



The Blue Bill

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1 Fall Round-up 2020 November 6 - 8

by Erwin Batalla

The format for the 55th KFN Fall Round-up was the same as last year, with the focus on obtaining a better picture of the birds in the whole study area in early November. Birds were recorded between noon Friday November 6 and noon Sunday November 8.

Following the trend in the past few years, birders alone or in very small groups visited locations near Kingston. Most checklists were submitted for two counties: Frontenac and Lennox and Addington. Few people visited Prince Edward Point, a marked departure from past practices. The weather was fabulous throughout the 48 hours period. Temperatures hovered near 20°C, setting local all-time records.

The most unusual find was a Common Nighthawk seen by Wallace and Karen Rendell near Ellisville. This bird broke the record for the latest sighting of this species by two weeks. Other findings of note were:

- Snow Goose by Ken Edwards on Amherst Island
- 11 Cackling Geese by Mark Read on Wolfe Island
- Blue-winged Teal by Phil Harvey on the K&P trail
- Canvasback by Mark Read on Wolfe Island
- 4 White-winged Scoters by Ken Edwards on Amherst Island
- 5 Black-bellied Plovers by Kevin Bleeks at Martin Edwards reserve
- American Woodcock by Barbara O'Neill near Marble Rock
- Lesser Black-backed Gull by Erwin Batalla, Alexandra Simmons and Jane Revell at Cataraqui Bay
- Turkey Vulture by Tom Wheatley near Tamworth
- Eastern Screech Owl by Peter Waycik on Howe Island
- Snowy Owl by Paul Mackenzie, John Licharson and Janis Grant at Prince Edward Point
- Barred Owl by Steve Coates at Lemoine Point Conservation Area
- 12 Short-eared Owls by Anthony Kaduck, Cecile Yarrow and Jon Ruddy on Amherst Island
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Linda Nuttall and Mark Chojnacki near Bedford Mills
- Tufted Titmouse by Sharon David and Peter Waycik on Howe Island
- Horned Larks, missed last year, where seen by everyone, everywhere
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet by Kathy Webb and William Depew at Gananoque Prov. Wildlife Area
- Carolina Wren by Chip Weseloh on Garden Island
- Gray Catbird by Cole Gaerber at Marshlands Conservation Area
- Eastern Bluebirds by Gaye Beckwith and Jane Revell on the mainland and Howe Island
- Pine Grosbeak by Paul Martin near Glenburnie
- Hoary Redpoll by Mark Read at Big Sandy Bay Management Area
- Red Crossbills by Todd Norris near Verona
- White-winged Crossbill by Martin Roncetti in Kingston
- Savannah Sparrow by Dianne Croteau and Richard Brault at Martin Edwards Reserve
- American Redstart by Kathy Webb at Milburn Creek
- Northern Parula by Phil Harvey at Lemoine Point Conservation Area

South of the border, a Pectoral Sandpiper was found at the El Dorado Beach Preserve.

Contrary to last year, Common Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were reported at several locations this year. They may be present throughout the winter.

Other contributors were: Nick Bartok, Betsy Beckwith, Peter Blancher, Kyle and John Blaney, Jaimie Bortolotti, David Bree, Lisa Corbeil, Kate Dagleish, James Darling, Bruce DiLabio, Matthew Duda, Bruce Elliott, Chris Grooms, Chantal Imbeault, Michael Johnson, Brendan Kelly, Andrea Kingsley, Marlene Krami, Ellyn Lambert, Brenda Leduc, Richard Lott, Lana Marion, Liz McCabe, Andrew McKinley, Margo McMurray,

Paul O'Toole, Justin Peter, Janine Psutka, Peter Reimer, Ken Robinson, Kenneth Ross, Tina Sawicki, Janet Scott, Rick Szabo, Frances Tackaberry, James Thompson and Rita Young.

Seventy-one participants took part and a total of 125 species were observed near the 50-year average of 120. The Common Nighthawk is a new species for the cumulative list. The table below shows the highest number of each species reported in a single checklist (eBird) for the four counties: Leeds and Grenville (L & G, 21 checklists), Frontenac (F, 162 checklists), Lennox and Addington (L & A, 62 checklists), Prince Edward (PE, 10 checklists). The tallies of the highest count for the three islands near Kingston (Howe, Wolfe and Amherst) are also shown.



Figure 1: Barred Owl. (Steve Coates)



Figure 2: Tufted Titmouse. (Peter Waycik)



Figure 3: Snowy Owl. (John Licharson)



Figure 4: American Redstart. (Kathy Webb)



Figure 5: Short-eared Owl. (Janis Grant)



Figure 6: Northern Parula. (Phil Harvey)



Figure 7: Eastern Bluebird. (Jane Revell)

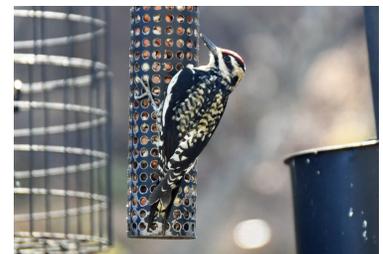


Figure 8: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. (Linda Nuttall)

Table 1: 2020 Fall Round-Up Bird Counts

Species	L & G	F	L & A	PE	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Snow Goose		1	1				1
Cackling Goose		11				11	
Canada Goose	170	8500	660	5	150	8500	400
Mute Swan	85	75	33		42	75	33
Trumpeter Swan	2	11					
Tundra Swan		169	110		6	169	110
Wood Duck		2	2			1	
Blue-winged Teal		1					
Northern Shoveler		10					
Gadwall		40	25			40	10
American Wigeon	6	500	100			500	40
Mallard	50	225	100	13	11	225	45
American Black Duck	14	40	8		1	40	8
Northern Pintail		20	5			20	
Green-winged Teal		5	10				5
Canvasback		1				1	
Redhead		7000	125			7000	125
Ring-necked Duck		400	30			400	30
Greater Scaup		2500	600			2500	600
Lesser Scaup		30	50			30	50
White-winged Scoter			4	26			4
Long-tailed Duck		40	1	250	35	40	1
Bufflehead	10	80	50	16	10	80	12
Common Goldeneye		75	50	50		75	50
Hooded Merganser	8	50	75		2	2	
Common Merganser	2	150	75	1	150	10	75
Red-breasted Merganser		30	500	50	20	30	500
Ruddy Duck		5				2	
Ruffed Grouse	1			2			
Wild Turkey	10	36	25			36	
Pied-billed Grebe		2	1				
Horned Grebe			1	20			1
Rock Pigeon	14	40	7				7
Mourning Dove	15	15	10		5	5	2
Common Nighthawk	1						

2020 Fall Round-Up Bird Counts

Species	L & G	F	L & A	PE	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
American Coot		100				15	
Black-bellied Plover			5				5
Dunlin		6				6	
Pectoral Sandpiper							
American Woodcock	1		1				1
Greater Yellowlegs	1	1	1	5		1	1
Bonaparte's Gull		40	62			40	1
Ring-billed Gull	21	51	100	1	8	10	70
Herring Gull		12	30	6	1	9	30
Lesser Black-backed Gull		1					
Great Black-backed Gull		2	4			2	4
Common Loon	1	28	19	8	28	3	19
Double-crested Cormorant		6	175	60	7	3	
Great Blue Heron	1	1	1	1		1	1
Turkey Vulture			1				
Northern Harrier		1	16		1	1	16
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1		2	1	1	
Cooper's Hawk		1	2			1	2
Bald Eagle	1	1	1		1		1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1						
Red-tailed Hawk		2	18		2	1	18
Rough-legged Hawk		2	40			2	40
Eastern Screech Owl		2			1	2	
Great Horned Owl		2	1			2	
Snowy Owl				1			
Barred Owl		1	2				1
Short-eared Owl			12				12
Belted Kingfisher		1	1	1			1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1					
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	2	1		2	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	3	4	3	3	2	1	3
Hairy Woodpecker	1	4	1	3	2		1
Pileated Woodpecker	2	1			1		
Northern Flicker	1	1	2		1		2
American Kestrel		1	1		1	1	1

2020 Fall Round-Up Bird Counts

Species	L & G	F	L & A	PE	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Merlin		1	1			1	1
Peregrine Falcon			1				1
Eastern Phoebe		1				1	
Northern Shrike			1	1			
Blue Jay	8	40	12	3	6	2	12
American Crow	2	35	21	1	5	4	21
Common Raven	1	4	7	1	1	1	7
Black-capped Chickadee	42	81	13	15	12	2	5
Tufted Titmouse		1			1		
Horned Lark	80	3	5		1	3	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	4	3	8	4	2	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1			3			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	15	8	1	1		1
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	15	4		2	2	2
Brown Creeper	1	3	1		1	1	1
Winter Wren			1	1			
Carolina Wren		1					
European Starling	10	200	110	1	40	120	100
Gray Catbird		1					
Eastern Bluebird	2	3	4		1		
Hermit Thrush		1			1	1	
American Robin	8	15	11	6	15	3	11
Cedar Waxwing		35		5	35	2	
House Sparrow	14	10	130		10	4	130
American Pipit		35	3	2	25	35	2
Evening Grosbeak		4	3	1	1		3
Pine Grosbeak		4					
House Finch	7	4	4		2		
Purple Finch	2	5	2	1	5		
Common Redpoll	30	55	55		55	40	20
Hoary Redpoll		1				1	
Red Crossbill		4					
White-winged Crossbill		1	1				1
Pine Siskin		3	35	8	3	2	35
American Goldfinch	14	30	10	25	25	25	10

2020 Fall Round-Up Bird Counts

Species	L & G	F	L & A	PE	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Lapland Longspur	1	6				6	
Snow Bunting		250	40			250	40
Chipping Sparrow		2	1				1
American Tree Sparrow	5	20	13		2	20	13
Fox Sparrow	1	6	5	1	2	6	5
Dark-eyed Junco	20	30	8	5	13	6	3
White-crowned Sparrow	1	3	1	3		1	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	8	8	2	7	8	8
Savannah Sparrow			3				3
Song Sparrow	2	3	2	1	2	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	2		2	2			
Eastern Meadowlark		1	5	1		1	5
Red-winged Blackbird	160	800	80		250	800	1
Brown-headed Cowbird		10	1			10	1
Rusty Blackbird		4		1	1	4	
Common Grackle	2	50	2	40	4	15	2
American Redstart		1					
Northern Parula		1					
Yellow-rumped Warbler			3				3
Northern Cardinal	4	5	4	1	4	3	4
Total species	55	107	93	48	58	78	79

2 Kingston Region Birds – Summer 2020 (Jun 1st – July 31st)

by Mark D. Read

The KFN reporting area is centred on MacDon-ald Park, Kingston and extends for a radial distance of 50 km. An interactive map showing the KFN circle is available on the website. If errors are noted or significant observations omitted, please 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 or phone me directly with your sightings (mark-dread@gmail.com / 613-217-1246). There were no

major rarities in the area other than a **Western Tanager** that was photographed at Henderson Harbour, NY, and promptly accepted by the local review committee.

In total, **193 species of bird** were recorded in our region during the reporting period, two down on last year's summer total of 195. All observations were obtained from [eBird](#) – 17.09% of which were shared with the KFN account – a declining statistic. In total, 362 observers logged 3131 checklists, equating to 51 097 sightings, a significant increase over last spring. As usual, an impressive num-

ber of individual birds (261 470) 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 summer of 2020 was fairly normal weather-wise but Lake Ontario again experienced high waters that took some time to recede. The impact of Covid-related travel restrictions actually translated into an upturn in the number of checklists submitted locally, though some of the more unusual late migrants were missed. Here are the highlights of summer 2020:

Mute Swan: This widespread invasive species is common across the region. Worryingly, 150 birds were seen at Prince Edward Point on 11th July (RKB).

Trumpeter Swan: Regular summer sightings came from across the area with breeding birds noted at several locations on the shield (KFN). A high count of 14 (including young) came from Perch River WMA, NY, on 20th June (LaV)

Blue-winged Teal: It was a comparable year to last with 25 records. Reports were widespread though Perch River WMA, NY, and Amherst Island had the majority of sightings.

Canvasback: Like last year, there was another unusual summer record; this time a single male was seen at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons on 17th July (KSB, KeR).

Redhead: A single bird was seen at Amherstview Sewage Lagoons on 21st July (CJG). Although they have previously bred at this location, there was no indication they had done so this year.

Yellow-billed & Black-billed Cuckoo: It wasn't a big year for Eastern and Forest Tent Caterpillars (upon which they feed), but the Gypsy Moth outbreak looks to have compensated as both species were seen in higher numbers than usual. There were 162 records of Yellow-billed Cuckoo and 175 records of Black-billed Cuckoo (KFN).

Sandhill Crane: There were 20 records this summer, an increase over previous years, with breeding confirmed at Clayton, NY, (RiB) and near Murvale, north of Kingston (CJG).

Semipalmated Plover: Two birds remained at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, through to 9th June (JaB, MaD), with the first returning bird seen at the same location on 30th July (EDB, DCRB).

Whimbrel: A flock of 25 birds was seen at Prince Edward Point on 2nd June (BaN).

Sanderling: A single bird continued at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, to 2nd June (VPM).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The first returning bird was seen at Camden Lake on 19th July (RKB, BAH).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Single birds were seen at Wilton Creek, Morven, on 11th July (BER), and at the same location on 22nd July (JAL).

Wilson's Phalarope: All 11 records came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, where a high count of 8 was made on 5th June (NiB, KJH).

Black Tern: There were 57 records this summer from a number of locations but the high count of 54 came from Brownville, NY, on 6th June where breeding was confirmed (IrM). Breeding was also confirmed at Camden Lake (KFN).

Least Bittern: It was another good season for this species with 25 records from across the region. A high tally of 10 birds (3 pairs and 4 immature birds) at Moscow Marsh was recorded on 13th July (HuM).

Great Egret: This increasing species was recorded on 20 occasions over the summer with a high count of 6 recorded at Chaumont, NY, on 24th July (GaB).

Northern Goshawk: There were 14 summer reports, most from a private location near Verona (TAN). Others birds were seen at Bellrock on 5th July (possibly the Verona bird) (AIS), and near Elgin on 18th July (Anon).

Eastern Screech-Owl: There were 3 summer records this year, with breeding confirmed at Gananoque on 6th June (LaM), and Wolfe Island

on 13th June (MDR).

Snowy Owl: A long-staying bird at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, was last seen on 8th June (BMDL)

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 10 summer records mostly from Frontenac Provincial Park and immediate area. Four birds were seen there on 22nd June (MaF).

Peregrine Falcon: There were 19 records this summer, the majority from Kingston and OPG, Bath, with breeding confirmed at the latter. Another pair is known to have bred in the Gananoque area (KFN).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Birds were seen at Prince Edward Point on 2nd and 3rd June, with 2 present on 3rd (BaN).

Loggerhead Shrike: Eleven breeding pairs fledged 28 young in the Napanee Limestone Plain IBA; two additional singletons were observed. Four adults were trapped and colour-banded with orange over metal on the right leg, as part of a four-band combination, to indicate a bird trapped in 2020. No captive-bred juveniles were released at the Napanee field site this year due to impacts of COVID-19 (Data from Wildlife Preservation Canada).

Tufted Titmouse: There was just the single record this year, from Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY, on 29th June (KeE et al).

Horned Lark: There were 6 records this summer, from Wolfe Island (2), Chambers Road, Napanee (2), Bellrock (1), and near Waupoos, Prince Edward (1) (KFN).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A single bird was seen near Ellisville on 7th June (WKR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: It was a great summer for this species with 13 records, all but one from Prince Edward Point where 1-2 birds were seen through to mid-July (KFN). Another bird was seen on Bayshore Road, Adolphustown on 27th June (CrW).

Sedge Wren: Birds were noted at OPG, Bath, on 11th June (KJH); Perch River WMA, NY, on 13th and 19th June (ShM and PhR); and Ashlands Flats WMA, NY, on 17th July (StK).

Carolina Wren: Three birds were seen; 1 at Cartwright Point, Kingston on 13th June (VPM); 1 at Murray Isle, NY, on 10th and 12th July (HaM); and 1 on Russell Road, Lansdowne on 23rd July (LaM, JET).

Northern Mockingbird: This species has had a good summer with 17 records received, most from Front Road, Kingston, and also Amherst Island. Birds were also noted at Napanee Limestone Plain IBA, Battersea, Moscow Marsh, Bellrock, and Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY (KFN).

Swainson's Thrush: Birds were noted at Charleston Lake on 14th June (LiS), Canoe Lake Road on 16th June (BNC et al), and north of Marble Rock CA on 17th June (GaU).

Red Crossbill: Singles were seen at North Sydenham Lake on 15th July (TAN); Verona on 21st and 27th July (TAN); and Warburton on 22nd July (NiR). Two birds were seen near Verona on 30th July (TAN).

White-winged Crossbill: A single bird was noted near Verona on 12th June (TAN).

Henslow's Sparrow: There were 22 records this summer, all from the known breeding locations of Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY.

Lincoln's Sparrow: An unusual record came from the Brewer's Mills area where a single bird was noted on 11th July (WTD, KAW).

Orchard Oriole: There were 19 reports this summer, an almost exact match for last year. The majority of records came from Amherst Island and Lemoine Point CA, Kingston (KFN).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reports were received from Canoe Lake Road on 3 occasions (KFN), with another recorded at Charleston Lake on 23rd July (LaM, JET).

Mourning Warbler: A single bird was at

Gananoque Lake Nature Reserve on 4th June (JaK).

Hooded Warbler: A single bird was seen at Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY, on 5th June (BiG).

Cerulean Warbler: It was another good year for this declining species with 28 records received, most from the Frontenac Provincial Park and Opinicon Road areas (KFN), though birds were noted at several different locations this year, including Marble Rock CA.

Northern Parula: Birds were seen at Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY on 14th June (AnM, RyZ).

Prairie Warbler: All 37 records came from the vicinity of Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY.

Canada Warbler: One bird was seen at Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY, on 5th June (BiG), with 2 at Charleston Lake on 18th July (GrC, BrK, DoM).

Western Tanager: A fine-looking male was photographed coming to a feeder at Henderson Harbour, NY, on 30th June (JuW).

Other species observed during the reporting period: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher,

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

Observers: Nick Bartok (NiB), Erwin D. Batalla (EDB), Gail Benson (GaB), R. Kyle Blaney (RKB), Jaimie Bortolotti (JaB), Gray Carlin (GrC), Barbara N. Charlton (BNC), Dianne Croteau/Richard Brault (DCRB), Richard Brouse (RiB), Kevin S. Bleeks (KSB), Bruce M. Di Labio (BMDL), William T. Depew (WTD), Matthew Duda (MaD), Kevin Ebert (KeE), Matt Fyfe (MaF), Chris J. Grooms (CJG), Bill Gruenbaum (BiG), Brad Hamilton (BAH), Kurt J. Hennige (KJH), John A. Licharson (JAL), James Kamstra (JaK), Steve Kelling (StK), Brendan Kelly (BrK), V. Paul Mackenzie (VPM), Andrew Marden (AnM), Lana Marion (LaM),

Irene Mazzocchi (IrM), Doug McRae (DoM), Hugh Metcalfe (HuM), Haynes Miller (HaM), Shai Mitra (ShM), Baxter Naday (BaN), Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), Todd A. Norris (TAN), Mark D. Read (MDR), Wallace & Karen Rendell (WKR), Phil Ribolow (PhR), Nicole Richardson (NiR); Ken

Robinson (KeR), Alex Stone (ALS), Linda Sunderland (LiS), James E. Thompson (JET), Gary Ure (GaU), Lance Verderame (LaV), Kathy A. Webb (KAW), Julie West (JuW), Craig Whiteside (CrW), Ryan Zucker (RyZ).

3 Odonata List & Yearly Sightings 2020

by Al Quinsey



Figure 9: Twin-spotted Spiketail. (Bruce Ripley)

2020 was a great year for Odonata sightings with 80 species recorded in the Kingston area. Most observations were obtained from iNaturalist through which 166 observers submitted 1917 sightings, more than double the 867 sightings from 2019!

A typically uncommon species, the Cyrano Darner (*Nasiaeschna pentacantha*) was sighted several times this season with 8 of 18 sightings in Ontario being in the Kingston Study Area. Other notable sightings include the Twin-spotted Spiketail (*Cordulegaster maculata*), Delta-spotted Spiketail (*Cordulegaster diastatops*), Williamson's Emerald (*Somatochlora williamsoni*), Spot-winged Glider (*Pantala hymenaea*), Lyre Tipped Spreadwing (*Lestes unguiculatus*), and Unicorn Clubtail (*Arigomphus villosipes*).

Photographs of dragonflies and damselflies can be submitted to iNaturalist to be included in future sightings lists. Alternatively, sightings can be emailed to me (alquinsey@hotmail.com). The more sightings we receive the more accurate our understanding of dragonfly and damselfly distri-

butions will become. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to submit Odonata observations this year.

Observers: William Depew, Cameron Eckert, Paul Mackenzie, Todd Norris, Linda Nuttall, Bruce Ripley, Jim Thompson, Peter Waycik, Kathy Webb, and 158 iNaturalist users.



Figure 10: Cyrano Darner. (Bruce Ripley)



Figure 11: Dragonhunter. (Peter Waycik)

Table 2: Odonata First and Last Sightings for 2020

Common Name	Latin Name	First/Last Date	First/Last Location
American Emerald	<i>Cordulia shurtleffii</i>	20 May 2020	Love Rd.
		14 Jun 2020	Davis Lake
Beaverpond Baskettail	<i>Epithica canis</i>	20 May 2020	Love Rd.
		15 Jun 2020	Factory St. Trail
Springtime Darner	<i>Basiaeschna janata</i>	21 May 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		09 Jun 2020	Fuller Rd. Howe Island
Dusky Clubtail	<i>Phanogomphus spicatus</i>	21 May 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		12 Jun 2020	Black Lake Rd.
Boreal Bluet	<i>Enallagma boreale</i>	21 May 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		17 Jun 2020	Cataraqui Trail, Opinicon Rd.
Stream Cruiser	<i>Didymops transversa</i>	23 May 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		05 Jun 2020	Chaffey's Lock
Eastern Forktail	<i>Ischnura verticalis</i>	23 May 2020	Gananoque River
		29 Aug 2020	Lemoine Point
Dot-tailed Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia intacta</i>	23 May 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
		18 Jul 2020	Charleston Lake Provincial Park
Four-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula quadramaculata</i>	23 May 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
		30 Jul 2020	Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area
Chalk-fronted Corporal	<i>Ladona julia</i>	27 May 2020	Sand Hill Rd.
		14 Jul 2020	Blue Mountain Rd.
Common Baskettail	<i>Epithica cynosura</i>	27 May 2020	Sand Hill Rd.
		10 Jun 2020	Prince Edward Point
Taiga Bluet	<i>Coenagrion resolutum</i>	28 May 2020	Second Lake Rd.
		14 Jun 2020	Gananoque Provincial Wildlife Area
Twin-spotted Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster maculata</i>	28 May 2020	Echo Lake Rd.
		28 May 2020	Echo Lake Rd.
Belted Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia proxima</i>	28 May 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
		13 Jul 2020	Echo Lake Rd.
Common Whitetail	<i>Plathemis lydia</i>	29 May 2020	Sand Hill Rd.
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Calico Pennant	<i>Celitemis elisa</i>	30 May 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Racket-tailed Emerald	<i>Dorocordulia libera</i>	30 May 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		13 Jul 2020	Echo Lake Rd.

Table 2: Odonata First and Last Sightings for 2020

Common Name	Latin Name	First/Last Date	First/Last Location
Horned Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus cornutus</i>	01 Jun 2020	Garter Lake
		30 Jun 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
Aurora Damsel	<i>Chromagrion conditum</i>	01 Jun 2020	Sand Hill Rd.
		28 Jun 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
Fragile Forktail	<i>Ischnura posita</i>	05 Jun 2020	Cataraqui Creek
		09 Sep 2020	Gander Creek
Lancet Clubtail	<i>Phanogomphus exilis</i>	06 Jun 2020	Love Rd.
		06 Jul 2020	Kingsford Conservation Area
Frosted Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia frigida</i>	07 Jun 2020	Love Rd.
		13 Jul 2020	Echo Lake Rd.
Spiny Baskettail	<i>Epithea spinigera</i>	08 Jun 2020	Sand Hill Rd.
		28 Jun 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
Eastern Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>	09 Jun 2020	Fuller Rd.
		28 Aug 2020	Lemoine Point
Widow Skimmer	<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>	10 Jun 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
		26 Aug 2020	Jones Falls Bay
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula pulchella</i>	10 Jun 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
		14 Aug 2020	Thousand Islands National Park
Slaty Skimmer	<i>Libellula incesta</i>	11 Jun 2020	Cataraqui Trail, McGillivray Rd.
		15 Aug 2020	Little John Lake
Elegant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes inaequalis</i>	11 Jun 2020	Charleston Lake Provincial Park
		28 Jun 2020	Cataraqui Trail, Hwy 15
Lilypad Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus furcifer</i>	11 Jun 2020	Charleston Lake Provincial Park
		30 Jun 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
Ebony Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	11 Jun 2020	Ken Garret Memorial Park
		26 Aug 2020	Babcock Mill Cascade
Harlequin Darner	<i>Gomphaeschna furcillata</i>	11 Jun 2020	Charleston Lake Provincial Park
		21 Jul 2020	Rd. 25, Napanee
Cyrano Darner	<i>Nasiaeschna pentacantha</i>	12 Jun 2020	Black Rapids Rd.
		09 Jul 2020	Parrots Bay
Blue Dasher	<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>	12 Jun 2020	Black Rapids Rd.
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Sedge sprite	<i>Nehalennia irene</i>	12 Jun 2020	Summers Rd.
		14 Jul 2020	Hardwood Ln.

Table 2: Odonata First and Last Sightings for 2020

Common Name	Latin Name	First/Last Date	First/Last Location
Amber-winged Spreadwing	<i>Lestes eurinus</i>	12 Jun 2020	Gananoque Lake Rd.
		12 Jun 2020	Bedford Mills
Unicorn Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus villosipes</i>	14 Jun 2020	Dulcemaine Rd.
		21 Jun 2020	Russel Rd.
Orange Bluet	<i>Enallagma signatum</i>	14 Jun 2020	Thousand Island National Park
		29 Aug 2019	Lemoine Point
Common Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>	14 Jun 2020	Thousand Island National Park
		15 Sep 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
Powdered Dancer	<i>Argia moesta</i>	15 Jun 2020	Factory St. Trail
		24 Aug 2020	Forest Mills
Marsh Bluet	<i>Enallagma ebrium</i>	16 Jun 2020	Echo Lake Rd.
		20 Jun 2020	Gananoque River
Elfin Skimmer	<i>Nannothemis bella</i>	16 Jun 2020	Echo Lake Rd.
		07 Jul 2020	Depot Lake Conservation Area
Delta-spotted Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster diastatops</i>	16 Jun 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
		16 Jun 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
Dragonhunter	<i>Hagenius brevistylus</i>	17 Jun 2020	Devil Lake
		16 Aug 2020	Lost Bay
Canada Darner	<i>Aeshna canadensis</i>	17 Jun 2020	Telephone Bay
		30 Aug 2020	Mill Pond
Familiar Bluet	<i>Enallagma civile</i>	19 Jun 2020	Prince Edward Point
		29 Aug 2020	Alwington Ave.
Halloween Pennant	<i>Celitemis eponina</i>	20 Jun 2020	James Wilson Rd.
		05 Sep 2020	Sand Lake Park
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	<i>Drogomphus spinosus</i>	21 Jun 2020	Russell Rd.
		07 Aug 2020	Lake Opinicon
Slender Spreadwing	<i>Lestes rectangularis</i>	21 Jun 2020	Russell Rd.
		09 Sep 2020	Gander Creek
Northern Spreadwing	<i>Lestes disjunctus</i>	22 Jun 2020	Prince Edward Point
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Eastern Least Clubtail	<i>Stylogomphus albistylus</i>	25 Jun 2020	Forest Mills
		24 Aug 2020	Forest Mills
River Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx aequabilis</i>	25 Jun 2020	Forest Mills
		09 Jul 2020	Kingsford Conservation Area

Table 2: Odonata First and Last Sightings for 2020

Common Name	Latin Name	First/Last Date	First/Last Location
Stream Bluet	<i>Enallagma exulans</i>	25 Jun 2020	Third Depot Lake
		08 Aug 2020	Gananoque Lake
Emerald Spreadwing	<i>Lestes dryas</i>	25 Jun 2020	Prince Edward Point
		15 Jul 2020	Salmon River
Rusty Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis</i>	25 Jun 2020	Forest Mills
		09 Jul 2020	Forest Mills
Eastern Amberwing	<i>Perithemis tenera</i>	26 Jun 2020	Mkendry Rd.
		26 Aug 2020	Golf Course Rd.
Variable Dancer	<i>Argia fumipennis</i>	27 Jun 2020	Little Lake, Elgin
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
White-faced Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum obtrusum</i>	28 Jun 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Prince Baskettail	<i>Epithica princeps</i>	28 Jun 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
		27 Jul 2020	Napanee River, South Napanee
Green-striped Darner	<i>Aeshna verticalis</i>	28 Jun 2020	Thousand Island National Park
		28 Jun 2020	Thousand Island National Park
Hudsonian Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia hudsonica</i>	28 Jun 2020	Thousand Island National Park
		28 Jun 2020	Thousand Island National Park
Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>	03 Jul 2020	Prince Edward Point
		06 Sep 2020	Rock Dunder
Black-tipped Darner	<i>Aeshna tuberculifera</i>	06 Jul 2020	Helen Quilliam Sanctuary
		14 Aug 2020	Love Rd.
Swift River Cruiser	<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	09 Jul 2020	Forest Mills
		09 Jul 2020	Forest Mills
Brush Tipped Emerald	<i>Somatochlora walshii</i>	15 Jul 2020	Menzel Centennial Provincial Nature Reserve
		15 Jul 2020	Menzel Centennial Provincial Nature Reserve
Spot-winged Glider	<i>Pantala hymenaea</i>	16 Jul 2020	Love Rd.
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Williamson's Emerald	<i>Somatochlora williamsoni</i>	18 Jul 2020	Prince Edward Point
		18 Jul 2020	Prince Edward Point
Lance-tipped Darner	<i>Aeshna constricta</i>	20 Jul 2020	Sand Hill Rd.
		03 Sep 2020	Fuller Rd. Howe Island
Shadow Darner	<i>Aeshna umbrosa</i>	20 Jul 2020	Button Bay Rd.
		18 Sep 2019	Chaffey's Lock

Table 2: Odonata First and Last Sightings for 2020

Common Name	Latin Name	First/Last Date	First/Last Location
Vesper Bluet	<i>Enallagma vesperum</i>	21 Jul 2020	Thousand Island National Park
		26 Aug 2020	Lemoine Point
Skimming Bluet	<i>Enallagma geminatum</i>	21 Jul 2020	Landons Bay
		28 Aug 2020	Lemoine Point
Swamp Spreadwing	<i>Lestes vigilax</i>	21 Jul 2020	Thousand Island National Park
		29 Aug 2020	Lemoine Point
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	24 Jul 2020	Kingston Mills
		30 Aug 2020	Gander Creek
Autumn Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>	26 Jul 2020	Chaffey's Lock
		14 Nov 2020	Prince Edward Point
Fawn Darner	<i>Boyeria vinosa</i>	26 Jul 2020	Chaffey's Lock
		26 Jul 2020	Chaffey's Lock
Spotted Spreadwing	<i>Lestes congener</i>	05 Aug 2020	Big Clear Lake
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Wandering Glider	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	18 Aug 2020	Preston Cove, Amherst Island
		24 Aug 2020	Factory St. Trail
Lyre Tipped Spreadwing	<i>Lestes unguiculatus</i>	18 Aug 2020	Preston Cover, Amherst Island
		20 Aug 2020	Depot Creek Nature Reserve
Lake Darner	<i>Aeshna eremita</i>	26 Aug 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
		26 Aug 2020	Rd. 38, Piccadilly
Cherry Faced Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum internum</i>	28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
Sweetflag Spreadwing	<i>Enallagma annexum</i>	28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn
		28 Aug 2020	Rd. 1, Hayburn

4 Kingston Butterfly Summary for 2020

by John Poland

So what did 2020 bring for the butterfly enthusiasts in Kingston? I would say it was an average to good year for sightings. The table shows that 82 species were reported but no new species were added to the accumulated list of 96.

Peter Waycik kindly provided me with a web address to the Kingston Study Area for butterflies

which can be found at [iNaturalist](#).

This gives you data for all the butterflies reported on iNaturalist within the 50 km radius around Kingston in 2020 and if you want to check on other species just change butterflies to say birds or owls. Voila!! Thanks Peter. This year I have again incorporated results as given in iNatural-

ist for the Kingston region (50 km circle) along with others communicated to me. Last year there were over 900 reports (59 species) in iNaturalist whereas this year there were 2330 (79 species) as many more naturalists chose to report their sightings here. The final column in the table lists the number of times each species was reported which gives a broad indication of their abundance; duplicates have been subtracted where an author reported a species multiple times for the same location and date.

In the rare sees category, an American Snout visited my Hackberry tree again this year but only for about 2 hours and a Common Buckeye was observed at the KFN property on Amherst Island. The only species which is normally seen but which was not reported this year was the Chryxus Arctic; its only reliable site is at Rock Dunder which was closed to visitors due to the pandemic. It's also worth commenting that one butterfly, the Compton Tortoiseshell, was a rare sighting 4 or 5 years ago but now it is relatively common. Monarchs were plentiful in 2020.



Figure 12: Arctic Skipper. (Bruce Ripley)



Figure 14: Giant Swallowtails. (Bruce Ripley)



Figure 16: Juniper Hairstreak. (Bruce Ripley)



Figure 13: Dion Skipper. (Bruce Ripley)



Figure 15: Indian Skipper. (Bruce Ripley)



Figure 17: Silver-spotted Skipper. (Bruce Ripley)

Table 3: Reported Butterfly Sightings for 2020

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports
Black Swallowtail	22 May	12 Sep	chrysalis	61
Giant Swallowtail	04 Jun	05 Sep	chrysalis	90
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	28 May	21 Jun	chrysalis	18
Canadian/Eastern Tiger Swallowtail ¹	20 Jun	20 Aug	chrysalis	45
Mustard White	17 May	01 Aug	chrysalis	6

¹Hybrid of Canadian and Eastern Tiger Swallowtails

Table 3: Reported Butterfly Sightings for 2020

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports
West Virginia White	02 May	20 May	chrysalis	0
Cabbage White	02 May	06 Nov	chrysalis	51
Olympia Marble	15 May	23 May	chrysalis	1
Clouded Sulphur	20 May	10 Nov	chrysalis	87
Orange Sulphur	04 Jun	05 Oct	migratory	7
Harvester	16 Jun	14 Oct	unknown	1
American Copper	21 May	29 Sep	unknown	9
Bronze Copper	29 May	28 Sep	egg	22
Bog Copper	07 Jul	12 Jul	egg	2
Coral Hairstreak	08 Jul	01 Aug	egg	7
Acadian Hairstreak	04 Jul	01 Aug	egg	10
Banded Hairstreak	28 Jun	27 Jul	egg	21
Hickory Hairstreak	04 Jul	18 Jul	egg	8
Striped Hairstreak	11 Jul	28 Jul	egg	2
Hoary Elfin	21 May	24 May	chrysalis	4
Henry's Elfin	28 Apr	17 May	chrysalis	0
Eastern Pine Elfin	17 May	26 May	chrysalis	6
Juniper Hairstreak	24 May	25 Jun	chrysalis	5
Gray Hairstreak	07 Jun	12 Sep	chrysalis	8
Eastern Tailed Blue	18 May	10 Oct	caterpillar fully grown	61
Northern Spring Azure ²	27 Apr	06 Aug	chrysalis	37
Summer Azure ³	07 Jun	03 Sep	chrysalis	4
Silvery Blue	20 May	11 Jun	chrysalis	24
American Snout	15 Jul	15 Jul	migratory	0
Great Spangled Fritillary	25 Jun	27 Sep	caterpillar newly hatched	29
Aphrodite Fritillary	05 Jul	22 Aug	caterpillar first instar	12
Silver Bordered Fritillary	07 Jul	07 Jul	caterpillar half grown	1
Meadow Fritillary	21 May	07 Aug	caterpillar	5
Harris Checkerspot	16 Jun	04 Jul	caterpillar	5
Northern Crescent	29 May	01 Oct	caterpillar	70
Pearl Crescent	06 Jun	12 Sep	caterpillar	22

²The Azures have been reclassified: in the past we reported Spring and Summer Azures but most, if not all of these, were the same species which are now called Northern Spring Azure or *Calestrina Lucia*. A few *Calestrina neglecta* or Summer Azure are likely present but difficult to identify.

³See footnote 2

Table 3: Reported Butterfly Sightings for 2020

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports
Baltimore Checkerspot	28 May	12 Jul	caterpillar	11
Question Mark	03 May	24 Sep	migratory	6
Eastern Comma	26 Mar	04 Nov	butterfly	63
Gray Comma	06 Apr	17 Oct	butterfly	24
Common Buckeye	01 Oct	01 Oct	migratory	0
Mourning Cloak	28 Mar	05 Nov	butterfly	34
Compton Tortoiseshell	02 Apr	28 Sep	butterfly	24
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	02 Apr	15 Oct	butterfly	12
American Lady	05 Jun	03 Oct	migratory	9
Painted Lady	17 May	24 Aug	migratory	9
Red Admiral	03 May	05 Nov	migratory	11
White Admiral	11 Jun	01 Sep	caterpillar partly grown	47
Viceroy	06 Jun	01 Oct	caterpillar half grown	28
Monarch	04 Jun	17 Oct	migratory	141
Hackberry Emperor	25 Jun	01 Jul	caterpillar mature	2
Northern Pearly Eye	22 Jun	07 Aug	caterpillar	36
Eyed Brown	25 Jun	06 Aug	caterpillar half grown	14
Appalachian Brown	26 Jun	29 Aug	caterpillar half grown	6
Little Wood Satyr	06 Jun	08 Jul	caterpillar	46
Common Ringlet	05 Jun	03 Oct	caterpillar	33
Common Wood Nymph	01 Jul	24 Aug	caterpillar newly hatched	37
Silver Spotted Skipper	24 May	24 Aug	chrysalis	38
Northern Cloudywing	01 Jun	23 Jul	caterpillar mature	40
Dreamy Duskywing	19 May	15 Jun	caterpillar mature	7
Juvenal's Duskywing	18 May	16 Jun	caterpillar mature	14
Columbine Duskywing	17 May	26 Aug	caterpillar mature	7
Wild Indigo Duskywing	13 Jul	27 Sep	caterpillar mature	6
Arctic Skipper	11 Jun	12 Jun	caterpillar mature	2
Least Skipper	13 Jun	03 Sep	caterpillar mature	24
European Skipper	16 Jun	12 Jul	egg	31
Leonard's Skipper	10 Aug	12 Sep	caterpillar early instar	6
Indian Skipper	01 Jun	20 Jun	caterpillar	15
Peck's Skipper	07 Jun	23 Jul	caterpillar partly grown	7
Tawny Edged Skipper	30 May	26 Aug	chrysalis	20

Table 3: Reported Butterfly Sightings for 2020

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports
Crossline Skipper	04 Jul	23 Jul	caterpillar mature	6
Long Dash	11 Jun	10 Jul	caterpillar partly grown	18
Northern Broken Dash	25 Jun	18 Jul	caterpillar	12
Little Glassywing	29 Jun	12 Jul	caterpillar	8
Delaware Skipper	30 Jun	26 Jul	caterpillar or chrysalis	14
Hobomok Skipper	29 May	09 Jul	caterpillar	57
Mulberrywing	08 Jul	18 Jul	unknown	4
Broad Winged Skipper	09 Jul	01 Aug	caterpillar	12
Two Spotted Skipper	25 Jun	25 Jun	caterpillar	1
Dion Skipper	04 Jul	23 Jul	caterpillar partly grown	5
Dun Skipper	04 Jul	22 Aug	caterpillar	33
Common Roadside Skipper	19 May	20 Jun	caterpillar	3

Contributors: Gaye Beckwith, David Edwards, John Hall, Paul McKenzie, John Poland, Bruce Ripley, Peter Waycik, Kathy Webb & Bill Depew and others via iNaturalist.

5 Wolfe Island IBA Waterfowl Survey – 7th November 2020

by Mark D. Read

There are 6 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) either fully or partially within the study area of the Kingston Field Naturalists. An [interactive map](#) is available on the IBA Canada website, where you can view more information about IBAs in general but also specifically about each IBA. The map shows these IBAs in relation to the KFN circle. As you can see a good chunk of our area is covered by IBAs, indicating (in case you didn't already know it) that we are blessed with a diversity of habitats and wildlife in the local area. Starting at the bottom left and progressing clockwise, we have:

1. Prince Edward County South Shore IBA
2. Napanee Limestone Plain IBA
3. Frontenac Forests IBA
4. Wolfe Island IBA

5. Pigeon Island IBA
6. Amherst Island IBA

I will write a more thorough article for a future edition of Blue Bill that will look at the purpose of IBAs and the role of local caretakers, such as KFN, but today I wish to present the results from our recent waterfowl survey on Wolfe Island.

Both Wolfe and Amherst islands are recognised for globally significant populations of waterfowl. As such, it is important to conduct full surveys at least once a year, but preferably more often, in order to obtain a snapshot of current trends. In a typical (non-COVID) year, this event is advertised, and extra participants are always very welcome. Waterfowl surveys take place on both islands on the Saturday of the Fall Roundup which usually falls on the first weekend of November. That way, any movement of birds between the islands (leading to

potential double-counting) is minimised, and the combined totals hopefully reflect genuine numbers. Unfortunately, Amherst Island wasn't surveyed this year.

Saturday 7th November, and the days and weeks leading up to it, was exceptionally mild. This made for a pleasant birding experience but, unfortunately, the typical build-ups of waterfowl that we would normally hope to see were not there. That's not to say we didn't see good diversity and reasonable overall numbers, but it was very noticeable that many of the 26 locations visited that day didn't have any waterfowl at all. Although the focus was on waterfowl, any bird seen whilst surveying the island was counted. In total, exactly 80 species were recorded. The table summarises waterfowl totals only but a full list is available upon request.

Although numbers were generally less than "normal," the number of Redhead using the island remains important – the 10 100 birds seen is approximately 1.7% of the global population. In a typical year, we often approach 2.5% on Wolfe alone. Add in Amherst and South Shore IBAs and you begin to see why recognising these IBAs is important. It was also good to locate 11 Cackling Geese on the survey. This diminutive goose was formally treated as a subspecies of Canada Goose and was most likely overlooked much of the time (due to size and lack of interest). That being said, with 12311 Canada Geese to sort through, picking out the smaller Cackling Goose can be a challenge. The number of Tundra Swans was also good at 463, a better year than normal, but on the flip side, the number of non-native Mute Swans was also high at 151.

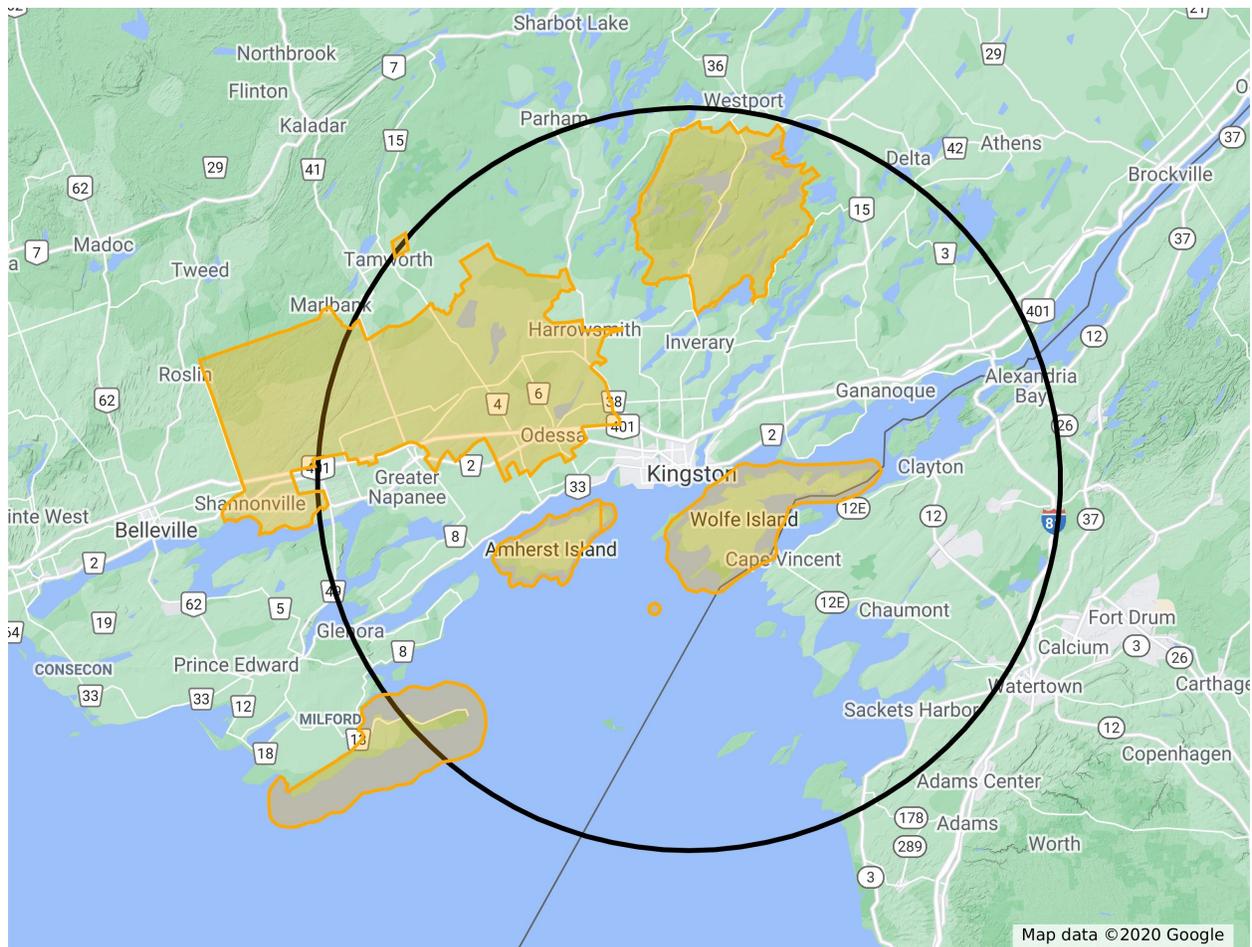


Figure 18: Location of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in the KFN Study Area. (Mark D. Read)

Table 4: Waterfowl numbers on Wolfe Island – 7th November 2020

Common Name	Latin Name	Count
Cackling Goose (Richardson's)	<i>Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii</i>	11
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	12 311
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	151
Tundra Swan (Whistling)	<i>Cygnus columbianus columbianus</i>	463
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	1
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	2
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	213
American Wigeon	<i>Mareca americana</i>	564
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	848
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	96
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	40
Green-winged Teal (American)	<i>Anas crecca carolinensis</i>	2
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	1
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	10 100
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	440
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	4280
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	30
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	139
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	518
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	216
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	253
Common Merganser (North American)	<i>Mergus merganser americanus</i>	10
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	183
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	2
American Coot (Red-shielded)	<i>Fulica americana (Red-shielded)</i>	15

Non-waterfowl highlights included 6 Dunlin, 2 Eastern Screech-Owls, 1 late Eastern Phoebe, 132 American Pipits, 115 Common Redpolls, 1 Hoary Redpoll, 4 Pine Siskins, 7 Lapland Longspur, 304 Snow Buntings, 6 Fox Sparrows and 4 Rusty Blackbirds.



Figure 19: 11 Cackling Geese were seen at Button Bay. (Mark D. Read)



Figure 20: It's not all about waterfowl – 7 Lapland Longspurs were also encountered. (Mark D. Read)



Figure 21: Approximately 1.7% of the global population of Redhead were seen. (Mark D. Read)

6 Articles

6.1 A Dozen Common Grasses in the Kingston area

by Paul Mackenzie

Many of us pass by grasses as we look for wildflowers. They are less colourful and at first glance many look alike. Actually if you use a hand lens some grass flowers are spectacular. Many grasses are easy to recognize and will be known to you already. We tend to judge species based on their utility for us. For humans, grasses such as corn, rice, wheat, barley, oats, sorghum and millet are vital crops. The root system of many grasses is very extensive and stabilizes the soil. Some gardeners and naturalists use the pejorative term weed for successful species that compete with what we try to grow or with plants we value more.

Grasses (Family Graminae or Poaceae) have stems with joints (sedge stems have no joints) and narrow leaves with parallel veins.

There are over 150 grasses described in our area about 2/3 of which are native and 1/3 are introduced. Many on the list are unknown to me. I chose some that I can recognize for this article. Among features to look for are the height, the shape of the flowering heads (inflorescence) and whether they are branched or single spikes, the shape of the grains (seeds) if present, the width and shape of the leaves, features of the leaf sheath (where the leaf joins the stem), the habitat (field, forest, wetland) and the habit of growth (tufted, colonial or single plants).



Figure 22: Phragmites. (Paul Mackenzie)

1. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)

A very tall and invasive non-native species which is displacing cattails and other native wetland plants in our region. Everyone has probably noticed clonal clumps of these grasses growing along roadside ditches and wetlands. There is a native subspecies of Common Reed which is smaller and not as invasive.



Figure 23: Phragmites. (Paul Mackenzie)

2. Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)



Figure 24: Reed Canary Grass. (Paul Mackenzie)

A tall non-native grass of damp meadows. An invasive species forming large colonies but also grows with other grasses. It has wide (2 cm) leaves topped by a tall feathery spike. Like many grasses

the inflorescence spreads in a wide head when in flower and hugs the stem as a long narrow top after flowering.



Figure 25: Reed Canary Grass. (Paul Mackenzie)

3. Orchard Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*)



Figure 26: Orchard Grass flowers. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 27: Orchard Grass. (Paul Mackenzie)

Another non-native perennial grass often scattered

along roadsides among other weedy plants. Sometimes they are included in hay crops. Flowers and seeds are in irregular clusters, located at the top of the culm (stem) above the leaves, often with 1-2 short side stems. Called chickenhead grass in some states.

4. Meadow Timothy (*Phleum pratense*)

Timothy is another very common non-native grass, typically included in high quality hay production. It has single narrow cylindrical heads with a blunt top, that is green in spring and tan coloured by fall. Middle photo is Timothy in flower with the anthers (pollen producing structures) exposed.



Figure 28: Meadow Timothy. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 29: Meadow Timothy. (Paul Mackenzie)

5. Foxtails: Yellow Foxtail (*Setaria pumila*) and Green Foxtail (*Setaria viridis*)

The foxtails are also non-native grasses with bristly

(hairy) cylindrical heads. The bristles or awns are purple or green in Green Foxtail and there is no hair (seta) where the leaves join the stem. The bristles are yellow in Yellow Foxtail and there are obvious long hairs where leaves join the stem. Giant Foxtail (*Setaria faberi*) is much bigger and uncommon here. The spiky seeds of all foxtails are a hazard for many pets acting like porcupine quills that can penetrate the pads and mouth lining.



Figure 30: Green Foxtail plant with seeds. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 31: Green Foxtail Leaf and stem. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 32: Yellow Foxtail seed head. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 33: Yellow Foxtail leaf sheath with hair. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 34: Foxtail Barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) has very long awns extending from the spike giving it a feathery appearance. (Paul Mackenzie)

6. Crabgrasses (*Digitaria sp.*)



Figure 35: Smooth Crabgrass. (Paul Mackenzie)

Another weedy non-native grass that enjoys lawns, gardens and roadsides. Flowers and seeds

in August on long thin branches spreading like thin fingers. Two species: smooth and hairy.



Figure 36: Hairy Crabgrass. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 37: Common Panic Grass, Marshlands RR. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 38: Common Witch Grass, Golf Club Road. (Paul Mackenzie)

Common Panic Grass or Witch Grass (*Panicum capillare*): The leaves of this native species look

somewhat like a Crabgrass but the seeds are on lacy thread-like stems. If you look very closely you will see that this species, like all *Panicum*, has a single flower at the end of each spikelet.



Figure 39: Common Witch Grass, Golf Club Road. (Paul Mackenzie)

7. Barnyard Grass (*Echinochloa crusgalli*)

An introduced and weedy annual. The flowers and seeds are among some leavers and not towering above the foliage. Seeds have short bristles and are green to purplish and crowded along heavy bending side stems.



Figure 40: Barnyard Grass, Sibbit Road. (Paul Mackenzie)

8. Bottlebrush Grass (*Hystrix patula*)

This grass is easy to recognize once familiar with the bottlebrush-like appearance of the seed head. The flowers and seeds are spaced out and carry long bristles. It is a native perennial of open woods.



Figure 41: Bottlebrush Grass. (Paul Mackenzie)



Figure 42: Bottlebrush Grass, Lost Bay. (Paul Mackenzie)

9. Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*)



Figure 43: Smooth Brome. (Paul Mackenzie)

The inflorescence spreads out on side stems like our stereotype of a grass. The seeds at the ends

of these stems are long and smooth (minimal bristles) in small clusters. An introduced fodder grass on farms very commonly seen growing on roadsides.



Figure 44: Smooth Brome. (Paul Mackenzie)

10. Rice Cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*)

A native perennial leafy grass of vegetated wetlands. Flowers and seeds on small branched heads among the leaves. The leaf edges are sharp and bear tiny slivers of silica (think shards of glass!). If you enter a patch with bare legs this grass should turn you back.



Figure 45: Rice Cutgrass, Meyer Woods. (Paul Mackenzie)

11. Creeping Bentgrass (*Agostis stolonifera*)

A relatively short grass with bending leaves and seeds along bending stems. Grows in our garden where I fail to mulch.



Figure 46: Creeping Bentgrass. (Paul Mackenzie)

12. Poa grasses



Figure 47: *Poa compressa* (Canada Bluegrass = Flat-stemmed Blue Grass). (Paul Mackenzie)

6.2 Canadian Bat Box Project

by Karen Vanderwolf

If you have a bat box I want to know about it!

Bats in Canada face multiple threats from habitat loss and disease. As towns and cities expand, the large old trees that bats call home are being cleared, and bats are losing their roosts. Bats need a warm and secure place to roost during the day

The Genus *Poa* is a large genus of grasses found throughout the Nearctic regions of the world. They have leaf tips that often end in a keel shaped V. If you tease apart the individual florets, you will encounter a white feathery ligule at the base of each flower, which is diagnostic of this group. Canada Blue grass (*Poa canadensis*) tolerates shade as does Fowl Blue Grass *Poa palustris*. Lawns are often comprised of *Poa* grasses including Kentucky Blue Grass *Poa pratensis*.



Figure 48: Fowl Blue Grass. (Paul Mackenzie)

In summary, look a little harder when you pass a grass.

Thanks to Dale Kristensen for several photos suggestions and editing. Remaining errors are mine.

in the summer. A bat box is a simple and effective way to provide additional roosting habitat for bats, but little is known about bat box use in Canada. This especially important as three bat species in Canada are listed as endangered: little brown bats, northern long-eared bats, and tricolored bats. Bats now face additional persecution due to worries

about COVID-19, but bats in North America do not have the virus that causes COVID-19 [[article](#)].

Which bat species use bat boxes?

Of the 18 bat species that are regularly found in Canada, 13 have been documented using bat boxes, although these data come from studies farther south in the United States. Current recommendations on bat box design are based on research in the United States, especially Texas, and in Europe. Since the box design bats prefer varies by region and species, more information on bat boxes in Canada is urgently needed. There is very little previous research about which bat species prefer which bat box designs in Canada. Little brown bats are known to use bat boxes throughout Canada, big brown bats use boxes in some parts of Canada, and Yuma bats use boxes in British Columbia.



Figure 49: This bat box on the side of a house in New Brunswick houses little brown bats and their pups during the summer. (Karen Vanderwolf)

How you can help!

Our research seeks to determine which bat species use bat boxes across Canada, what box designs are preferred by bats, and which temperatures bats prefer for roosting in our northern climate. To accomplish this, we need to know where bat boxes are located in Canada, the physical characteristics of the boxes, and whether they are being used by bats! Participants will be sent temperature loggers to install in their box and supplies to collect guano (bat poop), as bat species can be identified from

guano.

If you have a bat box and would like to participate in this study, please fill out this online multiple-choice [survey](#) with questions about your bat box. Your participation is important even if your box does not have any bats!

This project is in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Canadian Wildlife Federation [[article](#)].

More information about which box designs bats use in Canada will help bat conservation by providing recommendations for improving bat box design and placement in our northern climate.

Why install a bat box?

Installing a bat box gives bats an alternative to roosting in your house, and since all bats in Canada eat only insects, you may even notice a decrease in the insect population around your house! Bats eat a variety of insects, including agricultural and forestry pests. You can watch bats swooping around your backyard at dusk catching insects in midair.

How do I tell if bats are using my box?

You can tell whether your box is being used by bats by searching for guano underneath your box and watching your box at sunset in June to count bats as they emerge for an evening of eating insects. You can watch an example of bats flying out of bat boxes in Prince Edward Island [here](#). You can also shine a light up into the box during the day to see if there are bats inside from May to October in Canada. The boxes will be too cold for bats during the winter.

How do I get bats to use my box?

Not all bat boxes will be occupied in the first year after installation. Occupancy depends on many factors, ranging from the period in which it was installed to the fact that bats are very selective and might need a little time to familiarize themselves with your bat box. There are no lures or attractants, such as guano, that can attract bats to a bat box, although larger bat boxes with mul-

tiple chambers more commonly attract bats than smaller boxes.

Bat boxes are most successful when attached to houses or poles as opposed to trees. Trees shade the box and can block access to the box entrance. If bats are not using your box after two years, try moving the bat box to a new location.

Like tree hollows, bat boxes need to have temperatures that bats like. Bats like hot temperatures, but even in Canada some bat boxes get too hot during the summer, which can increase bat mortality. Temperatures of over 40°C in bat boxes is too hot, and temperatures in some bat boxes in Canada have been recorded over 50°C!

Our research group measures the temperature inside bat boxes using temperature loggers that can take a reading every hour over the whole summer.

One way to ensure that bats can choose their preferred roosting temperature is to install multiple bat boxes as they will vary in temperature depending on how much direct sunlight they receive.



Figure 50: Little brown bats in a bat box in the Maritimes. (Jordi Segers)

6.3 Exploring the Backyard: Aaaahhhh, November...

by Carolyn Bonta

Growing up in Ottawa, I never liked November. November was damp, cold, dark, and windy. But looking back, I'm not sure my dislike for this month was entirely – or even at all – due to the season and the weather: November 1st was the day my dad would put our bicycles and canoe into winter storage, effectively shrinking my home range to an area reasonably covered on foot. Which, in the developed urban outskirts of downtown, only had a few natural or semi-natural spaces.

My favourite of those spaces was the Rideau River at Billings Bridge, about 1.5 km from my house. In November, waterfowl would begin to congregate in the shallow, flowing waters below the bridge and further upstream. Not just Mallards and Black Ducks, but that short walk led me to my first Common Mergansers, American Coot, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, and Northern Shoveler. To this day, I still carry binoculars on any walk that will take me over Billings Bridge because, well, you never know what might be found.

Over the years I've come to not only appreciate

November, but to very much enjoy this month. We stock the feeders in our backyard and monitor the space in anticipation of returning winter visitors: White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree Sparrows. This year brought excitement to the neighbourhood when an Evening Grosbeak spent much of the afternoon feeding at our front yard safflower feeder. Walking through the wooded area at the end of our street, the trees are no longer hidden behind leaves and thus reveal their quirks and unique shapes. I pause to peer into a new cavity hole in a rotting log, wondering whether chickadees had nested within. I notice, for the first time, that a Black Cherry and an ash have grown intertwined, as if they are dancing together. A large shelf fungus catches my attention, and I stop to admire it. My eyes are peeled for my favourite fungus, the diminutive Eyelash Cup, which I do not find.

Wandering further down the Rideau Trail I arrive at Catarauqui Bay. The work of carrying my new spotting scope becomes reward as I scan the open water and marvel at the sheer numbers of scaup and Tundra Swans that congregate here in Novem-

ber. While others regularly report Snow Buntings along the lake, I've never been so lucky. Ironically, the only time I've seen this species within Kingston city limits was once when I encountered a small flock in the Madeleine de Roybon schoolyard, one neighbourhood over from mine.

In our household, storing bicycles for the winter is unheard of and canoes don't get hung in the carport until after the creek freezes. Sometimes November can be quite warm in Kingston, drawing me for a leisurely ride on the K&P Trail where I carefully maneuver around Gartersnakes, brownsnakes, and the occasional Milksnake. Often November brings the first snowfall and related reminder that canoe season is wrapping up: try to get out paddling one more time, but first double-check that the water is still open water on Little Cataraqui Creek. It's been known to freeze up the night before an impromptu late-fall paddle. But once on the creek, I paddle along the edge of the cattails appreciating the tan and grey palette that late fall brings to the wetland. A clump of bright green leaves catches my eye, and I recognize it as Yellow Iris, a highly invasive species. I make a mental note to return here next spring to try and remove this plant.

Further testament to my enjoyment of November is the loss I felt this year as school, work, and family responsibilities severely limited my spare time. Riding home into the setting sun after another lengthy day in a windowless lab, or glancing longingly out the window as I grade assignments, I remind myself that there will be other Novembers. Other Novembers to spend practicing tree identification based on bark and buds. Other Novembers to sit amidst the silence of the marsh, deep in my own thoughts. And other Novembers to bundle

up for a brisk and invigorating walk to watch waterfowl rolling in the waves of Lake Ontario. And I look forward to them all.



Figure 51: I wouldn't have carried my canoe all this way if I had known the creek had frozen overnight! (Carolyn Bonta)



Figure 52: This Evening Grosbeak at our front yard feeder drew binocular-wielding neighbours from four adjacent houses to their doorsteps. (Carolyn Bonta)

6.4 Wildlife Photography Tips #6—Protecting Your Precious Lens in the Field

by Anthony Kaduck

If you have experimented even a bit with bird photography you will have discovered one of the inescapable laws of the universe – birds are usually too far away. So if you continue on your bird photography journey you will find yourself carrying

increasingly large, heavy and expensive lenses.

I will explore the problem of carrying heavy lenses in a future post. Today I want to talk about how to protect that lens from the perils that await it in the field.

Rule #1 – don't drop it – is fairly self-evident. Drop the camera/lens combination and you will be very lucky if it doesn't result in shipping it back to the factory for some pricy repairs.

But the next challenge is how to protect the business end of your lens – the large and very expensive forward lens element. This exotic bit of coated unobtanium glass needs to be protected both from damage and from the grime, grunge, dust and rain that lurk in the great outdoors.

There is no perfect solution to this challenge, but there are three basic approaches: use a lens cap, use a protective filter, or use a lens hood. In this short piece I will outline the pros and cons of these choices. Prior warning – I have a firm opinion on the best solution, and it's based on having thoroughly tried all these methods and experienced all of the issues I will describe below.

Lens Cap

This is what your lens manufacturer intends you to use. The lens cap is designed to fit snugly, keeping out almost all dust and dirt. They are sturdy bits of plastic or composite, which means they can take quite a whack. Moreover, in the unlikely event that they break, the ensuing shrapnel is unlikely to scratch the much harder glass of your lens.

So lens caps offer great protection. Up until the point where you lose them. This usually happens in the heat of the moment, when a sudden opportunity arises and you are trying to get your camera ready while keeping an eye on your quarry (and perhaps simultaneously putting down your telescope or the sandwich you are eating). The lens cap drops quietly into the long grass and you realize a while later that you no longer possess it. This happens a great more often than you might wish. If you doubt this, visit your local camera shop and gaze upon the large selection of replacement lens caps.

The other issue with lens caps is that you tend to forget that they are on, leading to missed shots when you see a lifer, reach for your camera for a fleeting shot, look through the viewfinder and all is darkness. Leading to a flurry of activity and an-

other opportunity to drop the lens cap.

Yes, you can get a device that tethers the lens cap to the lens. These tend to work for a while but inevitably the flimsy bit of string that attaches the cap to the lens gets snagged on a branch and snaps, often flinging the now untethered lens cap into the bushes. So it's a sub-optimal solution.

Protective Filter

These are large, flat disks of glass that screw onto the end of your lens. There are three basic types: protective; ultraviolet (UV), also known as haze filters; and skylight.



Figure 53: Protective filter. (Anthony Kaduck)

Protective filters are designed to protect the front element of the lens while remaining optically neutral. UV and skylight filters have specific uses in landscape and portrait and are not really relevant to wildlife photography, but they are sometimes sold as protective filters.

Camera stores frequently push purchasers of new lenses to add a protective filter. I think that for the most part this reflects a widespread belief that the filter will protect your lens, but the profit motive cannot be entirely discounted. Independent camera stores have to keep their prices artificially low to compete against Jeff Bezos and his fellow bandits, but people don't tend to shop around as much for accessories as they do for big-ticket items so filters do equate to an additional revenue source.

In principle, adding any extra layers of glass to the photography equation is to be avoided. That protective filter means two extra surfaces between the

light source and the sensor, and each of those surfaces can collect dust, grime or scratches.

In my experience filters also tend to fog up in humid conditions, which can be quite annoying. I would be much happier with my photo of a female Summer Tanager if it wasn't artificially softened by my fogged-up protective filter.



Figure 54: Summer Tanager, Long Point, 2016. (Anthony Kaduck)

With a filter, the dust, dirt and grime that would have collected on your lens element collect instead on a more easily accessible bit of glass. And if you are in a hurry you can be a bit less careful about the method of cleaning the filter, since if you end up scratching the surface it can easily be replaced.

But to their credit, protective filters do protect the lens. That is, up until the time the filter breaks. Then you have broken glass contacting the very expensive coated glass of your lens. And once again it's time to ship your lens back to the factory.

Lens Hood

If you're chasing birds with a camera you are probably using a telephoto lens. A feature (or a bug, to be more correct) of telephotos is that they are prone to flare. Without going into details, flare occurs when a bright light source creates internal reflections within the lens structure. The result can be areas of washed-out colour, or worse, weird shapes – starbursts, rings or blobs of colour – on

the image. Lens flare is generally very difficult to correct in post-processing.

To reduce the chances of flare, telephoto lenses usually come with substantial lens hoods. The hood on my Nikon 200-500mm lens, for example, encircles the lens completely and is roughly 10cm deep.



Figure 55: Lens hood and lens cap. (Anthony Kaduck)

In practise under field conditions, the lens hood does a very good job of keeping grime off the lens surface. I switched to using only the lens hood about two years ago, when I got tired of having my protective filter fog up on humid days. In that time, often spent in extreme environmental conditions, I have rarely had to clean up anything more than a bit of dust or the odd drop of rain.

More importantly, the lens hood does an excellent job in warding off stray branches and other lens-threatening perils. And as a bonus, it keeps my greasy sunscreen-and-insect-repellent-soaked fingers away from the lens glass!

The only downside in my experience is that I need to be more careful when cleaning the lens element to remove any dust that could lead to avoid micro-abrasions.

Ultimately each photographer will make their own choice, but until something better comes along I will be counting on my trusty lens hood to keep the lens safe and clean.

7 KFN Outings

7.1 Teen Canoe Trip to Parrott's Bay (September 12, 2020)

by Abel Corbett



Figure 56: Teens in canoes. (Peter Waycik)

The Teens had a great start to the year with a canoe trip to Parrott's Bay on Saturday 12 September. Eleven Teens came out (five new members) and three leaders. We had seven canoes. It was quite warm and mostly sunny. We paddled from the entrance of the bay in Lake Ontario up through Parrott's Bay and into a creek at the north end of the bay.

When we went under the bridge on Bath Road we saw about a dozen Barn Swallow nests and a couple of Cliff Swallow nests. We also had a good look and listen to the Kingfishers in this narrow section of the bay. We saw many Mallards and a few Wood Ducks and Blue Jays.

We looked at some water plants as we paddled up towards the open Bay. Tape grass (like a piece of tape) and Water Milfoil in flower were identified. Later we looked at Coontail (a good name for this species) and Elodea (oh dear—invasive species often introduced by aquarium dumping).

We found several insects and looked at the air channels in the White Waterlily stems which the larva of a Lily Leaf Beetle uses to get oxygen under water. We also used dip nets at a number of locations to look at some of the water creatures.

We found Saucer Bugs (a type of Creeping Water Bug), Water Scorpion, Backswimmers, an amphipod and snails amongst other things. We all had a good look at the loops of several pairs of mating Autumn Meadowhawk dragonflies.



Figure 57: Mating loop of Autumn Meadowhawk. (Anne Robertson)

Paddling across this shallow bay full of water plants was at times difficult due to the lower level of the water in Lake Ontario but the water was clear allowing us to see minnows and some larger fish amongst the plants. Paddling up the creek on the north side of the bay we went under the

footbridge forming part of the trail around the Parrott's Bay Conservation Area. Here we saw a couple of small Painted Turtles and a Northern Watersnake sunning in the plants at the edge, as well as Flowering Rush blooming (not a true rush and another invasive plant) and the invasive European Frogbit with its tiny waterlily like leaves. We paddled through a culvert under Taylor Kidd Boulevard. It had recently been partly blocked by beaver which made it difficult. Fortunately Walt was able to move some logs so our return was easier. It was worth it because we found Wild Rice growing north of that culvert. Then we came back into the bay and checked out the cattails and flowering plant species growing amongst them including Touch-me-not, Purple Loosestrife and Bur Marigold. We had lunch sitting in the canoes before our return to the starting point.

Back at our starting point, we found a snake skin on the Lake Ontario shore, saw another Northern Watersnake and a Tomato Hornworm caterpillar—they are huge! We ended the trip writing our field notebooks for lasting memories.

Thank you to Shirley French and Walt Sepic who

were our extra adult leaders.



Figure 58: Culvert paddling. (Shirley French)

7.2 Ramble on the Rideau Trail (September 15, 2020)

by Bruce Elliott



Figure 59: Anne showing us a Goldenrod Gall Fly. (Kathy Webb)

This was the second KFN ramble of the 2020-21 season, and the first time I had hiked on the

Rideau Trail in town, on the east side of the Little Cataraqui River. Eleven of us met at the end of Sherwood Drive, near where the Trail passes through Balsam Grove. The day was warm and sunny with no wind. First off, our leader, Anne Robertson, pointed out some of the invasive and alien species that often colonize disturbed areas. These included patches of Black Knapweed (*Centaurea americana*), Common Burdock (*Arctium minus*) and Dog Strangling Vine (*Cynanchum rossicum*), all of which produce multiple quantities of seeds that are easily dispersed.

Moving on, though, we saw an amazing display of flora! There were clusters of Queen Anne's Lace also known as wild carrot (*Daucus carota*). The seeds (covered in barbed spines) are in a fruiting head which acts as a barometer: opening in

the sun and closed when wet (it's going to rain!). There was a lot of Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*). Anne pointed out that Ragweed (not Goldenrod) has pollen that affects many people in the summer months. Ragweed pollen is small, light and wind pollinated, while goldenrod pollen is big, sticky and insect pollinated. Anne found a goldenrod with a round growth called a gall. She opened it and showed us the small larva of a Goldenrod Gall Fly (*Eurosta solidaginis*) inside, which causes abnormal growth.



Figure 60: Spotted Jewelweed. (iNaturalist)



Figure 61: "Touch-me-not" seeds. (Bruce Elliott)

Another remarkable plant was Spotted Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), the fruits of which explode scattering the seeds when nudged by a passerby

hence the alternate common name Touch-me-not.

In the trees, and along the way, we saw 23 different species of birds! Most exciting were a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), a Belted Kingfisher (*Medaceryle alcyon*) and a Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). Others included Swamp (*Melospiza georgiana*) and Song (*Melospiza georgiana*) sparrows, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pennsylvanica*) and Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*). A complete bird list compiled by Bill Depew and Katherine Webb can be found on [eBird](#).



Figure 62: False Death Cap. (Kathy Webb)



Figure 63: Ringless Honey Mushroom. (Bill Depew)

We then took a turn towards the river, and noticed many fungi, including Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*), Meadow Waxcap (*Cuphophyllus pratensis*), Ringless Honey mushroom (*Desarmillaria*

tabescens), False Death Cap (*Amanita citrina*), and Brittle Cinder (*Kretzschmaria deusta*). A complete list of 30 flora and fungi observations with photos compiled by Katherine Webb and Bill Depuis can be found [iNaturalist](#).



Figure 64: Meadow Waxcup. (Kathy Webb)

Red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) were abundant especially closer to the river. Bur Oak produces deeply lobed, dark green leaves that turn golden yellow in the fall. Its acorns are round and half enclosed by a fringed cup.

We all learned a lot about nature nearby where we

live, and had a great time doing it!



Figure 65: Bur Oak leaf with acorn cup. (Bruce Elliott)

7.3 Faith Avis trail at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary (September 26, 2020)

by Erwin Batalla and Gaye Beckwith

At 9 am, ten members of the KFN (Catherine, Gary, Kathy, Bill, Richard, Diane, Jane and Stephanie) gathered on Bedford Road near the culvert between Rothwell Lake and Otter Lake. The cool weather was ideal for a walk through the new route of the Faith Avis trail. Because of the recent rainy and cool weather, mushrooms were abundant but our limited knowledge did not allow us to identify them all.

The Faith Avis trail begins across from the former quarry and follows the shore of Rothwell Lake until we reach the neighbouring property. Then the trail turns to the north along the property line into a mixed forest. The climb is gradual and we comfortably reached the beaver dam at the north-west end of the HQS. Several frogs could be seen in the pond. We followed the cottage road for about 50

meters and turned to the south-east. There, the trail follows the old path along an overgrown access road. We only heard a few birds but observed several Turkey Vultures overhead. Where the trail rejoins Bedford Road, there was a large cluster of Maidenhair Fern.

We completed the loop in less than 90 minutes so we decided to visit the Betty Hughes trail which begins south of the culvert on the west side of Bedford Road. This is the shortest trail at the sanctuary. We noted that Gypsy Moth egg masses are abundant this year. We stopped shortly at the view point and admired the refurbished trail sign (courtesy of Gaye Beckwith). This trail loops back to Bedford Road and takes about 30 minutes to complete. When heading back to the car, we noticed a Porcupine slowly making its way up a tree. Gaye

compiled a bird list submitted to eBird and a sampling of the other taxa is attached below. Many species of Aster and Goldenrod were still blooming.

Trees and shrubs: Balsam Fir, White Pine, Large-toothed Aspen, Paper Birch, Blue Beech, Hop Hornbeam, American Beech, Striped Maple, Winterberry.

Herbs: Broad-leafed Cattail, Common Burdock, Common Mullen, Common Sorrel, Hog Peanut, Nodding Bur Marigold, Queen Anne's Lace, Sow Thistle, Viper Bugloss, White Snakeroot.

Asters: Calico, Flat-topped White, New England and Panicked.

Goldenrods: Blue-stemmed and Lance-leaved.

7.4 Ramble on K&P Trail (October 6, 2020)

by Maureen Sly



Figure 66: Tar spot on Norway Maple leaf. (Bill Depew)

On October 6, thirteen members of the KFN met at River Road in downtown Kingston for a Ramble with Anne Robertson along the K&P Trail heading north.

Many different flowers, trees, birds and insects were identified along the way. We learned how to identify the difference between a male and female cricket. We also identified many different species of trees planted by the city on either side of the trail such as Red and Silver Maples and

Ferns: Polypody, Christmas, Sensitive, Ostrich, Marginal and Bracken.

Mosses: Brocade Moss.

Lichens: Greenshield and Pixiecup Lichens.

Mushrooms: Wolfmilk, Waxcap and several Puffballs (Giant, Pear-shaped and Peeling).

Insects: Carolina Grasshopper, Dock Spider, Autumn Meadowhawk, Clouded Sulphur and Monarch.

Frogs: Green Frog, Leopard Frog, Bullfrog and American Toad.

Mammals: Chipmunk and Porcupine.

even a Sycamore that had been cut down but was sprouting from the trunk. Also found were White and Red Oak, European Larch and a beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce. Tar spot, a fungal disease was spotted (!) on some Norway Maple leaves.

Many wildflowers were noted and included: Crown Vetch (Pea family), Evening Primrose (Evening primrose family), Dame's Rocket (Mustard family), Sow Thistle (Daisy family), Catnip (Mint family), Viper's Bugloss (Borage family), Calico and New England Asters (Daisy family), Zigzag Goldenrod – Daisy family), Bird's foot Trefoil (Pea family), Soapwort or Bouncing Bet (Pink family), Deptford Pink (Pink family).

Of course we saw Dandelions and Anne pulled out what I would call a petal on the Dandelion head to show that the flower head is made up of a multitude of individual flowers. We were able to see the sepals (reduced to hairs), petals (5 fused together), stamens (fused in a tube around the style), carpel with curled stigma, and style attached to the ovary (which becomes the seed).

We went off the K&P Trail to follow a dirt path that led to a large wetland on the east side of the trail

(near Belle Park) where many bird species were spotted and the Brown-lipped Snail was found. After following a dirt trail north we returned to the main K&P Trail and followed it to the junction of Rideau, Montreal and Railway streets.

Following is the list of sixteen birds seen on the Ramble: Ring-billed Gull (1), Double-crested Cormorant (8 flying overhead), Turkey Vulture (2), Northern Harrier (1), Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) (1), Eastern Phoebe (2), Blue Jay (2), American Crow (10), Black-Capped Chickadee (8), Ruby Crowned Kinglet (1), European Starling (14), American Robin (8), American Goldfinch (1), White-Throated Sparrow (2), Song Sparrow (3), Northern Cardinal (1).

It was an interesting and informative Ramble and was enjoyed by everyone.



Figure 67: Brown-lipped Snail. (Bill Depew)

7.5 Teen Birding Trip to Marshlands Conservation Area (October 17, 2020)

by Connor Selkirk



Figure 68: Teens looking through scopes on railroad tracks. (Anne Robertson)

On the morning of Saturday the 17th October, 2020, 12 of the Kingston Teen Naturalists met at the Marshlands Conservation Area to go bird watching with a bird expert, Erwin Batalla. Before we set out, we learned to effectively use binoculars. We walked along the trail, and as we went, he taught us how to attract birds by making a “phishing” noise with our mouths. We saw a few birds (a Red-tailed Hawk, Black-capped Chickadees, a Goldfinch, and Common Crows). We hiked off the trail to a place that Erwin knew attracted birds. As soon as we stepped off the trail, there was a commotion in a nearby tree. It was a murder of crows.

Erwin told us that they were most likely attacking either an owl or Red-tailed Hawk. After that, we went back to the meeting place to have a snack, and to learn to set up and use scopes (telescopes) productively.



Figure 69: Teens and their binoculars. (Anne Robertson)

We finished our snack and headed to an open body of water (off the conservation area) that always had ducks and geese in it. When we got there, we set up our scopes on the railroad, and tried to find as many species as we could. We were told that some kinds of ducks flip upside down for their food and are called dabblers. Other kinds of ducks

are called divers, as they dive for their food. In the end, we had each spotted around 10-12 species including species of swan, ducks, and geese (Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, a scaup of some kind, Hooded Merganser, and a Great Blue Heron) before it was time to go back. On the way back we

found a dead starling on the side of the road. Janis Grant joined us and recorded the species we saw on eBird and showed those who had downloaded the eBird app how to use it. Today was the first Global Big Day for eBird. We hope our checklists will count in the global lists. Finally we spent some time recording our trip in our field notebooks.

7.6 Ramble on K&P Trail Near Elginburg (October 20, 2020)

by Mary Crandall

On a grey and nippy Tuesday morning where the temperatures started in the single digits, nine of us met up with Anne Robertson at the K&P Trail parking lot near Elginburg. As the sun came out, we rambled together for a few hours, covering a 5 1/2 km loop that took us past fields, through forests, beside wetlands, and over many rickety stiles. We enjoyed the last of the autumn colours while we looked for birds and interesting plants. Cork Elm, Bur Oak (now Mossy-cup Oak) and Bladdernut were some of the more unusual trees and shrubs. We came across some gooseberry bushes and several species of flowers still in bloom including Deptford Pink, Red clover and Zigzag Goldenrod.



Figure 70: Crossing a rickety stile. (Mary Crandall)

Seventeen bird species were spotted: Canada Goose, Rock Pigeon, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, European Starling, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and specially Rusty Blackbird.

Last, there were some animals – one mouse, one pale brown Wood Frog with a black mask, and many cows.



Figure 71: Maple tree in autumn colour on path. (Mary Crandall)

7.7 Elevator Bay and Lake Ontario Park Ramble (November 3, 2020)

by Audrey Kilpatrick

On November 3rd, Anne Robertson led an intrepid band of 21 field naturalists on a frigid ramble around Elevator Bay and Lake Ontario Park. Anne's extensive knowledge of the tiniest of nature's wonders kept us all engaged. Who knew that a little milkweed seed came attached to its own parachute? Who knew how much one could learn from a blade of grass? Who knew I could have collected chamomile flowers to make tea?

The birders were pleased to spot so many species including Tundra and Mute Swans. In total, the following bird species were seen that day: Canada Geese (44), American Wigeon (1), Mallard (22), Ring-necked Ducks, Greater Scaup (25), Common Goldeneye (10), Common Merganser (24), Rock Pigeon (18), Ring-billed Gull (5), Herring Gull (1), Common Loon (1), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Belted Kingfisher (1), Downy Woodpecker (2), Pileated Woodpecker (4), American Crow (5), Black-capped Chickadee (15), Blue Jay (4), White-breasted Nuthatch (2), European Starling (4), American Robin (6), Cedar Waxwing (1), House

Sparrow (1), House Finch (1), Common Redpoll (7), American Goldfinch (4), Snow Bunting (1), Chipping Sparrow (1), American Tree Sparrow (10), Dark-eyed Junco (12), White-crowned Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (1), Red-winged Blackbird (1).



Figure 72: Snow Bunting, October 20, 2020. (Jane Revell)

7.8 Ramble Collins Creek Trails (November 17, 2020)

by Phil Harvey



Figure 73: Pine Grosbeak. (Phil Harvey)

Weather started out cloudy, cool and calm for the Nov 17 ramble at the Collins Creek trails, with 21 KFN members in attendance. Anne Robertson gave the pre-walk talk, checking attendance, advising 4 layers of clothing, and asking the mandatory COVID questions. We split into two groups with Anne taking the high road with her group, and Kathy Webb leading her more bird-oriented followers along a lower path. The pace was slow, and we chatted in small groups as we walked and stopped frequently to identify bugs, fungi, and interesting-looking plants. There weren't many birds but we were lucky to see a pair of Pine Grosbeaks feeding in the treetops. The walk along the creek was very picturesque and the two hours flew by much too quickly.

Kathy submitted the following list of birds to eBird

(13 species): Hermit Thrush 1 (which came up as rare/late), Canada Goose 30, Mallard 1, Rock (Feral) Pigeon 12, Ring-billed Gull 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 1 (seen at the roadside as we were leaving), Blue Jay 1, American Crow 7, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Pine Grosbeak 2.

The "high road" group discussed features of some trees: Balsam Fir resin blisters, Hickory nut casings (the difference between Shagbark Hickory and Bitternut Hickory). Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) was compared with Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). The galls of the Cedar Apple rust which takes two years to complete its life-cycle alternating hosts between rust spots on the leaves of apple species and galls on Red Cedar, were spotted. The nutty red buds of Basswood were taste tested. Gypsy moth eggs were preva-

lent on some tree trunks and it was noted removing the egg masses below the snow line might be advantageous to their diminishment in local areas.

Christmas Ferns were checked for their sporangia at the tips of the fronds as well as the shape of each pinnule (Christmas stocking shaped). Then the sporangia on Marginal Wood Fern were compared. These sporangia are around the edges/margins of the pinnules on the underside.

Several fungi were investigated closely including Ceramic Parchment and Thin Maze Polypore. A Witches broom (a deformity on this Balsam Fir) was explained: its apical shoots grow indiscriminately due to interference with the growth hormones caused by a variety of organisms. Altogether a number of things were found to observe on a pleasant morning outing.

7.9 Teen Trip to Meyer Woods (November 21, 2020)

by Amelie Robitaille



Figure 74: Teens among a Phragmites patch at Meyer Woods. (Shirley French)

Nine Teen Naturalists met by the Meyer Woods property of the Land Conservancy for KFLA near Verona to begin removal of the invasive Phragmites, which are spreading in wetlands. November 21st, 2020 was a partly cloudy day with a temperature of 12°C. On the hike to the Phragmites, we talked about using all of our senses to learn about our surroundings, like listening so we could hear bird calls. We listened to a White-breasted Nuthatch and saw some chickadees, a Blue Jay, a

Bald Eagle and a Raven. We also learned different ways to identify trees by looking at their bark and the tree's shape; Shagbark Hickory has a very noticeable shaggy bark hence the name, and Blue Beech tree has a muscle-like wood on the branches and trunk. On the way, we found a Praying Mantis egg case and spoke about some Canada Holly berries.

When we arrived at the Phragmites, we started removing them. At first, we used pruning shears to cut the flowers to stop them from spreading by seed. They were challenging to reach, so by rolling a log over them, we could easily get them and cut the flowers. After that, we covered the stems and roots with a tarp covered with rocks so that they couldn't get any sunlight to grow.

After lunch, we headed back. On our way, we found a shoulder blade and the tail bone of a deer and a large birch tree that a beaver had successfully chomped down. We met families for pick up at the west side of the property near a plantation of White Spruce trees.

I enjoyed our outing and felt good about making a difference.

7.10 Cartwright Point Ramble (December 1, 2020)

by Vicki Schmolka



Figure 75: Lichen showing fruiting cups containing spores. (Carolina Rojas)

A drizzly morning found twenty of us gathered at Cassino Court, Canadian Armed Forces Base, to start our exploration of Cartwright Point. Joining us was long-time Cartwright Point resident, John Cartwright, with his partner, Jean. At least two of our party were new members who had only been on a ramble once before.

We broke into two groups of 10, one led by Anne Robertson to go along the woodland path to the shoreline, the other led by Kathy Webb to look for birds and visit bird feeders.

The birding group was delighted to hear and then see a pair of Carolina Wrens. Also heard or seen were Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, Northern Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were

seen as well as some waterfowl including Mallard, Common Goldeneye, and Red-breasted Merganser.

Anne taught us about trees having opposite or alternate branches. We looked to the top of the trees to be sure of the location of the branches vis-à-vis each other and learned about MAD DOGS. In our area, only Maple, Ash, and Dogwood trees have opposite branches. That's a good way to start tree identification when the leaves are down.



Figure 76: Undersides of Eastern Hemlock needles showing double lines of stomata. (Carolina Rojas)

Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*), also known as American Hornbeam, Muscledwood or Ironwood, is a hardwood tree with muscle-like ripples along its smooth grey trunk. Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), another member of the Birch family, is also known as Ironwood. The bark of this tree is broken into longitudinal strips. Hop Hornbeam leaves are toothed with a longer and a shorter

tooth alternating. Some veins on the leaf underside branch near the end. Hop Hornbeam got its name because the long, dangling fruits look like hops and the wood was used to harness oxen. The hornbeam yoke across their horns did not bend and uneven pulling hurt the animals so the team learned to pull in unison.

Another highlight of the ramble was the various fungi found along the way. Witches Butter (a yellow jelly fungus), and American Amber Jelly Fun-

gus (the brown one) were identified. A few people used their phones to photograph a lichen with a small cup-shaped fruiting body, and then enlarged the photo. They also did this so we could see the script like surface of a Common Script Lichen.

With snow in the forecast for the next day, the ramble was a chance to appreciate the end of the fall season and to accept the reality of colder months ahead.

8 Clipped Classics

Excerpts from past issues of The Blue Bill

Edited by Alexandra Simmons

From 60 years ago...

[In the first issue of volume 7 of the Blue Bill (1960) Art Hyde describes 2 outings in the winter of 1959/60, 61 years ago. Some things have changed since then: we try to be more discreet when observing birds; Snowy Owls are now known to be regular winter visitors to our region; and Hungarian (Gray) Partridge are no longer seen in Kingston. What remains the same is the enjoyment of observing and documenting nature, even in (and for some people, especially in) snowy and cold winter weather.]

December Twenty-Third 'Fifty-Nine by A. E. Hyde

We had chosen this day for our club's Christmas Bird Count. It was clear and cold with a wind of five miles an hour. Our party of three had an area of fifteen square miles between the lake and highway. Earlier in the week a Snowy Owl had been reported in our district, and all morning we had been watching for this large beautiful bird.

The previous warm days had removed most of the snow. There were, however, a few small patches scattered over the fields of tawny grass and brown tilled farmlands. Each white spot was carefully examined through glasses or telescope in the hope that one would be the owl. At last, at eleven o'clock our leader found the bird settled on a ploughed field half a mile from the road. Since another high-

way running at right angles would bring us within a quarter of a mile from its position, the other two members drove to the spot while I approached directly across the rolling farmlands. The walking was easy on the hard bare fields, but occasionally I lost sight of the hunter as I dipped into a hollow. When I had crossed the last fence the owl had not yet seen me, since it was busy feeding. Although 300 feet away, I could see through the glasses that it held some small animal against the ground with its talons and was tearing it apart with its hooked beak. Hoping it would take off against the wind toward the direction of my friends standing on a slight rise about 1000 feet from the bird, I sprinted towards it over the level and open ground. Silently and lazily it rose into the wind, on its beautiful 60-inch wingspread and at a height of about 20 feet circled directly over my head to survey this intruder. I could see its bright yellow eyes fixed on me, and I feared that it might attack the fur of my parka. (Once before, while I was walking across a field at dusk wearing a fur hat, a smaller owl had continually circled my head at a distance of 15 feet, and did not leave until I reached a well travelled road.)

Watching the Snowy Owl's manoeuvres I noticed a long bare black tail hanging from its feet and was able to distinguish clutched close to its white breast, the huge rat upon which it had been feed-

ing. Although the sun was behind me and shining brightly, the spots on this bird were hardly discernible. He was nearly pure white, and suggested a beautiful white silent bomber as he circled in the winter blue sky. Having satisfied himself concerning my intentions he wheeled to the south and in an open field one mile away, came to rest to finish his meal. We were thrilled and happy, even proud, that we might be the only one of our seven groups who had seen this species. That evening, we learned that one other group of watchers had seen one on Wolfe Island. This did not in the least remove any of our satisfaction at having found a Snowy Owl ourselves.

January Thirtieth, Nineteen Sixty by A. E. Hyde

About 18 inches of snow lay over the golf course, making snowshoeing a pleasure. At the sand trap close to the sixteenth hole, I watched 19 Hungarian Partridges scratching the hard frozen ground on top of the small hillocks bared by the strong westerly winds. These plump 14-inch long European Gray Partridges were introduced into Canada at the beginning of the century. During the war years they had been plentiful around Kingston. I had been told that the senseless present day out-of-season mass killings on Wolfe Island have made it difficult for their survival in this district. They prefer to run instead of flying, and caught between snowbanks on the island roads where they gather grit, they are an easy mark for a hunter with a

horse-drawn sleigh.

My flock was under half a dozen short scrub pines and four willows. An ice storm several weeks previously had snapped off many of the willow twigs, which had fallen under the pines. These were covered with small yellow buds and appeared to be the food for which the birds were scratching.

In the past when watching these birds run and fly close to the ground, I had noticed the rusty tail feathers. Today, however, as they moved down the low hillocks and across the snow, their throats and faces shone with a coppery sheen as they took off into the low winter sun. The course boundary was only a hundred feet away. The birds swiftly scurried and beat their way across the deep snow to the bushes along the fencerow. Their steps were even and sure, and the short low flights were fascinating to watch on the quickly beating downward scooped wings. When they stopped moving at the fence, it was impossible to distinguish them from the low shrubs.

Last year, while easily following in the snow their distinct 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long tracks, spaced about 2 inches apart exactly in front of each other, I came upon a 2-inch deep circular ring of droppings about 12 inches across. Probably this was the result of their nightly circle with backs to the centre. Today, I also noticed under the pines a one-foot diameter ring filled with about one inch of droppings.

9 Reader Contributions



Figure 77: Carolina Wren. (John Licharson)



Figure 78: Ruby-crowned Kinglet. (John Licharson)

Kingston Field Naturalists

Objectives

The Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN) is an active, local club of over 500 members interested in a wide variety of natural history. The objectives of the club are:

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

Nature Reserves

The KFN owns properties that are designated as nature reserves.

Helen Quilliam Sanctuary at Otter Lake: A 217 hectare (536 acre) property of mixed forest located in the Canadian Shield in the Township of South Frontenac accessible to members through a trail system..

Martin Edwards Nature Reserve: A 100 hectare (247 acre) property of fields and marshland located on the southeast shore of Amherst Island.

Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve: An 80 acre (32.4 hectare) parcel of forest and grassland, adjacent to the Martin Edwards Nature Reserve.

Conservation and Education

The KFN actively supports conservation efforts. Issues such as park creation, wildlife and habitat protection, and environmental welfare are of on-going concern. The club also makes natural history resources and knowledge available to the community through education programs which include field courses, talks, awards and a loan library.

Be a Contributor!

This edition of The Blue Bill could have contained your article, anecdote, fantastic photo, nature sketch, report, puzzle, quiz, conundrum, cartoon, or other contribution.



(If it did, many thanks!)

Email The Blue Bill (editor@thebluebill.ca) for more information.



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