



# The Blue Bill

Quarterly Journal of the Kingston Field Naturalists

ISSN 0382-5655

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**Volume 64, No. 2**

**June 2017**

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**The Blue Bill** is the quarterly journal (published March, June, September and December) of the **Kingston Field Naturalists**, P.O. Box 831, Kingston, ON (Canada), K7L 4X6.

**Website:** <http://www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

Send submissions to the Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the month of publication (i.e. by the 15<sup>th</sup> of February/May/August/November) to the address above, or to the editor via e-mail to: [jamesrdbarber@gmail.com](mailto:jamesrdbarber@gmail.com). Please include contact phone number.

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

### *Alexandra Simmons*

The 2017-2018 KFN Executive was elected at the April General Meeting. I am happy that most of the 2016-2017 Executive will be returning. Ron Weir, whose *Birds of the Kingston Region* is still the definitive reference on the local status of each species, will return as Honorary President. Kurt Hennige will do another year as Past President and Ontario Nature Representative, while Larry McCurdy will continue as a careful and detail-oriented Treasurer. Janis Grant will return as Recording Secretary, and Membership Secretary John Critchley will be back keeping track of your whereabouts and ensuring smooth communication with members through delivery of the newsletter and Blue Bill.

The 4 issues of the Blue Bill will again be edited by James Barber, and Anne Robertson will keep her long-standing role as Chair of the Junior and Teen Naturalists, as well as organising the rambles "*slow walks to notice nature*" and our Annual BioBlitz. The Bird Records Committee will be chaired by Kenneth Edwards, and Chris Hargreaves will lead the Conservation Committee, our voice in local and regional issues. Education Chair Mark Read will continue outreach activities to people of all ages as well as compiling the weekly bird sightings summary posted to ONTBIRDS listserv. Our Field Trips Chair Gaye Beckwith will plan lots of adventures for us, as well as preparing the slideshow shown before the General Meetings. Erwin Batalla will be back as Nature Reserves Manager for Helen Quilliam Sanctuary at Otter Lake and

Martin Edwards Reserve on Amherst Island.

Three Members-at Large return to the 2017-2018 Executive: Janet Elliot, who is responsible for editing the Newsletter; Polly Aiken who manages the KFN Facebook Page and Flickr site and organises the Annual May Dinner; and Jackie Bartnik, who carries out Publicity tasks such as newspaper announcements and distribution of KFN cards and brochures.

It has been an honour for me to work with these Executive members, who performed their roles so well in 2016-2017, and took on additional tasks needed to run the KFN. I learned a lot thanks to their purposeful participation in Executive meetings using their varied experience and insight.

The executive will be losing 2 valuable members-at-large. Rose-Marie Burke brought experience from participation in nature organizations state-side when she joined the Executive years ago, initially as recording secretary, later creating the Nature Blog and playing a key role in the Photo Competition. Mike Burrell was an able webmaster who shared his passion and knowledge of natural history with one and all, especially promoting the use of eBird as a valuable tool for birders and scientists. Mike led the KFN's hosting of the 2016 Ontario Federation of Ornithologists Annual Meeting, where he organised an impressive slate of Field Trips which showcased the nature of our region as well as our knowledgeable trip leaders.

We thank them for their contributions and will miss them a lot.

The KFN is fortunate to have 3 new people joining the 2017-2018 executive. Partly thanks to his impending retirement from the Canadian Armed Forces, Anthony Kaduck will join as Vice President. An avid birder, he has been a member of the U. K. Army Ornithological Society (yes!) for whom he organized a well-received Spring birding trip to Ontario in 2011. You may have met him when he led KFN walks, and will get the chance to know him better this fall. Lesley Rudy is joining as Member-at-large, where one of her roles will be as the new KFN webmaster. She has a wealth of experience with conservation and stewardship organizations, and has already contributed to the KFN helping the Conservation Committee. Our last member-at-large position will be filled by John Donihee, whose career in environmental and regulatory law brings an important perspective to running our organisation.

I look forward to working with this Executive and accomplishing great things in the coming year.

Although I could not begin to describe the contributions of all “non-executive” members, there are a couple that deserve special mention this year. Carol Seymour authored *A Pictorial Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Kingston Area*. It will come in handy to all of you who are out and about this summer and can be obtained from Gaye Beckwith for \$8. Last, but by no means least, Diane Lawrence stepped in without hesitation when Anne Robertson needed extra help with the Junior Naturalists program from March to June this year. Diane has been a KFN member for an amazing 36 years and was recognised in 2008 by Ontario Nature for her dedication to the KFN Youth Program. Her passion to “keep children’s sense of natural wonder alive” continues to allow her to make invaluable contributions to this important KFN initiative.

I thank you all and the many others who made this a great year for the KFN and wish you many stimulating experiences in Nature this summer.

## Spring Round-up 2017

*Erwin Batalla*

The KFN's 60<sup>th</sup> Spring Roundup took place from 1500h Saturday May 20 to 1500h Sunday May 21. The weather on both days was partly cloudy with medium winds. The overnight low was 6 C, rising to 19 C during the day.

The final tally of species was 168, well below the average of 199. Areas visited included Amherst Island, Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, Camden Lake Provincial Wildlife Area, Canoe Lake Road, Moscow Marsh, Napanee Limestone Plain, Opinicon Road, Kingston City, Prince Edward Point, Wilton Creek at Morven.

Noteworthy finds are a Black-crowned Night-heron, two Sandhill Cranes, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, two Horned Larks, a Mourning Warbler, a White-crowned Sparrow, a Rusty Blackbird and an exceptional Yellow-breasted Chat.

Participants were invited to the home of Janis and Allan Grant for the potluck supper and the species tabulation. Thanks for their amazing hospitality.

Three teams took part in the Roundup with a total of 15 participants. They were:

Party #1 Lynn Bell, John Cartwright, Peter Good, Janis Grant, Kathy Innes and Paul Mackenzie

Party #2 James Barber and Mark Read

Party #3 Erwin Batalla, Gaye and Betsy Beckwith, Richard Brault and Dianne Croteau, John King and Jane Revell

Sightings obtained from eBird are shown in the last column in the table below. Contributors from eBird are: KA, Kitty Anderson at Prince Edward Point; PB, Peter Blancher on Canoe Lake Road; JC, Joel Coutu in Kingston; AK, Anthony Kaduck at Prince Edward Point; PH, Peter Hogenbirk at Prince Edward Point; GM, Gregg Miller on Canoe Lake Road; TN, Todd Norris at Tree Frog Farm; MP, Mark Patry on Amherst Island; AW, Angie Williams at Frontenac Provincial Park.

	Party #1	Party #2	Party #3	eBird
<b>Species</b>				
Brant		390		
Canada Goose	38	77	69	
Mute Swan	5	4	2	
Trumpeter Swan	4			
Wood Duck	4	4	2	
Gadwall	6	6		
American Black Duck		2		
Mallard	6	36	27	
Blue-winged Teal		2		
Northern Shoveler	4	2	2	
Northern Pintail		1		
Green-winged Teal		1		

Lesser Scaup	2			
Surf Scoter	2			
White-winged Scoter	4	30		
Long-tailed Duck	4	3	10	
Hooded Merganser				TN
Common Merganser	5	2	6	
Red-breasted Merganser	6	4	8	
Ruffed Grouse		3	3	
Wild Turkey		2	5	
Common Loon	4	4	1	
Pied-billed Grebe	1	1		
Double-crested Cormorant	90	334	7	
American Bittern	2	2	1	
Great Blue Heron	6	11	4	
Green Heron		1	1	
Black-crowned Night-heron				KA
Turkey Vulture	7	14	14	
Osprey	1	1	2	
Northern Harrier	1	1	2	
Bald Eagle	1	2	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk				GM
Broad-winged Hawk		1	2	
Red-tailed Hawk		1	2	
Virginia Rail	1	1		
Sora	1	1		
Common Gallinule	1	1	1	
Sandhill Crane		2		
Black-bellied Plover	4	12		
Semipalmated Plover		10	5	
Killdeer	8	17	4	
Spotted Sandpiper	8	21	1	
Upland Sandpiper	1	2		
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	1		
Dunlin	80	7	5	
Least Sandpiper	60	31	5	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				MP
Short-billed Dowitcher		10	4	
Wilson's Snipe	2	3	2	
American Woodcock				PH
Wilson's Phalarope	6			
Bonaparte's Gull		4		
Ring-billed Gull	14	189	60	
Herring Gull	7	7	5	
Caspian Tern	7	11	1	

Black Tern	12	20		
Rock Pigeon	9	11	5	
Mourning Dove	18	21	9	
Black-billed Cuckoo	1			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			1	
Barred Owl				AW
Common Nighthawk	1	1		
Eastern Whip-poor-will	2			
Chimney Swift	40	3		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		2		
Belted Kingfisher		2	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker			1	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		3	1	
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	3	
Hairy Woodpecker		1	1	
Northern Flicker	2	10	4	
Pileated Woodpecker		1	2	
American Kestrel		2	1	
Merlin	2	1	1	
Peregrine Falcon				JC
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	2	1	
Willow Flycatcher	1	1		
Least Flycatcher	2	1		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1			
Eastern Phoebe	3	5	2	
Great Crested Flycatcher	6	8	3	
Eastern Kingbird	15	27	9	
Loggerhead Shrike	2	1	2	
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	2	1	
Blue-headed Vireo			3	
Warbling Vireo	9	8	2	
Philadelphia Vireo	2	1	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	7	18	1	
Blue Jay	44	19	15	
American Crow	14	16	224	
Common Raven	2	3	4	
Horned Lark		2		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	6	2		
Purple Martin	40		1	
Tree Swallow	50	10	38	
Bank Swallow		4	2	
Barn Swallow	12	23	11	
Cliff Swallow	21	5	24	
Black-capped Chickadee	14	11	6	

Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		1	
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	1	
House Wren	9	7	1	
Winter Wren		1	3	
Marsh Wren	4	4		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	5	2	
Eastern Bluebird		2	2	
Veery		1		
Swainson's Thrush	2	1		
Wood Thrush	2	1	1	
American Robin	22	54	34	
Gray Catbird	10	19	4	
Brown Thrasher	3	7	4	
European Starling	32	70	26	
Cedar Waxwing	18	7	6	
Ovenbird		11	4	
Louisiana Waterthrush		1	2	
Northern Waterthrush	3	2	1	
Golden-winged Warbler		1	1	
Black-and-white Warbler	1	4	1	
Tennessee Warbler	6	5	1	
Nashville Warbler		1	2	
Mourning Warbler	1			
Common Yellowthroat	4	24	7	
American Redstart	6	7	3	
Cape May Warbler	2	1		
Cerulean Warbler		1		
Northern Parula	10	2	2	
Magnolia Warbler	2	1		
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	2		
Blackburnian Warbler	1			
Yellow Warbler	30	69	48	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	1	2	
Blackpoll Warbler	4	5	1	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			2	
Palm Warbler			1	
Pine Warbler		1	1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	6	3	
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	5	2	
Canada Warbler				PH
Wilson's Warbler	1	1		
Yellow-breasted Chat	1			
Grasshopper Sparrow		1		
Chipping Sparrow	2	6	3	

Field Sparrow	3	5	2	
White-crowned Sparrow	1			
White-throated Sparrow	3	2	1	
Savannah Sparrow	4	4	1	
Song Sparrow	18	22	11	
Lincoln's Sparrow				AK
Swamp Sparrow	4	5	1	
Eastern Towhee	4	5	2	
Scarlet Tanager	1	2	2	
Northern Cardinal	5	4	4	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	15	3	7	
Indigo Bunting	1	10	1	
Bobolink	22	12	1	
Red-winged Blackbird	74	67	67	
Eastern Meadowlark	8	19	11	
Rusty Blackbird			1	
Common Grackle	25	98	44	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	3	4	
Orchard Oriole	3			
Baltimore Oriole	15	6	13	
House Finch	1	1		
Purple Finch				PB
American Goldfinch	10	11	11	
House Sparrow	20	10	1	
<b>Party Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>113</b>	

## KFN Executive Annual Reports

### *Various*

#### *Member at Large- Ontario Nature Representative Kurt Hennige*

Attended Ontario Nature 85 th Annual Meeting on June 3-5 2016 at South Bruce Peninsular were I on behalf of KFN member Bud Rowe accepted his W.E. Saunders Natural History Award and later sent it to Vancouver Island where he lives now.

Also attended the Ontario Nature East Fall Regional Meeting in Belleville and would have attended the Regional Meeting in Ottawa on April 8 2017, however a last minute date change by Ontario Nature prevented me to attend. Thank you to Chris Hargreaves who was able to attend.

All KFN public events were sent to Ontario Nature Network Coordinator for inclusion in their mailings.

#### *Annual Report of Youth Programs*

The Youth year is from September to June so this report covers those months. The Junior program report below is followed by the Teen program activities.

32 Juniors registered (15 new members) which is an ever decreasing number. The three groups (by age) were led by 3 leaders each- an exceptional adult Junior ratio. We held 13 indoor meetings and 7 field trips

We are extremely grateful to our 11 leaders many of whom have been with us for more than one year- we are sorry to say goodbye to several of them this year as they move on

with their lives. Thank you Paisley Thomson (4 years), Amanda Tracey (3 years), Sarah Wallace (4 years), Kassandra Yun (3 years). Chrissy Emerton, Janet Fenton and Bronwyn Harkness were occasional helpers last year and came back full time this year. We were also joined this year by Samantha Hurl, David McDonagh, Logan Morris and Lara Jacobo. We thank you all. Diane Lawrence is the backbone of the organisation with her knowledge, skills and overall support. Diane ran the April meetings and field trip in my absence as well as doing all the work for the Bird Walk and Wild Food Picnic in May. Diane brings ideas and practical expertise to our planning meetings. She looks after T shirt sales and the card swap. The card swap is a popular card collection, this year on local butterflies and moths. The Juniors are given a number of cards at each meeting with random pictures which may need to be swapped with others to complete the collection attached to a folder. The end result is an identification guide to the species. Each year a different topic is chosen and photographs collected, often from KFN members.

Three of our meetings each year help Juniors to appreciate how they can help nature from which we get so much fun. In December and January we have a coin collection. This year our proceeds went to adopt a bat following a meeting to which Matt Saunders brought a bat and talked about their conservation. In April we do a cleanup field trip. This year the roadsides at Helen Quilliam

Sanctuary were cleaned up. We also have an advocacy meeting and our choice this year was to support Monarch Butterflies so a mobile was made with black card and orange tissue paper butterflies with a conservation message on each. They were sent to Presquile Park.

Every year we begin with an Orientation meeting and every year we have a seasonal crafts meeting (the favourite meeting of some) and every year we have our advocacy meeting, Bird walk and Wild Food Picnic. (This year 12 Families attended the picnic 40 people including four leaders. Twenty five delicious wild food dishes were consumed). Other meetings this year covered the topics of Beetles and True Bugs, Fruits and Seeds of Forest and Field, Life in a Log, Feelers, Animals around the World, Extremophiles, Arbor Armour, Patterns in Nature, Waterfowl and Endangered Species. We all had a lot of fun and learned so much!

Our Field trips began in the fall with the very popular geology trip. Each member goes home with the beginnings of a collection made in the Verona area. We visited the Robertson Cottage in November where we could have the popular scavenger hunt. Our winter hike to a Land Conservancy property took us to Meyer Woods where we followed the course of a stream from the lake up to a beaver pond enjoying many exciting discoveries on the way. We also went to Parrott Bay CA where we discovered (pre-set) a number of natural objects in their wrong habitats (cattail in the woods, zebra mussels on a log, birch bark ring on red cedar branch etc.). Our trip to Presquile for Waterfowl was cancelled due to freezing rain. Several families took advantage of

the opportunity to attend the BioBlitz in June.

Summer project prizes were won by six Juniors. The Roland Beschel Prizes were won by Mackenzie Bailey, Amelie Robitaille, Hazel Taylor-Quick and Paige Bailey. Gracie Bark and Everett Bark won Photo competition prizes. Two Stirrett Scholarships were awarded to attend a nature camp. They were won by Austin Bailey and one shared by Mackenzie Bailey and Paige Bailey.

Eight Teens registered this year and ten field outings were held. Despite very small numbers (sometimes only two Teens on a trip) we had some good adventures and learning experiences.

In September one Teen tagged two monarch butterflies with Diane. For our October trip four Teens went to HQS led by Erwin and did a tree survey. In November we had our traditional bird identification and study skin preparation workshop. In December four teens accompanied by Mark Read did a Christmas Bird Count. For our January trip we skied/snow shoe-d at the Mitchell Creek property of the Nature Conservancy for Canada. February found us back at HQS where we cleaned out the HQS Wood Duck boxes. The March meeting was to be combined with the Juniors but the trip to Presquile for Waterfowl was cancelled due to freezing rain. The April meeting was a very successful night Hike at Elbow Lake Environmental Education centre. A report is in this Blue Bill. In June one Teen attended the BioBlitz.

At the end of June eleven Teens and older Juniors made 8 butterfly hibernation boxes and 3 bird houses at the Lee Valley store, as a Canada

150 project. They will be installed at Community Gardens, the Inner Harbour and Cataraqui Region Conservation properties.

Ronan Giguere attended the Youth Summit of Ontario Nature at Geneva Park last fall on a Stirrett Scholarship.

All in all we are all having fun and learning all the time.

Anne Robertson

### *Membership John Critchley*

At the end of the membership year we have 342 paid adult memberships including 14 Life members and 2 Young Adult members. The adult membership is split between individual and family memberships which increases the actual membership to 522 voting members.

There are also 29 junior and 7 teen memberships.

Renewal notices and reminders are now mailed separately instead of being included with a newsletter. Membership cards are also mailed separately or included with a charitable receipt if a donation has been made with the membership renewal.

The majority of members are renewing their membership before the end of the fiscal/membership year and hopefully the number of reminders along with the increased postage costs will be reduced in the future.

The renewal notices form part of the hard copy audit trail necessary 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 membership renewal reminders, prepares charitable receipts and thank you letters for the treasurer, and distributes the email notices for the e-Blue Bill and Newsletter recipients. Norma Graham supports John by mailing The Blue Bill.

### *Annual Report RAMBLES*

Twenty one rambles, the traditional number since 1988, were planned for the 2016-2017 year, two each month except July, August and December. This year was a bad-weather-on-Tuesdays year so a number of rambles were cancelled. Fifty five different people attended at least one ramble. The average participation was 9 which is a little higher than usual, with a minimum of three and a maximum of twenty one people. This year more half day trips were planned, perhaps the attendance at these shorter rambles is reflected in the increased participation.

These slow walks to notice nature aim to be social and provide gentle exercise as well as be educational. They vary in timing, location and type of habitat as well as weather conditions. Sharing our knowledge of nature is fun and there is always more to learn. We often go home with an identification challenge. Beginning naturalists are welcome and encouraged. Photography, especially of unknown species, is useful.

We appreciate those who allowed us onto their property. Thank you Eve

Atkins, Diana Wyatt and Kevin Dowling. We are also grateful to those KFN members who led rambles for us on a variety of occasions.

Longer trips this year included the Sheffield CA, Sharbot Lake PP and Jones Creek trails at TINP. More locally we visited NCC property in Battersea, ELEEC, Wintergreen Studios and nearby we visited CRCA properties, K and P Trail, the Fallow Deer Reserve, Edenwood trails, Fairmont Home trails, Butternut Creek and Lost Lake.

Thank you everyone who shared our adventures.

Anne Robertson

#### *Publicity - Jacqueline Bartnik*

As Publicity, it is my responsibility to place an ad into 'Kingston This Week' for our monthly meetings. I also place an ads in 'Kingston Fall Recreational and Leisure Magazine', Frontenac Park and Charleston Park magazine'. When ever available I will help with setting up display and will man the display

I also disturbed membership forms to the library and schools in the

Kingston

area.

#### *The Blue Bill James Barber*

Four issues of the Blue Bill were printed, 125 pages in total. Twenty-four authors of all ages contributed articles. Information about local species and abundance of birds, butterflies. Odonates, moths, and *Orthoptera* was presented. Articles describing KFN activities and member trips, as well as interesting local natural sites were published.

The majority of members receive the e-version of the Blue Bill, reducing the environmental impact of its publication.

**Thank you to John Critchley who maintains mailing lists, prepares labels and sends e-mail notices, to Mike Burrell who posts the electronic version on the KFN website, and to Norma Graham, who mails the hardcopy version.**

## Kingston Region Birds Spring 2017 (March 1-May 31)

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

In total, **251 species of bird** were recorded in our region during the reporting period, twelve up on last year's spring total of 239. The vast majority of sightings were obtained from eBird – 40.6% of which were shared with the KFN account (compared to the 56.0% shared in the winter). This decline may be, in part, due to the increased use of the mobile app. In total, 311 observers logged 3338 checklists, equating to 50,586 sightings. Just a handful of those checklists (12) were received via phone/email/word of mouth, indicating the increasing popularity of eBird ([www.ebird.ca](http://www.ebird.ca)). As usual, an impressive number of individual birds (506,532) were recorded, though many of these were, of course, the same birds seen 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 'spring' of 2017 was remarkable for coming early (as in 2016) but then being wet, with extensive flooding and ongoing high water levels in Lake Ontario. Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island, remained closed for the season due to severe erosion and flooding. Many birds arrived very early but then rapidly dispersed. Overall though, we had a great season with a good number of rare species. Here are the highlights of spring 2017:

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Just one record this spring of a single bird on Nugent Road on 1<sup>st</sup> April (KJH).

**Snow Goose:** Overall there were fewer records than last year, though the first birds of the season (3 at Russell Road on 1<sup>st</sup> March (JET)) were over a week earlier than last year. This year's high count was of 10000 at Cranberry Lake on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (MWPR). Several smaller flocks (up to 1500 birds) were seen as far west as Camden East this year, perhaps indicating a slight shift in migration routes. However, the St. Lawrence corridor is still the most likely area to encounter them.

**Brant:** The first birds of the season were seen on 6<sup>th</sup> May (RKFE) with 220 at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island and 250 at Millhaven. The 21<sup>st</sup> May saw 1020 birds fly past the same location in several large flocks (JET).

**Cackling Goose:** Not so many records this spring (5) with a total of just 7 birds seen, 2 on Wolfe Island on 18<sup>th</sup> March (MDR) and 2 at Upper Gap,

Bath on 23<sup>rd</sup> March (HVZ, BLM) being the high counts.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Regular along the Rideau Canal throughout the period but with decreasing numbers as the birds moved away to breed in April/May (KFN).

**Tundra Swan:** Like last year, birds were found in the area over the winter period. Genuine spring numbers were moderate with the highest count being 61 on Russell Road, Lansdowne, on 28<sup>th</sup> March (JET). The last birds (2) were seen at Lake Ontario Park, Kingston on 11<sup>th</sup> April (TAN).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Seemingly late this year with the first record not noted until 8<sup>th</sup> April. However, this record pertains to 31 birds all seen along the south shore of Amherst Island (BJL, JaS).

**Canvasback:** The last record (and high count) of the season was of 14 birds seen off South Shore Road, Wolfe Island on 8<sup>th</sup> April (RB&DC, MDR).

**Redhead:** A high of 4756 was tallied on Wolfe Island on 8<sup>th</sup> April (KFN). The last record, of a single bird, came from Kaiser Cross Road on 1<sup>st</sup> May (RKB).

**Greater Scaup:** The last birds of the season (64) were noted in the Inner Harbour on 13<sup>th</sup> May (VPM).

**King Eider:** Continuing the good year for this species, a female was seen off South Shore road, Amherst Island on 20<sup>th</sup> March (PRM).

**Surf Scoter:** All records (26) came from Prince Edward Point where a high of 15 was noted on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (RKFE).

**Black Scoter:** Just 8 records, again all from Prince Edward Point. The 6 birds seen there on 10<sup>th</sup> April were the largest single flock seen this season (RKFE).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** A single female was seen on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Point Peninsula, NY (JSB).

**Hooded Merganser:** The first returning birds (2) were at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons on 1<sup>st</sup> March (KJH).

**Ruddy Duck:** First date was 25<sup>th</sup> March when a single bird was noted in Kingston's Inner Harbour (JRB).

**Red-throated Loon:** A single bird seen on the crossing to Amherst Island on 20<sup>th</sup> May is the only record (JRB, MDR).

**Common Loon:** The first bird of the season was seen on the crossing to Wolfe Island on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (MDR).

**Horned Grebe:** The first bird of the year was seen on Amherst Island on 25<sup>th</sup> March (BDL). A high count of 35 was noted on Lake Ontario off Kaiser Cross Road on 26<sup>th</sup> April (TLH).

**Red-necked Grebe:** The first bird of the year was seen on 14<sup>th</sup> April at Cedar Point SP, NY (JSB). A high of 11 was noted on Lake Ontario off Kaiser Cross Road on 26<sup>th</sup> April (TLH).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The first returning birds (6) were seen in Kingston on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (JRB).

**American Bittern:** Once again, a bird at Sydenham (8<sup>th</sup> April (BGB)) was the first of the season.

**Least Bittern:** Fewer records than last year (5), though 3 birds were recorded at French Creek WMA, NY on 16<sup>th</sup> May (CoN). Other locations included Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island, Napanee Limestone Plain IBA, and Moscow Marsh.

**Little Blue Heron:** A fly-by was seen at Prince Edward Point on 16<sup>th</sup> May (DO).

**Osprey:** The first arrival was seen at Belle Park, Kingston on 1<sup>st</sup> April (RoL).

**Golden Eagle:** Four records; an immature on Hwy 15, near Brewers Mills on 4<sup>th</sup> Mar (KJH); an adult near Pittsburgh on 13<sup>th</sup> March (CTH); sub-adult at Button Bay, Wolfe Island 19<sup>th</sup> March (MWPR, MDR); and another west of Westport on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr (PJB).

**Northern Goshawk:** A good season for this species with 7 records from across the region (KFN).

**Sandhill Crane:** An impressive 35 records this spring from a variety of locations mainly on the Shield (many observers). A high count of 3 birds was noted at Elbow Lake on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (MAJ).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Plenty of records this year, with a high count of 52 recorded at Kaiser Cross Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (DAS).

**Upland Sandpiper:** A number of sightings from across the area with the first at Napanee Limestone Plain IBA on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr (BER) and a high count of 5 at the same location on 24<sup>th</sup> May (NLB).

**Whimbrel:** Three records this year; 1 at Kaiser Cross Road on 19<sup>th</sup> May (KJH); 60 at Waupoos on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (DAS); and 1 at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 28<sup>th</sup> May (OFO).

**Marbled Godwit:** A breeding-plumage bird was noted at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 20<sup>th</sup> May (G&NM) with possibly the same bird seen at Kaiser Cross Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (DAS).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** One record of 4 birds at Kaiser Cross Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (DAS).

**Red Knot:** Just a single record of a bird at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 20<sup>th</sup> May (G&NM, MJP).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Up to 3 birds were noted at both Kaiser Cross Road (17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May) and Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island (19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May) by several observers.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Just 4 spring records this year; 1 at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 29<sup>th</sup> April (JPR); 2 at Kaiser Cross Road, 29<sup>th</sup> April (RKB); 1 at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, 18<sup>th</sup> May (MDR); and 1, Kaiser Cross Road, 22<sup>nd</sup> May (DAS).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** A single bird was present at Kaiser Cross Road 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May (MDR *et al.*).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** All records came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, where this species breeds, with the first bird (1) noted on 21<sup>st</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup> (BGB, EDB).

**Willet:** A single bird dropped in briefly at Kaiser Cross Road on 19<sup>th</sup> May (KJH).

**Little Gull:** A poor season with just 4 records. The first was of a single bird at Waupoos Marina on 15<sup>th</sup> April (MJP). Two birds were noted in the Kaiser Cross Road area on 18<sup>th</sup> April (MDR) and 23<sup>rd</sup> April (OFO). Another 2 birds were seen in Grimshaw Bay, Wolfe Island on 29<sup>th</sup> April (MDR).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Just one record of a single bird at Lansdowne Dump on 28<sup>th</sup> March (JET).

**Black Tern:** The first birds of the spring (4) were seen at Collins Lake Woods on 6<sup>th</sup> May (JTS).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Just 1 record of a bird on McIntyre Road on 19<sup>th</sup> April (KJH).

**Snowy Owl:** A relatively poor year for this species. The last bird was seen at Button Bay, Wolfe Island on 4<sup>th</sup> April (MDR).

**Great Grey Owl:** After a great winter for this species, the last record was of a bird on Hwy 15 near Sand Hill Road on 26<sup>th</sup> April (CTH).

**Short-eared Owl:** Just 1 record this spring, from Button Bay, Wolfe Island, on 19<sup>th</sup> March (MWPR).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Just two records, with 1 on Orser Road on 20<sup>th</sup> March (CJG) and another in downtown Kingston on 28<sup>th</sup> March (PRM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Two records – the first on 17<sup>th</sup> May of a bird that died after hitting a window at Gananoque (JET). The second record came from Prince Edward Point on 18<sup>th</sup> May (MDR).

**Peregrine Falcon:** The majority of sightings came from Kingston. A few reports came in from other locations as far away as Prince Edward Point and the Thousand Islands Bridge.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Seven records this spring, mainly from Prince Edward Point, though birds near Miners Lake (JeS) and Frontenac Provincial Park (KJH) in late May are possible breeders.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** After just 3 records last spring, the 22 sightings this year was much better. A high count of 5 came from a private property near Verona on 20<sup>th</sup> May (TAN).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** A single bird was located at Prince Edward Point on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (DO).

**Say's Phoebe:** This great find at Prince Edward Point on 23<sup>rd</sup> April unfortunately only stayed the one evening (JTM, DO).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The first bird of the year was seen at Hamburg Road, Napanee on 29<sup>th</sup> March (KJH). All further sightings have come from the known breeding location of Napanee

Plain IBA, where 8 were recorded on 18<sup>th</sup> April (BDL).

**Northern Shrike:** The last bird of the season was seen on Green Bay Road, Westport on 3<sup>rd</sup> April (PJB).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The first of the year was seen on Canoe Lake Road on 29<sup>th</sup> April (PhW).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The vast majority of the 57 records came from Prince Edward Point, though the first of the year was seen at Millen Bay, NY on 12<sup>th</sup> May (DanJM).

**Fish Crow:** One bird, possibly two, was located at Prince Edward Point on 18<sup>th</sup> May (MDR). It was banded the following day (JTM, DO).

**Tufted Titmouse:** The vast majority of the 19 records came from Gananoque (JET) and Millen Bay, NY (DanJM), though a bird banded at Prince Edward Point on 13<sup>th</sup> April was unusual (JTM, DO, TMW).

**Sedge Wren:** Just the one record this spring, of a bird at Point Peninsula, NY on 31<sup>st</sup> May (CoN).

**Carolina Wren:** A bumper season with 16 records, though most of these came from a single location just east of Kingston (VPM). Other birds were seen at Cartwright's Point and Prince Edward Point where up to 3 birds were present 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May (many observers).

**Grey-cheeked Thrush:** Ten spring records with the first, an early bird, on 13<sup>th</sup> May at Marshland's CA, Kingston (JRB). The majority of other records came from Prince Edward Point.

**Northern Mockingbird:** A good season with a long-staying bird at Westport (JaR *et al.*); 1 on Orser Road on 17<sup>th</sup> March (CJG); 1 on 10<sup>th</sup> Line, Wolfe Island on 8<sup>th</sup> April (MDR); 1 at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island, 13<sup>th</sup> April (MDR); 1, Fairfax Road, 5<sup>th</sup> May

(CTH); 1, Prince Edward Point, 8<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May (SJC *et al.*); and 1, Florida Road, 26<sup>th</sup> May (CJG).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** The last sighting was of 2 birds on Howe Island on the late date of 7<sup>th</sup> May (KSB).

**Lapland Longspur:** The only record of the season was of 2 birds on Wolfe Island on 16<sup>th</sup> March (MDR).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** All but 1 of the 12 records came from the known location of Canoe Lake Road. All were single observations other than that of 2 birds seen on 21<sup>st</sup> May (KFN).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** More common and widespread than the Blue-winged Warbler with 42 reports compared to just 16. The first was seen at Canoe Lake Road on 4<sup>th</sup> May (JPR). Four reports of hybrid Brewster's Warblers were received, as well as 1 report of the less common Lawrence's Warbler on 12<sup>th</sup> May at Prince Edward Point (MDR).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** All but 2 records came from Prince Edward Point where the first bird was seen on 27<sup>th</sup> April (TMW). Other records came from Perch River WMA, NY.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first of the season was seen at Prince Edward Point on 13<sup>th</sup> May (DaB). Just 6 more records of this elusive species were received, mainly from the same location.

**Mourning Warbler:** There were 14 records this spring, mainly from Prince Edward Point, though the first of the season came from Parrott's Bay CA where 1 was seen on 15<sup>th</sup> May (JRB).

**Hooded Warbler:** There were two records this spring, likely of different male birds, both from Prince Edward Point. The first was seen by several observers on 14<sup>th</sup> May (JET *et al.*), and the second on 23<sup>rd</sup> May (JET).

**Kirtland's Warbler:** A female of this sort-after species was photographed at Prince Edward Point on 16<sup>th</sup> May (CrL). This is just the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for the Kingston area. Another confirmed individual was recorded at a later date at an (as yet) undisclosed location (per MDR).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Several records this season, with the first (2 birds) at Frontenac Provincial Park on 15<sup>th</sup> May (DaD).

**Prairie Warbler:** The first bird of the year was a long-staying individual at Prince Edward Point, first seen on 7<sup>th</sup> May (DaB) and remaining until 12<sup>th</sup> (MDR). All other records came from the breeding location of Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY.

**Canada Warbler:** The first bird of the season was seen at Prince Edward Point on 14<sup>th</sup> May (TMW).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Two different birds were seen at Prince Edward Point this year; the first (which was eventually banded) was seen on 21<sup>st</sup> May (KFN) and the second on 26<sup>th</sup> May (BER).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Just 1 record of a bird at Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY, on 18<sup>th</sup> May (CoN).

**American Tree Sparrow:** The last birds of the winter (2) were seen at Outlet, Charleston Lake on 29<sup>th</sup> April (DLFF).

**Clay-coloured Sparrow:** The first birds of the year (5) were seen at Odessa on 13<sup>th</sup> May (EDB).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The 2 birds at Camden East on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (PJG) may well have been wintering birds. This year's high count was of 85, seen at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 23<sup>rd</sup> April (MDR).

**Orchard Oriole:** Another reasonably good season with 32 records of this

species. Most reports came from Prince Edward Point with many also from Lemoine Point CA, a few from Amherst Island and other scattered locations. The first record came from Lemoine Point CA on 4<sup>th</sup> May (DaB).

**Pine Siskin:** The last 3 birds of this year's poor winter season were seen at Prince Edward Point on 27<sup>th</sup> April (TMW).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Four records; 1 Prince Edward Point, 28<sup>th</sup> April (SJC); 1, later 2, Verona, 8<sup>th</sup> May (TAN); 1, near Westport, 9<sup>th</sup> May (PJB); 1, Yarker, 13<sup>th</sup> May (RoM).

**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, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, 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, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern,

Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred 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, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling 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, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Grey Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, 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, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Grasshopper

Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Vesper 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, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Observers:** James R. Barber (JRB), Erwin D. Batalla (EDB), Gaye Beckwith (BGB), North Leeds Birders (NLB), Peter J. Blancher (PJB), R. Kyle Blaney (RKB), Kevin S. Bleeks (KSB), Richard Brault & Diane Croteau (RB&DC), David Bree (DaB), Steve J. Coates (SJC), Dan Derbyshire (DaD), R. Ken F. Edwards (RKFE), Dawne L. F. Fiegen (DLFF), Peter J. Good (PJG), Chris J. Grooms (CJG),

Chris T. Heffernan (CTH), Kurt J. Hennige (KJH), Tyler L. Hoar (TLH), Michael A. Johnson (MAJ), Bruce Di Labio (BDL), Rolland Leader (RoL), Bonnie J. Livingstone (BJL), Chris Lyons (CrL), V. Paul Mackenzie (VPM), Paul R. Martin (PRM), Daniel Miller (DanJM), Greg & Nathan Miller (G&NM), Brian L. Morin (BLM), Robert Morrissette (RoM), Jacques Turner Moss (JTM), Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), Cody Nichols (CoN), Todd A. Norris (TAN), David Okines (DO), Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO), Mark J. Patry (MJP), Mark D. Read (MDR), Jane Revell (JaR), Bruce E. Ripley (BER), Jon P. Ruddy (JPR), Michael W. P. Runtz (MWPR), Janet Scott (JaS), Jeff Sexton (JeS), Jacek T. Staszak (JTS), Donald A. Sutherland (DAS), James E. Thompson (JET ), Tom M. Wheatley (TMW), Philip Wright (PhW), Hans van der Zweep (HVZ).

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## Extended Visits by a Carolina Wren, a Barred Owl and Surf Scoters at Garden Island

*Chip and Linda Weseloh*

Garden Island is a 64 acre (26 ha) island located just west of the summer ferry route from Kingston to Wolfe Island. We have had a cottage there since 1978 and, when in residence, we conduct a daily bird walk of about 3 kms on the mowed paths that crisscross the island. Up until April 2013, one or both of us visited the cottage on week-ends (March – November), summer holidays and in the winter when ice conditions

permitted walking access from Wolfe Island, or about 50 -75 days per year. Since that time, our retirement has allowed us to live daily on the island from April/May through late October/early November, or about 170 - 190 days per year. To date we have compiled approximately 2,600 daily bird lists for the island (Weseloh and Weseloh 1987 and unpublished observations). Carolina Wrens, Barred

Owls and Surf Scoters are rare, seldom seen birds on (or from) the island; we have recorded them in 5, 3 and 6 of the 39 years we have kept an island bird list, respectively. In the autumn-early winter of 2016, we had extended visits to the island by these three species. The purpose of this short note is to document those extended visits.

Shortly after sunrise on 31 August 2016, I (CW) was lying in bed, on Garden Island, next to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story open window, when I heard the call of a Carolina Wren from outside. I jumped out of bed, quickly dressed and went outside to locate the bird. The call was coming from an area of vegetative tangle to the west of our cottage but before the adjacent cottage, about 50m away. Over the course of 15 minutes, the bird called repeatedly from the same area but I could not physically locate it and did not see it. Over the course of the next seven and one-half weeks, or until 5 November, the wren was heard calling on 34 of 64 observational days; almost always from the same area, between the two cottages. It was heard an average of every 1.6 days in September and every 2.7 days from 1 October – 5 November. It was heard on 16 of 20 days between 18 September and 7 October. The longest period of no auditory detection was 11-16 October. We were only able to visually confirm its presence on two occasions: 9 and 16 September; it was very difficult to see and very flighty.

On 4 October 2016, long-time Garden Island resident Mike McDougall, reported to us that earlier in the day, while walking the path on the south side of the island, he had flushed a Barred Owl. The bird had swooped low over his head and landed on a branch 20-30m ahead of him, where he could see it clearly: a large grey owl, no ear tufts and a horizontally barred chest/abdomen. Over the period of 33

days, from 4 October to 7 November, the owl was seen by or reported to us on 21 days, or once every 1.7 days. Unlike the Carolina Wren's very restricted sighting range (mostly between two adjacent cottages), the Barred Owl was seen all over the island: at the east end near the workshop and the Big House, 500-600m away in the yard of the cottage at the far west end of the island and then along the southern edge of the island as well. It was often seen well off the main path in central areas of dense tangle and was not shy near people. It often appeared in plain view 5-10m from observers; it swooped 1-2m above my head when I was on the back deck of our cottage and landed 10m away. On two occasions, there were sightings of a Barred Owl at widely spaced locations over the course of 5-10 minutes, strongly suggesting there may have been two individuals on the island.

Shortly after sunrise on 18 October 2016, while doing a one hour Lake Ontario Sea Watch from our front deck on the north side of the island ...looking towards Kingston, I observed two Surf Scoters swimming and diving 50-100m off our beach. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, there were five individuals and on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, there were 11 birds....always in the same 100-200m area off our beach. Over 19 days of observations, between 18 October and 7 November, the Surf Scoters were seen on 13 dates, or one sighting every 1.5 days. Twelve birds were seen on three dates and 11 birds were seen on two dates, always in the morning. Two or three times when I was returning to the island by boat, from shopping in Kingston, I flushed 8-10 Surf Scoters from the water at the very east end of the island. On one occasion, they were seen near the west end of the island.

For each of these three species, the fact that they appeared at Garden Island is, in itself, noteworthy. As noted above,

each of these species has only been recorded in 3-6 of the 39 years we have kept island records. However, what seems particularly unique about these birds in 2016 is the length of time they stayed on, or in the immediate vicinity, of the island. We are assuming that the same individual(s) of each species were present throughout the species' length of stay. The wren was at the island for a period of at least 67 days; it always called in the morning, was always difficult to see and it confined nearly all of its activities to an area of approximately 50m in diameter; and except for one 10 day period, it was seen once every 1.8 days. The owl was present for at least 35 days and was also re-sighted approximately every 1.8 days. It was unusually tame (though perhaps not for the species) and allowed reasonably close approach. The flock of scoters was present for at least 21 days, was seen approximately every 1.5 days and almost always appeared in the same location first thing in the morning.

The Carolina Wren is a rare permanent resident in the Kingston area. It overwinters in small numbers, usually near water and is often at the mercy of winter conditions (Weir 2008). While we do not know if our bird overwintered on the island from late autumn to spring, it certainly set a longevity record with its stay of at least two months. We have recorded it on three previous occasions: 23 July 1992, 4 August 2005 and 5 October 2013; all sightings were of single birds. Although the Barred Owl is considered a fairly common permanent resident in the Kingston area (Weir 2008), it is a rare bird on Garden Island. We have two previous records of single birds: 19 February 2010 and a lengthy stay from 17 October – 11 November 2015 but that, too, was unusual. Great Horned Owls have

nested on the island; perhaps Barred Owls might soon also nest. The Surf Scoter, the only migrant among these three species, is listed as a fairly common, fairly regular autumn transient in the Kingston area (Weir 2008). Average autumn dates are 13 October – 8 December with moderately large numbers reported from Prince Edward Point (PEPT) (40-100) prior to 1994. Its status in Kingston Harbour was not described (Weir 2008) but, presumably, it is less common there than at PEPT. We have 1-2 records per decade, all between 7 October and 7 November and each with six or fewer birds; all birds were seen for only a single day.

A pleasing conclusion to these observations was noted shortly after we returned to the island on 1 May 2017. From 2 May until the day of this writing, 2 July, a single (presumed male) Carolina Wren has been singing almost daily on the island. He ranges quite widely from one end of the island to the other, singing, virtually throughout the day. It's nice to think this might be the same bird described above but we'll never know.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank all the Garden Island residents who kept tabs on the above birds and reported them to us, most notably Peter Hess, Eleanor Swainson, Michael McDougall, Paul Ouellette, Suzanne Hamilton and Alix McNaught and to John and Meg d'Esterre for giving us the opportunity to be residents on Garden Island since 1978.

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## Algonquin Provincial Park Field trip

*Anthony Kaduck*

Gaye Beckwith's Spring expeditions to Algonquin Provincial Park have a justified reputation for good wildlife sightings and pleasant company, so this year's event attracted a sizable contingent of 13 KFN members. In addition to the usual suspects we were joined by Peter Blancher from Ottawa and Betsy and Mar from upstate New York.

We set out on a relatively gloomy Friday morning and the trip up was largely uneventful – at least until we got to Maynooth and discovered that the famous butter tart shop has closed. This was a bit of a blow but we bravely carried on to Witney. The featured bird on the trip up was Broad-winged Hawk – we had several good views. After a quick check-in at the motel we headed to the Park visitor centre. Near the end of April the bird feeders are removed to avoid attracting bears, but there was still plenty of seed scattered on the ground and we had excellent views of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and a Yellow-bellied sapsucker.

By then it was noon and time for a pot luck picnic. After the feast we took a slow cruise West along the highway keeping our eyes peeled for wildlife. A fair number of bird species were seen but mostly in ones or twos. Moose were few and far between – we only saw two over the weekend. However we had a couple of very pleasant trail walks before heading back to Witney for dinner. The evening ended with a bit of owling and star photography.

On Saturday we set off early to explore the Opeongo Road. Our luck was good with an excellent view of a young moose, and a pair of bold Canada Jays (Grey Jays if you insist) that happily took seed from people's hands. Then it was back to the motel for a quick breakfast before heading out on further explorations. During the day we found Swamp and White-crowned Sparrows, a lone Horned Lark, Ruffed Grouse and a variety of mergansers, as well as kinglets and a few warblers, but one of the key target birds - Spruce Grouse – proved as elusive as usual. Painted Turtles were plentiful but surprisingly we were unable to spot any snappers.

The weather report for Sunday called for heavy rain and thunderstorms, but we decided to chance another early morning jaunt and our persistence was rewarded with spectacular views of a Spruce Grouse on the Spruce Bog Boardwalk.



Then common sense kicked in and we headed back South through fairly heavy rain, stooping only for the requisite Tim's break in Bancroft.

Thanks go to Gaye and Betsy for organizing the trip, to Peter for taking care of the E-Bird checklists, and to all the participants for making this a very enjoyable trip. Same time next year?

## Prince Edward Point Field Trip

*James Barber*

Date: May 14, 2017

Trip Leader: James Barber

I had the pleasure of leading an eager group of 12 to Prince Edward point mid May. Our first stop was along Babylon Road where a very obliging Upland Sandpiper flew up onto the roadside telephone wire shortly after we pulled over. The group continued onto Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory where songbirds were abundant. We tallied 19 species of warblers during our walk from the banding lab to the lighthouse. After a brief picnic lunch at the observatory, most of the group continued on to Traverse woods where we hoped to re-find a previously reported Hooded Warbler. Unfortunately the weather had other plans for us, as not long after we arrived, ominous dark clouds made the decision for us that we should move along. The remaining group headed towards Kaiser Cross Road with an important ice cream stop at Black River along the way. Highlights at the flooded fields at Kaiser included a group of Black Bellied Plovers, Bonapartes Gulls, and a variety of ducks. Our trip total

was a nice even 100 species! Thanks to a great group for an enjoyable day!



**Photo: Richard Brault**

eBird checklists from the trip:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36843076>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36837158>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36831349>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36831021>

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36842969>

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## H.R. Frink Center Field Trip

*Bonnie Bailey and Tom Wheatley*

May 28, 2017

Fifteen participants made the long trip out to the H.R. Frink Center north of Belleville to walk along the Marsh boardwalk and hike in the woods. A Merlin greeted us as we gathered in the parking area, as did the mosquitoes. As we walked along the boardwalk we noted many common marsh species and also heard Virginia rails grunting. A highlight was a distant flock of Brant geese migrating north and also 2-3 Rivers Otters swimming nearby. Meadowlarks. Grasshopper sparrow and Upland Sandpiper were heard by a few of us, and there was no mistaking the loud call of a Red-bellied Woodpecker which remained hidden

As we walked the Dunlin Trail through the woods we heard Eastern Wood-Pewees, Northern Waterthrush and Ovenbirds. A pair of Sapsuckers were seen entering a tree cavity, Eastern Phoebes attending their nests, Pileated Woodpecker calling and a cracking male Scarlet Tanager gave us crippling views.

Later we drove a short distance to an area of grassland and were treated to the songs of displaying Bobolinks and along the treeline.

In total almost 60 species were seen during the Outing. Thanks for making the trip!

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## Helen Quilliam Sanctuary and Frontenac P.P.

*Gaye Beckwith*

Date: January 8, 2017

Participants: Gaye and Betsy Beckwith, Paul McKenzie and Erwin Batalla

As forecast Sunday morning was very chilly (-15C) to start this field trip. But with the sun shining and calm conditions four hardy KFN members ventured out from Sydenham to find winter birds.



We travelled north along Holleford Road where we picked up some usual suspects, chickadees, juncos, starlings,

house sparrows, goldfinches, and a group of four hairy woodpeckers.

A raven was heard and seen near Desert Lake and a short survey of the Snug Harbour area found a few birds but nothing new. Heading south along Bedford Road, open water at the culvert in Helen Quilliam Sanctuary produced a pair of majestic trumpeter swans.



At the Frontenac Park Trail Centre we had a pileated woodpecker greet us and proved to be our only bird during our brisk 40 minute walk around the Arab Lake Gorge Trail. It was cold and quiet.

East of Sydenham we found several more species visiting feeders. We added doves, bluejays, American tree sparrows, downy woodpeckers, a red-bellied woodpecker, and 4 Eastern Bluebirds in the Botting Road area.



Finally we checked out the stream running through Sydenham and found Canada Geese, black ducks, and mallards with a total of 20 species recorded for the trip.

## KTN Elbow Lake Night Hike

*Ronan Giguère*

In preparation for the April Teen meeting we were informed of Anne's unfortunate accident and were of course very disappointed to hear that she could not join us on our night hike and so this article is dedicated to her quick recovery.

With Anne absent, Diane took the helm of the Teen Naturalists and along with Damon and me set off to meet with Carolyn Bonta and Evan Metcalfe at the Elbow Lake Environmental Education Center to go on our night hike. When we arrived Evan showed us some aerial photographs of the ELEEC and before the sun went down, we set out to mark possible woodcock locations (mainly clearings with long grass) on the photos. On our way back to the main building we checked the previously marked locations and saw four American Woodcock and heard a fifth as they engaged in their mating "dance". This included flying up and circling in the sky while their wings make a chattering sound before diving back to the same place they took off from, and then sitting while making buzzing sounds--before starting all over again. As they always come back close to the same spot we tried sneaking up on one, but the woodcock somehow evaded us and we never even saw the whites of its eyes.

While stalking the woodcocks we heard a Snipe, a Sandhill Crane, a Robin, several Starlings, a Killdeer and some Redwing Blackbirds and saw some Mallards, some Buffleheads, Canada Geese, Grackles and a Mourning Dove.

We returned to the main building where Even showed us photos of the various frogs that we had been hearing all night (mostly spring peepers) and then we set out to find some Barred Owls. Our quest for the wisest of bird kind lead us to a bridge from which we could see the whole of the night sky. Carolyn illustrated the constellations using a green laser. In doing so we startled a beaver who had been swimming in the river that the bridge crossed, creating a slight deviance from the usual peeping of our amphibious friends. We then kept quiet as Carolyn attempted to use a recording to lure some Barred Owls to our position. These only came when we had all but given up and had begun the trek back to the main building, startling us as one of them swooped over the treetops to settle further along the path. We spoke to it a bit and then heard it's companion a short way off.

We returned to the main building to write in our notebooks and then called it a night.

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## Bird Nerd Bonus

*James Barber*



1. What is this species?
2. What habitat does this species prefer?
3. What are the irregular nomadic movements due to prey scarcity (such as this past winter) called?

1. Great Gray Owl 2. Boreal forests. Extensive, dense forest interspersed with bogs and meadows 3. Irruptions