# The Blue Bill

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## Contents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President's Page | *Kurt Hennige* | 83 |
| Kingston Region Birds Autumn Season | *Mark Read* | 84 |
| Fall Round-up | *Erwin Batalla* | 89 |
| Odonata Sightings and Yearly List 2015 | *Carol Seymour* | 93 |
| Kingston Butterfly Summary 2015 | *John Poland* | 94 |
| Update to the Moths of the Kingston Study Area | *Mike Burrell* | 98 |
| Teen Canoe Trip | *Zoe Coulter* | 100 |
| Teen Fern Field Trip | *Ronan Guigere* | 101 |
| Bird Nerd Bonus | *James Barber* | 102 |

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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*

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and so will our local Christmas Bird Counts. Eight counts were listed in our newsletter and we just discovered that there are two new ones organized for the first time this year, which are Frontenac Park and Sandbanks National Park.
Hopefully, some of you were able to participate.

I am planning to attend six Bird Counts and it appears for the first few counts, the lakes will be open and there will be no snow on the ground.

For many years, there was no increase from the traditional six local counts - after the Moscow count was cancelled due to lack of participants and the Amherst Island count was started a few years later. The Amherst Island count enjoys lots of participation, and the free breakfast and lunch provided helps a great deal! The recently established counts are Delta and Gananoque; both have participation from the North Leeds Birders; instead of their weekly outing, they participate in these CBCs. To see another increase to ten counts this year is positive.

Your KFN Executive has noticed, over several years, a decrease in participation in the many field trips we offer to our membership. To deal with this decrease, an Ad Hoc Committee was recently formed with Gaye Beckwith, Erwin Batalla, Polly Aiken and Kurt Hennige as members, to see if this trend can be changed. To help us come up with the best solution, we would like to hear from our membership. We announced this in our last electronic newsletter, but if you have not seen this or not responded, please contact Gaye Beckwith (613-376-3716 or beckwithb@sympatico.ca) to discuss these issues with him.

The recent increase in large solar farms, particularly in the Napanee Plain, a stronghold of many Grassland species from Loggerhead Shrike to Bobolink, and their destruction of Alvar grassland and marginal pasture so important to many species at risk, has raised a concern. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to address these issues. Please contact Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or khennige@xplornet.com) to discuss the issues with him.

# Kingston Region Birds - Autumn Season: August 1 – November 30, 2015

*Mark 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 sightings with 'Kingston FN'. Alternatively, please email, phone or post records directly to me (contact details are found inside the front cover).

In total, **241 species of bird** were recorded in our region during the reporting period; one up on last year's summer total of 240. The vast majority of sightings were obtained from eBird – 51.2% of which were shared with the KFN account (compared to the 34.5% shared in the spring). In total, 206 observers logged 2085 checklists, equating to 27510 sightings. Just a handful of those checklists (21) were received via phone/email/word of mouth, indicating the continuing popularity of eBird (www.ebird.ca). An impressive 480,226 individual birds were recorded, though many of these were, of course, counted/seen again on subsequent days. A huge thank you goes out to every observer, without whom our understanding of bird distribution would be far more limited. Unfortunately, only observers with sightings in the current report are noted below.

The summer of 2015 arrived quickly and was, on the whole, pretty warm. Reports from Amherst Island (and to some extent Wolfe Island) were down due to ferries running at half capacity. Amherstview Sewage Lagoons remained closed to the public during this period. This definitely had an impact on the number and diversity of shorebird sightings. Some great birds were seen including; Eurasian Wigeon, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Connecticut Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Summer Tanager and Red Crossbill. Here are the highlights of 'Autumn 2015':

**Snow Goose:** The first returning birds of the season (2) were noted at farm ponds on Hwy 8 near Napanee on 30th September (MDR).

**Brant:** The 16 birds seen at the Amherst Island ferry on 8th October (PJB) were perhaps a week earlier than normal. A high count of 240 birds was seen at the Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 15th Oct (MVAB).

**Cackling Goose:** A great year for this species with 16 records received. Ironically, 16 was also the high count, with birds seen at the former C-I-L factory on Bath Road on 8th November (JRB, MVAB, MDR). Presumably the same birds were later seen at Bath itself on 14th November (MVAB). Other records came from Wolfe Island, Amherst Island, Kingston and Sunbury.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Due to the mild conditions in November, this species was generally hard to locate. However, 28 birds were seen at Bedford Mills on 16th November (MEC, LJN).

**Tundra Swan:** The first birds (113) to return to our area were seen at Button Bay, Wolfe Island on 14th October (MDR).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** A male was seen and photographed at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 12th October (MDR).

**Canvasback:** Two females were noted at Invista on 25th October (WTD), with males seen at Hay Bay on 8th November (2) and 14th November (1) (JRB, MVAB, MDR).

**Redhead:** Some significant records were received of single flocks but a concerted effort to survey Wolfe Island on 15th November produced a total of 14, 470 birds, approximately 2.5% of the estimated global population (KFN).

**Ring-necked Duck:** The high count this season came from Little Cataraqui Creek CA, Kingston, where 520 were counted on 3rd November (AEK).

**Lesser Scaup:** A very respectable, and notable, count of 4000 birds was tallied at Hay Bay on 8th November (JRB, MVAB, MDR).

**Surf Scoter:** A poor year compared to some, with the first birds (4) being seen at Lemoine Point on 12th October (TAN). This was also the 'high count' of the season.

**Black Scoter:** Twice as many records were received of this species than of Surf Scoter. The first sighting was of 3 birds at Prince Edward Point on 30th September (MDR).

**Ruddy Duck:** A good year for this species with birds noted in Kingston's Inner Harbour (max 12 on 25th October, KFN), Hay Bay (max of 113 on 9th November, BER), and Wolfe Island (max of 17 on 15th November, VPM, MDR).

**Red-throated Loon:** Six sightings came from the area with a high count of 3 birds seen together at the winter ferry dock on Wolfe Island on 15th November (MVAB, CJG, MDR).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Both the high count (21 on 14th October) and the last sighting (1 on 25th November) came from Kingston's Inner Harbour (NLB).

**Horned Grebe:** A high count of 45 birds was noted at Prince Edward Point on 25th October (VPM).

**Red-necked Grebe:** The first record was of 4 birds seen at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 22nd September (MDR). A high count of 5 was recorded at Prince Edward Point on 30th September (MDR).

**Osprey:** The last sighting came from Loughborough Lake where 1 was seen on 7th November (AEK).

**Golden Eagle:** Noted on several dates throughout October and November with the first at Prince Edward Point (2) on 8th October (RKFE), a high of 3 at the same location on 26th October (MDR) and the last (2) also at the point on 24th November (RKFE). Other birds were seen in Kingston and Gananoque.

**Northern Goshawk:** Five reports: 1 imm, Prince Edward Point, 6th October (MDR); 1 ad, 16th October, Button Bay, Wolfe Island (MDR); 1 imm, Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 18th October (NAK); 1 imm, Amherst Island, 8th November (CJG, KJH); and 1 imm, Simcoe Island, 15th November (MVAB, CJG).

**Sandhill Crane:** Notable flocks were reported passing through the area on 28th November when 32 were seen flying over Cranberry Lake, Seeley's Bay (MWPR), and on the 29th, when

43 were seen flying over Fallow Deer Reserve, near Wilton (CJG, SJR).

**American Golden Plover:** An early record of 4 birds came from Wolfe Island on 11th August (MDR). The high count was 19 on a ploughed field near Hawley on 13th September (JCG, VPM). The last birds were the 2 seen at Reed's Bay, Wolfe Island on 16th October (MDR).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** As many as 3 birds were seen at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island from 7th – 18th October (RKFE *et al*.).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** A poor year for this species with just 3 local records, from 2 locations – Morven Creek and Amherst Island. First and last dates came from Perch River WMA, Jefferson, NY on 13th August and 14th September (both JSB).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** All records came from Perch River WMA, Jefferson, NY with a maximum of 5 birds noted there on 28th August (JSB).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Just six records, the first being a single bird at Perch River WMA, Jefferson, NY on 12th August. The high count came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, where 16 birds were seen on 8th October (JRB). The last birds (4) were seen at the same location on 12th October (MDR).

**Western Sandpiper:** Again Perch River WMA, Jefferson, NY came up trumps with a single bird seen on three occasions from 10th – 28th August (JSB).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Just two records of what is most likely the same bird at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 1st October (JRB) and 7th October (RKFE).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Just two records, both from Perch River WMA, Jefferson, NY, with 1 on 13th August and again on 21st August (JSB).

**Iceland Gull:** Just the one record: 21st November at Odessa (KJH).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** An increase in sightings was noted with birds seen on Wolfe Island, Amherst Island and Prince Edward Point.

**Forster's Tern:** A single bird was seen at Robert G. Wehle SP, Jefferson, NY on 13th September (WiP).

**Snowy Owl:** The first birds of the winter (3) were seen on Wolfe Island on 17th November (MDR).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** As usual at this time of year, the majority of sightings came from Prince Edward Point where a total of 459 birds were banded during October (PEPtBO)

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Just 1 record, from Frontenac Provincial Park on 1st October (TAN).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Five records: 1, Burridge, 22nd August (PJB); 1 Prince Edward Point, 26th August (MWPR); 1, Cranberry Lake, 27th August (MWPR); 1 Prince Edward Point, 30th August (TMW); 1, Invista, Kingston, 23rd September (WTD).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Just seven records, with a high of 2 noted at Marshlands CA, Kingston on 15th September (MDR).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The last sighting, from Napanee Plain IBA, was on 3rd September (PJB).

**Northern Shrike:** The first record came from Prince Edward Point on 27th October (MDR).

**Tufted Titmouse:** No records from the Canadian side of the circle but plenty of sightings from 3 locations in Jefferson, NY: Robert G. Wehle SP, Wellesley Island SP, and Millen Bay.

**Sedge Wren:** Two more sightings came in from the new location near Verona, with 3 birds noted there on

1st August (VPM) and 4 on 5th August (MiJ, PeK).

**Grey-cheeked Thrush:** Nine records with a 'high' of 2 at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 14th September (MDR) and the last on 1st October at Frontenac Provincial Park (TAN).

**Swainson's Thrush:** Plenty of records with a high of 8 at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 16th September and the last at Lemoine Point CA, Kingston on 12th October (TAN).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Just the one record of a single bird seen on 13th August at Wellesley Island SP, Jefferson, NY (DaP).

**Lapland Longspur:** As usual, just a few sightings this early in the season with the first at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 15th October (MVAB) and a high of 4 at Button Bay, Wolfe Island on 10th November (MDR).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** A good season for this species with 13 records, spread widely around the region.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Two birds were banded on 6th September at Prince Edward Point (PEPtBO).

**Mourning Warbler:** Five records: 1 at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 23rd August (AEK, AlS) and again on 26th August (MDR); 1 near Sunbury, 9th September (MVAB); 1, Buck Bay Rd, Godfrey, 5th September; and 1, Perch River WMA, 23rd September (RiB).

**Hooded Warbler:** An immature female was seen at Prince Edward Point on 30th August (TMW).

**Palm Warbler:** A cracking example of the eastern form (Yellow Palm Warbler) was photographed at Lemoine Point CA, Kingston on 8th October (JRB).

**Prairie Warbler:** Two records: the first of 3 birds at the known location of Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY, on 4th August (GeZ, JeZ), and the other at Cape Vincent, NY, on 5th September (StK).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Just 1 record, from the known breeding location of Perch River WMA, NY, on 1st August (CoN).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** A poor year, with just 1 sighting of a single bird at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 12th October (MDR).

**Clay-coloured Sparrow:** There was only one sighting during the period, of 4 birds – including immature birds – from Wolfe Island on 11th August (MDR).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** An example of the Gambel's subspecies was seen on Wolfe Island on 1st October (AEK).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Five records were received, with the last on 7th October at Lemoine Point CA, Kingston (JRB).

**Summer Tanager:** A first-year bird was found at Prince Edward Point on 31st October (MDR), remaining to 1st November at least (DaO).

**Red Crossbill:** A single bird was noted at Cranberry Lake, near Seeley's Bay, on 27th August (MWPR).

**Common Redpoll:** Only 4 sightings were received; the first at Bedford Mills (1) on 17th November (MEC, LJN), with a high count of 14 seen near Verona on 28th November (TAN).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Just two records; 1 at Hay Bay on 8th November (JRB, MVAB, MDR) and another single near Loughborough Lake on 24th November (AEK).

**Other species observed during the reporting period:** Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail,

Green-winged Teal, Greater 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, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Upland Sandpiper, Sanderling, 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, Black 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, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder 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, Common 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, Marsh Wren, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, 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, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Observers:**
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## Fall Round-up Nov 7-8, 2015

### *Erwin Batalla*

The 50th KFN Fall Round-up took place between 1500h Saturday Nov07 and 1500h Sunday Nov08. Participants numbered 20. On Saturday, the temperature was 8 C at 3 pm with some cloud cover and light wind. The temperature dropped to 1 C on Sunday morning but rose quickly to 9 C with clear sky during the day.

A total of 110 species were observed, below the 44-year average of 120. This includes a Lesser black-backed Gull seen just before the count began. No new species were added to the cumulative list. A Great Cormorant was a noteworthy find. Also, several Cackling Goose and two Canvasback were unusual. Twenty-eight species of waterfowl, eleven species of raptor, five species of owl and thirty-nine species of passerines were recorded.

The following table shows the number of individuals of each species observed by the parties when that information was made available. A report of a Tufted Titmouse in Waupoos was obtained from the internet (fide Terry Sprague).

The composition of the parties and the sites visited are given below. Following the 24-hour count, birders met at the home of Marian and Joel Ellis for a potluck supper. As usual, Marian and Joel were excellent hosts and a warm thank you is extended for their hospitality.

Party #1: Paul Mackenzie, John Cartwright and Lynn Bell (Kingston, Prince Edward Point, Hay Bay)

Party #2: Kurt Hennige, Chris Grooms and Mike Runtz (Amherst Island, Kingston-Great Cataraqui River, Hillview Pond and Montreal Street Apartments, McIntyre Road, Prince Edward County-Little Bluff Conservation Area and Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area)

Party #3: Peter Good, Ron Weir and Kathy Innes (Kingston, Prince Edward Point, Hay Bay)

Party #4: Andrew Keaveney and Alex Stone

Party #5: Mike Burrell, Mark Read and James Barber (Amherst Island, Prince Edward Point, Hay Bay, Cataraqui Bay/Marshlands CA, Montreal Street Apartments, Upper Brewers Lock)

Party #6: Gaye and Betsy Beckwith, Alexandra Simmons, Erwin Batalla and Jane Revell (Elevator Bay, Cartwright Point, Inner Harbour, Bath-Heritage Park)

Party #7: Darren Rayner (north of Kingston)

| Species | Party number | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Cackling Goose | | | 3 | 1 | 16 | | |
| Canada Goose | 300 | 712 | 2305 | x | 4905 | 300 | 138 |
| Mute Swan | x | | 42 | x | 52 | | |
| Trumpeter Swan | | | | x | | 1 | 20 |
| Tundra Swan | 6 | 77 | 11 | 17 | 57 | 15 | 7 |
| Wood Duck | | 1 | | x | | | |
| Gadwall | 300 | 150 | 401 | x | 451 | 80 | |
| American Wigeon | 50 | 192 | 655 | x | 163 | 30 | |
| American Black Duck | 3 | 20 | 7 | x | 19 | 5 | |
| Mallard | 80 | 171 | 157 | x | 178 | 80 | 10 |
| Northern Shoveler | 12 | 7 | 24 | x | 28 | 10 | |
| Northern Pintail | 60 | 28 | 91 | x | 131 | 60 | |
| Green-winged Teal | 22 | 56 | 35 | x | 18 | 10 | |
| Canvasback | | | | | 2 | | |
| Redhead | 8 | 3 | | x | 600 | 5 | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 30 | 30 | 45 | x | 305 | 20 | |
| Greater Scaup | 200 | 125 | 2300 | x | 142 | 200 | |
| Lesser Scaup | | 14 | 53 | | 4053 | | |
| Greater/Lesser Scaup | | | | | 350 | | |
| White-winged Scoter | 15 | 85 | 10 | 9 | 50 | | |
| Black Scoter | 4 | 5 | | 5 | 3 | | |
| Long-tailed Duck | 250 | 65 | 34 | 20 | 804 | | |
| Bufflehead | 60 | 125 | 37 | x | 272 | 20 | |
| Common Goldeneye | 2 | 16 | 55 | x | 111 | 80 | |
| Hooded Merganser | 50 | 30 | 15 | x | 11 | 10 | 19 |
| Common Merganser | 8 | 78 | 10 | x | 30 | 10 | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 60 | 15 | 100 | x | 156 | 40 | |
| Ruddy Duck | 7 | 8 | | x | 2 | 5 | |
| Ruffed Grouse | 1 | 1 | 1 | x | 11 | | |
| Wild Turkey | | | | | | | 72 |
| Red-throated Loon | | | | | 1 | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Common Loon | 5 | 13 | 1 | x | 23 | 4 | 1 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 6 | 4 | 7 | x | 7 | 5 | |
| Horned Grebe | 40 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 13 | | |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | 3 | 2 | | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 5 | 4 | 9 | x | 12 | 5 | |
| Great Cormorant | | | 1 | | | | |
| Great Blue Heron | 2 | 7 | 2 | x | 5 | 2 | |
| Turkey Vulture | 1 | | | | | | |
| Northern Harrier | | 21 | | 1 | 4 | | |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Cooper's Hawk | | | | x | | | |
| Northern Goshawk | | 1 | | | | | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | | | 1 | | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 2 | 8 | | 3 | 7 | 1 | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | 9 | | 2 | 1 | | |
| American Coot | 180 | 154 | 50 | x | 299 | 100 | |
| Killdeer | | | | | | 3 | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | |
| Lessser Yellowleg | | | | | | 1 | |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | | 1 | | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 60 | 2 | 159 | x | 137 | 15 | |
| Ring-billed Gull | 40 | 88 | 75 | x | 245 | 70 | 165 |
| Herring Gull | 12 | 35 | 16 | x | 59 | 25 | 30 |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | 1* | | | | | |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | |
| Rock Pigeon | 30 | 6 | 33 | x | 14 | 12 | 6 |
| Mourning Dove | 3 | 6 | 3 | x | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | | 1 | | | | | |
| Great Horned Owl | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Barred Owl | | 2 | | x | 2 | | |
| Long-eared Owl | | | | | 1 | | |
| Short-eared Owl | | | | | 2 | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | | 1 | | | | | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 1 | 4 | | x | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 2 | 2 | | x | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Northern Flicker | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | | x | 1 | | 4 |
| American Kestrel | | 1 | | | 2 | | |
| Merlin | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | | | | | 1 | | |
| Northern Shrike | | 1 | 1 | x | | | |
| Blue Jay | 30 | 10 | 52 | x | 39 | 10 | 39 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Crow | 20 | 40 | 33 | x | 10 | 10 | 32 |
| Common Raven | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 20 | 26 | 23 | x | 30 | 10 | 41 |
| Tufted Titmouse | | | | | | | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 3 | 3 | 3 | x | 12 | 5 | 11 |
| Brown Creeper | | | | | 2 | | |
| Winter Wren | | 1 | | | | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | 1 | 7 | 1 | 4 | | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Eastern Bluebird | | | | | 2 | | |
| Hermit Thrush | | | | 1 | | | |
| American Robin | 40 | 65 | 48 | x | 49 | 20 | 25 |
| European Starling | 300 | 65 | 52 | x | 45 | 60 | 354 |
| American Pipit | | 6 | | 35 | 21 | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 8 | | 10 | x | 36 | 10 | |
| Snow Bunting | 20 | 15 | 100 | x | 4 | | |
| Lapland Longspur | | 2 | | | | | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 8 | | |
| American Tree Sparrow | 1 | 15 | | x | 7 | 9 | 12 |
| Fox Sparrow | | | | 2 | | | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 30 | 22 | 32 | x | 29 | 11 | 160 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | 1 | | | | | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 5 | |
| Savannah Sparrow | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | 3 | | x | | 2 | |
| Swamp Sparrow | | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| Northern Cardinal | 4 | 5 | 2 | x | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 1 | 2 | | 75 | 46 | 8 | 18 |
| Rusty Blackbird | 7 | 8 | | x | 8 | 1 | |
| Common Grackle | 5 | | 3 | | | | |
| House Finch | 6 | 4 | | x | 10 | 2 | |
| Purple Finch | 8 | 6 | | 7 | 12 | 3 | |
| Pine Siskin | | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| American Goldfinch | 20 | 8 | 22 | x | 23 | 10 | 37 |
| Evening Grosbeak | | | | | 1 | | |
| House Sparrow | | 12 | 15 | x | 3 | 2 | |
| Total species | **65** | **80** | **54** | **77** | **86** | **57** | **28** |

# Odonata Sightings & Yearly List for 2015

*Carol Seymour*

Once again, in the Kingston area, including one sighting from Menzel Nature Reserve, 2015 was not an average Odonata year. Whereas last year, we had an increase in overall numbers, this year we had a decrease. People reported seeing fewer than usual Halloween Pennants, Calico Pennants, Blue Dashers, Eastern Pondhawks and Black-shouldered Spinylegs, to mention just a few.

Calico Pennant (Celithemis elisa)

The 2014/2015 winter was exceptionally cold, especially in February, plus spring was cold and dry. This extreme weather affected not only odonata but also lepidoptera (butterflies) and other insects (those being the tasty morsels the dragonflies feed on).

That's not to say there were no large numbers of certain species. At the Martin Edward's Reserve on Amherst Island, Paul MacKenzie observed hundreds of Northern Spreadwings emerging from their aquatic nymph form to airborne adulthood. There were also reports of relatively high numbers of Lilypad Clubtails and Horned Clubtails.

Some dragonflies of note. The southern species of Carolina Saddlebags we observed ovipositing in a small wetland pond in Kingston last season were successful in producing offspring for this year. We saw a pair of Carolina Saddlebags again laying eggs in the same pond. Bruce Ripley reported sighting a Mustached Clubtail at Desert Creek Reserve, a first for the Kingston area. Congratulations Bruce!

Mustached Clubtail (Gomphus adelphus)
*Photo by Bruce Ripley*

Also, an Ebony Boghaunter, usually only seen at or near Menzel Nature Reserve, was sighted on the Salmon River near Buttermilk Falls and an Arrowhead Spiketail was observed at the Wintergreen Studio Bioblitz. Although this year nobody reported seeing a Unicorn Clubtail, a fresh exuvia (nymphal skin) from this striking and usually local and rare dragonfly was discovered in Kingston at the wetland pond they were sighted at last season. A beaver had earlier in the year moved into the pond. In the process of building its lodge and sinking a supply of tree branches for food over the winter, the branches the Unicorn Clubtails had previously perched on disappeared beneath the water. Fortunately, the beaver has since moved on, it being much too small a pond to support its hunger for trees and plants. We hope to see Unicorn Clubtails again next year.

A total of 78 species were reported for 2015.

# Kingston Butterfly Summary for 2015

*John Poland*

Like most species in nature, butterfly health depends to a large extent on the weather. There are four main seasons one can consider. This year the early spring, when the 5 or 6 butterflies that overwinter as adults appear, was about average as was the spring May season when approximately 20 butterflies appear. The main summer season occurs in the first weeks of July. This year this season was noticeably shorter such that most species came and went in less than 2 weeks and resulted in very low numbers of sightings in August. There was no significant migration of late season butterflies from the US but the year extended with four species seen in November with the latest on 16 November. On the whole it was an average sort of year with 79 species being recorded.

In the 2012 Fall/Winter edition of American Butterflies, the Massachusetts Butterfly Club wrote an article concerning the analysis of their butterflies data over a twenty year span from 1992-2012. The results showed that about half the species were increasing which is what one would expect from a healthy dynamic ecosystem. However, when they examined the data more closely they found that northern cold adapted species were declining whereas some rare species from the south were increasing. This was attributed to the general effects of global warming. Many species that were declining were those that overwintered as eggs. In the Kingston area one group of these are the *Satyrium* Hairstreaks. These species are among the favorites of lepidopterists and are represented by the Acadian, Coral, Banded, Hickory and Striped Hairstreaks in the Kingston region. They appear in early July and are generally rare. While we have no statistical data to support the Massachusetts results it does seem that we saw more hairstreaks this year. In particular the Striped Hairstreak was seen by several members for the first time.

**Striped Hairstreak**

In the Massachusetts article they suggested that the decline of these species was likely due to the warmer winters. Perhaps our last two cold winters have contributed to our hairstreak sightings. The table of butterflies seen this year lists the overwintering stage of our butterflies. Warming of the planet may see an increase of southern species such as occurred in 2012 and a decrease in those that overwinter as eggs or newly hatched caterpillars.

Late August and September is a time when we look for southern migrant species. The Buckeye is a representative species but we have not seen one for two years and only one was spotted in 2013. This year other southern migrant

such as the Question Mark and Orange Sulphur were only occasionally seen. On the other hand both the Milbert's and Compton Tortoiseshell were observed this year.

**Milbert's Tortoiseshell**

Monarch numbers were up a little from last year but much lower than a few years ago.

**Reported Butterfly Sightings for 2015**

| Butterfly | First Date | Last Date | Overwintering Stage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Black Swallowtail | 10 May | 16 September | chrysalis |
| Giant Swallowtail | 17 May | 30 August | chrysalis |
| Canadian Tiger Swallowtail | 17 May | 14 June | chrysalis |
| Eastern Tiger Swallowtail | 13 June | 31 August | chrysalis |
| Mustard White | 3 May | 16 July | chrysalis |
| West Virginia White | 29 April | 7 May | chrysalis |
| Cabbage White | 28 April | 5 November | chrysalis |
| Olympia Marble | 2 May | 7 May | chrysalis |
| Clouded Sulphur | 11 May | 16 November | chrysalis |
| Orange Sulphur | 26 July | 12 October | migratory |
| Harvester | 17 May | 19 July | unknown |
| American Copper | 13 August | 13 August | unknown |
| Bronze Copper | 14 June | 30 August | egg |
| Bog Copper | 12 July | 12 July | egg |
| Coral Hairstreak | 10 July | 11 July | egg |

| Butterfly | First Date | Last Date | Overwintering Stage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acadian Hairstreak | 6 July | 10 July | egg |
| Banded Hairstreak | 2 July | 22 July | egg |
| Hickory Hairstreak | 2 July | 16 July | egg |
| Striped Hairstreak | 10 July | 16 July | egg |
| Hoary Elfin | 2 May | 17 May | chrysalis |
| Henry's Elfin | 2 May | 17 May | chrysalis |
| Eastern Pine Elfin | 2 May | 30 May | chrysalis |
| Juniper Hairstreak | 20 May | 20 May | chrysalis |
| Gray Hairstreak | 14 May | 26 July | chrysalis |
| Eastern Tailed Blue | 11 May | 4 October | caterpillar fully grown |
| Spring Azure | 29 April | 18 May | chrysalis |
| Summer Azure | 18 June | 20 September | chrysalis |
| Silvery Blue | 18 May | 22 June | chrysalis |
| Great Spangled Fritillary | 17 June | 31 August | caterpillar newly hatched |
| Aphrodite Fritillary | 3 July | 9 August | caterpillar first instar |
| Meadow Fritillary | 19 May | 30 August | caterpillar |
| Harris Checkerspot | 4 June | 17 June | caterpillar |
| Northern Crescent | 29 May | 16 September | caterpillar |
| Pearl Crescent | 29 May | 13 September | caterpillar |
| Baltimore Checkerspot | 14 June | 17June | caterpillar |
| Question Mark | 29 May | 6 August | migratory |
| Eastern Comma | 12 April | 15 November | butterfly |
| Gray Comma | 7 May | 14 September | butterfly |
| Mourning Cloak | 12 April | 16 September | butterfly |
| Compton's Tortoiseshell | 12 April | 11 July | butterfly |
| Milbert's Tortoiseshell | 24 September | 11 October | butterfly |
| American Lady | 17 May | 18 October | migratory |
| Painted Lady | 22 July | 22 July | migratory |

| Butterfly | First Date | Last Date | Overwintering Stage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Red Admiral | 7 May | 23 August | migratory but maybe some as butterfly |
| White Admiral | 3 June | 31 August | caterpillar partly grown |
| Viceroy | 29 May | 16 September | caterpillar half grown |
| Monarch | 13 June | 16 November | migratory |
| Hackberry Emperor | 12 July | 12 July | caterpillar mature |
| Northern Pearly Eye | 22 June | 16 July | caterpillar |
| Eyed Brown | 24 June | 17 August | caterpillar half grown |
| Appalachian Brown | 5 July | 5 July | caterpillar half grown |
| Little Wood Satyr | 28 May | 6 July | caterpillar |
| Common Ringlet | 25 May | 16 September | caterpillar |
| Common Wood Nymph | 2 July | 17 August | caterpillar newly hatched |
| Chryxus Arctic | 14 May | 17 May | caterpillar |
| Silver Spotted Skipper | 4 June | 13 August | chrysalis |
| Northern Cloudywing | 20 May | 2 July | caterpillar mature |
| Dreamy Duskywing | 7 May | 4 June | caterpillar mature |
| Juvenal's Duskywing | 14 May | 4 June | caterpillar mature |
| Columbine Duskywing | 3 May | 9 August | caterpillar mature |
| Wild Indigo Duskywing | 22 May | 9 August | caterpillar mature |
| Arctic Skipper | 29 May | 9 June | caterpillar mature |
| Least Skipper | 4 June | 16 September | caterpillar mature |
| European Skipper | 13 June | 20 July | egg |
| Leonard's Skipper | 9 August | 9 August | caterpillar early instar |
| Indian Skipper | 29 May | 13 June | caterpillar |
| Peck's Skipper | 14 June | 20 July | caterpillar partly grown |
| Tawny Edged Skipper | 29 May | 27 June | chrysalis |
| Crossline Skipper | 2 July | 11 July | caterpillar mature |
| Long Dash | 4 June | 2 July | caterpillar partly grown |
| Northern Broken Dash | 2 July | 20 July | caterpillar |

| Butterfly | First Date | Last Date | Overwintering Stage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Little Glassywing | 27 June | 20 July | caterpillar |
| Delaware Skipper | 2 July | 26 July | caterpillar or chrysalis |
| Mulberry Wing | 12 July | 12 July | unknown |
| Hobomok Skipper | 17 May | 2 July | caterpillar |
| Broad Winged Skipper | 10 July | 11 July | caterpillar |
| Dion Skipper | 6 July | 10 July | caterpillar partly grown |
| Dun Skipper | 8 July | 13 August | caterpillar |
| Common Roadside Skipper | 29 May | 4 June | caterpillar |

*Contributors: Mike Burrell, David Edwards, John Hall, Peter Hall, Kurt Hennige, Diane Lepage, Paul McKenzie, John Poland, Bruce Ripley, Anne Robertson, Carol & Murray Seymour*

## Update to the Moths of the Kingston Study Area

*Mike Burrell*

Over the course of 2015 the author undertook several moth-related activities within the Kingston Study Area. This note is an attempt to document these activities and encourage KFN members to get involved with moths.

**Webpage**

A new page has been created and added to the KFN website accessed under the checklists section: http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/moths/moths.html. This page gives an overview on how to look for moths, electronic and print references, and moth checklists and reporting forms. Please have a read of this information if you are interested in getting involved with moths in 2016!

***Figure 1: KFN Moth page***

## Moth crawl field trip

***Figure 2: Checking for moths at light/sheet trap***

On the night of July 4, 2015 eight KFN members assembled for what will hopefully become an annual tradition, a "Moth crawl". We began the night at 10 pm at Gaye Beckwith's house in Sydenham where Gaye had a sheet attached to his garage with a spotlight on it. It was still early but as we enjoyed some snacks and refreshments we observed and photographed 29 species, many quite small but interesting species like the "Bird Nest Moth" (*Monopis crocicapitella*) before moving on to the next stop.

***Figure 3: The miniscule "Bird Nest Moth" Monopis crocicapitella***

The next stop was Erwin and Alexandra Batalla's house just off of Latimer Road. Here, with a similar set-up and equally delicious snacks and drinks, we found 28 species, 19 of which were new for the night. One of the highlights here was a Brown Scoopwing (*Calledapteryx dryopterata*), ranked S1? (possibly critically imperilled) in Ontario.

***Figure 4: Brown Scoopwing (Calledapteryx dryopterata)***

Our final stop of the night was at the author's property along Washburn Road east of Sunbury where a Mercury Vapour bulb was set up with a sheet and a black light was set up on a live trap. The combination of light sources and the later stage of the night helped yield at least 54 species including some showy species like Polyphemus Moth (*Antheraea polyphemus*) and Blinded Sphinx (*Paonias excaecata*) bringing the night's total to 85 species – not bad for a bunch of amateurs!

***Figure 5: Polyphemus Moth (Antheraea polyphemus)***

## Updated Moth Checklist

One of the major projects undertaken this year was to update the previous KFN Moth Checklist created by Gary Ure in 2013. The

updated version incorporates the 2013 version, as well as a checklist created for Queens University Biological Station by Kit Muma in 2008, and results from previous KFN Bioblitzes.
The new checklist has had the taxonomy update to follow that used by the Moth Photographer's Group (including common names) and contains 783 species. However, virtually every time new data is uncovered new species are added and a conservative estimate would put the true list at somewhere around 2000 species!
You can access the KFN Moth Checklist on the Moth page of the KFN website.

**Moth Database**

The final activity undertaken this year has been the creation of a moth database for the Kingston Study Area. This database contains the records used to keep the moth checklist up-to-date and will allow us to track flight times and ranges of different species within our region. If you observe any moths in the future (or have in the past) please submit your records to the author. A downloadable report template is available on the KFN Moth page or you can send your records in directly with the following information:

- Date
- Observer name
- Basis of record (sight, photo, specimen)
- Life stage (caterpillar, adult, male, female, etc.)
- Location name
- Location coordinates (optional)
- Habitat comments (optional)
- Observation notes (optional)

The database currently contains over 2300 records but could grow very quickly with effort from club members.

**Get Involved!**

Check out the new KFN Moth Page (http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org/moths/moths.html) for more information, including tips on attracting and watching moths at your house. Most people in the Kingston area can reasonably expect to eventually get 500-1500 species on their yard with careful observing over many years! Please consider submitting your moth records for entry to the KFN Moth Database. Or you could host a moth night at your house next year.

## Teen Canoe Trip – Spetember 2015

*Zoe Coulter*

On September 12th, Anne and the Teen Field Naturalists Aidan, Michael, Muirgen, Ronan, and Zoe met at 9:00 the Tim Horton's on Sydenham Road, and Anne and Barry drove them to Anne's cottage. Michael and Ronan were dropped off at the cottage of a neighbour who let them borrow a canoe, and they paddled over to Anne's cottage where the rest of us got into Anne's two canoes and started at about 10:00 am. It had been raining all morning, and there were no signs of it stopping anytime soon. We canoed across North Otter Lake to meet up with Liz Evans, who joined us in her kayak. Our goal was to get to South Otter Lake, but the culvert we were meant to go through was blocked so we portaged instead. Once we were back on the water, Anne showed us three different types of water lily and how to identify them. Getting steadily wetter from the pouring rain, we canoed past Elephant Island, saw a heron,

some loons, and an osprey that probably nested on Elephant Island, and then pulled up the canoes at the Doe Lake portage around 11:30 am. We walked the Doe Lake portage to warm up, and when we were in sight of Doe Lake Anne told a "ghost" story that turned out to be about turkey vultures. On the way back to the canoes, we saw Pointed-Leaf Tick Trefoil and Hog Peanut plants, both of which have leaves in threes. We looked for Poison Ivy to complete the set of three three-leaved plants, but didn't see any. It was still raining, so we paddled over to the Frontenac Park Building to have lunch in a dry place. We looked again for Poison Ivy and found a model of a Poison Ivy plant inside the Park Building, but no sign of any outside. After lunch, we canoed and portaged back to North Otter Lake. Saying goodbye to Liz, Anne and the teens went back to Anne's cottage, wrote in our field notebooks, and left at about 2:30, after Michael and Ronan had returned Anne's neighbour's canoe.

## Teens Fern Field Trip

*Ronan Guigere*

On a chilly Saturday morning six Teens (Damon, Ronan, Astrid, Michael, Austin and Muirgen) met with Anne and Diane at Sydenham Road Tim Hortons to begin yet another informative adventure; a Fall Field Trip with a Focus on Ferns. Making our way to the Robertson Cottage we stopped on the side of the road at around a quarter to ten to look at and take photos of four different fern species. The Interrupted fern with its fruiting body in the middle of the stem, the Christmas fern with pinnules that resemble stockings, The Maidenhair fern distinguished by its split black stem and finally the Marginal Wood fern identified by having its sporangia on the margins of the underside of each pinnule.

At ten we arrived at the cottage and identified four more species of fern. The Bracken fern with its stem divided in three, the Marsh fern defined by a twisted stem, the Royal fern that is recognised by being as big as a bush and its spores at the top of the frond and the Sensitive fern with a separate stem for its fruiting body containing the spores.

We then proceeded to hike to the Peak to have lunch and spotted two more ferns along the way: the Rusty Woodsia with its hairy stem, and Ebony Spleenwort with horizontal sporophyte pinnules and vertical fruiting pinnules. We arrived at the Peak at around twelve o'clock and ate our lunches with a side of Shag-bark Hickory nuts collected on the way and the lemony Sheep Sorrel found on the Peak.

After lunch we clambered down from the Peak and Anne showed us an ephemeral pond (a pond that is dry during one season and full of water in another). We stopped there and turned over dead logs to find a veritable network of fungi and insects. We proceeded to walk along the gorge where we found the elusive Walking fern with its triangular walking blade and the scaled Lady fern. As the gorge opened up we tasted Wild leeks and Garlic Mustard before returning to the road finding a final species of fern: the Ostrich fern, a tall fern with a separate fruiting body. This is the fern that produces the familiar fiddlehead.

Despite the cold I found this a lovely and informative hike through the Canadian Fall colors and am looking forward to our next meeting.

# Bird Nerd Bonus

*James Barber*

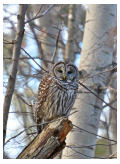
Match the **birds** on the left with their **collective group nouns** on the right:

**1) Chickadees**

**A) Worm**

**2) Nuthatches**

**B) Descent**



**3) Owls**

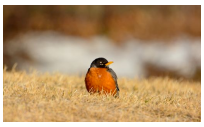
**C) Charm**

**4) Woodpeckers**

**D) Gallup**

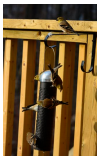
**5) Doves**

**E) Drift**



**6) Robins**

**F) Bevy**



**7) Goldfinches**

**G) Crew**

**8) Juncos**

**H) Jar**

**9) Redpolls**

**I) Banditry**

**10) Snow Buntings**

**J) Parliament**

**Answers: 1- I, 2 – H, 3 – J, 4 – B, 5 – F, 6 – A, 7 – C, 8 – G, 9 – D, 10 - E**