy Lea were aghast when we staggered in with four telescopes, six pairs of binoculars and three cameras, demanding forms to show we had taken them out of Canada with us. We drove to Utica then followed the New York Thruway to Exit

15 at Suffern, then Highway No. 17 until we could get onto the New Jersey Garden State Parkway. We stayed on the Parkway (another toll road) until we were past Atlantic City and then drove out to Ocean City and along the coastal road down the east shore of New Jersey.

The area called Cape May is a blunt peninsula, about 10 miles wide by 20 miles long, at the extreme southern end of New Jersey (39°N latitude as compared to Kingston's 44°14' or Pt Pelee's 42°). Cape May juts 100 miles up to Trenton, N. J. The road along the east shore of Cape May rides on a string of longish islands (25 cent toll bridges everywhere!) The "Intracoastal Waterway" passes between these islands and the main peninsula. In between are tidal marshes two to three miles wide.

We arrived at Cape May around 3:30 p. m. (about 550 miles from Kingston). On the marshes and in a heronry at Stone Harbor we managed to see Louisiana herons, American egrets, snowy egrets,

little blue herons, yellow-crowned night-herons, clapper rails, Hudsonian curlews, seaside sparrow, etc. Many of these were "lifers" for us. Then as a complete surprise to us, a glossy ibis flew by the car into the heronry! Only Anne and I saw this one and, as it was nearly dusk, we couldn't expect it to fly again.

We drove back into Stone Harbor for supper in great excitement, managing to drive away leaving John's 30x60 Bausch and Lomb 'scope on its tripod at the side of the road. After supper we noticed it was missing and rushed back but could not find it. Luckily John had it insured. We left our names with the Police Chief in Stone Harbor in case it was turned in by whoever picked it up. He also told us we couldn't camp out on the Island and that he thought it was illegal on the mainland too! To date there has been no word about the 'scope.

We drove over to the mainland, found a dirt road into the woods, parked the car out of sight and stealthily made camp. The whip-poor-wills began their soft calling as we lay down to sleep under the stars...yipe! and mosquitoes!

We awakened to the din of tufted titmice, cardinals and Carolina wrens. John identified prairie warblers and blue-winged warblers by song and we tracked them down. Thereafter, we kept hearing and seeing blue-winged warblers more than any other kind for the rest of our trip. Even I learned the song! (My hearing is about 40db. Below normal at 4000 cycles per second)

We spent two days around Cape May, seeing glossy ibises frequently-one even flying across an open field! We met Ernest Choate and bought a copy of his little booklet which has a "bird map" of Cape May included. He later led us, by car, to a rock jetty which still had purple sandpipers around it! He also led us to the only hangout of boat-tailed grackles in New Jersey. Near that particular spot we saw our first willets-large shorebirds, sedately grey on foot, but gloriously patterned when flying. The laughing gulls were the most common to be seen around Cape May, beautiful black-headed gulls with black upper wings. We were surprised to see a lingering great black-backed gull amongst them once.

Least terns became favourites of all of us in no time. They are so tiny and with such pretty little yellow bills that we only wished they liked the Ontario climate so we could see them regularly.

Osprey nests are everywhere near the shore. Nearly every other telephone pole right through one town had its osprey nest on it! We found one eagle's nest and were able to show this to Choate, much to his surprise. He rather surprised us by mis-identifying a young bald eagle as a golden eagle, simply because it had white at the base of the tail, even when all five of us told him we had seen the bald head as well! After we put telescopes on it for him he conceded!

After many hours of searchin we finally got a fine look at a pair of cattle egrets, in a field with some Holstein cow, near

Cold Spring N. J. This was one of our most-wanted-birds for the trip.

I couldn't get over the way monstrous Hudsonian curlews and clapper rails strode about the roadside marshes as bold as characters in "Pogo". We got quite a thrill seeing about 20 knots one morning when fog limited our view over the open ocean. Black skimmers were quite unbelievable.

Sunday evening we drove north to Trenton, N. J., stopping on the way at the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge on Great bay, just north of Atlantic City. There we saw one black skimmer much closer, "skimming" gaily along, his lower mandible cutting a fine line in the surface of the water. We wondered idly how graceful he would look if he hooked his bill inadvertently into a deadhead! Unfortunately it was a bit foggy (we could see clearly for about 50-100 yards) so we didn't feel we had our money's worth out of Brigantine.

Monday we birded in Trenton Marsh, right in the city. Apart from a few warblers and some fish crows, I don't recall anything exciting. (It was foggy early Monday morning too). The fish crows came much farther inland than I had expected. We even heard some in Princeton N. J.! Oh, yes, we nearly got shot by a man with a 0.22 rifle, with telescopic sight, as he fired between two of us at a grackle. He swung right across us as we walked along a power-line catwalk across the marsh.

After lunch we drove to Bowman State Park, just across the Delaware into

Pennsylvania. We had been told that one or two worm-eating warblers lived there. Sure enough John heard one and we all got a fine look. There was a good tall tower at the top of this hilly park and we took a few pictures from the top. It was interesting to watch a turkey vulture below us. We met a biology class from a nearby teachers' college. Their professor turned out to have been a classmate at Toronto of Jim Bendell's and Bill Gunn's. There were marvelous azaleas growing around there and also rhododendrons. He said the extreme alkalinity of the soil favoured them. The azaleas were astonishingly beautiful.

In the afternoon we drove to Princeton and got in touch with Mr. Charles Rogers, who was Curator of the Princeton University Ornithological Museum. John and I visited him for an hour or two in the evening. He gave us explicit directions to find a nesting Kentucky warbler in the woods behind the Institute for Advanced Study. He also gave us the address of a Louisiana waterthrush on the other side of town.

Tuesday morning we went to the woods and found the Kentucky warbler, singing in a tree-top! Hugh and John heard and found another worm-eating warbler on the way. On our way out of the woods we all had a rare treat, a pair of singing Lawrence's warblers! This was a lifer for all of us. Funnily enough, Gary and I had seen our only Brewster's warbler together also, in 1952.

Afterwards we drove across town to look for the Louisiana waterthrush and got a good look at it-singing about 30

feet up in a tree. Then we headed off northward towards home, stopping at lots of hillsides to look and listen, alas, in vain, for hooded warblers.

It began to rain hard by the time we got on the New York State Thruway again

so we drove more or less straight home. We found we had driven 1400 miles from Kingston. Our total trip list was about 160 species of which 17 were lifers for me. Altogether a most refreshing interlude.

Editor's Note: The results of the 2012 Spring Round-up follow this article. In her "History of the KFN: The First 25 Years" (Blue Bill Vol. 21 # 2 (1974)), Helen Quilliam wrote that "Spring round-up began in 1960 as a result of Martin Edwards, Nora Mansfield, and Nancy L'Estrange finding over 100 species on a rainy wet day in May 1959. (actually 1958-ed.) Martin described this historic day for the KFN in the Blue Bill.

A May "Big Day" in Kingston

Martin H. Edwards The Blue Bill Vol. 5 #2 (1958)

Sunday 11 May 1958 was scheduled as a regular K. N. C. field trip, with Mary L'Estrange as leader. On Saturday night I saw, on the late TV weather report, that there was a stationary front barely north of Kingston, with warm air south of it and colder air to the north. I immediately thought (having heard Helen Quilliam's paper to the Brockville Nature Club on "Spring Migration and the Weather") that we would have large numbers of regular migrants arriving during the night, although the winds were not right for the "overshoot" type of southern rarity we all hope for. Heavy rains were forecast.

As I called for Nora Mansfield at 6:45 a.m., she pointed out the white-crowned sparrows all around. In two blocks we saw about 200, swarming over gardens and driveways and lawns. At the Old Arts building at 7 we met Mary L'Estrange and waited in vain for

others. Three rose-breasted grosbeaks flew by the cars.

We decided to go to the golf course by Lake Ontario Park as a start. As we got out of the car in the rain, we heard yellow warblers in Lake Ontario Park and went to investigate. Soon we saw a female yellowthroat and then things popped up thick and fast: veery, hermit thrush, wood thrush, Canada warbler, least flycatcher, wood-peewee, yellow-bellied sapsucker, etc. We then walked into the Cataraqui Golf Course and hunted in the (planted) woods at the north side of the 9th fairway, Waves of warblers came by, often in trees only 10 or 12 feet up, most considerate of them! Lovely Cape May and Blackburnian and redstart gave us perfect looks. Blue-headed vireo and warbling vireo, purple finches (on the ground!) and over and over again glorious rose-breasted grosbeaks. We chased an unidentified

towhee for some time before Mary finally nailed it. In the meantime, olive-backed thrushes (OK Helen, Swainson's!) stole along beside the paths. We spent about five minutes excitedly searching for a bird in an evergreen thicket, whose sole mark we had seen was a fair sized yellow bill. With great care we flushed a robin.

Mary and I went over to Squaw Point, where she found a whip-poor-will and black-crowned night-herons and snipe; while I found black terns, black duck, blue-winged teal and bittern. In case you have forgotten by now, the rain was still pouring down! My raincoat, jacket, sweater and shirt were now soaked through at the shoulders. On the way back to the road along the tracks Mary found an adult Virginia rail and showed it to me, about 10 feet away, in the open. She had seen a juvenal earlier.

When we got back to the car at 11:35 a.m., we drove to Catarauqui Bay and found gallinules, a coot, and a pied-billed grebe. We now had a list of about 68 species (including 15 warblers) and were all soaked. We jocularly said "Let's try for 100,...well, 75 anyhow". So Mary drove us all home where we changed our clothes and set off again, catching the 1:15 ferry to Wolfe Island.

We decided not to walk very much, but to try driving in the rain instead. We saw a few shorebirds, greater and lesser yellowlegs, spotted sandpiper and upland plover. We found 10 more kinds of ducks, including all 3 mergansers. At 4:25 we had 87 species. We had intended catching the 5:15 ferry home

but missed it after we had 90 species (red-breasted nuthatch at Pyke's). We had to catch the 7:00 p. m. ferry home for sure, so then we really tried hard. We stopped about 5 seconds for a superb pheasant. Just north of Horne's ferry, we saw all 5 swallows and purple martins. I was soaked again. At last the sky began to clear! Then the sun even came out.

We kept seeing over again together some species that only one person had seen before. This was highly gratifying to all of us. We headed east of the main north-south highway and brought our total of short-eared owls up to 8 for the day, with 3 flopping at once, over the marsh northwest of Bayfield Bay. We now had 99 species. I put the 'scope on a green-winged teal, and as Mary looked at it she exclaimed "there's a phalarope"! Nora and I also looked and saw it. We set off across the farmyard (Hoekstra's) and looked at it every few yards: a beautiful female Wilson's phalarope, serial no. 100, watched from about 6:10 to 6:30 p. m. The sun was at our backs and we got to within about 80 yards of it, seeing it through a 40x60 'scope mounted on a tripod. What more can one ask for in a life first? Before we turned back to catch the ferry we added least sandpipers.

By the time we reached the ferry we had 103 for the group, Mary had 101, Nora had 99 and I had 101. As we drove up Barrie St. towards Queen's once again, we saw people staring up into the trees in MacDonald Park. Naturally we couldn't resist it! We went over only to find they were puzzled by a flicker. But

I saw a female parula warbler flitting about in the top of the elms. Nora missed it, so we kept looking, and found two beautiful male parulas also, among the many feeding warblers.

That gave us 104 species for the day. As far as I know this was the first time any individual or party in Kingston has made a "century", and all three of us reached 100. We even managed it inside the Christmas Bird Count 7.5 mile radius, leaving out many favorite spots. Many common birds were missing, of

course, including gray partridge, horned grebe, common loon, red-tailed hawk, mourning dove, hairy and downy woodpeckers, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, that we might have expected to see.

Of my 102, 51 were new for the year for me (including 16 warblers!) and one, the Wilson's phalarope, a life first. It brought my "Life List" up to 300 exactly, making the day unforgettable for me.

Spring Round-up 2012

Ron D. Weir

The KFN's 55th Spring Round-up took place from 1500h Saturday May 19 to 1500h Sunday May 20. The weather on Saturday afternoon was sunny 20-24°C with near calm conditions that remained overnight. By dawn, lake waters were glassy calm and temperatures rose to the mid-20s°C along Lake Ontario and upper 20s inland with clear conditions.

The final tally of species was 199, which equals the 39-year (1973-2011) average of 199. Areas visited included: Amherst Island; Amherstview Sewage Lagoons; Bath area and Parrott's Bay; Bedford Road; Blue Mountain; Briar Hill; Camden East including Camden Lake; Canoe Lake Road and area; Charleston Lake; Florida Road; Opinicon Road and area; Collins Bay and its watershed; Howe Island; Kingston City including Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Lemoine Point, Salmon Island,

Snake Island, Brother's Island, Garden Island; Moscow; Newburgh; Pigeon Island; Prince Edward Point; Sydenham; Thousand Islands area; Wilton Creek; Morven; Hay Bay area, Perch River Wildlife area.

No new species was added to the cumulative total, which remains at 288 species. For a tally of 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 (2008), **55** 42-47 (2008), **56** 49-54 (2009), **57** 48-54 (2010), **58** 51-57 (2011).

Noteworthy finds were Great Egret, Surf Scoter, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle

(nest with 2 young), Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrows, and Orchard Orioles.

On Saturday, Claire Rubensa and Chip Weseloh visited Pigeon Island where they tallied 284 nests of Herring Gull (568 adults) and 1537 nests of Double-crested Cormorant (3074 adults). They counted 82 Herring Gull nests on Salmon Island.

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

Party #1: Paul Mackenzie, Lynn Bell, John Cartwright, Bruce Ripley

Party #2: Erwin Batalla, Liz & Mike Evans, Hugh Evans

Party #3: Joel Ellis, Peter Good, Kathy Innes, Jane Revell, Bud Rowe, Ron Weir

Party #4: Mark Conboy

Party #5: Terry Sprague *et al.*

Party #6: Sharon David

Party #7: Linda & Chip Weseloh, Claire Rubens

Party #8: David Okines *et al.*

Party #9: Mark Conboy + 3

Party #10: Chris Grooms

Party #11: Miscellaneous Hugues Bonin *et al.*

Totals in the following table provide an estimate of the numbers of individual birds tallied.

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER											Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Common Loon	3	x	16	1	-	2	1	6	-	2	-	32
Pied-billed Grebe	4	1	4	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11
Horned Grebe	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dble-crstd Cormrnt	360	x	65	1	-	12	3129	4	-	1000	-	4573
American Bittern	1	x	2	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	9
Great Blue Heron	5	x	4	1	-	1	2	11	-	1	-	26
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
Green Heron	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Blck-crn Ngt Heron	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Turkey Vulture	5	2	10	1	-	-	1	8	-	x	-	27
Canada Goose	100	2	360	1	-	15	16	28	4	x	-	523
Brant	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Mute Swan	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Trumpeter Swan	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wood Duck	2	x	4	1	-	2	6	3	-	-	-	19
Gadwall	12	x	17	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	32
American Wigeon	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Amercn Blck Duck	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Mallard	36	2	80	1	-	4	10	19	-	-	-	142

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER											Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Blue-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Shoveler	6	1	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	15
Green-winged Teal	1	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Greater Scaup	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Lesser Scaup	8	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Surf Scoter	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wht-winged Scoter	5	x	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	27
Long-tailed Duck	60	x	120	-	-	4	79	-	-	1000	-	1264
Bufflehead	6	x	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Comm Goldeneye	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hooded Merganser	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7
Comm Merganser	6	1	4	2	-	-	6	-	-	x	-	19
Rd-brstd Mergansr	70	1	100	-	-	-	7	-	-	1000	-	1178
Virginia Rail	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sora	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Moorhen	4	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Osprey	2	1	7	1	-	-	1	3	-	x	-	15
Bald Eagle	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Northern Harrier	4	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	x	-	10
Shrp-shinnd Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Rd-shouldrd Hawk	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	6
Broad-wngd Hawk	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	4	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	12
American Kestrel	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	31	2	-	-	9
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rng-nckd Pheasant	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	5	-	x	-	11
Wild Turkey	6	1	10	1	-	2	-	10	-	-	-	30
Blck-bellied Plover	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Semipalmted Plover	12	-	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	18
Killdeer	12	1	9	1	-	2	-	9	2	-	-	36
Greater Yellowlegs	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	1	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	15
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Spotted Sandpiper	7	1	16	1	-	-	1	3	2	x	-	31
Upland Sandpiper	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Smiplmtd Sandpipr	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	4

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER											Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Least Sandpiper	80	-	32	-	-	-	20	5	-	x	-	137
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Dunlin	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	5
Shrt-bld Dowitcher	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Wilson's Snipe	6	1	6	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	17
Amer Woodcock	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Wilson's Phalarope	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Ring-billed Gull	22	x	70	1	-	10	12	12	1	x	-	129
Herring Gull	3	x	10	1	-	15	740	3	-	x	-	773
Caspian Tern	1	2	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	2	-	11
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Black Tern	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Rock Pigeon	11	1	43	1	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	85
Mourning Dove	22	2	40	1	-	8	9	17	10	x	-	109
Black-billd Cuckoo	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Yellw-billd Cuckoo	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	9
Eastrn Screech-Owl	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barred Owl	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Long-eared Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Comm Nighthawk	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
E Whip-poor-will	4	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Chimney Swift	6	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	12
Rby-thr Hmngbrd	2	2	5	1	-	2	-	4	-	x	-	16
Belted Kingfisher	4	1	2	1	-	1	-	4	-	x	-	13
Red-hd Woodpeckr	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	0	-	x	-	2
Red-bll Woodpeckr	1	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Yllw-bll Sapsucker	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Downy Woodpeckr	1	1	2	1	-	2	-	5	1	x	-	13
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	x	-	7
Northern Flicker	8	2	3	1	x	-	2	5	-	-	-	21
Pileated Woodpckr	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	7
Olve-sidd Flycatchr	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Estrn Wood-Pewee	6	1	10	1	1	-	-	-	-	x	-	19
Yllw-blld Flycatchr	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	x	-	6
Alder Flycatcher	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	x	-	6
Willow Flycatcher	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Least Flycatcher	2	1	12	1	x	-	-	5	-	x	-	23
Eastern Phoebe	4	1	6	1	-	3	1	4	2	x	-	22

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER											Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Grt-crstd Flycatchr	6	2	14	1	x	3	-	5	-	x	-	33
Eastern Kingbird	10	2	35	1	x	-	2	14	2	x	-	80
Loggerhead Shrike	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Yllw-thrtd Vireo	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	11
Blue-headed Vireo	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	5
Warbling vireo	20	2	80	1	x	2	17	15	1	x	-	153
Philadelphia Vireo	3	1	10	-	-	-	-	2	-	x	-	18
Red-eyed Vireo	11	2	70	1	x	3	1	19	-	x	-	127
Blue Jay	18	2	10	1	x	14	2	12	8	x	-	72
American Crow	14	2	36	1	x	2	2	15	5	x	-	88
Common Raven	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	5	1	x	-	14
Horned Lark	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Purple Martin	20	2	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	43
Tree Swallow	6	2	25	1	x	6	33	20	1	x	-	114
Rgh-wngd Swallow	4	1	30	2	x	-	-	4	-	x	-	46
Bank Swallow	31	-	60	-	-	-	-	15	3	-	-	121
Cliff Swallow	58	1	150	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	210
Barn Swallow	40	2	40	1	x	4	12	25	-	x	-	125
Blk-cpd Chickadee	4	1	10	1	x	6	2	6	2	x	-	33
Rd-brstd Nuthatch	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wht-brstd Nuthtch	2	1	1	1	x	3	-	4	-	-	-	13
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Carolina Wren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
House Wren	14	2	36	1	x	-	19	13	2	x	-	88
Winter Wren	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Sedge Wren	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marsh Wren	8	1	0	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10
Rby-crwnd Kinglet	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Blu-gry Gnatcatchr	2	1	4	1	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	9
Eastern Bluebird	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Veery	4	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	x	-	9
Gry-cheekd Thrush	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	3
Swainson's Thrush	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	8
Hermit Thrush	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Wood Thrush	6	2	15	1	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	25
American Robin	60	2	250	1	x	8	47	x	20	x	-	390
Gray Catbird	10	2	45	1	x	2	11	4	4	20	-	100
Brown Thrasher	9	2	7	1	x	2	-	2	1	x	-	25
European Starling	52	2	75	1	x	4	25	x	1	x	-	162
Cedar Waxwing	52	2	100	-	x	3	4	-	-	x	-	162

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER											Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Blue-wngd Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gldn-wngd Wrblr	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Tennessee Warbler	6	1	25	-	6	-	-	5	-	20	-	63
Nashville Warbler	3	1	12	1	x	-	-	2	-	x	-	21
Northern Parula	2	1	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	20
Yellow Warbler	60	2	200	1	x	6	38	22	5	x	-	330
Chstnt-sidd Wrblr	20	2	30	1	x	-	-	3	-	x	-	57
Magnolia Warbler	6	1	30	1	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	39
Cape May Warbler	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Blck-thrtd Bl Wrblr	2	1	6	1	-	-	2	-	-	x	-	12
Yllw-rumpd Wrblr	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	x	-	7
Blk-thrt Grn Wrblr	5	2	20	1	x	1	-	2	-	x	-	32
Blackburnian Wrblr	4	2	15	1	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	23
Pine Warbler	4	1	2	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	12
Prairie Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Palm Warbler	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bay-brstd Warbler	6	1	10	1	25	-	-	-	-	x	-	43
Blackpoll Warbler	20	1	25	1	40	-	6	1	-	20	-	114
Cerulean Warbler	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Blk-and-wht Wrblr	4	2	2	1	1	-	-	6	-	x	-	17
American Redstart	16	2	20	1	x	2	2	3	-	18	-	65
Ovenbird	6	2	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	x	-	16
Nrthrn Wterthrush	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	x	-	9
Louisina Wterthrsh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Connecticut Wrbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mourning Warbler	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Comm Yellowthrt	10	2	30	1	x	-	3	16	10	x	-	73
Wilson's Warbler	2	-	5	1	x	-	-	-	-	x	-	9
Canada Warbler	3	-	10	1	x	-	-	-	-	1	-	16
Summer Tanager	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Scarlet Tanager	6	1	5	1	6	-	-	12	-	x	-	31
Eastern Towhee	10	2	15	1	-	2	-	5	1	x	-	36
Chipping Sparrow	11	2	30	1	x	2	-	18	-	x	-	65
Clay-coldr Sparrow	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9
Field Sparrow	5	2	30	1	-	-	-	4	-	x	-	42
Vesper Sparrow	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Savannah Sparrow	4	-	12	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	21
Grasshppr Sparrow	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	7
Song Sparrow	50	2	100	1	x	2	21	18	17	x	-	213
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	14

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER											
Swamp Sparrow	2	1	3	1	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	14
Wht-thrtd Sparrow	1	1	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	14
Wht-crwnd Sparrow	-	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	x	-	7
Dark-eyed Junco	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Cardinal	1	1	10	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	15
Rse-brstd Grosbeak	7	2	20	1	x	-	1	10	-	x	-	42
Indigo Bunting	3	1	6	1	4	-	-	6	-	x	-	21
Bobolink	18	2	30	1	x	4	-	11	2	-	-	69
Red-wngd Blckbrd	50	2	100	1	x	3	70	75	3	x	-	305
East Meadowlark	18	2	25	1	x	1	-	6	3	-	-	57
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Grackle	50	2	70	1	x	8	32	25	1	x	-	190
Brwn-hd Cowbird	9	2	15	1	x	4	6	6	3	x	-	47
Orchard Oriole	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
Baltimore Oriole	10	2	25	1	x	6	9	17	3	x	-	74
Purple Finch	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
House Finch	-	-	8	1	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	15
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Amer Goldfinch	12	2	60	1	x	6	6	15	3	x	-	106
House Sparrow	12	1	10	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	26
Party Species Total	154	99	150	124	52	50	53	95	38	108	2	199
Participants	4	4	6	1	1+	1	3	1	1	5	2	29

KFN Activities March-May 2012

Field Trip to Algonquin PP Apr27-29

Gaye Beckwith

Participants: Bernice Lucas, Hugh Evans, Tony Kaduck, Lynn Kerr, Nancy Spooner, and KFN Junior Silas Goudey.

For the second year in a row KFN members ventured to Algonquin Provincial Park to bird and look for other wildlife, particularly moose. Following the winter, moose frequent the edge of Hwy. 60, which runs

through the southern portion of the park. The draw is salted puddles along the roadside. The salt used to service the road during winter dissolves in the melted snow and creates a necessary source of calcium for the moose. The males especially need to replenish after shedding their antlers in February. Unfortunately we did not find any moose, even though we toured the park by car and hiked several areas. The naturalist at the Visitors' Centre informed us that the mornings are too cold for the moose to move around.

Temperatures were around -5°C overnight with daily highs up to 9°C. During a shorter visit last year, we saw 8 moose.

Birding however, was a different matter. We saw or heard over 50 species of birds including the boreal forest species, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse (heard), Black-backed Woodpecker (heard) and Gray Jays. At the Visitors' Centre there were a variety of birds with the highlight being about 40 Evening Grosbeaks.



We saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Chipping and White-throated Sparrows, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Fox Sparrow, a Purple Finch, Harriers flying over the wetland below and a Downy Woodpecker. Several of us went on an owling adventure on Saturday night. In the Logging Museum parking lot Kurt played a barred owl tape and one soon flew over us. We could also hear others calling in the distance.

Each morning we went out at 6:30 and looked for moose and birds. A Blue

Headed Vireo, Gray Jays, a Broad Winged Hawk and the Boreal Chickadee were spotted on these early morning outings. We saw a fox, a deer and a snapping turtle. We saw small numbers of Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, Mallards, and Black Ducks, as well as a Great Blue Herons, a Common Loon and an American Bittern. The complete list of birds was entered into eBird by Kurt Hennige.

We stayed in Whitney at the Eastgate Motel where we were looked after well. On the drive home we visited the Egan Falls just north east of Bancroft, then headed back to Kingston. Although it was disappointing not to see moose, it was a very pleasant weekend.

March 18 Field Trip to Presqu'ile PP *Gaye Beckwith*

Participants: John Allan, Suzanne Bodner, Hugh Evans, Janis Grant, Tony Kaduck, Chris Perry, Nancy Spooner, and 3 guests from Queen's.

After the winter that wasn't, a dozen KFN members and their guests traveled to Presqu'ile Provincial Park south of Brighton for their annual Waterfowl Weekend. En route a dozen red-tailed hawks were seen sitting in trees along the 401. An Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Meadowlark were seen on Forest Road south of Sydenham.

In the park saw a variety of ducks including Goldeneye, Long tailed Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Redhead,

Bufflehead, Canvasback, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Ring-necked, Common and Hooded Mergansers, and Mallards.



Because of the lack of ice in the bay the ducks were usually well off-shore, but volunteers were eager to help us find species. White winged Scoters, a Common Loon, Mute Swans and Canada Geese were also present. A Great Blue Heron and Northern Harrier (male) were seen during our walk on the marsh boardwalk.

As we walked in the lighthouse area enjoying the springlike weather (22°C) we saw a variety of woodland birds including Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creepers, Juncos, Goldfinches, Brown-Headed Cowbirds, Pheobe and a female House Finch. These were mixed in with the usuals like American Robin, Blue Jays, and Chickadees. Two Turkey Vultures were seen flying overhead.

Leaving the park we stopped at Brighton water filtering project where we saw several Green-Winged Teal. We had a great day, saw 40 species of birds and enjoyed the incredible weather

while wondering if this early spring will be the norm in the future.

April 17 Ramble to Lost Lake Area *Joe Benderavage*

Twenty hikers assembled at the head of a trail that would meander through forest and fen. Plants in various stages of leaf were seen on the forest floor; Spring Beauty, Scented Sumac, Wild Strawberry, Round-Leafed Hepatica, Bloodroot, Early-flowering Sedge ("the grass of the woods" that has a stem with three edges), Trout Lily (flowering at the base of a Black Walnut tree), Early-flowering Saxifrage (five petals), and Dandelion, were in flower. Also noted was Garlic Mustard, an invasive exotic. A Trout Lily may take 22 years to produce its first flower.

We observed and identified the remains of last year's plants. Purple Loosestrife, Wild Parsnip, Red Dogwood, Red Sumac, Poison Ivy stems (still virulent), Dog-strangling Vine, Queen Anne's Lace (its hairy seeds can act as a barometer), Milkweed (taxonomically identified as "Texas Milkweed"), Bittersweet Vine (still wound around the branches of a White Birch tree), male Staghorn Sumac (Sumac communities are referred to as "clones"), Shagbark Hickory and Black Spruce were seen.

Many fir trees were present. We identified White Pines, their branches growing up the trunk in whorls. There were several varieties of Spruce trees. Spruce needles have four sides and it takes 15 years before the plant can set out cones. White Cedar was evident,

and the Red Cedars that we saw carried Cedar Apple Rust. Webworm nests were visible in some deciduous trees.

Although the first flying insect spotted was a Green Darner Dragonfly, our journey was blessed with many sightings of Red Admiral butterflies; by the end of the hike we had probably seen at least fifty. There were sporadic sightings of Mourning Cloak butterfly. A Painted Lady within a sunny patch of foliage caught our attention; evidently, it was drying its wings before it opened them up to fly off, thrilling onlookers.

Above us we saw a pair of Turkey Vultures, riding thermals. In a wet area, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Pine Warbler were heard, as were the calls of Spring Peepers, Chorus Frogs and Leopard Frogs. Purple Finches – a male and a female – were sighted in a tree. A distant hawkhawk in flight could not be identified with certainty. The sighting of a Garter Snake also graced this memorable day.

May Public Bird Walks

Joe Benderavage

The KFN hosts Bird Walks for the Public at Lemoine Point Conservation Area at 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday in May.

On May 2 at 6:30 a.m., a dozen hikers met leader Gaye Beckwith and were rewarded right away with sightings of Robins, a pair of Goldfinches, a Cowbird, and a Downy Woodpecker. The call of a Loon in flight was heard; a Cormorant and Mallard Ducks were

seen in flight. Red-breasted Mergansers, a Long-tailed Duck, a Gadwall, and a Green-winged Teal caught our attention, while two Mourning Doves, a Black and White Warbler, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, a Northern Cardinal, an Eastern Kingbird, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and a Red-winged Blackbird were all duly recorded. The sound of a Killdeer, and the sight of a Phoebe and Mallards in the grass by a water-filled ditch completed our bird list. We saw the nest of a Baltimore Oriole. An Ironwood tree was also identified.

On May 23 at 6:30 p.m., eight people met leader Darren Dayner for the last May Bird Walk of 2012, which began with a sighting of a male Northern Harrier on a fencepost in the field next to the car park. Species observed were American Goldfinch, Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Grey Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Northern Cardinal, Baltimore Oriole, Mourning Dove, Redstart, Grosbeak, Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush, Eastern Towhee, and Song Sparrow, as well as Bobolink, Eastern Kingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Savannah Sparrow, Cormorant, Blue Jay, Mallards, American Robins, Chipmunks, and a White-tailed Deer.

A troop of nine young farm chickens followed us in haphazardly along the path, by turns underfoot, distracted or disinterested. Shortly afterward, an intense chase of a European Starling by a Cooper's Hawk took place above the treetops. Within minutes, we saw across the same patch of blue sky, but in the

opposite direction, three or four loudly protesting European Starlings in flight, and surmised that the Cooper's Hawk had found and raided the nests of the Starlings. As twilight approached, Short-eared Owl was seen bearing a mouse in its beak. The only sound was a muted hum from the wings of millions of adult shadflies forming in columns above the water. Their ephemeral lifetimes would be measured in hours and minutes.

April 21 Ontario Nature Youth Council Earth Day Event

Anne Robertson

The Ontario Nature Youth Council sponsored Earth Day events across Ontario on April 21. KFN Teen Jake Baer organized a tree planting event to celebrate Earth Day in Kingston. A site at the Lemoine Point Conservation Area was chosen because this is one of the last remaining publicly-owned old-growth deciduous forests along this part of Lake Ontario. It is also a popular Conservation Area close to town with many visitors annually.

Fouteen people met on a rainy morning. Plans changed due to the cold wet weather:we moved to the Lemoine Point Tree Nursery to learn the process of collecting local cones for seed which is cold stored before planting. The young seedlings are moved into small pots and gradually into larger pots. We were able to transplant many White Spruce seedlings into 4-inch pots; they will grow on to be large enough to plant out.

After a snack, as it had stopped raining, we moved to a location where about 50 five-foot trees had been set out for planting. These were mostly Willows and Hybrid Poplars with a couple of larger Red Oaks. After a lesson in planting we set to and managed to plant all the trees in an hour or so. A big American Toad dug up by mistake was admired by everyone.



Very satisfied, we were finished by noon and ready for dry clothes! The trees will have benefitted from the steady gentle rain we have had just after planting. Many thanks to the volunteers at the Tree Nursery for their cooperation for this event.

KFN Teen Night Hike

Rowan Sandford Ladon

On Friday May. 11th from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., William, Michael, and Rowan joined Anne Robertson and Paul Mackenzie on a night hike. The evening was calm and clear and overall pleasant with a temperature of 19°C at the start of the excursion.

We drove to various locations and observed and listened to species, particularly birds. Our first stop was Bell's Swamp. At this location we observed Red-winged Blackbirds, Goldfinches, and a Green Frog. Further on at a roadside marsh we heard an American Bittern. Next we stopped at Collins Lake, where we saw Red-winged Blackbirds, Catbirds, Black-capped Chickadees, Mourning Doves, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Yellow Warblers, a Great Blue Heron, a Robin, and a Beaver feeding on young willows. Here, we listened to a tape of a Virginia Rail.

At dusk, we hiked along the Cataract Trail at Perth Road Village (West). We noted a Common Nighthawk and a Woodcock. The Woodcock was especially interesting, as it stood on the trail at a short distance. This enabled us to observe its long and flexible bill, which allows it to dig around in soil for worms. The Woodcock flew away several times, but would always return

shortly afterwards. While it was descending it produced a noise that sounded like trickling water. On the ground it gave a repeated "bpeet" call.

Finally we drove along Opinicon Road making many stops along the way. We heard Swamp Sparrows, Whip-poor-wills, Spring Peepers, and a Loon. We tried calling Screech Owls, Great-Horned Owls, and Barred Owls, but were unsuccessful in hearing any. At this point, it was quite dark and we walked into the forest near Skycroft and stood still for some time. We were unable to see very well, but it did not feel too spooky since we were all together.

We spotted a White-tailed deer beside the road while driving home. After a late night, we returned to Kingston and made notes in our field notebooks. All in all we had an exciting evening, hiking along various trails and learning about a variety of species!

Kingston's Migrant Butterflies

John S. Poland

I spent our winter in Australia and returned to Kingston at the end of February to find the talk was of no winter at all. I wondered what sort of year for butterfly sightings we might get as a result, and what weather we would get and what sort of year it would be. It is now the end of May - little did I know what a fantastic start to the butterfly year it would be, which has prompted

me to write this article on the migrant butterflies found in the Kingston region.

Over ninety percent of the butterflies found in the Kingston region are residents, residents being defined as those species that over-winter here in one of their life stages.

On the other hand, we have a few butterflies that migrate to Eastern Ontario from the south. The best known of these is the Monarch, about which much has been written. Recent research has shown that around 10% of Monarchs reach their northern breeding grounds directly from Mexico whilst most of the remainder generally reproduce in the central United States before their progeny migrate further north (see <http://bit.ly/A1ODEN>).

The real impetus for discussing migrant butterflies comes from the sudden surge of some of these migrants into our area in mid-April. For a butterfly to proceed successfully through its life cycle from egg to caterpillar (usually through four larval stages), to chrysalis (pupa) and then to adult butterfly, the weather plays a major role both directly and indirectly by aiding the host plant growth and the supply of pollen, affecting fungal, parasite and other predator populations etc.

It seems that not only did Ontario not have much of a winter, but that large areas of the US from Texas to Florida and northward had ideal conditions for butterfly breeding. As a result their populations increased and by mid-April, warm winds from the south pushed them north earlier than usual and in extraordinarily high numbers.

The initial surge was seen at Point Pelee on April 15. I was working in my garden on April 16 when, at about 9 a.m., I started seeing Red Admirals. By noon I was seeing them travelling north at a rate of one per minute, and by 2

p.m. had counted over 200. Many millions are estimated to have crossed the border by the end of April. Seasoned lepidopterists had never seen anything quite like it before. And it was not only Red Admirals but also Question Marks and American Ladies.

Red Admirals are a relatively common butterfly in the Kingston area but numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year depending on the success of migration from the south. For instance, in 2010, there was a strong migration starting on 30 April and they were plentiful all summer. By contrast, in 2009, I only saw two all summer.



Generally Red Admirals cannot survive frost, so any remaining in the province by October perish with the frost; some reports suggest that a few may survive over winter as adult butterflies. Their complete life cycle generally takes a few weeks and over the summer, generally, two broods are hatched.

Question Marks are another of our common migrants. This year they have been seen in very large numbers with the first peak appearing in Kingston on

19 April though I did observe three on 16 April - "Red Admiral Day".



The photo above shows question marks at my butterfly feeder. For about a month after their first arrival, I generally observed from 10-20 on a 3-hour walk. By the end of May the numbers seen were about 4-8 for the same time period. In normal years one sees maybe 2 or 3 in May on a 3-hour walk and in poor years only a few per summer.

The third major migrant that arrived in mid-April was the American Lady. These were seen at about the same frequency as the Question Marks for the first month after the mass migration. Now, by the end of May, numbers have dwindled so that generally one or two are seen on a 3-hour ramble. But to see 20 American Ladies on a May walk is quite extraordinary.

The Painted Lady is similar to the American Lady but much rarer in Eastern Ontario. For instance, none were reported last year and only a handful in a good year. This year I have already seen five in various locations from Lemoine Point C. A. to Tamworth. I expect we will see lots of these four migrant butterflies all summer long.

The Orange Sulphur is a last of our frequent migrants. These are similar to the very common Clouded Sulphur but have some orange colour to them. They generally appear later in the year. However, several have now been seen near the shores of Lake Ontario in locations like the open areas in Lemoine Point C. A. In poor years only a few are reported all summer and often not until late August.

We also have some rare migrant butterflies that are occasionally seen. The Common Buckeye is the most regularly seen of these and last year was a very good year with sightings at the KFN property on Amherst Island, Parrott's Bay C. A., Sandhurst Shores and Prince Edward Point. In previous years the only regular place that they have been found is at Prince Edward Point. This year, two have already been reported, one at Elbow Lake on 6May and one at Sandhurst Shores on 25May. The previous early recorded date for this species in our area was 19July. There are only 18 reports in Kingston of this butterfly on the Ontario Butterfly Atlas (now fully up-to-date). This can be accessed by googling Ontario Insects (the Toronto Entomologists Association) and selecting the Butterfly Atlas from the options on the left hand side.

The Gray Hairstreak is another very infrequent migrant but this butterfly also has a resident population. The food plant for the resident population is sweet fern whereas the migrants have a variety of food sources. Several Gray Hairstreaks have been seen this year but

are probably residents given their locations near to sweet fern.

The only other migrant seen in the Kingston area is the Little Yellow. There are only 4 reports on the Ontario Butterfly Atlas, two in 1970, one in 1990 and one in 2010.

There are quite a few other migrant butterflies that have been spotted near to the 50km Kingston area, and reports of these have been getting nearer and more numerous. So look out for a Fiery Skipper, Variegated Fritillary, American Snout and other rare butterflies this summer.

Kingston Region Birds for the Spring Season 1Mar-31May

Mark Andrew Conboy

This spring was one of early arrivals. A week of exceptionally warm weather and south winds in March brought many species to our region ahead of schedule. It also brought more birders out into the field; no doubt the increased birding effort also had something to do with the surfeit of early arrivals noted.

Though the weather returned to more normal conditions later, the trend of early-arriving birds continued. This report includes records for all species that had earlier than average arrival dates. Also included are all later than average departure dates for transient and overwintering species as well as notes on rare or otherwise interesting species. Highlights were Cackling Goose, Gadwall x Mallard hybrid, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Yellow Rail, Little Gull, Sabine's Gull, Sedge Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid, Hooded Warbler and LeConte's Sparrow. A total of 234 species and 2 hybrids were reported.

Snow Goose: Widespread reports of 1-3 birds throughout March. High count of 400 along Highway 401 at the 656km marker (Vandermeulen) 3Mar; 60 at the Perch River WMA (Stewart) 16Mar; 3 near Dorland (Haffner) 31Mar. Late departure date: 1 at Prince Edward County (McRae) 21May.

Brant: High count of 300 flew over Queen's University Biological Station (Conboy) 13May; 250 on the Kingston waterfront (Mackenzie) 17May; 100 at Sydenham Lake (Beckwith) 2May.

Cackling Goose: 2 at Wolfe Island (Holden) 19Mar; 1 at Chaffey's Lock (Conboy) 7Mar.

Trumpeter Swan: High count of 11 at Bedford Mills (Nuttall) 7Mar; 11 at Chaffey's Lock (Conboy and P. English) 3Apr; 6 at Bedford Mills (Nuttall) 8Mar. At least 1 injured adult remained on Lake Opinicon until 31May (Conboy).

Tundra Swan: High count of 24 at Prince Edward County (Keen) 3Mar; 8 at Prince Edward County (Keen) 4Mar;

6 at Prince Edward County (Keen) 1Mar.

Gadwall x Mallard Hybrid (Brewer's Duck): 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Fried) 5May.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 at Lower Brewers Lock (Roncetti) 10Mar; 1 along Hughes Rd (KFN) from 15-29Apr.

Northern Shoveler: Early arrival date. 3 at Prince Edward County (Mackenzie) 25Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: Widespread reports in low numbers with the high count being 4 at Perch River WMA (Stewart) 19Mar (also the early date of the year).

Green-winged Teal: Although some birds appeared to have overwintered, or at least stayed very late into the winter, the first northbound migrants were 35 near the Landsdowne Dump (Hennige) 12Mar.

Canvasback: 2 at Prince Edward County (Shannon) 11Mar; 1 at Amherst Island (Dennis) 10Mar.

Redhead: 270 at Wolfe Island (North Leeds Birders) 29Mar; 250 at Wolfe Island (Mackenzie) 17Mar; 7 at River Rd (Haig) 4Apr. Latest date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Carpentier) 27May.

Harlequin Duck: 4 (2 males, 2 females) at Prince Edward Point (Runtz) 11Mar.

Surf Scoter: Low numbers off Prince Edward Point from 28Apr to 9May (KFN). High count: 8 (Coates) 6May.

White-winged Scoter: High count of 2000 at Prince Edward Point (Hennige) 8-9May; 1000 at Prince Edward Point (McRae) 21May. Low numbers reported from Amherst Island and the American shoreline of Lake Ontario.

Ruddy Duck: 2 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (KFN) 22Apr; 1 at Perch River WMA (Stewart) 28Apr.

Common Loon: A few over wintering birds. The first migrants began returning in mid-Mar.

Horned Grebe: Low numbers along the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shorelines. High count of 7 at Prince Edward Point (Hennige) 15Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: High count of 15 on Indian Lake (Bulte) 2May; 4 on Lake Opinicon (Conboy) 3May. A few singles elsewhere on Lake Ontario.

Double-crested Cormorant: a few birds appeared to overwinter. Migrants began to return by mid-Mar.

American Bittern: Early arrival date: 1 at Camden East (Good) 23Mar.

Least Bittern: 1 at Perch River WMA (Bolsinger) 11May; 1 at Carmen Creek near Enterprise (A. English) 30May.

Great Blue Heron: At least one bird attempted to overwinter. Early arrival date for a migrant: 1 at Prince Edward County (Holden) 10Mar.

Great Egret: Low numbers reported mainly near Lake Ontario. High count of 8 at Collins' Creek (Bradley) 23May. Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Keaveney) 15Apr. At least one pair appears to be breeding on Middle Brothers Island (Weseloh) 26May.

Green Heron: Early arrival date: 1 at Crosby (Haig) 25Mar.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Very few observations. High count of 10 at Perch River WMA (Williams and Williams), 6 at Perch River WMA (Lawrence) 27May; 3 at Amherst Island (Hennige) 26May.

Osprey: Early arrival date: 2 at Kingston Mills (Koroluk) 24Mar.

Northern Goshawk: Very few reports; all from the Frontenac Arch (KFN).

Red-shouldered Hawk: One (perhaps more) overwintered. Migrants were back on territory at Queen's University Biological Station by 12Mar (Conboy).

Broad-winged Hawk: Early arrival date: 1 at Charleston Lake (Robinson) 18Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: Late departure date: 1 at Amherst Island (Coates) 22Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: A pair appears to be nesting atop Princess Towers in downtown Kingston (KFN).

Yellow Rail: 1 at Collins' Creek near Westbrook (Fried) 5May. This record still needs to be reviewed by the KFN rare bird committee.

Virginia Rail: Early arrival date: 1 near Westport (Anderson) 9Apr.

Sora: Early arrival date: 1 along the Cataraqui Trail (P. English) 4May; 1 at Amherst Island (Mackenzie) 4May.

American Coot: Last spring report: 1 at Wolfe Island (Mackenzie) 17Mar.

Sandhill Crane: Widespread sightings of low numbers, mainly inland. High count of 3 at Charleston Lake (Robinson) 13Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: 1 at Amherst Island (Hennige) 23May.

Semipalmated Plover: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward County (Vogan) 6May. High count of 19 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Burrell) 23May.

Killdeer: Early arrival date: 2 at Prince Edward Point (KFN) 4Mar.

Spotted Sandpiper: Early arrival date: 1 at Big Creek Road (Hennige) 5Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: Early arrival date: 1 at Warburton Rd (Hennige) 5Apr; 1 at Big Creek Road (Hennige) 5Apr.

Marbled Godwit: 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Hennige) 2May. Still needs to be reviewed by KFN Rare Birds Committee.

Upland Sandpiper: Most observations from the Newburgh plain. High count of 4 at Newburgh plain (Skevington)

7May. Early arrival date: 1 at Newburgh plain (KFN) 16Apr.

Whimbrel: 1 at the Kaiser Crossroad in Prince Edward County (Stagg) 23-24Mar. This is a very unseasonable record.

Ruddy Turnstone: High count of 20 at Amherst Island (Mishell) 25May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High count of 75 at Amherst Island (Hennige) 26May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 at Amherst Island (Hennige) 23May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: High count and early arrival date: 10 at Amherst Island (KFN) 15Apr.

Dunlin: High count of 10 at Amherst Island (Mishell) 25May; Early arrival date: 2 at Big Creek Rd (Hennige) 5Apr.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Burrell) 22May.

Wilson's Snipe: Early arrival date: 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Ripley) 12Mar.

American Woodcock: Early arrival date: 1 at Elginburg (Batalla) 7Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: High count of 6 at Amherst Island (Mackenzie) 29May. Early arrival date: 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Mackenzie) 29Apr.

Bonaparte's Gull: High count of 15,000 flew past Prince Edward Point (Okines) 23Apr; 300 at Prince Edward Point (Patry) 29Apr; 300 at Garden Island (Weseloh) 29 Apr. Early arrival date: 8 at Prince Edward Point (Hatt and Timpf) 26Mar. None appeared to overwinter this year.

Little Gull: 59 flew past Prince Edward Point (Okines) 23Apr. Singles reported from Prince Edward Point (KFN) and Garden Island (Weseloh).

Sabine's Gull: 1 flew past Prince Edward Point (Okines) 23Apr.

Glaucous Gull: 1 near Bath (Hennige) 7Mar.

Black Tern: High count of 23 at Perch River WMA (Bolsinger) 11May. The only other location for which this species was reported in the spring period was 6 at Collins Lake (McIntosh) 27May.

Common Tern: High count and early arrival date: 6 at Grenadier Island (Baird) 19Apr. The occurrence of 2-3 birds at Charleston Lake PP (Robinson) 8-11May was notable as this species is rarely reported from our inland lakes.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Early arrival date: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Morin) 16May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Mackenzie) 12May.

Long-eared Owl: High count of 8 at Amherst Island (Holden) 9Mar; 8 at Owl

Woods (Conboy) 14Mar. Latest date: 1 at Amherst Island (Mackenzie) 15May. This species probably summers in our region.

Short-eared Owl: High count of 43 at Wolfe Island (Holden) 6Mar. Latest date: 1 at Lemoine Point CA (KFN) 23May. This species may summer in our region.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 at Owl Woods (Holden) 7-9Mar.

Common Nighthawk: Early arrival date: 1 at Perth Rd Village (Mackenzie) 11May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Early arrival date: 1 at Buck Lake (Ure) 18Apr. Data gathered from two birds outfitted with geolocators in 2011 showed one male wintered in Guatemala and another wintered in central Mexico.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 at Landsdowne (Seiffert and Seiffert) 3May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Widespread sightings. This species is becoming more common around Kingston each year, especially on the Frontenac Arch near Queen's University Biological Station where an estimated six pairs now breed.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Early arrival date: 1 at Lyndhurst (North Leeds Birders) 4Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Roncetti) 19May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: High count of 2 at Prince Edward Point (Patry) 21May.

Willow Flycatcher: Early arrival date: 2 at Amherst Island (Mackenzie) 15May.

Least Flycatcher: Early arrival date: 1 at Frontenac PP (Jones) 1May.

Eastern Phoebe: Early arrival date: 1 at Charleston Lake PP (Robinson) 12May.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Early arrival date: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Conboy) 2May.

Northern Shrike: Late departure date: 1 on Wolfe Island (North Leeds Birders) 29Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: Early arrival date: 1 at Charleston Lake PP (Robinson) 4May.

Blue-headed Vireo: Early arrival date: 1 at Charleston Lake PP (Hennige) 5Apr.

Warbling Vireo: Early arrival date: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Conboy) 21Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: Early arrival date: unknown number at Prince Edward Point (North Leeds Birders) 8May.

Red-eyed Vireo: Early arrival date: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Conboy) 2May.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Early arrival date: 1 at the Amherst Island Ferry crossing (Batalla) 15Apr.

Purple Martin: Early arrival date: 4 at Prince Edward Point (Keen) 12Apr.

Tree Swallow: Early arrival date: 1 at Bedford Mills (Nuttall) 18Mar.

Bank Swallow: Early arrival date: unknown number at Prince Edward County (Coates) 18Apr.

Barn Swallow: Early arrival date: 1 at Simcoe Island (Nuttall) 7Apr.

Cliff Swallow: Early arrival date: 2 at Prince Edward Point (Keaveney) 15Apr.

Carolina Wren: 1 at the Millhaven ferry dock (Hennige) 26Apr.

House Wren: Early arrival date: 1 at Amherst Island (KFN) 15Apr.

Sedge Wren: 2 at Collins Creek near Westbrook (Fried) 5May.

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Brenchley) 29Apr.

Mountain Bluebird: 1 at Prince Edward Point (KFN) 12Feb-4Mar.

Grey-cheeked Thrush: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Conboy) 19May.

Swainson's Thrush: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Patry) 6May.

Grey Catbird: Early arrival date: 1 near Battersea (Roncetti) 21Apr.

Northern Mockingbird: 1 near Godfrey (Norris) 2 May.

Brown Thrasher: Early arrival date: 1 at Lemoine Point CA (Conboy) 14Apr.

Bohemian Waxwing: Late departure date: 3 at Prince Edward Point (Keaveney) 15Apr.

Ovenbird: Early arrival date: 1 near Godfrey (Norris) 2May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Recorded at only two locations: 2 at Canoe Lake Rd (KFN) 7-20May; 1 at Frontenac PP (Jones) 1May.

Northern Waterthrush: Early arrival date: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Conboy) 17Apr.

Blue-winged Warbler: Several records, from Prince Edward Point (KFN) and the Tamworth/Enterprise area (KFN). Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Vogan) 6May.

Golden-winged Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 near Enterprise (Conboy and P. English) 6May.

Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid (Brewster's form): 1 at Prince Edward Point (Roncetti) 19May; 1 at Charleston Lake PP (Burrell) 30May.

Black-and-white Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Queen's University Biological Station (Conboy) 26Apr.

Tennessee Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Opinicon Rd (Conboy) 5May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Queen's University Biological

Station (Martin) 6May; 1 at Prince Edward Point (Mackenzie) 6May.

Nashville Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Queen's University Biological Station (Conboy) 17Apr.

Common Yellowthroat: Early arrival date: 1 near Newboro (Conboy) 25Apr.

Hooded Warbler: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Hennige) 9May.

American Redstart: Early arrival date: 2 at Prince Edward Point (Agombar) 3May.

Cape May Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Agombar) 3May.

Cerulean Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Charleston Lake PP (Robinson) 4May.

Northern Parula: Early arrival date: 1 at Kingston (Mackenzie) 3May.

Magnolia Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Kingston (Norris) 3May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Early arrival date: unknown number at Prince Edward Point (North Leeds Birders) 9May.

Blackburnian Warbler: Early arrival date: 2 near Tamworth (Norris) 3May; 1 at Queen's University Biological Station (Conboy and P. English) 3May; 3 at Prince Edward Point (Agombar) 3May.

Yellow Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Patry) 29Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Early arrival date: 5 at Prince Edward Point (Agombar) 3May; 2 at Queen's University Biological Station (P. English) 3May.

Blackpoll Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Lemoine Point CA (Coates) 16May; 1 near Elgin (North Leeds Birders) 16May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Early arrival date: 3 at Prince Edward Point (Agombar) 3May.

Palm Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Kingston (Norris) 10Apr.

Pine Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Elginburg (Batalla) 26Mar. This bird was visiting a suet feeder.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: At least a few overwintered at Prince Edward Point. The first report of what appeared to be migrants was an early arrival date: 3 along Bath Rd near Millhaven (Hennige) 29Mar.

Prairie Warbler: Few records from within the Kingston circle. Early arrival date: 1 at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (Conboy) 5May. No reports from Devil Lake, Canoe Lake Rd or Frontenac PP where colonies are presumably present again this year. The only other reports from within the circle were of up to 2 at Chaumont Barrens Preserve (KFN) 6-27 May.

Canada Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Vogon) 6May.

Wilson's Warbler: Early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Hennige) 8May.

Eastern Towhee: Early arrival date: 1 at Napanee (Agombar) 20Mar.

American Tree Sparrow: Late departure date: 1 at Charleston Lake PP (Robinson) 30Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: Early arrival date: 1 at Chaffey's Lock (Conboy) 1Apr.

Clay-coloured Sparrow: Early arrival date: 2 at Babylon Rd (Hennige) 7May.

Field Sparrow: 1 overwintered at Bedford Mills (Nuttall). The first migrant had an early arrival date: 1 at Prince Edward Point (Mackenzie) 25Mar.

Savannah Sparrow: 1 apparently overwintered on Amherst Island (Holden). The first migrants had an early arrival date: 2 on Simcoe Island (Nuttall) 7Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Early arrival date: 1 at Babylon Rd (Hennige) 7May.

LeConte's Sparrow: 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons (Fried) 5May. This record still needs to be reviewed by the KFN's bird records committee.

Fox Sparrow: Early arrival date: 1 at Cranberry Lake (Runtz) 9Mar. Late departure date: 1 at Chaffey's Lock (Conboy) 29Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Early arrival date: 1 on Amherst Island (Mackenzie) 4May.

Dark-eyed Junco: Late departure date: Near Westport (North Leeds Birders) 23May.

Scarlet Tanager: Early arrival date: 1 near Delta (North Leeds Birders) 18Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Early arrival date: 1 at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (Conboy and P. English) 14Apr.

Indigo Bunting: Early arrival date: 1 at Massassauga Rd (Conboy) 9May; 1 at Prince Edward Point (North Leeds Birders) 9May.

Orchard Oriole: Early arrival date: Numerous reports from Prince Edward Point (KFN) 6May.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 at Queen's University Biological Station (Conboy) 20Apr; 1 at Queen's University Biological Station (Conboy) 3May.

Other species recorded during the spring season: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Common Gallinule, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk,

Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Mourning Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole,

Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Common Redpoll and House Sparrow.

Contributors: Robin Agombar, Rosemary Anderson, Christopher Baird, Gaye Beckwith, Rosemary Bradley, Jeffrey Bolsinger, Mark Brenchley, Mike Burrell, Greg Bulte, Geoff Carpentier, Steve Coates, Mark Conboy, Mark Dennis, Alex English, Philina English, Brett Fried, Jeff Haffner, John Haig, Jeremy Hatt, Kurt Hennige, Brandon Holden, Colin Jones, Andrew Keaveney, Christopher Keen, Orest Koroluk, Greg Lawrence, Paul Mackenzie, Paul Martin, Shaun McIntosh, Doug McRae, Brian Mishell, David Morin, David Okines, Mark Patry, Todd Norris, North Leeds Birders, Bruce Ripley, Chris Robinson, Mike Runtz, Laura Seiffert, Steve Seiffert, Dave Shannon, Jeff Skevington, Pamela Stagg, Michael Stewart, Matt Timpf, Gary Ure, Josh Vandermeulen, Ken Vogan, Chip Weseloh, Colleen Williams and Thomas Williams. Where KFN appears as the observer, it means that more than three observers made the observation.

KFN Annual Reports 01Apr2011-31Mar2012

Membership *John Critchley*

KFN has 391 paid adult memberships including 13 Life members and 3 Young Adult members. The adult membership is almost evenly split between individual and family memberships, increasing the membership to 570 voting members. There are 43 junior and 9 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. A big thank you to those who renew promptly and don't require further reminders. Renewal notices form part of the hardcopy audit trail for tracking payment of membership fees and donations, so it is important to return them.

John Critchley, as Membership Secretary, manages the membership database, sends up to three renewal reminders, if required, prepares charitable receipts and thank-you letters for the treasurer, sends out the email notices for the e-Blue Bill recipients, prepares all mailing labels and thanks volunteers Audrey Brown and June Fitchett who mail the newsletter. June retired this year after 7 years of dedicated service, so this is a special thank you to you June. Janet Elliott has stepped in to replace June and we look forward to working with her. Norma Graham mails The Blue Bill and on occasion does double duty for the combined mailing of The Blue Bill and the newsletter.

Blue Bill *Alexandra Simmons*

The 4 issues of the Blue Bill published in 2011-12 contained 153 pages, written by nearly 30 authors. Occurrence of birds, butterflies and odonates was tabulated from regular observers and annual counts. Observations during KFN events such as general, Junior and Teen field trips, Spring and Fall Round-ups and the Bioblitz were described. Knowledge of local birds was

documented through articles about the Migration Workshop and Wintering Raptors on Amherst and Wolfe Islands. Communication to Members from the Executive came through the President's Page, Annual Reports and the Balance Sheet and Income Statement.

The Editor wishes to thank Norma Graham for packaging and mailing of the hardcopy Blue Bill, and Susie Rance for posting to the KFN Website of the electronic version, now received by more than half of our members. *Contributions of articles on Natural History subjects are welcome at alerwin@kos.net.*

Conservation *Chris Hargreaves*

The Conservation Committee represents the KFN on local working groups and committees that deal with conservation issues, and monitors City Council, Planning Committee, and Conservation Authority meetings. Among the issues we have been involved in over the past year are:

PURDY'S MILL DEVELOPMENT Phase 2

This development is located east of Cataraqui Cemetery, west of Little Cataraqui Creek, and north of the Cataraqui Mills Subdivision. In phase 1 of the development, Homestead Land Holdings propose to build six apartment buildings, three of eighteen stories and three of twenty stories, on the west side of the site, starting 30 metres from the Cataraqui Cemetery. One hundred and fifty-five detached and semi-detached single family homes

will be built on the east side of the site, with lots extending to 30 metres from the Little Cataraqui Wetland. It is estimated that the development would accommodate about 4,500 people.

I attended the public meeting on Thursday November 3rd 2011, and spoke against the proposed development on environmental grounds. I expressed particular concern about the impact this development would have on the greenway between the Little Cataraqui Creek Valley Lands and the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.

Unfortunately, although the Ministry of Natural Resources says that greenways possess a higher ecological value than a fragmented landscape, the MNR criteria used for assessing ecological value are not kind to small areas. It seems very unlikely that the proposed development will be modified on environmental grounds.

ISLE OF MAN ROAD

We are following two proposals for subdivisions on Isle of Man Road. They are in the area North of Highway 401, between Highway 15, and the Cataraqui River. Both proposals are on sites currently designated Rural and Environmental Protection Area in the City of Kingston Official Plan. The sites are also identified as Bobolink habitat, which raises issues regarding the Endangered Species Act.

WINDFARMS

Barrie Gilbert has prepared an excellent summary of the current issues and

information regarding bird migration through Main Duck Island. *If you would like a copy, please send your address (email or regular) to me at the address below.*

We hope to obtain more information over the next year, so that we will have robust data with which to evaluate the environmental assessment to be submitted with the official application for the Wolfe Island Shoals Windfarm Project.

SUSTAINABLE KINGSTON

We co-ordinated the KFN application to be a Community Partner of Sustainable Kingston. We also organized a KFN display at the Sustainable Kingston Community Forum in January. This event was attended by some 250 people, including our MP, MPP, Mayor, 5 Councillors, 2 City Commissioners, 1 senior city-manager, and the General Manager of the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. The displays were mainly by large organizations, (like Queen's and the KFLA Public Health Unit), and companies selling environmental goods and services. We were glad the KFN was represented.

KINGSTON AIRPORT

We are tracking the Feasibility Review and Business Case Analysis for Air Service Expansion at Kingston Airport. The report was presented to the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee of City Council in February, and is scheduled to be presented to City Council in June.

RIDEAU CORRIDOR LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

As part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation of the Rideau Canal, a Landscape Character Assessment is being carried out to identify key features and values of the Rideau Corridor. Information about this Assessment was placed in our newsletter, telling members how they can contribute to it. (This information is at www.rcls-sacr.ca)

GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS

The International Joint Commission is still wrestling with the problem that many boaters want higher water levels in the Great Lakes; some homeowners want higher water levels while others are concerned about flooding and want lower water levels; some environmental groups want a greater range between Spring and Fall water levels to improve the biodiversity in wetlands. A new proposal - plan BV7 - is currently being discussed.

Great Lakes United organized a web-briefing and discussion about this plan. A copy of the background materials for this briefing can be viewed at www.glu.org/issuebriefings/waterlevels

Many thanks to Erwin Batalla, Sharon Critchley, Elaine Farragher, Shirley French, Barrie Gilbert, Norma Graham, Janis Grant, Chris Grooms, Kurt Hennige, and Lesley Rudy, for helping with one or several of these issues and committee activities.

More help is always welcome!

If anybody would like more information about the Conservation Committee, and/or to help us on these issues or new ones, please call me, Chris Hargreaves at 613-389-8993 or email hargreavescp@sympatico.ca

Nature Reserves Erwin Batalla

HELEN QUILLIAM SANCTUARY

In September, we had a special maintenance day following the windstorm in the previous summer. The clean-up went very well thanks to Ron Hipfner, Barry Robertson, Chris Grooms, Bud Rowe, Peter Good, Rose-Marie Burke and Mike Evans. At that time, the Faith Avis trail was rerouted around a steep portion.

In February, the new Wood Duck boxes were inspected. Some of the boxes have been used by Hooded Mergansers.

The trail maintenance in April attracted a large group of volunteers. They cleared some of the debris along the trails and No Trespassing signs were installed.

AMHERST ISLAND

Cows continue to graze the property in the summer to maintain the grassland habitat. Bobolinks, Wilson's Phalaropes and Ospreys nested successfully. The water through is still functioning with the help of several members (George Vance, Peter Good, Gaye Beckwith, Bud Rowe, Mike Evans, Alexandra Simmons and Hugh Evans). Revenues from the drover are sufficient to pay the taxes

and maintain our equipment on this reserve.

Predator guards have been installed on the supporting posts for several active Purple Martin houses.

MONITORING

We conducted monitoring visits at the Lost Bay Reserve (Cameron Smith, Paul Mackenzie and Bud Rowe) and Evan's Wood (Janis Grant, Rose-Marie Burke, Kurt Hennige and Anne Robertson). These properties continue to follow the management plans laid out for them and we have confirmed that their habitat has not been altered.

Field Trips *Kurt Hennige*

As the Field Trips chairperson, I would like to thank all 22 volunteers, who led and/or organized the 20 field trips, 8 public walks, 2 Round-ups and 7 Christmas Bird Counts. Without your great leadership we could not offer so many different events in a year. Participation varied from just a few to 30 on some events.

While the majority of field trips are birding trips, we also offered a trip to Charleston Lake Provincial Park looking at Rocks and Rock shelter, an overnight outing to Algonquin Park and several Insect field trips.

Places visited included Prince Edward Point, Amherst & Wolfe Islands, Algonquin Park, Frontenac Park, Napanee Plain, Kingston Waterfront, Depot Lakes, Chaffey's Lock & Queen's University Biological Station, Lemoine

Point Conservation Area, Charleston Lake Provincial Park, Thousand Islands, Menzel Centennial Provincial Park, south shore Hay Bay, Black River and Presqu'île Provincial Park near Brighton.

Our Leaders & Organizers were Erwin Batalla, Gaye Beckwith, Kathleen Burtch, Ann Brown, Mark Conboy, Hugh Evans, Wendy Briggs-Jude, Mike Evans, Peter Good, Kurt Hennige, Paul Mackenzie, John Poland, Darren Rayner, Chris Robinson, Bud Rowe, Gary Ure, Janet Scott, Carol & Murray Seymour, Dave Sexsmith, Terry Sprague, and Ron Weir.

I also thank Joan Tobin (Stillwater Forest), Terry Brady, Pete Chamberland (Ontario Hydro Wetland) and Dave Sexsmith (Hay Bay) for opening their private properties to visits by the KFN.

Rambles *Anne Robertson*

Twenty-one rambles, slow walks to notice nature, were held. Fifty-eight members attended at least one, and the average number of participants was ten. These numbers are similar to last year.

Participant numbers varied from two in pouring rain on the Fairmount Home trails to twenty-six at the Queen's University Biological Station with Mark Conboy, when we were treated to several salamander sightings.

We explored many locations around Kingston, usually in reasonable weather, for part or most of a day. Locations included KFN properties and

various public trails and conservation areas. We explored as near as Lemoine Point and as far as Presqu'île. This year new locations included the shoreline of part of Collins Creek, a couple of private properties, new parts of the Rideau Trail, and the Jones Creek trails at St. Lawrence Islands National Park. Some rambles include a social aspect with picnic lunch, lunch out or ice cream afterwards.

The knowledge of participants varies with experts in one field sharing information with those wanting to know more. Often there are unanswered questions pursued by individuals and interesting findings reported back. Photographing species for later identification has become increasingly popular, making some rambles even slower!

There seem to be endless places to explore. Visiting at different seasons gives a wider appreciation of the habitats we have in our area. Thanks to all who shared in these stimulating adventures!

Junior Naturalists *Anne Robertson*

Forty three juniors registered this year in September and January. Nine regular leaders, many of them graduate students at Queens, shared the responsibility of running the three groups of junior members. Some leaders have been with us for a long time: Allison Board (five years), Lyn Garrah (two years), Samantha Kraus (two years), Anthony Basutti, Ashley Rudy, Stephanie Greer and Sarah Wallace. We

said goodbye to Erin Jaggard (three years) and Brynlynn Grey (four years) at Christmas, and welcomed Tina Basso and Sarah Allux. We really appreciate these young adults with their ideas and energy.

Diane Lawrence continues as a great resource, backup and detail person for meetings and field trips as well as special initiatives including T-shirt sales. I would be remiss not to mention all the helpers we have had for displays and outside talks to groups, in schools and at shows. Shirley French has taken a lot of this responsibility. Thank you all.

Fourteen indoor and two outdoor meetings were held. The introductory meeting in September was followed by Flies of All Kinds, Invasive Plants, Recovered Species, Fields: Flora, Fauna and Food Chains, and Seasonal Crafts in the fall. After Christmas topics were Small Mammals, Life Under the Ice, Tongues (!), Peculiar Birds, Polar Regions, Sky, Worms (including problems of invasive species) and Advocacy (we sent a big fish, with individual messages on hand-shaped scales glued on, to our Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to protest the changes in the Fisheries Act). Two outdoor meetings in May were our annual Bird Walk (How to be a bird-watcher) and the 28th Wild Food Picnic with 40 wild foods tasted. This concluded our year. We all learned things we didn't know we needed to know about!

We had six Field Trips. We went to Rock Dunder in October for a spectacular

hike and in November had a very successful Rock Hounding trip with Mabel Corlett. In January we visited the Jones Creek Trails at St. Lawrence Islands National Park and in February enjoyed a winter hike at Elbow Lake. In March we went to Camden Lake where, among other things we practiced being alone in the woods for a while. In April our traditional clean-up trip went to the KFN property on Amherst Island for a shoreline cleanup and many exciting sightings and findings.

As well as the cleanup and the advocacy meeting the juniors returned a favour to nature through their annual Christmas coin collection. This year our donation went to Tallgrass Ontario to buy seed for the conservation of native grasslands for all the species that live there.

Another project initiated by Diane was our Species at Risk booklets. These required the collection of cards to be glued on appropriate pages with accompanying information on that species. The species were all local species at risk. Random cards were given out at successive meetings and the juniors needed to trade with each other to complete their collections. This stimulated socialization of juniors and provided local natural history information. With the success of this project another topic is planned for next year.

The Roland Beschel prize for a summer project was awarded to Nolan Hoover for a collection of natural objects he had found over the summer. Ronan Guigere received a prize in the photo competition. The Nan Yeomans prize

was not awarded this year, and no one applied for the Stirrett Scholarship to go to a nature camp in 2012.

This was another full and successful year for us all with learning on all sides. After forty years on the job I think I can speak with authority! **Thank you one and all.**

Teen Naturalists *Anne Robertson*

Nine teens registered, and we had an interested teen coming up from the Junior group this year. Despite fewer members, the number on any particular outing was the same as usual: we had eight outings with an average participation of five teen members. Although we have small groups, members are enthusiastic and appreciative.

In September we visited St. Lawrence Islands National Park for a variety of activities including doing a survey of deer density, learning how to use a GPS unit, and meeting and learning about their Grey Rat Snake. This outing was written up in *Blue Bill Vol. 58, #4* by Elise. Our Owl-banding trip in October, the most popular trip of the year, was described by Margaret in *Blue Bill Vol. 58, #4*. Because of hunting season, November was our only indoor meeting. Preparation and cataloging of bird specimens for adding to the Bird Collection allowed members to practice identification and learn a computer and organization skill. An article in *Blue Bill Vol. 58 #4* records this workshop. Our December meeting was cancelled due to lack of support.

In January we had a very cold (-14°C) trip to Elbow Lake for a winter hike to map some oak trees and practice using the GPS units. William wrote about this in *Blue Bill Vol. 59 #1*. In February we joined an adult birding trip to Wolfe Island recorded by Michael in *Blue Bill Vol. 59 #1*. In March we had a wonderful trip to Frontenac Provincial Park with fresh snow and lots of tracks. The aim was to enhance some naturalist skills and practice with some equipment. It included what to look for in a new habitat and time on our own to observe quietly. The April meeting was a special Earth Day event run by Ontario Nature Youth Council with our local teen, Jake, organizing for Kingston. We planted trees at Lemoine Point in the rain. This is reported in this Blue Bill. Finally, a splendid night hike with some excellent species found, including Woodcock and Whip-Poor-Will, recorded by Rowan in this Blue Bill.

Seven KFN adult members helped with these special outings. Without them we would not be able to drive, learn and have fun. Thanks Hugh Evans, Steve Lougheed, Diane Lawrence, Shirley French, Erwin Batalla, Larry McCurdy and Paul Mackenzie. Other role models included Marianne Kelly and Peter Butler.

Three teens went to the Ontario Nature Summit, north of Toronto, in September. This was a wonderful learning opportunity and social event for these young adults. Eighty teenagers from across the province spent two days on outdoor activities and workshops related to the theme of biodiversity and sustainable living. It was a tiring weekend - all were asleep within twenty minutes of getting in the car to return - but inspirational.