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

Kurt Hennige

I felt privileged to travel for two weeks with three former KFN presidents and their spouses to Brazil, which was part of a month-long tour that also included Argentina. While observing and photographing wildlife has always been a focus of my lifelong travels, sharing these experiences with fellow KFN members for more than 20 years has made these tours very memorable.

Despite having spent close to six months in South America now, every new tour turns into a novel adventure by exploring new ecosystems to see their inhabitants. In the past, most of my trips to South America were in March, which coincides with their "Fall;" this trip was in their "Spring" and revisiting many of the same places helped me observe many new species during their breeding season.

One of my highlights came the first night, while enjoying a cold beer at the outdoor bar. Other guests were pointing out an acid spitting scorpion.

Scorpion

I showed the photo to our guide the next morning and he said he has only ever seen one other individual

of this species, despite many years in the field.

Clearly the highlight for the group on this trip was finding a resting Jaguar near the riverbank.

Jaguar

This helped us to forget the heat and the burden of the 245 km trip from Cuiaba to Porto Jofre on mostly gravel (and washboard) roads.

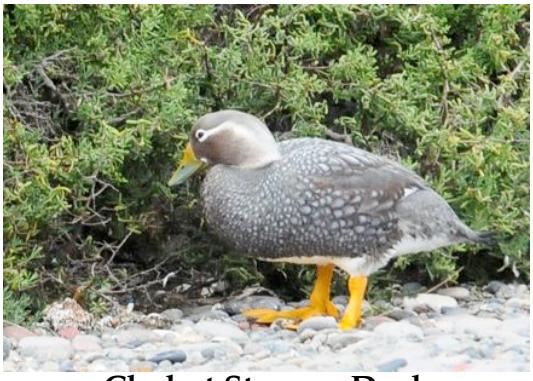
If you love to watch and photograph glistening, colourful Hummingbirds and Tanagers in a cooler, very comfortable setting, then Itatiaia, Brazil's oldest National Park, is a must.

Exploring the stunning Andes in the northwest of Argentina, near Salta,

and seeing three species of Flamingos, five species of rare Ground Doves, and five species of Yellow Finches makes me want to return there very soon.
Perhaps because it took me more than 50 years of birding to see a Penguin species outside a Zoo, watching this large colony of Magellanic Penguin in northern Patagonia was exceptional.

Magelanic Penguin

This colony receives more human visitors a year than the Galapagos Islands. In this area we also observed Southern Elephant Seals, Southern Right Whales and several avian specialities such as the Snowy Sheathbill, the Chubut Steamer Duck and Giant Petrels.



Chubut Steamer Duck

I certainly look forward to more traveling with fellow KFN members in years to come.
With the Christmas season not too far away, participating in Christmas Bird Counts has always been a favourite of mine. Although this is a busy time for all of us, I do average three each season, and I would like to encourage all KFN members to participate either as a feeder watcher or out in the field in at least one of the eight counts. You do not have to be an expert to participate, and most experienced birders enjoy the company of less experienced birders. I am the compiler of a new Christmas Bird Count in the Gananoque area and, like in all new counts, we need to report sufficient participation. So I would very much appreciate your help in the upcoming event.

Kingston Region Birds for Autumn: August 1 – November 30, 2014

Mark D. Read

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

The fall of 2014 was unremarkable in terms of weather but some genuine rarities (Great Cormorant, White Ibis, Northern Wheatear, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher) were seen within our region. Other highlights include: Eurasian Wigeon, Cattle Egret, American Avocet, Willet, Parasitic Jaeger, Forster's Tern, Gyrfalcon, White-eyed Vireo, and Dickcissel. In total, **240 species of bird** were recorded in our region during the reporting period. The KFN eBird account goes from strength to strength and 1062 checklists were submitted for the period, most of them being 'shared' copies of users' lists but some generated from every casual or noteworthy sighting reported to me directly. These checklists refer to a total of 202,877 individual birds, though many of these 'individuals' will certainly be long-staying birds noted on more than one occasion. One member in particular, Peter Blancher, should be recognised for uploading and sharing over 1500 complete checklists containing a wealth of historical data. Here are the highlights of the 2014 fall season:

Snow Goose: The first returning bird was seen on Wolfe Island, 24th Sept (NLB), with 3 at Point Traverse, 12th Oct (BLB), 1 at Amherstview, 13th Oct (MVAB, MDR), 1 at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 19th Oct (OFO) and 1 at Button Bay, Wolfe Island 9th Nov (MDR).

Brant: A relatively quiet season with the first returning passage birds (200) seen on 10th Oct at Camden East (PJG). The last record was of 1 at Sand Bay, Kingston on 7th Nov (MDR).

Cackling Goose: There were 7 records of this diminutive species in the area, all from mid Oct – mid Nov, though the highlight must be the 5 birds swimming together with Canada Geese at Millhaven on 16th Nov (BER).

Trumpeter Swan: The first report came from Chaffey's Locks where one was seen on 17th Oct (JRB, MDR). The only other location where this species was seen during the period was Charleston Lake Provincial Park where as many as 22 were noted on 28th Nov (CPR).

Tundra Swan: First noted (30) on Wolfe Island on 22nd Oct (JCG *et al.*), this species has been seen widely, with concentrations of 154 noted at Button Bay, Wolfe Island on 9th Nov (MDR) and 116 at Cataraqui Bay, Kingston on 7th Nov (MDR).

Eurasian Wigeon: A male found in the Inner Harbour at Doug Fluhrer

Park, Kingston on 28th Nov (MDR), remained until the end of the month and was seen by many observers.

Blue-winged Teal: The last record of the season was of 2 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons on 13th Oct (MVAB, MDR).

Canvasback: There were just 3 records this season – all from Wolfe Island: 1, 24th Sept (NLB); 2 at Button Bay, 9th Nov (MDR); and 4 at the south end of 12th Line, 26th Nov (NLB).

Ring-necked Duck: High counts were recorded at Charleston Lake Provincial Park, with 220 on 20th Oct (CPR), and at Cataraqui Bay, Kingston, with 300 on 7th Nov (MDR) and on 26th Nov (MDR).

Surf Scoter: Away from Prince Edward Point, a female was seen off Portsmouth Olympic Harbour on 5th Oct (JRB) and another, a male, was a surprise find in Collin's Bay on 13th Nov (CHa).

Black Scoter: Several records, the first being of 7 birds seen at the Glenora ferry crossing, 20th Oct, (JRB, MDR). Another bird was located in Cataraqui Bay on 22nd Oct (EDB *et al*.) remaining until 10th Nov, when 2 were seen at the same location (BER). Three birds were seen at Prince Edward Point on 1st November (JRB, MVAB, MDR); the 1 bird at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 8th Nov (EPB, MVAB, MDR) had become 4 on 11th Nov (KJH, RMW); and another was at the winter ferry dock, Wolfe island on 29th Nov (MDR).

Ruddy Duck: Most records came from Kingston's Inner Harbour where a minimum of 40 were seen on 23rd Oct (JRB, MDR). Birds were still present there until the end of November at least. Another high count came from Sillsville, Hay Bay where 30 were seen on 19th Oct (BER).

Red-throated Loon: A single bird was seen off Portsmouth Olympic Harbour on 23rd Oct (JRB). It, or another individual, was seen in the same general area on 30th Oct (MDR).

Pied-billed Grebe: Widespread sightings but a high of 10 was noted in the Inner Harbour north of Belle Island, Kingston on 23rd Oct (JRB, MDR). The last bird was seen just south of there at Doug Fluhrer Park on 23rd Nov (KFN).

Red-necked Grebe: There were 10 widespread sightings of this species, equating to 15 different birds from the area this season.

Great Cormorant: An adult bird seen off Bear Point, Wolfe Island, 9th Nov (MDR) will, if accepted by OBRC, be one of the earliest on record.

Cattle Egret: A bird discovered on 2nd Nov near Morven (JRB, MVAB, MDR) proved to be quite mobile and was last seen near Camden East on 4th Nov (JGo).

White Ibis: A juvenile bird was seen in Napanee on 24th Aug (RLa) but news didn't get out until 26th, when it was last seen mid-morning (MVAB). There are just 5 previous records accepted by OBRC.

Golden Eagle: The last week of October saw some good records come in from Prince Edward Point where 1 was seen on 23rd (BER), an impressive 14 on 24th (JRB, MDR) and another 2 on 1st Nov (JRB, MVAB, MDR). Four birds were also seen on Amherst Island on 24th Oct (JET).

Northern Goshawk: Five autumn records: 1 adult, Charleston Lake Provincial Park, 19th Sept (CPR); 1 immature, Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 19th Oct (OFO); 1 immature, Prince Edward Point, 19th

Oct (JRB); 1 immature, Prince Edward Point, 20th Oct (JRB, MDR); 1 immature, Garden Island, 25th Oct (MDR, DVCW).

Red-shouldered Hawk: A high count of 34 was noted at Prince Edward Point on 24th Oct (JRB, MDR).

Red-tailed Hawk: 'Northern' *abieticola* birds were seen at Martin Edwards Reserve, 19th Oct (OFO), Prince Edward Point, 24th Oct (JRB, MDR) and Amherst Island, 22nd Nov (JRB, JGB, MVAB).

Rough-legged Hawk: The first bird of the season was seen at Prince Edward Point on 19th Oct (BER) since when numbers have increased with good numbers being seen on Amherst and Wolfe Islands in particular.

Sandhill Crane: Just 3 records: 4 birds at Wolfe Lake Road, Westport on 16th Oct (RAn) dwindling to 2 on 17th Oct (JRB, MDR); 1 on Amherst Island, 18th Oct (ABr); and 28 flying over Garden Island on 21st Oct (DVCW).

American Avocet: A single bird found at the pond on Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 8th Nov (RKB, BAH), stayed for just 2 days.

American Golden Plover: All but one sighting came from Wolfe Island where the first birds of the season (3) were seen on 25th Aug (EDB). These birds slowly built up to a maximum of 12, seen on 4th Line on 26th Sept (MDR).

Solitary Sandpiper: A late bird was seen at Wilton Creek, near Morven on 1st Nov (KJH).

Willet: A single bird, found 22nd Aug, stayed for just half a day at Wilton Creek, near Morven (KJH).

Whimbrel: Just one record of a bird at Prince Edward Point, 15th Sept (BER).

Ruddy Turnstone: Three records this season, the first (1 bird) at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 28th Aug (VPM), the second (2 birds) at Reed's Bay, Wolfe Island, 14th Sep (EDB, MDR) and the third (2 birds) on Snake Island, 25th Sept (VPM, AKR, DVCW).

Stilt Sandpiper: All records came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, with the first seen 29th Aug (EDB) and the last on 13th Oct (MVAB, MDR).

Sanderling: Just 4 records this *year*, the first three all from Bear Point, Wolfe Island: 4 on 26th Sept (MDR), 1 on 4th Oct (MVAB, MDR), and 4 on 6th Oct (MDR). The other record came from Prince Edward Point were 23 were counted in a single flock on 24th Oct (JRB, MDR).

Baird's Sandpiper: The first bird, 22nd Aug, was seen in a flooded field near Inverary (MDR). More typical sightings involving 1-2 birds came in from Martin Edwards Reserve, 29th Aug (EDB) – 3rd Sept (NLB). The final sighting of the season was also from a typical location, Amherstview Sewage Lagoons where 3 were seen on 7th Oct (CJG).

White-rumped Sandpiper: A relatively early bird was seen on a field trip to Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 10th Aug (KFN). The last birds (2) were seen at Wilton Creek, near Morven, 17th Nov (MDR).

Red-necked Phalarope: A juvenile bird was seen at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons on 17th Aug (MDR).

Parasitic Jaeger: One was seen at Gravely Bay, Jefferson, NY on 21st Sept (AS).

Little Gull: Three sightings were made: 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, 28th Aug (BER), another at the same location 7th Sept (EDB, JJC),

and 2 at Prince Edward Point, 20th Oct (JRB, MDR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Three sightings of this somewhat scarce bird were received: 1 from the Wolfe Island ferry, 3rd Sept (EDB); 1 at Martin Edwards Reserve, 11th Nov (RS, ZC); and 1 at Heritage Point, Bath, 18th Nov (JRB, MDR). All were adult birds.

Glaucous Gull: Just one record for the period of a bird at Heritage point, Bath, 16th Nov (BER).

Forster's Tern: A single bird was seen at Dexter Marsh, near Watertown, Jefferson, NY on 12th Oct (JSB).

Snowy Owl: It would appear that a single bird seen at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, over-summered (multiple observers). Genuine migrant arrivals were first seen on 9th Nov (BJM) when a single bird was seen on Wolfe Island followed by 4 at Martin Edwards Reserve, 10th Nov (DEB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A good year was reported at Prince Edward Point where 603 birds were banded, mainly during October (PEPtBO).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: One late record of a bird at a feeder in Reddendale, 24th Oct (MB)

Red-headed Woodpecker: The last sighting of the breeding birds at Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Kingston, was made on 4th Aug (MDR).

Gyrfalcon: A white morph bird was seen at Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Kingston, 21st Nov (JRB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Singles were seen at Garden Island, 23rd-24th Aug (DVCW), Prince Edward Point, 7th Sept (multiple observers) and Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Kingston, 14th Sept (MDR).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: The third sighting of the year came, like the second one, from Amherst Island where a bird was photographed on 15th Sept (LKF).

Northern Shrike: Somewhat scarce this season, just 4 records were received, the first from Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Kingston, 24th Oct (WTD).

White-eyed Vireo: One was seen on 2 occasions on Wolfe Lake Road, Westport, 12th & 16th Oct (RAn).

Tufted Titmouse: Just one record this season, of a bird heard calling at Faircrest Blvd, Kingston, 2nd Oct (JRB).

Marsh Wren: The last record was of a single bird at Big Sandy Bay Management Area, Wolfe Island, 9th Nov (MDR).

Carolina Wren: Three sightings were made, all from different locations: 1 near Bellevue House, Kingston, 3rd Aug (PJB); 1 at Faircrest Blvd, Kingston, 5th Aug (JRB); and 1 at Cartwright Point, Kingston, 16th Oct (JCa).

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher: A late record came in from Lemoine Point Conservation Area, Kingston, where 1 was seen and photographed on 2nd Nov (RLe)

Northern Wheatear: A female discovered near Henderson, Jefferson County, NY on 21st Sept (AS) remained, and was seen by many observers, until 22nd Sept.

Grey-cheeked Thrush: The last record was of 1 bird seen at Big Sandy Bay Management Area, Wolfe Island on 10th Oct (JET).

Swainson's Thrush: A particularly late record, was of a night bird at Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, Amherstview, 1st Nov (JRB, MVAB, MDR).

Northern Mockingbird: One was seen at Marshland's Conservation Area, Kingston, 5th Sept (CHe) and

another was on Amherst Island on 10th Sept (JHa, JSc).

Lapland Longspur: Just six reports of mainly single birds, the first at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 21st Sept (MDR), where 2 were seen on 19th Oct (OFO).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Ten observations were reported, representing 12 different birds, the last at Reddendale on 14th Nov (WTD).

American Redstart: A female seen at Big Sandy Bay Management Area, Wolfe Island on 9th Nov (MDR) equals the previous latest KFN record at Kingston, 1978.

Canada Warbler: Four separate birds were reported: Bedford Mills on 17th Aug (MEC, LJN); Elginburg, 20th Aug (EDB); Prince Edward Point, 1st Sept (MDR, TMW); and Prince Edward Point, 7th Sept (MDR).

Vesper Sparrow: Three 'summer' records from Odessa, 2nd Aug (PJB); Wolfe Island, 3rd Aug (PJB); and Garrett Road, near Fermoy, Westport, 18th Aug (PJB). There were also three migratory records: Prince Edward Point, 19th Oct (BER); Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 2nd Nov (JRB, MVAB, MDR); and Amherstview, 16th Nov (BER).

Nelson's Sparrow: All sightings came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island and involved single birds; 21st Sept (MDR); 30th Sept (MDR); 1st Oct (JSc *et al.*); 14th Oct (JRB, MDR).

Dark-eyed Junco: An example of the 'Oregon' form has been present at a garden feeder in Camden East since 31st Oct (WVB). This is the same location where one was seen last winter.

Indigo Bunting: A late bird (the previous KFN record was 19th Oct, 1960, Barriefield) was present for 3 days at Sandhurst Shores from 22nd Oct (DaE, JGH).

Dickcissel: A male was banded at Prince Edward Point on 1st Sept (MDR, TMW).

Red Crossbill: Just 1 record this year, of a bird heard at Prince Edward Point, 2nd Nov (JE, PJG, RDW).

Common Redpoll: With no winter records last year, the arrival of 3 at Heritage Point, Bath on 10th Nov (BER) was very welcome. Many records have since come in, with the maximum so far being the 30 seen on Amherst Island, 22nd Nov (JRB, JGB, MVAB).

Pine Siskin: Plenty of records this season from across the region. A high count of 75 was seen at Cataraqui Bay, Kingston on 22nd Oct (JRB, MDR).

Evening Grosbeak: The first record was of an early male at a feeder near Bedford Mills on 18th Aug (MEC, LJN). Since then, several sightings have been made but this species remains relatively scarce. The biggest flock was 17, seen at Prince Edward Point, 24th Oct (JRB, MDR).

Other species observed during the reporting period: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier,

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Northern Raven, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Grey Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

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Kingston Butterfly Summary for 2014

John Poland

At the start of the year there was concern about the fate of butterflies under the two inches of ice and all that snow. Each species overwinters as a particular stage – as an egg, a caterpillar at various stages of development, a chrysalis or an adult butterfly so it would be difficult to predict what effect this might have. Also it is not just the butterflies but also their predators that were affected by this. As it turned out it was a pretty good year for our resident butterflies. It was, however, a poor year for migrants from the south due to a colder than normal summer. A total of 80 species were observed. The normal range of butterflies seen in the Kingston area over the last decade has been between 75 and 79.

The highlights for the year were the sightings of two new butterflies in the Kingston region - the 50 km radial area around Kingston within Canada - and these have been added to the KFN check list on our website. The Mulberry Wing, *Poanes massasoit,* is an uncommon butterfly in Ontario and is found in marshy areas containing its food plants, narrow-leaved sedges. Their main colonies in the province are found to the north of Peterborough but there have been a few sightings to the north of Belleville and Napanee. Mulberry Wings were found on the 10th of July to the northwest of our area in a wet marshy location near Echo, to the north of the Depot Lakes region.

Mulberry Wing
Photo: John Poland

The Red Spotted Purple, belongs to the genus *Limentitis*. It is a relatively common species in southwestern Ontario but has not been previously

reported east of Sandbanks Provincial
Park.

Red Spotted Purple
Photo: John Poland

The Red Spotted Purple, *Limentitis arthemis,* is the same species as the common White Admiral and hybridization occurs between these two forms; hybridization may also occur with the Viceroy *Limentitis archippus.* In the butterfly world, the White Admiral and Red Spotted Purple, sub-species, *arthemis* and *astyanax* respectively, are generally listed as two different butterflies. Hybridization between these two different looking sub-species is common in parts of Southern Ontario. There were three separate sightings in a garden in Sandhurst Shores this summer in July and August. Photographs of these show that all three are likely Red Spotted Purple/White Admiral hybrids as the prominent white band of the White Admiral is seen as a faint shadow on the wings of these butterflies.

This year the Compton Tortoiseshell, the Silver-bordered Fritillary, and the Buckeye were not observed. Monarchs were late arriving but the numbers seen were perhaps a little better than last year. Time will tell how they are faring when their numbers are counted in Mexico.

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Black Swallowtail	21 May	7 September	2-3
Giant Swallowtail	1 June	17 September	2-3
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	30 May	15 June	1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	29 June	1 September	2
Mustard White	19 May	10 July	2
West Virginia White	10 May	21 May	1
Cabbage White	5 May	24 October	3+
Olympia Marble	19 May	19 May	1
Clouded Sulphur	18 May	11 November	3+
Orange Sulphur	18 May	11 November	3+

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Harvester	25 May	17 July	2
American Copper	1 June	7 September	2-3
Bronze Copper	15 June	7 September	2
Bog Copper	3 July	3 July	1
Coral Hairstreak	11 July	17 July	1
Acadian Hairstreak	9 July	17 July	1
Banded Hairstreak	8 July	27 July	`1
Hickory Hairstreak	9 July	12 July	1
Striped Hairstreak	24 July	24 July	1
Hoary Elfin	8 May	8 May	1
Henry's Elfin	8 May	8 May	1
Eastern Pine Elfin	8 May	15 June	1
Juniper Hairstreak	21 May	26 June	1
Gray Hairstreak	10 July	24 September	2
Eastern Tailed Blue	6 June	30 October	3+
Spring Azure	6 May	10 June	1
Summer Azure	15 June	27 September	2
Silvery Blue	21 May	27 June	1
Great Spangled Fritillary	26 June	1 September	1
Aphrodite Fritillary	3 July	4 August	1
Meadow Fritillary	19 May	29 August	2
Harris Checkerspot	15 June	26 June	1
Northern Crescent	31 May	1 October	1
Pearl Crescent	19 May	24 October	2-3
Baltimore Checkerspot	15 June	10 July	1
Question Mark	15 June	16 October	2
Eastern Comma	12 April	28 October	2
Gray Comma	26 June	1 October	2

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Mourning Cloak	10 April	30 October	1
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	14 June	14 June	2
American Lady	18 May	27 October	3+
Painted Lady	26 July	23 October	1
Red Admiral	19 April	17 October	2
White Admiral	10 June	14 September	2
Red Spotted Purple	17 July	29 August	2
Viceroy	7 June	17 September	2
Monarch	25 May	30 October	2-3
Hackberry Emperor	28 June	29 June	1
Northern Pearly Eye	27 June	21 July	1
Eyed Brown	2 July	15 July	1
Appalachian Brown	5 July	10 August	1
Little Wood Satyr	1 June	17 July	1
Common Ringlet	30 May	25 September	2
Common Wood Nymph	1 July	24 August	1
Chryxus Arctic	22 May	22 May	1
Silver Spotted Skipper	10 June	21 August	2
Northern Cloudywing	1 June	19 June	1
Dreamy Duskywing	1 June	1 June	1
Juvenal's Duskywing	18 May	1 June	1
Columbine Duskywing	19 May	7 August	2
Wild Indigo Duskywing	7 June	2 October	3
Arctic Skipper	12 June	12 June	1
Least Skipper	15 June	9 September	2
European Skipper	15 June	15 July	1
Leonard's Skipper	23 August	7 September	1
Indian Skipper	10 June	10 June	1

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Number of Broods
Peck's Skipper	12 June	11 July	2
Tawny Edged Skipper	1 June	9 September	1-2
Crossline Skipper	3 July	12 July	1
Long Dash	15 June	15 July	1
Northern Broken Dash	3 July	21 July	1
Little Glassywing	26 June	12 July	2
Delaware Skipper	29 June	10 August	1
Mulberry Wing	10 July	10 July	1
Hobomok Skipper	27 May	17 July	1
Broad Winged Skipper	9 July	4 August	1
Dion Skipper	8 July	17 July	1
Two Spotted Skipper	23 June	6 July	1
Dun Skipper	8 July	7 September	1
Common Roadside Skipper	1 June	10 June	2

Fall Round-up 2014 Nov 01-02

Peter Good

The 50th Fall Round-up took place from 3:00PM Nov.1 to 3:00 PM Nov. 2 within the 50km circle around Kingston.

There were 21 participants who enjoyed good weather with temperatures from -1C to +5C, clear skies and brisk north winds that generated an excellent hawk flight at Prince Edward Point.

The total number of species was 120. Some of the "good birds" included cattle egret, golden eagle, Swainson's thrush and both crossbills. Some unfortunate misses were American kestrel, both screech and great horned owls, belted kingfisher and common redpoll.

The enjoyable weekend wrapped up with a very well attended potluck supper at Joel and Marian Ellis' home. Following the dinner we played our semi-annual "bird poker" and tallied the results of each group.

The tables that follow include:

a) parties: number of participants and total species

b) participants in each party and areas covered

c) species seen by each party and species totals

(totals have known duplications removed and approximations are indicated by ~)

a)

Party	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total Species	72	88	51	71	88	-
# Participants	4	3	2	7	3	2

b)

Party1	Paul MacKenzie, Bud Rowe, Lynn Bell, John Cartwright	Wolfe I., Amherst I., Kingston area
Party 2	James Barber, Mike Burell, Mark Read	Amherst I., Amherstview Sewage Lagoon, Prince Edward Pt., Kingston area
Party 3	Alex and Karen Scott	Napanee, Hay Bay to Elevator Bay
Party 4	Sandra and Erwin Batalla, Gaye and Betsy Beckwith, Hugh Evans, Rosemarie Burke, Jane Revell	Wolfe I., Kingston area, Elginburg
Party 5	Ron Weir, Peter Good, Kathy Innes	Kingston area, Prince Edward Pt., Waupoos, Hay Bay, Wilton Creek, Amherstview S.L.
Party 6	Michael Runtz, Chris Grooms	Wolfe Island, Amherstview S.L, Prince Edward Pt.(partial list only)

c)

Party ►	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**Total**
Species ▼							
Red-throated loon					1		1
Common loon	8	26	4	5	1		26
Pied-billed grebe	1	3		10	25		25
Horned grebe	7	3			1	1	11
Red-necked grebe		1					1
DC cormorant	2	5	6	10	6	15	15
Great blue heron	2	1		2			2
Cattle egret		1					1
Turkey vulture					102		102
Snow goose						1	1
Cackling goose		1		1	1		3
Canada goose	3400	1713	1000	100	2325		~4000
Brant					1	1	2
Mute swan	9	5	75	5	3		75
Tundra swan	90	70	100	100	173		~200
Wood duck	1			5			6
Gadwall	30	448	50	20	1084		~1500
Am. wigeon	360	260	10	50	675		~1000
Am. black duck	4	28	50	5	10		50
Mallard	80	299		10	250		~300
N. shoveler	3	16		10	21	8	25
N. pintail	6	75	1	5	25		75
Green-winged teal	60	29		5	27	2	~90
Canvasback	1						1
Redhead	2008	135		100	50		~2100
Ring-necked duck	90	55	6	20	525		~600
Greater scaup	900	1015		100	1100		~3000
Lesser scaup	6	106		5	25		130
White-winged scoter		40			4		44
Black scoter	1	4			1		4
Surf scoter		3					3
Long-tailed duck	1	41	2	1	51		96
Bufflehead	61	331	10	50	426		~500
Common goldeneye	120	59	20	5	7		~180
Hooded merganser	9	112	40	10	16		~130
Common merganser	12	76	10	10	33	40	~100
Red-breasted merganser	42	87	5	20	59		~200
Ruddy duck	5	11		5	40	1	40
Am. coot	50	76	2	2	60	45	175
Bald eagle	1	1			1	2	5
N. harrier	5	4	2		5		16

Party ►	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**Total**
Species ▼							
Sharp-shinned hawk				1	12		13
Cooper's hawk					4		4
N. goshawk					3		3
Red-shouldered hawk					26		26
Red-tailed hawk	6	28	3	5	62		104
Rough-legged hawk	3	2	1				6
Golden eagle		2			3		5
Merlin					1		1
Peregrine falcon				2			2
Ruffed grouse		3	2				5
Wild turkey	9	12					21
Killdeer	4			2	1		7
Greater yellowlegs	9	3		1	3		16
Lesser yellowlegs		1		1	1		3
Wilson's snipe			1	1	1		2
Bonaparte's gull	28	55	10	10	44		147
Ring-billed gull	31	194	100	15	415		~600
Herring gull	19	186	20	5	30		~200
Great black-backed gull		4				7	11
Rock pigeon	5	49	30	50	40		174
Mourning dove	54	48	1	20	11		134
Snowy owl	1						1
Barred owl		2					2
Long-eared owl		1					1
N. saw-whet owl	1	1					1
Red-bellied woodpecker	1	1					2
Downy woodpecker		3	3	1	4		11
Hairy woodpecker	2	1	2	1	2		8
N. flicker	1				1	2	4
Pileated woodpecker					1		1
E. phoebe					1		1
N. shrike		1					1
Blue jay	12	23	20	10	6		71
Am. crow	5	28	50	10	43		136
Common raven	4	11	4	5	5		29
Tree swallow					1		1
Horned lark				10			10
Black-capped chickadee	14	47	30	10	41		142
Red-breasted nuthatch					1		1
White-breasted nuthatch	3	1	3	5	2		14
Brown creeper		1			1		2
Golden-crowned kinglet		6		5			11
Ruby-crowned kinglet		1				3	4

Party ►	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**Total**
Species ▼							
E. bluebird						4	4
Swainson's thrush		1					1
Hermit thrush				1	1	2	4
Am. robin	90	68	20	5	380		~500
Gray catbird			1				1
N. mockingbird			1				1
Eur. starling	70	133	10	100	12		~300
Am. pipit	55	15		10	2	200	282
Cedar waxwing		50			20		70
Yellow-rumped warbler		1			2		3
Common yellowthroat		1					1
Am. tree sparrow	16	15		10	15		56
Chipping sparrow			1				1
Vesper sparrow		1					1
Savannah sparrow	2	1		1		1	5
Fox sparrow	4	6		1	19		30
Song sparrow	2	5	1				8
Swamp sparrow				1	2		3
White-throated sparrow	7	8		1	1		17
White-crowned sparrow		2				1	3
Dark-eyed junco	54	123	20	20	110		327
Lapland longspur						1	1
Snow bunting	2	31		50	25	30	137
N. cardinal	1	7	1	5	3		17
Red-winged blackbird	203	122	1	50	2	50	426
Rusty blackbird	2	3			1	50	56
Common grackle	3	2	3				8
Brown-headed cowbird	4		3			2	9
Purple finch	2	1		1	15		19
House finch	6	5			6		17
Red crossbill					2		2
White-winged crossbill						1	1
Pine siskin	20	36	2	2	70		130
Am. goldfinch	26	63	12	10	96		207
Evening grosbeak					6		6
House sparrow	9	27	10	5	4		55

London Wetland Center

Jacqueline Bartnik

I was introduced to the WWT London Wetland Centre in the late 1990s while it was still under construction and returned to it in March 2014 to see the progress. I hopped onto the London underground system. Once I arrived at the Hammersmith Station, I took the 283 Bus for a 10 minute ride and a 2 minute walk to the wetland Centre. As you arrived at the centre, one cannot believe that one is in the centre of one of Europe's largest metropolitan cities. The WWT London Wetland Centre greets you with beautiful vistas, wildlife and the sounds of birds. The wetland is located in south-west London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in Barnes. It has 42 hectare (105 acres) . I spent the whole day there. It has changed in the last 14 years. There a lagoons full of wildlife and bird platforms for observing several species of birds. After spend all morning and most of the afternoon walking around, I decide that I needed a break and entered the visitor's centre. In this building there was a book store, gifts centre, museum and restaurant. One could get a wonderful light lunch and sit by the patio doors and observe the wildlife in the lagoon.

The WWT London Wetland Centre was the dream of Sir Peter Scott. He wished that wildlife could have a sanctuary in the heart of London and shortly before his death, he found Barn Elm Reservoirs. Barn Elm Reservoirs was built in 1890's and had become obsolete with the development of new water purification systems. Originally it supplied water to just the local residence and now was not in use. The dream of Sir Peter became the dream of the WWT and Thames Water as they began draining the reservoir. The Berkeley Group joined in by donating a financial contribution and started developing a small parcel of land. The project began in 1995 and one by one the reservoirs were drained and the concrete walls were demolished. The underlying clay membrane remained in place and the water still remained in the lagoons and soon wildlife started appearing. The concrete was reused to build paths, support hides, and set in lagoons so grasses can grow and fish could find shelter. As the concrete was being remove and reassigned to the amazement of the group of dreamers', the new marshlands and meadows started being developing due to underground funnels from the River Thames. The water began filtering through the lagoon and getting naturally purified. This beautiful place has become one of my favorite places to go to when we are in London. It is a great rest for the soul.

London Wetland

KFN Field Activities

Ramble at Lemoine Point

Joe Bendeverage

Eight ramblers met at the south entrance to Lemoine Point for a morning ramble led by Anne Robertson, who began by providing background about this waterfront conservation area. Located to the west of the Kingston airport, it comprises 136 hectares of protected forest, field and marsh. At present, the area is being overrun by deer, so collars have been placed around the trunks of small trees, and fences have been erected, to protect plant life. When deer become too numerous, they may leave the conservation area and end up in residential neighbourhoods and on busy roads. Visitors are urged not to feed the deer or to leave bird food lying on the ground. Hand feeding of birds is permitted, as long as no seeds are left behind.

Erosion is a problem along the Lemoine Point shoreline. Some paths are designated for pedestrian traffic only, because bicycles contribute to the erosion.

Anne explained that some species are planted at Lemoine experimentally. For example, trees that typically don't thrive this far north have been planted here to monitor the effects on them of global warming. These are long-term projects, as some trees can take 50 years to mature.

One of the first plant species we looked at was Reed Canary Grass, the seed head of which is used as food for canaries. It is now considered an invasive species. It is not to be confused with the very tall Reed Grass (*Phragmities*), which is quite different. We also looked at Milkweed, which is food for Monarch butterflies.

We saw many Isabella Moth Caterpillars; the length of its brown patch presages winter's duration, according to folk wisdom. Close examination of the caterpillar hairs reveals that they grow in bunches. We heard crickets. Only the male cricket chirps; the female is silent.

We found a Burdock plant still bearing a vivid purple flower. Its large leaves, with no flowering stem, indicated first year growth. It is of the same family as Dandelion, having a composite flower. Another member of the Daisy family that we saw, still in flower, was Sow Thistle, which looks like a giant dandelion with prickly leaves.

Bindweed *(Convolvulus arvensis)* is in the Morning Glory family; it has a small round husk (fruit). We found it twining around Dogwood shrubs. We looked at both Grey Dogwood, which has grey bark and white berries (fruits); and Red (also called Red-Osier) Dogwood, which has red bark. One feature of Dogwoods is that the veins of the leaf arc toward the leaf tip.

The mnemonic "MAD DOG" reminds us that Maple and Ash trees, and the Dogwood shrub, all have in common: opposite leaves.

Annual rings where the bud scales have fallen off help to reveal the age of the trees.

Canoe shapes can be seen in the bark pattern of White Ash trees. Ash has a compound leaf.

A round, black tar spot on Red Maple leaves is a fungal growth and is not a serious problem.

We identified Barberry, of which there are two species in this area: a native one which has an oblong fruit, and an invasive variety whose berry is less elongated. The native variety is a host for wheat rust, so farmers don't like it. Barberry is very thorny, so it makes a good protective hedge. Its flowers are yellow.

Baneberry has a red flower stem and a white berry with a black spot in the middle (hence its other name of Doll's Eye). We also saw Nannyberry (*Virburnum lentago*). Its berries change colour over the summer,

as they ripen, starting out yellow and ending up a dark blue. We saw Spindletree, a bush with a pretty orange fruit. As well we saw the female Bittersweet Vine, which also has an orange berry.

We noticed how many leaves were still on the trees, for November. The Hop Hornbeam tree, also known as Ironwood, grows to a maximum height of about sixty feet. Each leaf vein forks, and ends in a tooth. The big teeth are at the ends of the main veins, and there are smaller teeth in between. The veins are divided towards the tips, whereas on the Blue Beech leaf (also called Ironwood, but not the same one), they don't divide. The Blue Beech has muscular-looking grey bark. Hop Hornbeam bark looks like the bark of Shagbark Hickory, but on a smaller scale. Shagbark Hickory has large bark pieces that look as if they are flaking off.

It can be hard to distinguish the leaves of Red Oak and White Oak by colour, because sometimes the leaves of White Oak turn red.

White Spruce, often used for Christmas trees, is characterized by the prickly knobs on its branches. Norway Spruce is recognizable by its droopy branches.

The deep-veined leaf of the Large-tooth Aspen (Anne's favourite leaf) has a flattened petiole, which causes the leaf's characteristic tremble. The flat petiole allows the tree to survive in windy spots, because the wind can pass through the tree without causing damage. Cottonwood, in the same family, has a D-shaped leaf (*Populus deltoides*) that functions in the same way. These trees work well as rooting, pioneer species, paving the way for other flora to become established.

Buckthorn is an invasive plant found in great quantity at Lemoine Point. Dog-strangling Vine is another species that has become a problem here. If you pull Dog-strangling Vine up from the roots, tiny tubers fall off which grow into new plants. One way to control it is to cut it before it goes to seed, ideally in summer and again in the fall. Cuttings can be composted at high temperature.

Anne identified Cat-Brier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), a vine with tendrils, and Zigzag Goldenrod, so-called because the stems zigzag. We also saw Dame's Rocket *(Hesperis matronalis)* growing among bedrock. In flower, it is a bright violet colour.

Our ramble took us from the south end of Lemoine Point westward, then around the shoreline to the north end, close to the Lemoine Point tree nursery. Marsh Marigolds grow in this area in summer. Trees here were planted from seed or from slips by Friends of Lemoine Point volunteers.

Among the birds seen and heard were some fifteen Common Merganser ducks in Collins Bay; Red-Breasted Nuthatch; Robins; a Hairy Woodpecker; Blue Jays, including one behaving like a woodpecker (pounding seeds into a hiding spot or digging them out); Chickadees; two Ravens in flight; a female Cardinal; and a Junco. We spotted a Red-eyed Vireo nest in a nearly bare Ash tree. With the leaves almost all fallen, the small nest was clearly visible. It typically hangs from a fork in the branches, ten to fifteen feet off the ground.

At the waterfront, we saw a number of Cormorants, whose population has increased in the last twenty-five years. Fishermen complain about Cormorants taking too many fish; in fact, they don't eat the same fish that fishermen are after. They nest in trees and their guano can kill young tree growth beneath; however, the guano also nourishes other new plant growth. We saw a Freshwater Clam shell, which has a tiny hinge like an elbow joint. Raccoons and otters eat these clams.

This enjoyable and informative ramble revealed a surprising variety of flora, with much still in leaf and flower. To support conservation at Lemoine Point,consider joining Friends of Lemoine Point. The annual fee to join is $15.00 per year. More information can be found at http://crca.ca/conservation-lands/conservation-areas/lemoine-point-conservation-area/friends-of-lemoine-point/

KFN Teen Bird ID Workshop

Anne Robertson

The November meeting of the Teen Naturalists was to update the Bird Collection of the KFN while improving their bird identification skills. Thank you Astrid, Ronan, Michael and Zoe with help from Diane Lawrence and James Barber. The birds donated in the past year were sorted, labelled and set aside for freeze drying. The Teens then made computer labels for the plastic bags into which each specimen, freeze dried last year, was placed. Finally the bagged specimens were placed in the correct collection box for each group of birds. Birds in each of these boxes were counted to arrive at the total tally of birds we hold.

The number of species is 126 with a total of 473 birds. Some of these are mounted, the majority are preserved as skins.

The collection requires a permit from Canadian Wildlife Service and is used for educational purposes and displays. For a complete list of birds, (and hence to see species for which we do not have specimens) please contact Anne Robertson 613 389 6742 or n8ture.anne@sympatico.ca.

Teen Bird ID Workshop

Photo: James Barber

Bird Nerd Bonus

James Barber

1. What is the name of this species?
2. Where are they normally found?
3. What are notable field marks of this bird?
4. What does this bird prefer to eat?
5. When is this species most likely to be found in Ontario?

1. Townsend's Solitaire 2. Mountains of the west coast of North America 3. White eye-ring and peachy wing-bars (more evident in flight) 4. Juniper berries 5. Late fall through winter