THE BLUE BILL

Quarterly Journal of the Kingston Field Naturalists

ISSN 0382-5655

VOLUME 48, NO. 2 JUNE 2001

Contents

President's Pages :	
Kingston Field Naturalists Annual Report 2000/2001	
Conservation Committee	*Bud Rowe* 33
Bird Records Committee (BRC)	*Nancy Bayly* 34
Field Trips Committee	*Ron Weir* 36
Education Committee	*Ken Kingdon* 37
Nature Reserves	*Diane Lawrence* 38
Ad Hoc Properties Committee	*Brian and Susan Grigg* 38
Publicity and Newsletter	*Anne Robertson* 39
Membership	*Marion Watkins* 40
Kingston Junior Naturalists	*John Critchley* 40
Kingston Teen Naturalists	*Anne Robertson* 40
Rambles	*Anne Robertson* 41
FON Representative	*Anne Robertson* 42
Speakers, Telephone Information Line and E-mail Service	*Shirley Tregenza* 42
The Blue Bill	*Bob Sachs* 42
The Art Of Nature : "Chorus Line"	*Gail Gault* 43
An Update for *The Kingston Plant List*	*Brenda Carter* 43
	Adèle Crowder, J.Topping, K. Topping 44
Kingston and Area Christmas Counts, 2000	*Peter Good* 45
Winter Season December 1, 2000 To February 28, 2001	*Ron D. Weir* 50
Latest Ever Departures	 50
Spring Round-up 2001	*Ron D. Weir* 52
Spring Season 2001 March 1 to May 31	*Ron D. Weir* 59
Record Early Arrivals	 59
Destination: Panama	*Josette Arassus* 62
Birding the Canadian Prairies in July	*Gerald & Shirley Paul* 65
Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, 2001-2005	 70

KFN Officers & Committees 2001/2002

President: **Bud Rowe**
151 Churchill Crescent
Kingston, ONT K7L 4N3
545-0720
budrowe@kos.net

Honorary President: **Bob Stewart**
603 Earl Street
Kingston, ONT K7L 2K6
542-6607
stewart@post.queensu.ca

Vice-President: **Sid Andrews**
452 Stone St. N.
Gananoque, ONT K7G 1Z1
H: 382-7985;
W: 1-613-923-1048
sid.andrews@sympatico.ca

Past-President: **Paul Mackenzie**
943 McKnight Road
Kingston, ONT K7L 4V1
547-5748
mackenzp@post.queensu.ca

Treasurer: **Larry McCurdy**
245 Bicknell Crescent
Kingston, ONT K7M 4T7
389-6427
larrymcc@kingston.net

Recording Secretary: **Rose-Marie Burke**
2499 Perth Road, Box 44
Glenburnie, ONT K0H 1S0
549-7583 (win)
353-2463 (sum)
rmbehr@istar.ca

Committee Chairpersons:

Nature Reserves	**Brian Grigg**	374-1083	**grigg14island@sympatico.ca**
Education	**Diane Lawrence**	634-3013	**lawrencd@educ.queensu.ca**
Speakers	**Bob Sachs**	547-6210	**rsachs@sprint.ca**
Conservation	**Nancy Bayly**	374-5211	**randn@sympatico.ca**
Bird Records	**Ron Weir**	549-5274	**weir_r@rmc.ca**
Publicity	**Marion Watkins**	273-5545	**dhahn@rideau.net**
Phone Line	**Bob Sachs**	547-6210	**rsachs@sprint.ca**
Field Trips	**Ken Kingdon**	384-5020	**kenkingdon@hotmail.com**
Member-at-large	**Susan Grigg**	374-1083	**grigg14island@sympatico.ca**

The **Blue Bill** is the Quarterly Bulletin of the **Kingston Field Naturalists**,
P.O. Box 831, Kingston, Ontario (Canada), K7L 4X6.

KFN Info Line: (613) 549-8023
Web Site: http://psyc.queensu.ca/~davids/kfn.html

Send submissions to the Editor by the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (March, June, September, December) to the address above, or to the editor via e-mail to: cggault@hotmail.com

Submissions should be in MS Word format or in "plain text" format (PC or MacIntosh). Please include a printed copy in case of disk error.

Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement #047128

Membership Secretary: **John Critchley**
760 Meadowood Road
Kingston, ONT K7M 5G5
634-5475
john.critchely@sympatico.ca

Kingston Junior Naturalists Coordinator:
Anne Robertson 389-6742
n8ture1@sparrow.phy.queensu.ca

FON Representative: **Shirley Tregenza** 376-3470
Editor: ***The Blue Bill*:** **Gail Gault** 352-5239

The Blue Bill
Volume 48, No. 2
June 2001

President's Page

Bud Rowe

This has been another remarkable year for the Kingston Field Naturalists. Some of the highlights were:

- a major contribution toward the purchase of part of the "Owl Woods" on Amherst Island;
- the signing of a stewardship agreement with the FON for the monitoring of the new 108 acre Lost Bay Nature Reserve on Gananoque Lake;
- active participation in voicing opposition to the proposed quarry at Mellon Lake, with initial success;
- participation by 40 members in a five-day, very successful, birding trip in April to New Jersey, Delaware, north Virginia, and the adjacent Atlantic coast;
- completion of our third Bio-Blitz, for the first time at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary;
- participation of twelve teen members in the Baillie Birdathon, raising more funds than any other youth group in Canada;
- speech by Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund Canada, at our May Dinner Meeting and the book auction raised $1,000 for the Habitat Preservation Fund;
- amendment of the By-laws of our constitution to ensure that the KFN provides insurance coverage for liability claims against individual officers and directors of the KFN; and
- a major irruption of hawks and northern owls on Amherst Island, which, along with visits by an Ivory Gull, two Gyrfalcons, a Laughing Gull, a Great Gray Owl and several Northern Hawk Owls to our area, caused a great deal of excitement in the birding community, and visits from birders from far and wide.

The reports below give only a small indication of the amount of time, effort and diligence that members of the Executive Committee put into their respective areas of responsibility. Three important members of the Executive who are not mentioned are: our Recording Secretary, Rose-Marie Burke, who faithfully attends all executive committee and general meetings and produces accurate records of the proceedings; our Treasurer, Larry McCurdy, who also never misses a meeting, dependably keeps the Executive Committee and general membership well informed on the Club's financial status and provides good advice concerning our investments; and last, but not least, our immediate Past President, Paul Mackenzie, who rarely misses a meeting or an opportunity to go birding, sits on the Ad Hoc Properties Committee, leads several birding trips each year, and provides a wealth of information and sound advice to the Executive Committee and, particularly, the current President.

I would like to thank all of those who are on the Executive Committee for

their great work this year, as well as those members behind the scenes who pitched in to help with things such as annual trail maintenance, assisting with the Juniors and Teens programs, doing the annual audit of the books, stuffing and mailing envelopes, contributing and buying books at the annual auction, setting up the refreshment table or the audio-visual equipment for general meetings, and generally helping out when help is needed. Particular thanks to Bob Sachs, who volunteered to be Interim Vice President this year, arranging the speakers for our general meetings in addition to his responsibilities as a Member at Large for the telephone and e-mail information line and as a member of the Finance sub-committee.

This is a wonderful club, made great by an active, interested and caring membership.

Kingston Field Naturalists Annual Report 2000/2001

Conservation Committee ***Nancy Bayly***

This past year has been a busy one for the KFN's Conservation Committee.

Nancy Bayly has served as chair, but the Conservation Committee has really worked more as a team. Sharon Critchley and Alan Campeau have both taken on major segments of the committee's work, contributing their enthusiasm, commitment and expertise, and enabling us to work on a wider variety of projects. To mention some of the highlights of the past year, members of the Conservation Committee are representing the KFN by:

- playing an ongoing active role in opposing a quarry application for the Mellon Lake Forest/ Conservation Reserve (see below);
- providing KFN representation in reviewing the *Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Draft Strategic Plan*;
- encouraging an emphasis on water conservation, green technologies and ecological protection as a member group in the Public Advisory Committee for the City of Kingston's Sewage Crossing Project;
- working with other Kingston organizations and individuals in raising ecological and conservation concerns about the proposed exchange of CRCA (Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority) lands to allow development of the Sudds property beside King St. (see below);
- developing and organizing conservation and rehabilitation initiatives in and around Kingston as an active participant in the Wetlands Working Group;
- contacting other naturalist groups, investigating the issues and monitoring developments involved in the proposal to move hunting from Presqu'ile Provincial Park to Muscote Bay (see below).

In the upcoming year, we hope to increase the vitality and scope of our conservation work by encouraging more KFN members to become active on our committee.

Mellon Lake Conservation Reserve

Early in the fall of 2000, we became actively involved in efforts to stop a proposed quarry in the Mellon Lake Forest/Conservation Reserve. The Mellon

Lake Reserve, located north of Napanee on Highway 41, is one of 378 new "protected areas" recently established under a program of the provincial government called *Ontario's Living Legacy (OLL)*. This region (known as Mellon Lake (C-14) in OLL) contains rare plant and animal species including: Prairie Warbler, Five-lined Skink (Ontario's only native lizard), and Shining Sumac. It also contains the provincially rare Little Prickly Pear Cactus, almost 1 000 km from the nearest Canadian or U.S. colony.

Although the government's own material specifies that these protected areas are to be free from logging, mining and hydro development, there continue to be major threats to the new sites' ecological integrity. The staking of mining claims has been allowed despite government promises. To date, more than five hundred mining claims have been staked in *Living Legacy* protected areas across the province.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists was one of the provincial conservation organizations that first raised the alarm about a proposed granite quarry in the Mellon Lake Reserve. What happens here is critical because it appears to be a test case. How this quarry application is treated will determine just how protected our new "protected areas" are. If mining is allowed to take place in Mellon Lake, the door will be open and the precedent set for every other park and protected area in Ontario.

The KFN's Conservation Committee, recognizing the importance of this case and noting its close proximity to Kingston, took an active leadership role in opposing the quarry permit.

Together with the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, the KFN co-hosted a public meeting on November 30, 2000 at the Kingston Frontenac Public Library. The guest speaker was Paul Leadbitter, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists's protected areas coordinator for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence South region. Paul spoke about the new protected areas established under the Ontario government's Living Legacy program and discussed some of the threats these new protected areas face. He specifically focussed on a recent application for a quarry in the Mellon Lake Reserve north of Napanee. An overflow crowd of approximately 80 people listened to the talk and participated in a lively discussion.

As part of raising public awareness about Mellon Lake, the KFN Conservation Committee—together with its community partners—wrote letters and articles published in the Kingston Whig Standard, Toronto Star and smaller community and regional papers; produced and distributed posters, informational flyers, detailed background materials and maps; facilitated local television coverage; and organized delegations to visit local MPPs (MPP Leona Dombrowsky consequently raised a question about Mellon Lake in the Legislature); and encouraged concerned people to send e-mails, faxes and letters to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of many people and organizations, the MNR office in Kingston reported that this issue had generated a record number of concerned messages from the public. Partly as a result of that outpouring of opposition, the quarry application was denied in early January 2001. KFN members should feel rightly proud of the contribution that they made to this decision.

For more information, contact Nancy Bayly, your Conservation Committee chair: **BM_1_randn@sympatico.ca** or phone 374-5211.

Presqu'ile Provincial Park

The Presqu'ile Provincial Park Management Plan, released in 2000, recommends that "the water fowl hunt be phased out of the park provided acceptable alternative opportunities are found". Muscote Bay, south of Belleville is the proposed alternative. The local consensus, at an MNR-sponsored public meeting held in Prince Edward County in April, was strongly opposed to moving the duck hunting to Muscote Bay, which is in their area. KFN Conservation Committee has been in touch with the three field naturalists groups (Presqu'ile Brighton, Quinte, Prince Edward County) which are closest to the park and to the proposed alternative. We will continue to monitor this issue.

Sudds Property Development

At time of writing, there is a proposal by the Llynlea Corporation before the Planning Committee of Kingston City Council, for an Official Plan and Zoning Amendment to permit a development on King St. between the access to the Rideau Trailhead entrance and the Little Cataraqui Creek Marshlands. A land exchange between Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority and the Sudds family has made this proposal feasible with an approval in principle. Sharon Critchley, Conservation Committee and Bud Rowe, President, have worked on this file and represented the KFN at two meetings to date. They have conferred with other community groups opposing this development and liaison has occurred with the Planning Department, CRCA technical staff and the MNR District Ecologist. Throughout this time the KFN has confined comments to our area of expertise. First, there is the migratory corridor formed by the Little Cataraqui Creek north to Bath Road, the surrounding wetlands and the golf course on the east. Second, there is information provided by Ron Weir, Bird Records Committee Chair, about seven species of concern nesting in the wetlands. We have asked questions about mitigation measures which would be necessary to protect species nesting in the wetland if the development proceeds. The issue continues as this report is being written.

Bird Records Committee ***Ron Weir***

Membership: Ken Edwards, Kenneth Edwards, Martin Edwards, Joel Ellis, Mike Evans, Kurt Hennige, Bob Stewart, Ron Weir (Chair).

The Bird Records Committee (BRC) held one meeting March 26, 2001 to consider new submissions for ten sightings. Written reports for nine species and photos for four species were vetted. Their disposition is as follows.

1. ACCEPTED Reports

a. **Hummingbird Selasphorus** (sp), Westport, June 5, 2000 Ethel Green.

b. **Long-tailed Jaeger**, Amherst Is., August 27, 2000, Jan Bisshop, Paul Mackenzie.

c. **Western Kingbird**, Morven, September 30, 2000, Shirley Treganza, Ron Weir.

d. **Pacific Loon**, Wolfe Island, George Vance, Ron Weir.

e. **Gray Jay**, Hill Island., Jim Fata, Ron Weir.

f. **Ivory Gull**, Amherst Island, Bud Rowe, Bob Sachs.

g. **Laughing Gull**, Enterprise, Joel Ellis, Bud Rowe.

2. DEFERRED decisions

a. **Steller's Jay**, Kingston, May 9 and 10, 2000, Jim Buttray. Photos will be circulated to Committee.

b. **Western Sandpiper**, Amherst Is., May 20, 2000, Paul Mackenzie. The opinion of two members of the Committee who were absent from the meeting will be sought.

3. REPORT NOT RECEIVED

a. **Eared Grebe**, Kingston, December 12, 2000.

Kingston area Christmas Bird Counts were conducted at Kingston, Prince Edward Point, Westport, Amherst Island, Napanee and St. Lawrence Islands.

Spring and fall birding round-ups were held and those records, as well as the Spring Season and Autumn Season records, were published in the *Blue Bill*, Volume 47, No.2 and Volume 47, No. 4 respectively.

The Mid-Winter Waterfowl Inventory for Kingston was conducted January 7, 2000 by 13 KFN members and the results were published in the Blue Bill, Volume 48, No.1.

At the end of December, Joel Ellis completed 15 years as official keeper of the KFN's annual bird record card files, relinquishing that responsibility to Peter Good, effective January 1, 2001. Thank you Joel, for a job well done!

In the December/January newsletter a request went out for volunteers to begin the field work for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas to take place over the five-year period 2001-2005. The area assigned to the KFN involves about 80 squares, each 10 x 10 km on the topographical map. The objective is to determine the breeding status and number of breeding pairs of birds in each square.

Field Trips Committee ***Ken Kingdon***

During the 2000/2001 report period, a total of 12 regular field trips were conducted to: Derby Hill, Prince Edward Point (twice), Opinicon, Frink Nature Centre, Charleston Lake (hike & astronomy), Amherst Island (twice), Cornwall/USA Power Dam, Ivy Lea/ Cape Vincent, Wolfe Island, and Presqu'ile Provincil Park. Participation averaged between 15-20 members (4%), with a high of about 30 going to Amherst Island to see winter irruption owls.

A special Eastern Seaboard 5-day bus trip (Cape May to Virginia) was led by R. Weir *et al.* This excellent trip was slightly under-subscribed by KFN members, necessitating an appeal to the Ontbirds Listserv to sell it out.

May Public Bird Walks were held with reasonably good participation, but often poor weather. No public walks were held in the Fall.

Both Spring and Fall Round-up competitions were held, and these were well attended. Round-ups were again concluded with excellent pot-luck suppers at the home of Joel and Marion Ellis.

A 1994 Membership Questionnaire expressed the desire for more summer field trips, including an astronomy night. In response, a summer trip was run to the interesting Frink Nature Centre pond, but only 4 members (1%) attended. The Charleston Lake astronomy night was a huge success for the Provincial Park with more than 500

public attendees, but only 4 KFN members (1%) attended.

During the forthcoming year, the need for summer outings will be explored further and an enlarged trips schedule will be offered.

As always, each trip had its unique specialties and rarities to enjoy, as well as the opportunity to socialize with other members.

Education Committee

Diane Lawrence

Club members continue to share their expertise, time and resources with teachers and the community at large in the field of natural history education. Speaking engagements, interpretive hikes and the creation of nature displays were carried out over the past year. Many thanks to all who have taken on engagements requested through the club executive and through their own initiative. The recently acquired Owl Woods provided the venue for field trips by education and biology undergraduates from Queen's University as well as several other groups. Club members Bud Rowe and Alex Scott were very involved in providing leadership and educational input to these visits. Anne Robertson co-ordinated the BioBlitz for the third year. Held June 2 and 3, the inventory was conducted in the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary. Through the help of club members and university researchers, we were able to add to our knowledge of this protected area. KFN members Brian Grigg, Susan Grigg, Eleanor Porteous and Diane Lawrence judged and awarded book prizes for deserving natural history/environmental projects at the Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Regional Science Fair held on April 7 and 8. A decline in the overall number of natural history-related projects at the fair has been noted over the past few years and this trend continued in 2000.

Nature Reserves

Brian and Susan Grigg

The annual trail maintenance and cleanup of the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary was completed in April. Overall the trails were in good shape after the winter. The "No Hunting" markers that are posted for the Sanctuary along Bedford road were spruced up in the fall. The annual report section of the Managed Forest Plan for the Sanctuary was updated. The Farm Tax Rebate form was filled out for the Amherst Island property to ensure we will continue to receive the tax rebate on an annual basis. Also, we have a new stewardship agreement with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for the Lost Bay Reserve.

Purchase of Part of the "Owl Woods"

KFN members were advised at the September 21 general meeting that the Amherst Island property formerly owned by Alex Scott, and part of what has come to be known as the Owl Woods, was soon to be offered for sale, and the Executive was authorized to act on a purchase of the property if the situation was pressed. The first indication that anyone had that the property had been listed was the posting of a Royal/LePage "For Sale" sign at the corner of the property on the north shore road. The sign was first noticed October 30 and a flurry of activity involving the KFN, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA), Loyalist Township and other interested parties, began immediately as the news spread. Two Loyalist Township officers, Diane Pearce and Murray Beckel, were concerned that the property might fall into the wrong hands and acted quickly to bring the

matter to the attention of Loyalist Township councillors, who recognized the importance of the Scott property "in order to protect the integrity of the owl bush". As a result, the Township made an offer of $39,900 to purchase the property on November 1 and that offer was accepted, with a closing date of November 27.

Loyalist Township made a commitment to contribute $20,000 of the purchase price and solicited the financial support of the KFN and the CRCA for the balance. Terms of the deal called for the CRCA to purchase the property and oversee a management plan to be developed by the KFN. A proposal to share the balance of the purchase price with the CRCA was presented to the KFN general membership for approval November 16. Initial discussions regarding the future management of the owl habitat have taken place between the KFN executive, the CRCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer and Loyalist Township officials.

Transfer of title to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority was completed, and the KFN's 25 % share of the total purchase price, plus expenses, was $10,545.41. Should the CRCA in the future decide to sell or transfer title to the property, Loyalist Township, for its 50% share of the costs, will have the right of first refusal to purchase the property at the original purchase price plus any costs incurred by the CRCA, less the amount already contributed. If Loyalist Township should not wish to exercise that option, the KFN will have the second right of refusal to acquire title to the property for the sum of one dollar. What a fantastic deal!

Lost Bay Nature Reserve

An organization known as "The Friends of Lost Bay", headed by local resident, Cameron Smith, raised funds to purchase about 108 acres of undeveloped forest land bordering the east side of Lost Bay on Gananoque Lake, approximately 17 km north, northeast of Gananoque in the Township of the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne. The property was donated to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and a Conservation Agreement between the FON and the Nature Conservancy of Canada took effect September 15, which specifies what can or can not be done with the property (no hunting, tree cutting, etc.). Through discussions between Cameron Smith, Graham Bryan of the FON, and the KFN Ad Hoc Properties Committee, a Stewardship Agreement between the KFN and the FON was concluded effective from February 1, 2001 to February 1, 2004. Under that agreement, the primary responsibilities of the KFN are:

- compiling natural history information
- noting any human use
- patrolling and protecting, and
- answering local inquiries about the Reserve.

Ad Hoc Properties Committee

Anne Robertson

The members of this committee are: Anne Robertson (Chair), Paul Mackenzie, Ron Weir, Mike Evans, George Vance, Larry McCurdy, Bud Rowe, Brian Grigg and Susan Grigg. The committee met four times this year, mainly to discuss the "Owl Woods" purchase and the Lost Bay Reserve stewardship agreement and prepare recommendations to the KFN Executive Committee. Liability insurance coverage for KFN members was also a topic of discussion. Three members of the committee met with officials of Loyalist Township regarding the "Owl Woods" purchase.

Publicity and Newsletter

Marion Watkins

There were nine issues of the Newsletter, KFN advertisements were placed in the Whig Standard Fall and Spring Activity guides, notices sent to the Whig, Kingston This Week and COGECO regarding each general meeting and the public bird walks in May. A KFN display was set up and attended at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's first meeting of the new year.

Membership

John Critchley

KFN's current adult membership has 20 Life Members, and 300 (approx.) adult memberships, which are half individual and half family memberships. There are also 80 junior and 20 teen memberships. Members will notice that their mailing label indicates the type of membership and the expiry date.

Personalized renewal notices for the fiscal year 2000/2001 were mailed to adult members with a request for return of the notice with their cheque prior to March 31st. Up to two reminders were sent to those who did not renew. The results of the membership renewal drive were very encouraging. 78% of memberships were renewed using the first (green) renewal notice. 13% of the renewals sent in the yellow expiry notice and only 9% renewed on the pink final mailing notice. These return notices form part of the hard copy audit trail necessary for tracking payment of membership fees so it is important to return them.

John Critchley also prepares all mailing labels and thanks the volunteers, Jean Hopkins and Fiona Poland, who fold and mail the newsletter and Norma Graham who mails the Blue Bill and on occasion does double duty for the combined mailing of the Blue Bill and the newsletter.

Kingston Junior Naturalists

Anne Robertson

Eighty Juniors were registered for the 2000/2001 year. We met for 14 indoor meetings and 5 field trips as well as the traditional Bird Walk and Wild Food Picnic.

I am especially grateful to Diane Lawrence who ran the program from January to May with energy and enthusiasm. We had excellent help from eight regular assistant leaders, two per group of twenty or so juniors. Thank you Kerrie Harvey, Jessica Nip, Dawn Pier, Tammy Steeves (2 years), Chloe Stuart (2 years), Jen Taylor/Robinson (3 years), Lisa Viet, Tammy Groves and Jen Rowland as well as several past leaders who filled in on occasion. We really appreciate the considerable time that they spent in preparing the activities for this program.

Topics this year included Grass, Spiders, Plants Underground, Estimating in Nature, Tails, Rocks and Minerals, Astronomy, Mammals, with Endangered Species of Oceans as our advocacy meeting. At this last meeting several banners were made and sent to the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa.

For our first field trip in October, we went to the Frink Centre near Belleville to visit the wetland habitat and learn about drumlins. In November a wetland and woodland near Elginburg were visited to compare habitats. Traces, Tracks and Clues were studied at Parrott Bay in January, Birds of Prey on Amherst Island in February and Waterfowl at Presqu'ile Park in March. We finished the field trip program with the traditional

roadside cleanup and wild flower walk at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary in April.

The Stirrett Scholarship in 2000 was shared by Matt McIntyre and Alison Hanes who went to the FON's Young Naturalists Camp at the Leslie Frost Centre (see *Blue Bill* Volume 47, No. 4 and Volume 48, No. 1). Roland Beschel Prizes for summer projects were awarded to Aaron Gazendam, Amy Hanes and Elena Ponte. Our Christmas collection this year raised $25 to protect one kilometer of beach in the Caribbean—a program of the World Wildlife Fund—to help protect sea turtles.

All in all, another full and rewarding year.

Kingston Teen Naturalists

Anne Robertson

Seventeen Teens registered for the 2000/2001 year. We have had a successful year and are grateful to many KFN members for assistance with driving and for acting as role models. Particularly, I am grateful to Diane Lawrence who did a terrific job organizing the program from January to May.

We had nine outings. In September we learned how to do a stream assessment at Gould Lake Conservation Area. In October we had a hike with a twist which included replacing "No Hunting" signs in the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary and a hike around the Roland Beschel Trail, paying special attention to the species found by making a list of at least one example from each plant and animal group in both wetlands and woodlands. In November we did some Bioengineering. On this trip we installed a fascine and planted shrubs along the bank of the stream draining the pond at the Cataraqui Town Centre (see *Blue Bill* Volume 47, No. 4). We planted more shrubs in May. Mudpuppy night in Oxford Mills in January was well attended and lots of fun (and cold!). We also visited the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum on this occasion. We cross-country skied on the property of Dale Kristensen in February and in March the Kuter-Arnebeck family led us on a Birds of Prey Hike on Wellesley Island. Prince Edward Point was our destination in April to see the BSC (Bird Studies Canada) banding program. The canoe trip will go to Little Long Lake and Eel Bay in June.

Unfortunately, we were unable to participate in the Marsh Monitoring Program this year. Last summer it was interesting to find out about this program but very time consuming for leaders. The Birdathon in 2000 was most successful with 12 teens participating for 24 hours (*Blue Bill* Volume 47, No. 3). The team average was 70 species and we were the youth group that raised the most in Canada—$1,001—for which we won a camera. One of our teens had the highest number of sponsors and won a pair of binoculars. In 2001 the Birdathon was cancelled due to lack of participation by teen members. We'll try again next year. A Bio-Blitz was held at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary in 2000 and the teens set small mammal live traps and recorded birds and moths. There will be no Bio-Blitz in 2001.

Philina English and Mark Conboy will be working as naturalists at Presqu'ile Provincial Park this summer along with past teen naturalist, Andrew Cirtwill, who continues as a naturalist at the park. Philina, Mark and Andrew took themselves to Costa Rica in February.

This continues to be a stimulating group with the older members often

passing on their natural history knowledge to the newer members and sharing their enthusiasm.

Rambles ***Anne Robertson***

This group enjoys walks to notice nature. We share our knowledge on a wide variety of natural history topics in diverse habitats in all seasons and all weather. Twenty rambles were held from April 2000 to March 2001. Over 65 people participated in total. Numbers varied from 7 to 23. Destinations included the Van der Water Conservation Area, Charleston Lake, Purdon Conservation Area, Zilstra's property, Little Cataraqui Creek from Tanner Drive, Queen's University Biology Station, the Hewlitt Packard property and Queen's Arboretum. Winter rambles were led by a variety of club members, including Jacquie Bartnik, June Buckingham, Ken Kingdon, Margo McMurray, Bud Rowe and Karen Stinson. Thanks, folks!

FON Representative

Shirley Tregenza

Two Eastern Ontario Regional meetings were attended in Perth, Ontario, one in the spring and one in the fall. Representatives from the eastern Ontario clubs gave reports on their activities and concerns. Executives from the FON spoke to us about their latest efforts on our behalf, much of which was also announced in *Seasons*. I returned with a trunk full of the new print tracts (2 500) *Nature for all Seasons*, which I have attempted to distribute. I also brought back four cartons of Christmas cards, hasty-notes and calendars. Subsequently, 12 calendars and 76 packages of cards were sold.

Speakers, Telephone Information Line and E-mail Service

Bob Sachs

The speakers at KFN general meetings and their topics were:

May Annual dinner meeting: Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund Canada, "Why I am a Naturalist"

September Sid Andrews, "St. Lawrence Islands National Park: Tending the Garden of the Great Spirit"

October David Bree, "Sandbanks—Desert in a Freshwater Sea"

November Henrik Mouritsen, "On Safari in Africa"

December Members' Night—presentation of natural history slides by several members

January Bob Stewart, "Bird-watching in South Africa"

February Henrik Mouritsen, "Bird Migration"

March Brenda Carter, "Luck of the Draw"

April Rose-Marie Burke, "The Nature in Our Back Yards"

The KFN Telephone Information Line **(613-549-8023)** has had a 40% reduction in usage from 1999 to 2000. For the first four months of 2001, there has been a small further drop of 6%.

KFN E-Mail Service For the last 18 months we have been circulating by e-mail: local bird sightings, upcoming KFN events and other news of interest to members who have requested to be added to our e-mail circulation list (now 55 subscribers). This service was welcomed, but it has reduced phone line use.

The Blue Bill ***Gail Gault***

Sharon David became Editor of the *Blue Bill* in April, 1995 and completed Volume 43, No. 2 through Volume 47, No. 1. In order to devote time to further her education, Sharon passed the Editor's reins to Marjorie Bousfield. Marjorie completed the next two issues, but was unable to continue for personal reasons, and we were fortunate to have our present editor, Gail Gault, volunteer for the job. Thanks to all three members for ensuring not only the continuation, but also, the high quality of this important KFN publication.

[The financial report will be published in the September issue.—Ed.]

The Art Of Nature: "Chorus Line"

Brenda Carter

Unlike a performer on a Broadway stage, this singer is exceedingly shy. However, even though it is the smallest frog in Canada, it does have a surprisingly loud voice. This first amphibian voice of spring, sounds like someone repeatedly drawing a thumbnail over the teeth of an amplified pocket comb. The nostalgic song of the Chorus Frog, reminiscent of trilling Spring Peepers, floats out on warming evenings, often as early as March if conditions are right. Braving snow and lingering ice on their tiny, temporary ponds and sporting about in ditches, these creatures have a lot to sing about.

With over 300 potential offspring and only a short mating season, life is hectic for *Pseudacris triseriata*. When the temperature reaches 5 to 10 degrees Celsius during the day, breeding begins. Most males repeatedly call for hours, but some use "stealth" tactics. These watch silently from the wings, only to nab a female while their rival is busy performing. Three months after the fertile eggs are laid, the tiny tadpoles become new frogs which will spend the winter frozen solid, only to repeat the process next spring.

Or will they? Those who monitor frogs are noticing a disturbing trend toward "Silent Springs". Many of the fields, small ponds and roadside ditches that provided safe habitat for this minute creature are changed or sadly mute. Gone from much of its range in Vermont and New York State, Quebec has designated the Chorus Frog as a "vulnerable" species. Recently the First Annual International Conference on Northeastern Chorus Frogs, attended by herpetologists from Ontario, Quebec, New York State and Vermont, was held at Kemptville's Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum to discuss the problem of declining numbers. All for Canada's smallest frog.

Those who love frogs, or would like to, can help by creating backyard ponds for these diminutive singers instead of goldfish. Frogs are cuter, provide more opportunity for your children's nature education and don't have to be taken in for the winter. Marsh monitoring for calling frogs is also a great activity and can be done by

flashlight at night or while out birding. Results of your family's findings can be of real scientific value. Eliminating pesticides and herbicides from your own property and convincing golf courses to do the same, can also make a real difference. Frogs breathe through their skins and chemicals cause deformities. What happens to frogs can eventually happen to us.

I plan to be out this spring—listening and note taking. This is one Broadway quality show I hope runs forever.

For more information on the Western Chorus Frog or marsh monitoring call the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum at 258-3415 or visit the monitoring website at: **http://home.istar.ca/~bckcdb/pseutote.htm**

For more information on Brenda Carter, visit the web site at **canalgallery.com**.

Brenda Carter

An Update for *The Kingston Plant List*

Adèle Crowder, J. Topping, K. Topping

If you have a copy of *Plants of the Kingston Region, 1996*, by Adele Crowder, Karen Topping and John Topping (ISBN 0-889110731-4), please make the following corrections to it. If you do not have a copy, you can get one from the Fowler Herbarium in the Biosciences Building at Queen's or from the Campus Bookstore.

1. Add the Dalle Toree and Harms number, **"8486"** to *Galius obtusum* p. 93
2. Add "*Orobanche uniflora* One-flowered Broom rape, occasional in wet woods" p. 91
3. Add "*Leontodon autumnalis* L. ssp. *Autumnalis.* Fall Hawkbit . Occasional in disturbed ground. Introduced." p. 101
4. Add "*Aesculus hippocastaneus L.* Horse Chestnut. Reproduces occasionally in urban areas. Introduced." p. 72
5. To *Eleangus umbellata*, p. 76, add "in wet forests". This species is reported to be spreading. Change **Thumb** to **Thunb**
6. *Onosmodium m*olle was reported again in Hastings County in 1993 (Catling *et al.* 1993) p. 85
7. Change the spelling of **aperine** to **aparine** (*Gallium aparine*).

(continued on p. 70)

Kingston and Area Christmas Counts, 2000

Peter Good

There were some very impressive numbers of birds seen on the six local Christmas counts. Aside from the usual thousands of Long-tailed Ducks (formerly Oldsquaw)—46 551 this year at Prince Edward, Napanee racked up a record 58 species and Amherst Island tallied no less than 76 owls of 6 species.

The number of Tundra Swans staying on Wolfe Island until freeze-up continues to grow. All counts except Napanee recorded Bald Eagles for a total of 80.

Highlights for individual counts included two Brewer's Blackbirds on Wolfe Island, three Evening Grosbeaks at Westport (the only ones seen), a mockingbird at Napanee, and all three accipiters at Thousand Islands.

Following are three tables indicating:

1) statistics on individual counts

2) the 10-year average for each count

3) the number of each species on each count.

Table #1: Statistics on Individual Counts

Count	**Prince Edward Point**	**Kingston**	**Westport**	**Amherst Island**	**Napanee**	**Thousand Islands**
Date	Dec. 16	Dec. 17	Dec. 19	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30
Compiler	R.Weir	P.Good	W. Briggs-Jude	J. Scott	D. Clark	S. Andrews
# of obs's	N/A	34	17	28	N/A	46
# species	61	102	44	58	58	56
# individ's	56 082	43 212	2 317	3 656	8 480	6 982

Table #2: Ten Year Comparison

	1991	**1992**	**1993**	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**10yr av**
P Ed Pt.	61	61	64	61	76	68	64	61	80	61	66
Kingston	95	96	113	99	101	97	104	103	107	102	102
Westport	37	55	50	46	36	38	46	41	49	44	44
Amherst Island	51	47	51	n/a	54	57	63	57	51	58	54
Napanee	48	43	46	46	52	52	56	51	38	58	49
Thousand Island	61	57	74	59	53	58	56	57	69	56	60

Table # 3: Species Count By Area

Species	Prince Edward Pt.	Kingston	Westport	Napanee	Amherst Is.	Thou-sand Is.
Red-throated Loon	1	1				
Pacific Loon		1				
Common Loon	1	4			Cw	
Horned Grebe	6	2				
Red-necked Grebe	1					
Eared Grebe		1				
Double-crested Cormorant	5					
Great Blue Heron				1	1	
Trumpeter Swan			5			
Tundra Swan		270				
Snow Goose		1				
Brant		33				
Canada Goose	356	14 448	1	815	671	20
Wood Duck		1				
Green-winged Teal				1		
Black Duck	357	1 548		50	83	27
Mallard	4 210	10 877		673	361	372
Northern Pintail	1	12			10	
Gadwall	12	71		1	2	3
American Wigeon				2		
Canvasback		1				
Redhead	55	402			1	
Ring-necked Duck		15	1			
Greater Scaup	55	1 035				
Lesser Scaup		9		1		
Harlequin Duck		1				
Long-tailed Duck	46 551	5			16	
Black Scoter	1	2			2	
White-winged Scoter	225	2			15	
Surf Scoter	6					
Common Goldeneye	512	1 180		195	537	291
Bufflehead	46	72			160	

Species	**Prince Edward Pt.**	**Kingston**	**Westport**	**Napanee**	**Amherst Is.**	**Thou-sand Is.**
Hooded Merganser		6				10
Common Merganser	878	318	6		255	462
Red-breasted Merganser	10	6				
Bald Eagle	16	16	2	0	5	41
Northern Harrier	2	1		3	4	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	2				1
Cooper's Hawk	2	4		1		1
Northern Goshawk				1		2
Red-shouldered Hawk		1				
Red-tailed Hawk	16	32	7	41	23	34
Rough-legged Hawk	4	9		8	50	7
American Kestrel	1	12		4	7	2
Merlin		3		1		
Ring-necked Pheasant		2	2		4	
Ruffed Grouse	2	2	14	3		32
Wild Turkey			16			90
Northern Bobwhite		1				
American Coot		1				
Purple Sandpiper		1				
Dunlin		1				
Common Snipe		1				
Bonaparte's Gull		2				
Ring-billed Gull	90	434		226	1	28
Herring Gull	252	299	1	593	14	60
Iceland Gull		1				
Glaucous Gull				13		
Great Black-backed Gull	65	103	1	77	4	4
Rock Dove	54	1 699	63	332	2	357
Mourning Dove	186	764	192	827	55	299
Screech Owl		Cw				
Great Horned Owl	1	3	3	1	7	4

Species	Prince Edward Pt.	Kingston	Westport	Napanee	Amherst Is.	Thou-sand Is.
Snowy Owl		7			11	1
Short-eared Owl		2			29	
Long-eared Owl		2			20	
Boreal Owl					Cw	
Barred Owl			1		1	1
Saw-whet Owl					8	
Northern Hawk Owl				1		
Belted Kingfisher		1			2	Cw
Red-bellied Woodpecker		2				
Downy Woodpecker	9	55	31	11	10	84
Hairy Woodpecker	3	17	32	12	3	45
Northern Flicker	3	1	1	1	3	
Pileated Woodpecker		3	4	2		4
Horned Lark	11	24		4	4	210
Blue Jay	246	238	216	344	114	471
Gray Jay						1
American Crow	311	159	31	408	31	203
Common Raven		1	26	1		9
Black-capped Chickadee	136	329	322	175		602
Red-breasted Nuthatch		8	7			34
White-breasted Nuthatch	10	45	29	12	5	85
Brown Creeper		4	9		1	4
Carolina Wren		Cw				
Winter Wren		1				
Marsh Wren		1				
Golden-crowned Kinglet		33	2	3		10
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1				
Eastern Bluebird	6	Cw		6		
Hermit Thrush		1				
American Robin	113	46	2	253	Cw	64
Northern Mockingbird				1		

Species	**Prince Edward Pt.**	**Kingston**	**Westport**	**Napanee**	**Amherst Is.**	**Thou-sand Is.**
American Pipit		1				
Cedar Waxwing	8	7	67	150	20	201
Northern Shrike	5	11	3	9	6	4
European Starling	351	1 785	48	1 410	217	911
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		1	1		
Northern Cardinal	5	43	3	10	8	6
Tree Sparrow	129	157	239	178	103	314
Chipping Sparrow				1		
Fox Sparrow		1				
Song Sparrow	3	77		3	5	6
Swamp Sparrow		32			1	
White-throated Sparrow	1	13		4	2	2
White-crowned Sparrow		1		1		
Dark-eyed Junco	104	62	137	213	21	149
Lapland Longspur		9			15	
Snow Bunting	120	1 811	202	819	576	182
Redwing Blackbird		11		1		1
Eastern Meadowlark	1	1			1	
Brewer's Blackbird		2				
Rusty Blackbird	44				1	
Grackle	6	4	1			3
Cowbird	100	23		8	48	4
Purple Finch		11	6	3		18
House Finch	146	374	69	158	50	207
Common Redpoll			30			10
Pine Siskin		3	15			
Goldfinch	40	70	299	20	3	208
Evening Grosbeak			3			
House Sparrow	187	893	167	395		662

Cw= Count week, i.e. 3 days prior to or after the count day

Winter Season December 1, 2000 To February 28, 2001

Ron D. Weir

The weather for the period was marked by a return to a real winter after several consecutive unusually warm seasons. The weather remained nearly ideal for an excellent Christmas Count in Kingston on December 17, 2000, which placed Kingston second in Ontario for species total. The new year saw a sudden onset of very cold weather to freeze Lake Ontario at the eastern end and many days of light snowfall. It seemed we were "nickled and dimed to death" with the snow. Most waterfowl left us by mid-January and had not returned by early March. The winter finch influx was non-existent, but winter owls appeared in numbers, both for species and individuals. The wintry conditions prevented any significant early migrant returns in late February.

Rarities include Pacific Loon, Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gyrfalcon, Ivory Gull, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, and Boreal Owl.

Latest Ever Departures

	New Record			Previous Record
Ivory Gull	Jan. 17 (1)	Amherst Is.	KFN	Dec. 9, 1977
Fox Sparrow	Jan. 31 (1)	Elmwood	KFE, MCE	Dec. 20, 1987

SPECIES ACCOUNT:

Red-throated Loon - Dec. 16 (1) PEPt., 17(1) Wolfe Is., KFN.

Pacific Loon - Dec. 17 (1) Wolfe Is., GFV, RDW.

Common Loon - to Jan. 7, Kingston, KFN.

Horned Grebe - to Jan. 7, Kingston, KFN.

Red-necked Grebe - to Jan. 7 PEPt, KFN.

Eared Grebe - Dec. 17 (1) Kingston, CG, LSW *et al.*

Double-crested Cormorant - to Jan. 10 (1) Kingston, KFN.

Great Blue Heron - to Jan. 22 (1), Kingston, BR.

Tundra Swan - peaks Dec. 17 (270), to Jan. 7 (111) Wolfe Is., KFN.

Harlequin Duck - Dec. 10-Jan. 7 (1 female) Wolfe Is., KFN; to Jan. 8 (1 male) Amherst Is., KFN.

Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw) - peaks Dec. 17 (46 551), Jan. 7 (45 324), Feb. 3 (10 000) PEPt, KFN.

Black Scoter - Dec. 16-29 (5), to Jan. 7 (2) PEPt, KFN.

Surf Scoter - Dec. 16 (6) PEPt, 17 (1) Wolfe Is., KFN.

White-winged Scoter - peaks Dec. 16 (225), Jan. 7 (310) PEPt, KFN.

Barrow's Goldeneye - Jan. 7-27 (1 male) Amherst Is., KFN; Feb. 13 (1 female) PEPt, JHE, RDW.

Osprey - Dec. 14 (1) Kingston, E Batalla.

Bald Eagle - peak Jan. 7 (32 ad + 15 im = 47) Kingston area, KFN; easily located all winter at PEPt, Wolfe Is., Amherst Is., Howe Is., Ivy Lea, KFN.

Northern Goshawk - Dec. 1-Feb. 29 (3 only) Kingston, SD, GP, LB.

Sharp-shinned Hawk - Dec. (10), Jan. (7), Feb. (1) Kingston, KFN.

Cooper's Hawk - Dec. (6), Jan. (2), Feb. (0) Kingston, KFN.

Red-shouldered Hawk - Dec. 17 (1), Kingston, KFN.

Red-tailed Hawk - peaks Dec. 28 (23) Amherst Is., KFN; Jan. 12 (25) Amherst Is., RKE.

Rough-legged Hawk - peaks Dec. 28 (50) Amherst Is., KFN; Jan. 8 (86) Amherst Is., GP.

Golden Eagle - Jan. 17 (1) Amherst Is., R. Scovell.

Merlin - Dec. 17 - Feb. 20 (5 in all), Kingston, KFN.

Peregrine Falcon - Dec. 12 (1) Kingston, MJE; Jan. 1-9 (1), Wolfe Is. RS *et al.;* Jan. 20-29 (1) Kingston, KFN.

Gyrfalcon - Jan. 29 - Feb. 24 (1 grey) Kingston, BR, KK *et al.*

Purple Sandpiper - Dec. 17 (1) Wolfe Is., GFV, RDW.

Dunlin - to Dec. 17 (1) Wolfe Is., GFV, RDW.

Iceland Gull - peak Jan. 20 (12) Napanee dump, RKE.

Glaucous Gull - peak Jan. 20 (21) Napanee dump, RKE.

Ivory Gull - Jan. 3 - 17 (1 im), Amherst Is., KFN, 2nd ever.

Snowy Owl - peaks Dec. 28 (11), Jan. 8 (13), Amherst Is., KFN; Dec. 17 (7) Wolfe Is., KFN.

Northern Hawk Owl - Dec. 1 - Feb. 20 (1) Joyceville, F&R Euringer *et al.*; Dec. 27-Mar. 3 (2) near Selby, W. Frey *et al*, KFN.

Great Gray Owl - Feb. 8-15 (1) Kingston, B&J Searight *et al.*

Long-eared Owl - peaks Dec. 28 (20), Jan-Feb. (15) Amherst Is., KFN.

Short-eared Owl - peaks Dec. 7 (30), 28 (29), Jan. 28 (16) Amherst Is., KFN.

Boreal Owl - peaks Jan. 13-17 (4), Feb. 24 (3) Amherst Is., KFN.

Saw-whet Owl - peaks Dec. 28 (8), Jan. (5), Feb. (11) Amherst Is., KFN.

Red-bellied Woodpecker - Dec. (7 in all), Kingston, KFN; Jan. 1 (3) Howe Is., SD; Jan. 10 (1) Ivy Lea, NLB.

Gray Jay - Dec. 30 (1) Ivy Lea, J Fata, RDW.

Raven - peak Dec. 19 (26) Westport, KFN.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - moderate numbers over winter, Kingston area, KFN.

Carolina Wren - Dec. 16 - Feb. 19 (2) Kingston, ES, RS.

Eastern Bluebird - Dec. 16 - Feb. 2 (6) Cressy, KFN.

Hermit Thrush - Dec. 17 (1) Wolfe Is., KFN; Jan. 2 (1) Kingston, GP.

Northern Shrike - peaks Dec. (25 in all), Jan. - Feb. (several during every field trip), high numbers, Kingston area, KFN.

Bohemian Waxwing - Feb. 20 (90), Harrowsmith, KK.

Cedar Waxwing - Dec. 1 to Feb. 29, large numbers and widespread, peaks Dec. 12 (500), Feb. 6 (500) PEPt, KFN.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - Dec. 1 - Feb. 28, low numbers, PEPt, KFN.

Eastern Towhee - Jan. 6-28 (1) Kingston, GP.

Field Sparrow - Dec. 10 (2) Joyceville, RS.

Savannah Sparrow - Dec. 10 (1) Wolfe Is., JHE, RDW.

Fox Sparrow - Dec. 17 (1) Wolfe Is., KFN, Jan. 1-31 (1) Elmwood, KFE, MCE.

Snow Bunting - peak flock Jan. 7 (3000) Conway, KFN, 1000s all winter.

Eastern Meadowlark - to Feb. 4 (3) Amherst Is., KFN.

Brewer's Blackbird - Dec. 17 (1) Wolfe Is., E&S Batalla.

Purple Finch - Dec. 1 - Feb. 29, regular, low numbers, Kingston area, KFN.

Common Redpoll - Dec. 10 (40) Wolfe Is., Dec. 17 (30) Westport, KFN. Scarce.

Pine Siskin - Dec. (18 in all), Feb. 21 (5) Kingston, KFN. Very scarce.

Evening Grosbeak - Dec. 19 (3) Westport, KFN, only records.

Contributors:

E. & S. Batalla, L. Boyce, S. David, K.F. Edwards, M.C. Edwards, R.K. Edwards, J.H. Ellis, F. & R. Euringer, J. Fata, W.Frey, C. Grooms, K. Kingdon, Kingston Field Naturalists 3+, North Leeds Birdwatchers, G. Paul, B. Rowe, E. Sachs, R. Sachs, J. Scovell., B. & J. Searight, G.F. Vance, R.D. Weir, L.S. Wright

Spring Round-up 2001

Ron D. Weir

The KFN's 44th Spring Round-up took place from 1500h Saturday, May 19 to 1500h Sunday, May 20, 2001. Weather conditions were sunny Saturday with a very light NW wind and 17°C. Sunday was sunny with light SE winds and temperatures from 7°C to 25°C.

The final tally of species was 208, which was above the 28-year (1973-2000) average of 200. Areas visited included Amherst Island; Amherstview Sewage Lagoon; Bath area; Camden East; Camden Lake; Canoe Lake Road and surrounding areas; Collins Bay and its watershed; Garden Island; Chippewa area; Desert Lake; Hay Bay areas; Kingston City areas (to include Dupont Lagoons, Squaw Point, Lemoines Point, Little Cataraqui Creek,); Newburgh; Opinicon Road; Perth Road; Prince Edward Point; Wilton Creek .

The adult-plumaged Pacific Loon was the one new species added to the cumulative total that stands at 283 species. For a complete tally of the Spring Round-ups from 1960-91, see *Blue Bill* 39 (1992):28-36. For 1992 to 2000, see *Blue Bill* 39 (1992), 44-49; 40 (1993), 125-131; 41 (1994),48-53; 42 (1995),63-70; 43 (1996),70-74; 44 (1997),60-66; 45 (1998),49-54; 46 (1999),81-89; and 47 (2000),58-63 respectively.

Species unique to a party included the following:

Party #1 - Northern Bobwhite; Yellow-breasted Chat; Brewster's hybrid;

Party #2 - Peregrine Falcon;

Party #3 - Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, Loggerhead Shrike;

Party #4 - Parula Warbler with party #7, Pectoral Sandpiper with #5; Cooper's Hawk with #6 ;

Party #5 - Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Merlin, Brown Creeper;

Party #6 - Mute Swan, Black Scoter, Rough-legged Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Little Gull;

Party #7 - Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Horned Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Wild Turkey, Yellow Rail, Long-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Hermit Thrush, Prairie, Palm, Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers, Henslow's Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Orchard Oriole.

Other noteworthy statistics for the 44th Round-up include the 3rd record ever for Great Cormorant and Northern Bobwhite, the 4th record for Worm-eating Warbler, the 7th record for Yellow Rail and Forster's Tern; the 8th time for Merlin and Little Gull; 9th for Red-throated Loon and Peregrine Falcon.

Participants were invited to the home of Marian and Joel Ellis for the potluck supper and the species tabulation. Thanks are due to Marian and Joel for being such kind hosts.

Party #1 Miscellaneous: Eric Machell and banders at Prince Edward Point (PEPt.)

Party #2 Erwin Batalla, Alex Batalla.

Party #3 Lynn Bell, Joel Ellis, Peter Good, Kathy Innes, Paul Mackenzie, Bud Rowe.

Party #4 Faith Avis, Jay and Bea McMahon.

Party #5 Kurt Hennige, Ken Kingdon, Bob Sachs, Gary Ure.

Party #6 Karen Fleming, Alex Scott.

Party #7 Martin Edwards, Bob Stewart, Jane Scovell, Ron Weir.

The Art Bell Trophy was won by Party #7 for the highest species total of 171. This award was inaugurated in 1992 to commemorate the memory of Art Bell, who was a life-long member of the KFN and a keen participant in the Spring and Fall Round-ups since their inception.

The Purple Vulture Award, that very ugly papier maché model representing no living creature currently on this earth, was won by the runner-up parties #3 and 5 with their 159 species.

The totals in the following table have had known duplications removed so that the total individuals for a species may not equal the sum of the contributions from each party.

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBERS							TOT
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	
Red-throated Loon	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Pacific Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Loon	-	x	10	-	5	7	38	55
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Double-crested Cormorant	x	x	500	100	600	500	1 500	2 000
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	2	4	7	13
Great Blue Heron	x	x	20	6	10	40	8	85
Green Heron	-	x	1	-	-	-	1	2
Black-Crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3
Mute Swan	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Brant	-	-	450	3	93	403	500	1 300
Canada Goose	x	x	150	100	160	200	300	1 000
Wood Duck	-	3	-	4	3	-		10
Green-winged Teal	-	-	2	-	2	3	4	11
Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3
Mallard	x	x	200	20	30	50	80	400
Northern Pintail	-	-	8	2	4	4	3	15
Blue-winged Teal	-	x	2	-	3	5	2	
Northern Shoveler	-	x	15	6	12	7	26	12
Gadwall	-	x	50	30	8	20	60	35
American Wigeon	-	x	10	2	6	6	4	130
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Greater Scaup	-	x	2	25	-	-	27	30
Lesser Scaup	-	-	8	-	4	4		12
Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw)	-	-	100	-	150	-	150	250
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	20	-	350	370
Common Goldeneye	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	2
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Common Merganser	-	-	-	8	2	6	8	24
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	40	6	60	4	21	130
Ruddy Duck	-	x	1	-	-	-	-	1
Turkey Vulture	x	x	15	4	20	12	15	50
Osprey	2	x	3	2	1	3	1	9

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBERS							TOT
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	
Northern Harrier	-	x	5	3	1	7	5	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	1	2	3	10	-	16
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	x	x	6	1	2	4	6	21
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
American Kestrel	-	x	3	2	1	1	1	8
Merlin	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Ruffed Grouse	x	-	1	2	6	12	5	28
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Northern Bobwhite	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Virginia Rail	-	x	4	-	1	-	3	8
Sora	-	-	3	-	2	2	1	8
Common Moorhen	-	-	2	-	1	1	10	14
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1
Semipalmated Plover	-	x	20	10	14	13	20	20
Killdeer	x	x	50	20	30	20	40	160
Greater Yellowlegs	-	x	-	2	1	1	-	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	6
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	5
Spotted Sandpiper	-	x	40	20	20	20	50	100
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	5	-	8	10	18	41
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	2
Red Knot	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	-	1	5	7
Least Sandpiper	-	x	200	10	40	50	55	200
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	3	-	-	4
Dunlin	-	x	10	x	10	20	7	47
Short-billed Dowitcher	-	-	1	6	8	9	9	9
Common Snipe	x	x	12	x	24	20	30	86
American Woodcock	-	x	10	-	10	2	25	47
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	20	x	13	20	30	30
Little Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	4
Ring-billed Gull	x	x	100	40	50	100	330	500

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBERS							TOT
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	
Herring Gull	x	-	20	10	10	6	30	75
Great Black-backed Gull	x	-	2	3	-	6	10	15
Caspian Tern	x	-	10	6	12	10	13	25
Common Tern	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	2
Forster's Tern	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	2
Black Tern	-	x	150	20	30	70	35	150
Rock Dove	x	x	15	6	12	6	14	50
Mourning Dove		x	x	25	30	50	50	45
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	x	6	-	5	1	1	13
Eastern Screech Owl	-	x	2	-	2	-	1	5
Great Horned Owl	-	-	1	-	11	1	10	23
Barred Owl	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Short-eared Owl	-	-	3	-	-	21	-	21
Common Nighthawk	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	5
Whip-poor-will	-	x	20	-	15	-	20	55
Chimney Swift	-	-	1	1	-	4	-	6
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	x	1	-	3	-	6	10
Belted Kingfisher	-	x	4	2	3	1	1	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	2	-	4	1	1	8
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	1	-	4	4	10	19
Hairy Woodpecker	x	x	3	-	2	1	3	9
Northern Flicker	x	x	5	2	20	20	8	55
Pileated Woodpecker	-	x	2	2	2	7	-	13
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Eastern Wood Pewee	x	x	15	-	5	3	9	29
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	5
Alder Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	6
Least Flycatcher	x	x	10	2	30	20	30	92
Eastern Phoebe	x	x	15	12	6	4	20	57
Great-crested Flycatcher	x	x	25	20	20	30	26	121
Eastern Kingbird	x	x	50	30	50	20	45	195
Horned Lark	-	x	2	-	6	-	2	10
Purple Martin	-	x	20	50	20	25	35	100
Tree Swallow	x	x	15	100	100	50	80	345
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	x	x	10	3	25	15	40	93

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBERS							TOT
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	
Bank Swallow	-	-	2	-	10	4	-	16
Cliff Swallow	x	x	100	60	150	-	110	150
Barn Swallow	x	x	50	30	70	20	70	240
Blue Jay	x	x	60	3	50	50	75	235
American Crow	x	x	15	10	40	30	60	155
Common Raven	-	-	3	-	7	2	-	12
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	25	8	20	100	16	169
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	x	3	-	3	1	1	8
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
House Wren	x	x	12	25	20	25	45	125
Winter Wren	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Marsh Wren	-	x	10	-	2	1	30	43
Ruby-crowne Kinglet	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	x	-	6	-	10	-	10	26
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	3	12	12	1	-	28
Veery	-	-	7	-	20	4	6	37
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5
Swainson's Thrush	x	-	6	-	5	-	25	36
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Wood Thrush	x	x	30	-	10	30	20	90
American Robin	x	x	75	100	100	100	350	700
Gray Catbird	x	x	40	12	30	20	70	172
Brown Thrasher	x	x	10	3	20	10	15	58
Cedar Waxwing	x	x	8	6	25	-	30	70
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
European Starling	x	x	50	60	50	200	70	430
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Yellow-throated Vireo	-	-	2	-	3	1	1	7
Warbling Vireo		x	x	12	50	30	50	50
Philadelphia Vireo	-	-	-	1	6	2	2	11
Red-eyed Vireo		x	x	40	50	40	20	50
Blue-winged Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Golden-winged Warbler	x	-	2	-	12	1	-	15
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	-	4	1	10	15
Nashville Warbler	-	-	4	-	50	2	10	66
Northern Parula	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Yellow Warbler	x	x	200	100	200	100	500	1 100
Chestnut-sided Warbler	x	x	40	-	40	20	65	165
Magnolia Warbler	-	-	30	4	30	2	70	136

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBERS							
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	TOT
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	4	1	5	-	25	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	5	-	12	-	60	76
Black-throated Green Warbler	x	x	10	3	30	3	30	76
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	10	-	25	4	27	66
Pine Warbler	-	x	1	2	10	10	2	25
Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	x	-	15	2	15	2	70	104
Blackpoll Warbler	x	-	1	-	1	-	15	17
Cerulean Warbler	-	-	3	-	2	1	2	8
Black-and-white Warbler	-	x	12	1	25	10	12	60
American Redstart	x	x	2	-	20	2	45	69
Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ovenbird	x	x	50	5	20	30	15	120
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	1	1	14	2	5	23
Louisiana Waterthrush	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Mourning Warbler	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3
Common Yellowthroat	x	x	20	60	25	20	30	155
Hooded Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wilson's Warbler	x	-	1	-	-	-	10	11
Canada Warbler	x	-	2	-	4	-	10	16
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Tanager	x	x	2	-	10	2	16	30
Northern Cardinal	-	x	-	1	2	6	3	12
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	x	x	200	4	30	20	25	279
Indigo Bunting	-	-	10	10	10	-	2	32
Eastern Towhee	-	x	6	1	10	15	15	47
Chipping Sparrow	x	x	20	6	30	10	26	92
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	8
Field Sparrow	x	x	10	3	12	3	20	48
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	2	-	5	2	-	9
Savannah Sparrow	x	x	20	4	40	40	35	140
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	x	1	-	2	1	6	10
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Song Sparrow	x	x	75	15	100	30	50	270
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
Swamp Sparrow	x	x	3	-	12	12	45	72
White-throated Sparrow	x	x	6	-	2	2	5	15

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBERS							TOT
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	
White-crowned Sparrow	-	x	4	12	20	2	22	60
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bobolink	x	x	200	15	60	100	50	425
Red-winged Blackbird	x	x	300	100	400	200	500	1 500
Eastern Meadowlark	x	x	50	x	20	30	25	125
Common Grackle	x	x	100	100	150	200	60	610
Brown-headed Cowbird	x	x	50	40	30	50	35	205
Orchard Oriole	x	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Baltimore Oriole	x	x	30	24	50	16	40	160
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
House Finch	-	x	2	2	6	30	25	65
American Goldfinch	x	x	20	50	50	60	80	260
House Sparrow	x	x	30	10	20	50	20	130
TOTAL SPECIES	-	94	159	95	159	133	171	208
PARTICIPANTS	6	2	6	3	4	2	4	27

Spring Season 2001 March 1 to May 31

Ron D. Weir

The spring 2001 once again saw a fairly early breakup of ice, which led to an absence of the typical large concentrations of waterfowl, a very early warm period in late April/early May, which triggered migration, followed by a colder May with many days of N or NE winds, which caused a frequent stop-start pattern to the migration. Again many of the breeding songbirds were recorded north of the City of Kingston in numbers before they were noted at the traditional migration spots. It was not a season noteworthy for spectacular groundings of songbirds.

Rarities during the period included Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, American White Pelican, Great Cormorant, Common Eider, Glossy Ibis, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail, Sandhill Crane, Forster's Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager.

Record Early Arrivals

Yellow-billed Cuckoo May 2 (1) Opinicon L. JHE, RDW May 2 (64)

Species Account:

Red-throated Loon - May 20 (2) Amherst Is., PEPt, KFN.

Pacific Loon - May 20 (1) PEPt, MHE, RBS, RDW.

Common Loon - peak Apr. 27 (150) PEPt, RKE.

Red-necked Grebe - Apr. 2-22 (20), peak Apr. 27 (8) PEPt, RKE; Apr. 22 (6) Loughborough Lake, CG.

American White Pelican - May 10 (1) Loughborough Lake, ST, AT.

Great Cormorant - May 19 (1 adult) Amherst Is., RDW.

Black-crowned Night Heron - Apr. 5 (5) on, Amhertsview Sewage Lagoon, BR.

Glossy Ibis - Apr. 19-23 (1) Bloomfield, DC.

Brant - May 20 (1 300) Amherst Is., KFN.

Snow Goose – Mar. 21 on, peaks Mar. 29 (60), Apr. 2 (150), 4 (350) Wolfe Is., KFN, also at PEPt, Napanee, Delta, Cartwright's Pt. Numbers are sharply up.

Canada Goose - peak flight Apr. 2-5, Apr. 2-3 (15 000) Wolfe Is., Apr. 3 (3 000) over Camden East, Apr. 4 (20 000) over Delta, Apr. 5 (10 000) over Kingston west, KFN.

Common Eider - May 27 (1 female) Amherst Is., RKE, N. Moller.

Long-tailed Duck - peak Mar. 20 (300 000) PEPt, JHE, BR.

Ruddy Duck - Apr. 26 to May 20 (1) Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, KFN; Apr. 29 (1 pair) Bath, RDW.

Red-shouldered Hawk - Apr. 19 (42!) & May 2 (22) Kingston, JHE, RDW. Two of the breeding survey routes.

Golden Eagle - Mar.14 (1) Mallorytown, KK, RS.

Peregrine Falcon - Apr. 11 (1) Millhaven, K&TC; May 10 (1) downtown Kingston, EF; May 20 (1) Collins Creek area, EB, AS.

Merlin - Apr. 3 (1) PEPt, JHE, BR; Apr. 13 (1) Millhaven, KH; Apr. 24 (4) 2nd Depot Lake, KH; May 5 (1) Kingston, KK.

Yellow Rail - May 19 (1) Amherst Is., KFN.

Sandhill Crane - Apr. 22 (1) PEPt, RTS; May 12 (1) PEPt, JHE, RDW.

Little Gull - Apr. 24 (1) PEPt, RKE; May 4-20 (1) Amherst Is., KH, AS *et al.*

Bonaparte's Gull - peaks Apr. 11 (500), Apr. 27 (500) & May 4 (650) Amherst Is., KH, KK.

Iceland Gull - last one Mar. 21 (1) Wolfe Is., RS.

Forster's Tern - May 4 (1) Amherst Is., KH; May 16-20 (1) Amherst Is., AS *et al.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - May 2 (1) Opinicon Lake., JHE, RDW, early.

Snowy Owl - Apr. 4 (1) Amherst Is., AS, last one.

Northern Hawk Owl - to Apr. 4 (1) Joyceville, FE, last one.

Great Gray Owl - to Apr. 1 (1) Amherst Is., AS, last one.

Boreal Owl - to Apr. 1 (1) Amherst Is., peak Mar. 14-17 (4) AS.

Red-bellied Woodpecker - Mar.1 to May 31 (1 pair) Howe Is., SD; Mar. 4-19 (1) Wolfe Is., ST; May 3 (1), 20 (3) PEPt, KFN.

Acadian Flycatcher - May 27 (1 male) Amherst Is., RKE, NM.

White-eyed vireo - May 2 (1), 3 (2) PEPt, KFE, RKE.

Yellow-throated Vireo - from Apr. 29 (1) PEPt, RS.

Red-eyed Vireo - May 2 (1) Opinicon Lake, JHE, RDW, early.

Purple Martin - from Apr. 15 (10) Amherst Is., AS.

Tree Swallow – Mar. 18 (2) Millhaven, AS.

Rough-winged Swallow - Apr. 9 (1) Cartwright's Pt., RS.

Bank Swallow - Apr. 13 (1) Millhaven , AS.

Barn Swallow - Apr. 5 (1) RMC, RDW.

Cliff Swallow - Apr. 9 (3) on PEPt, AB, M Riggs.

Tufted Titmouse - May 2 (1) PEPt, RKE.

Swainson's Thrush - May 4 (1) Kingston, KK.

American Pipit - May 4 (1) Amherst Is., KH.

Blue-winged Warbler - Apr. 24 to May 20 (7 in all) PEPt.; May 19 (1) Amherst Is., KFN.

Brewster's hybrid Warbler - May 2 (1) PEPt, KFE, RKE.

Yellow-rumped Warbler - peak May 2 (500) PEPt, RKE, KFE.

Worm-eating Warbler - May 20 (1) PEPt, MHE, RBS, RDW.

Hooded Warbler - May 20 (1) PEPt, MHE, RBS, RDW.

Yellow-breasted Chat - May 5 (1) Kingston, KK, RBS; May 20 (1) PEPt E Machell *et al.*

Summer Tanager - May 2 (1) Amherst Is., AS; May 2 (1) PEPt RKE, KFE; May 12 (1) PEPt, RTS.

Henslow's Sparrow - May 20 (1) PEPt MHE, RBS, RDW.

Orchard Oriole - May 2 Kingston and PEPt, KFN.

White-winged Crossbill - May 16 (1) Morven, KFN.

Contributors:

A. Batalla	E. Batalla	A. Boisvert	K&T Coles	D Craighead
S. David	K.F. Edwards	M.H. Edwards	R.K. Edwards	J.H. Ellis
F. Euringer	E. Fletcher	C. Grooms	K. Hennige	K. Kingdon
Kingston Field Naturalists (3+)		E Machell *et al*	N Moller	M Riggs
B. Ripley	B. Rowe	R. Sachs	A. Scott	R.T. Sprague
R.B. Stewart	A. Treganza	S. Treganza	R.D. Weir	

Destination: Panama

Josette Arassus

My husband and I spent the month of February 2001 birding in Panama. Since we are now retired and have plenty of time but a lot less money than during our working days, we decided to dispense with the services of a birding company and to organize the trip ourselves. It was not an easy task. I spent many hours surfing the Internet and sifting through a mind-boggling amount of information before finding some I could actually use. The purpose of this article is not to provide a lengthy trip report, but to share this information. We birded in three areas of Panama: the Canal Zone, the Darien and the Chiriqui Highlands, thus covering different habitats: the Pacific Lowlands, the Darien Lowlands, the Darien Highlands and the Western Highlands.

1) ***The Canal Zone***: We flew to Panama City and spent the first eight days at Canopy Tower, a former US radar station on top of Semaphor Hill which has been turned into an ecolodge by a savvy Panamanian businessman and birder, Raùl Arias de Para. Canopy Tower is within a short distance of the most interesting birding areas of the Canal Zone: Pipeline Road, the Ammunition Ponds, Plantation Road, Old Gamboa Road and the mudflats at Panama City. Because we had arranged our own birding schedule, we were able to go to Pipeline Road on three separate occasions, each time exploring a different segment and each time having the leisure to watch ant swarms for hours.

Information:
Canopy Tower

Contact Person: Raùl Arias de Para
Phone : (507) 264-5720 or 612-9176
Phone Reservations: (507) 265-8011
Web site: www.canopytower.com
Fax: 800-854-2597
E-mail: stay@canopytower.com

On the Caribbean side of the Canal Zone, we stayed at Sierra Llorona,

some 40 minutes from another famous birding location, Achiote Road.

Information:
Sierra Llorona

Contact Person: Gonzalo Horna
Phone: (507) 226-3128 or 226-3458
Fax: (507) 270-2205
Web site:
panamacom.com/Sierrallorona
E-mail: ghorna@sinfo.net **or**
sllorona@info.net

Our birding highlights: Gray-headed Chachalaca, White-throated Crake, Band-rumped Swift, Black-throated Mango, Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, White-vented Plumeleteer, Rufous Motmot, Broad-billed Motmot, Great Jacamar, Black-breasted Puffbird, Pied Puffbird, White-whiskered Puffbird, Spot-crowned Barbet, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Scaly-throated Leaftosser (probably our favourite: when we first saw the bird, it looked like a tiny volcano was spewing leaves and twigs all over the forest floor; then we observed it taking food to its nesting hole in the bank), Plain-brown Woodcreeper, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Fasciated Antshrike, Western Slaty-Antshrike, Checker-throated Ant-wren, Dot-winged Antwren, Dusky Antbird, Jet Antbird, Bicolored Antbird, Spotted Antbird, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Southern Bentbill, Royal Flycatcher (with crest deployed), Rufous Mourner, Sapayoa, Cinnamon Becard, White-headed Wren, White-breasted Wood-Wren, Song Wren, Black-chested Jay, Green Shrike-Vireo, Crimson-backed Tanager, Flame-rumped Tanager, Fulvous-vented Euphonia, White-vented Euphonia, Slate-coloured Grosbeak, Chestnut-headed Oropendola.

2) ***Darien***: From Panama City we flew to Cana Field Station, in Darien National Park. Ancon Expeditions of Panama, which have a monopoly on the only lodge in Cana, run a four-day trip called the Ultimate Darien Experience. We had it modified slightly; we spent five full days there, including two nights camping on Cerro Pirre, close to the Colombian border. Parts of the Darien peninsula have the reputation of being dangerous places. But in the few days we spent there, we never sensed we were at risk. If anything, the isolation of Cana, not to mention the presence of six young and athletic policemen, was reassuring. And let's face it, how many people do you know who can brag about birding on a jungle trail while escorted by a policeman proudly hugging his AK-47?

Information:
Ancon

Contact Person: Elizabeth Jipsion
Phone: (507) 264-8100
Fax: (507) 264-1836
Web site: www.ancon.org
E-mail: elij@anconexpeditions.com

Our birding highlights, including some Darien specialties: Common Black-Hawk, Crested Guan, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Great Green Macaw, Red-and-green Macaw, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, Brown-hooded Parrot, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Rufous-crested Coquette, Rufous-cheeked Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Wood-nymph, Blue-chested Hummingbird, Greenish Puffleg, Tody Motmot, Dusky-backed Jacamar, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Slaty Spinetail,

Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaner, Bare-crowned Antbird, Rufous Piha, Black-tipped Cotinga, Green Manakin, White-ruffed Manakin, Golden-headed Manakin, Olive-striped Flycatcher, Brownish Flycatcher, Tawny-breasted Flycatcher, Pirre Warbler, White-eared Conebill, Pirre Bush-Tanager, Lemon-spectacled Tanager, Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, Silver-throated Tanager, Speckled Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Swallow-Tanager, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, Yellow-green Grosbeak.

3) ***The Chiriqui Highlands:*** We flew from Panama City to David, where we rented a car. Our first stop in the Chiriqui Highlands was in Cerro Punta, where we spent one night in a cabaña high in the montane forest of Parque International La Amistad and three nights in Hotel Los Quetzales.

Information :
Los Quetzales

Contact Person: Carlos Alfaro
Phone: (507) 771-2291 or 771-2182; **or** 800-383-2107
Fax: (507) 771-2226
Web site: www.losquetzales.com
E-mail: calfaro@chiriqui.com
or stay@losquetzales.com

We then drove to Boquete, on the other side of Volcán Barú. This is a good place for Resplendent Quetzals. A drive up the volcano afforded us good looks at quetzals and other trogons, but the quest for the Volcano Junco and Timberline Wren proved fruitless. In the village we stayed at Hotel Panamonte.

Information:
Hotel Panamonte

Phone: (507) 720-1327
Fax: (507) 720-2055
Web site: www.hotelpanamonte.com
E-mail: panamont@chiriqui.com

The last place we explored in the Chiriqui Highlands was the Fortuna Road, which runs between Chiriqui on the Pacific side to Chiriqui Grande on the Caribbean coast. A good place to stay is Finca La Suiza, near the Continental Divide.

Information:
Finca La Suiza

Contact persons: Herbert Brullmann and Monika Kohler
Phone: (507) 615-3774
Fax: (507) 774-4030
No Web site
E-mail: afinis@chiriqui.com

Our birding highlights: Masked Duck, Yellow-headed Caracara, Black Guan, Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Violet Sabrewing, Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, White-throated Mountain-gem, Magnificent Hummingbird, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Scintillant Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, Collared Trogon, Orange-bellied Trogon, Resplendent Quetzal, Emerald Toucanet, Fiery-billed Aracari, Ruddy Treerunner, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Spot-crowned Wood creeper, Silvery-fronted Tapaculo, Three-wattled Bellbird, Paltry Tyrannulet, Torrent Tyrannulet, Tufted Flycatcher, Dark Pewee, Yellowish

Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Blue-and-white Swallow, Black-faced Solitaire, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty Robin, Mountain Robin, Slate-throated Redstart, Collared Redstart, Black-cheeked Warbler, Common Bush-Tanager, Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, Flame-colored Tanager, Thick-billed Euphonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Emerald Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, Speckled Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Yellow-thighed Finch, Large-footed Finch, Stripe-headed Brush-Finch, Black-striped Sparrow.

General comments: We knew the birding would be good, but we had no idea what to expect from Panama since we could not find anybody who had been there in the recent past. But it turned out to be an easy country to travel in and we did not encounter any problem during the entire trip. I dealt by e-mail directly with Canopy Tower, Los Quetzales, Panamonte, Finca La Suiza and Sierra Llorona. The rest of the trip (flights within Panama, hotel reservations in Tocumen and David, and car rentals) was arranged very competently by Ancon Expeditions. We found Ancon to be an excellent tour operator, which saved us money. For instance, they rent cars from Budget at the corporate rate, which means that we paid less than US$75.00 a day, including various insurance coverages, for a 4WD (by comparison, the Lonely Planet guide book mentions US$100.00 a day). The main roads were in good condition, the others provided an interesting challenge. All the Panamanians we met went out of their way to help us, especially the police. With over 920 species, including 10 endemics, Panama is well worth a visit by birders interested in the tropics.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at: **arassus@kingston.net**

Birding the Canadian Prairies in July

Gerald & Shirley Paul

En route in our '94 Toyota Corolla, we spent a few days in a camp on Manitoulin Island, then drove to Lake Superior where we stayed at the Bluewater Motel & Dining Room overlooking Batchawana Bay—a short drive to Pancake Bay and Lake Superior Park. After a few restful days exploring the nearby parks, we drove to Thunder Bay, took in the Terry Fox monument, stayed overnight at a reasonable and convenient Super 8 Motel and ate at a nearby Swiss Chalet. Rising early, we went on to Kenora where we enjoyed the view of the Lake of the Woods from the Whispering Pines Motel.

Brandon, Manitoba

The following morning, continuing on the Trans-Canada we had an excellent breakfast at the Waterfall Restaurant, before crossing the border into Manitoba. We took the ring road around Winnipeg and driving through Portage la Prairie were struck by an awesome prairie thunder storm. All cars pulled off the road for 15 minutes or more as we experienced an unrivalled downpour. Arriving in Brandon, we checked in at the Rodeway Inn Motel on Highway 10, a major route to the southern part of Manitoba which we wanted to explore. Our plan was to settle in at a convenient motel in each of

the prairie provinces and stay for a number of nights as we explored the birding hotspots within day-trip range. That way, we could make some of our meals, make lunches for our birding expeditions, order take-outs or eat at a nearby restaurant when we returned.

From Brandon we spent a day driving the Brandon-Spruce Woods Provincial Park-Manitoba Desert loop described in *A Bird-finding Guide to Canada*. A Yellow Rail announced itself in a roadside marsh—the best Yellow Rail marsh in Manitoba just south of the town of Douglas. Along the road we spotted Sharp-tailed Grouse, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Grasshopper Sparrow, and a variety of ducks, shorebirds and flycatchers. After exploring the desert section of Spruce Woods Provincial Park, we circled back through Souris, checked the sloughs and ate our lunch along the way enjoying the prairie sky.

An important feature of the prairies is the pothole. According to information provided by Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Manitoba), the name "Prairie Potholes" refers to small water-filled depressions left by receding glaciers. Some hold water year-round while others dry up in hot dry weather. The variety of water depths and vegetation provided by these different potholes offers a diversity of habitat for wildlife. Many shorebirds use them as stopovers on their migratory journeys. They find in them abundant food and resting places. Probing the mud for aquatic larvae, worms and small crustaceans, and searching the grass for insects and spiders, shorebirds double their body weight during their stay, refuelling for the next leg of their journey.

For some shorebirds, the prairie pothole region marks the end of their northward migration. These birds nest in the prairie grasses bordering the water. Although much of the prairie pothole area has been destroyed by or converted to agricultural uses, the following shorebirds continue to breed in the surviving pothole areas: Piping Plover, Killdeer, American Avocet, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Common Snipe, and Wilson's Phalarope—all of which we saw. Twenty others are often abundant during migration.

Another day, we checked out the immediate vicinity of Brandon. The sloughs yielded various shorebirds and Virginia Rail as well as terns and gulls. After dinner, we often walked the kilometre from our motel to the Assiniboine River. Along the way Black-billed Magpies flapped ahead of us. On the river ducks paddled, herons fished and swallows soared.

The most interesting day in Manitoba was the day we drove down Highway 10 south to Turtle Mountain Provincial Park and the International Peace Gardens shared by Manitoba and North Dakota. Although heavy rains had washed out some of the botanical gardens, flowers were gorgeous and hummingbirds fed on the nectar. The Peace Chapel's interior was inscribed with numerous quotes on peace from famous people.

On the way back we turned west on Highway 3, then north on dusty dirt roads to Whitewater Lake East Marsh where we were greeted by a hundred American Avocets, four species of herons and egrets, White Pelicans and numerous shore and wading birds. Along the way in and out, we noted the contrast between rolling hills and oil rigs in the fields. We often stopped to observe hawks, sparrows, larks, buntings and longspurs. In this vast birding paradise, we were alone. It was a birder's romantic moment.

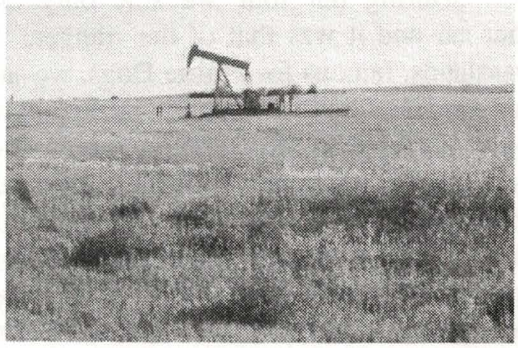
Swift Current, Saskatchewan

Back on the Trans-Canada heading west, we looked in at Oak Lake which is renowned for birds but saw very few. Hawks flew overhead and perched on fence posts. A rare grove of trees harboured Swainson's and Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcon and Kestrel. Arriving at Swift Current in the dark, we checked into another of the reasonable and comfortable Rodeway Inns convenient to the birding areas we wished to cover. We had some Chinese food delivered to our motel, and after planning the next day's birding, retired.

Walking around the edge of a golf course beside our motel, we spotted a variety of birds. Ground Squirrels scampered about. A Bald Eagle and a Swainson's Hawk soared over the fairways. One late afternoon we travelled some back sideroads and saw many sparrows and longspurs, and were entranced by the songs of Western Meadowlarks perched on posts. A long train went by too close for comfort and silenced the birds. A Sharp-tailed Grouse crossed the road with its young. The sun dropped into the west painting the sky with a memorable prairie sunset. A nearby mall with a Safeway Grocery made it possible for us to buy good food without saltiness and make a few meals in the motel. For a special treat we went to the mall restaurant (Garden Springs) where we enjoyed Sunday brunch at a reasonable price and with huge portions of tasty food.

Another day we backtracked to Chaplin Lake on the Trans-Canada and visited the Nature Centre where we received further information about the salt lake and freshwater ponds nearby. Here we saw a variety of shorebirds including: Piping Plover, Sanderling, Stilt Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Lesser Yellowlegs, American Avocet, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's Phalarope and Whimbrel. A variety of peeps and ducks plied shores and lake waters.

A circle route north and west of Swift Current brought us to hill country. Traversing dusty roads just south of Lake Diefenbaker, we were struck by the attractive colours of Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Two Long-billed Curlews flew from a field and crossed the road just in front of us. Hawks, falcons, sparrows and buntings grabbed our attention. Driving through sand hills near the village of Success, we noted that oil rigs were replacing farms that were abandoned, leaving derelict farm houses, withering barns and deteriorating fences. Back in town, we stopped at Aunt Sarah's family restaurant for a late but tasty dinner.



From Swift Current we drove south on Highway 4. We noted a side road to Vanguard that had suffered floods that made it impossible to get in or out of town. At the Nature Centre of Grasslands National Park West located in Val Marie, after receiving information and directions from Heritage Communicator Bill Fowler, we drove east 14 km to reach the entrance to the 28-km round trip through the Frenchman River Valley in the West Block of the park. The road is sand but easily driven with an ordinary vehicle. Buttes in the distance and coulees provided prime soaring territory for Ferruginous Hawks. Along the road, meadowlarks sang, longspurs flitted from stone to stone and in the distance, an antelope raced through the valley.

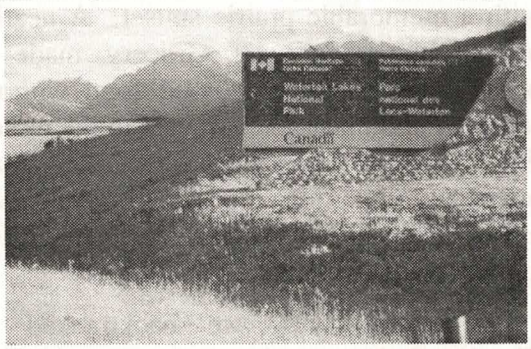
Taking a short walk along a trail we came to a marked rubbing stone showing wear from the buffalo that used to use the stone to scratch their itchy hides. Down in the valley as the road ran, we saw Long-billed Curlew, and far off over 70-Mile Butte a Golden Eagle soared. Here, too, we saw stone circles used by Cree, Assiniboine, Blackfoot and Sioux tribes in the 1800s to hold down the skirts of their tepees. Within a few kilometres, two Sage Grouse walked carefully across the road, one with six chicks the other with seven. Getting out to take a picture, the distinct pungent fragrance of sage bush lining the roadside told us the grouse was in its proper habitat. Also seen were: Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Larks and Baird's Sparrows.

During our tour we saw only one other car and it was that of the ranger. In Grasslands, famous for Prairie Dogs, we saw four or five towns densely packed with dogs. Larger than the common "gopher" or Richardson's Ground Squirrel, they are much more social, and chatter, bark and flick their tails as they move about. They fight, groom each other and live in an underground burrow system up to 4 metres deep and 26 metres long and may move up to four tons of soil in every acre. Their tall, rounded mounds protect them against flash floods and provide elevated sites for the sentinels. Scanning one Prairie Dog Town, we spotted a Burrowing Owl and watched it fly about the town as though in charge. Although we didn't see a rattlesnake, both Burrowing Owls and rattlesnakes feed on the young dogs. The contribution to the dog town by these predators has not yet been discovered.

The signs in this lonely route are few, far-between and easy to miss. We missed a turn and soon realized we were lost. During this unscheduled sidetrip we were edgy, seeing no habitation. Finally, we came to a fence across the road and a few buildings indicating a ranch. On the fence perched a Common Poorwill and nearby a Common Nighthawk flew fluidly around us. The rancher came out to tell us we were away off course and tried to describe how to get back on target. We got lost again, but found new birds, more dog towns and had the adventure of our lives arriving back at the nature centre by a circuitous route having taken four hours instead of the suggested single hour. Getting lost afforded us grand views of the pastel shades of buttes and coulees, prairies and ranch land, critters and domestic animals, as well as a variety of multi-coloured prairie grasses. Sounds were mainly the sound of silence punctuated by the songs of meadowlarks and curlews, Lark Buntings, Lark Sparrows and Horned Larks.

Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta

After exploring the southern prairies and enjoying the patterns of yellow canola, blue flax, golden grain and a changing sky, we returned to the Trans-Canada. Checking out of the Rodeway Motel at Swift Current, we drove west through Medicine Hat and Lethbridge to Waterton Lakes National Park



in the southwest corner of Alberta. We managed to get a tiny room for $124 per night at Crandell Mountain Lodge nestled in the mountains. Waterton, a spectacular town on a string of three emerald lakes in which reflections of mountains dazzle the observer, is itself a natural paradise. We walked or drove around all the streets taking

in the beauty of the place as well as the birds.

The Red Rock Parkway, a paved road meandering over rolling prairie, provided us with views of magnificent mountains including the highest peak, Mount Blakiston. At the end of the 15-km road we were greeted by Mule Deer as we walked along a trail beside a creek cascading through Red Rock canyon. On the way down the parkway, we stopped to take roadside photos of two Black Bears, more Mule Deer and sub-alpine flowers. Birds seen along this parkway included: Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco, Swainson's Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch and White-winged Crossbill. At the bottom of the steep road, we encountered a Mountain Sheep in town that held up traffic for a few minutes as people stopped for photo opportunities.

One late afternoon we drove to the Bison Paddock near the north entrance to the park. A small herd of Plains Bison are kept to commemorate the large herds that once roamed through the park. We contemplated the herd and a rush of history filled our minds. We thought of how the Indians had driven them over cliffs and how the cowboys had followed suit replacing arrows with bullets. As the sun began to sink, we were left with long, long, thoughts about the frontier days that would never return.

Early one morning, we started up the Akimina Parkway which runs 16 km from the townsite along Cameron Valley to Cameron Lake. Along the route, we stopped at derelict "Oil City" and learned from plaques and brochures about the site of western Canada's first producing oil well. We stopped for refreshments on a side road beside the fast-running stream and soon found ourselves in the company of ten or more Mule Deer. A Rock Wren appeared nearby. Mountain Chickadees made themselves heard. Walking along the stream, we noted a nodding dark bird perched on a rock in the water. Then it strode into the water and swam away only to reappear a little down stream. It was an American Dipper and it put on a fascinating display that will linger in memory forever.

At Cameron Lake in early morning, we were awed by the quiet crystal clear waters. While kayaks and canoes were for rent, the place wasn't open for business at such an early hour. Consequently, we decided to forego a trip around the lake and after birding the area, headed back to town. Perched on a road sign was a Mountain Bluebird. In a nearby marsh we saw Coot, Northern Shoveler, Barrow's Goldeneye and Spotted Sandpiper. In the thickets around the marsh were White-crowned Sparrows and a Rosy Finch. In town, the Mascinonge Creek, originating in the mountains, formed a whitewater waterfall of striking beauty. A trail along the edge heading upwards provided good views of the town and lakes as well as a vantage point for observing a variety of birds.

For meals, we sometimes bought groceries and ate in our room as we enjoyed the mountain panorama through our window. Lunch at the Bayshore Inn was reasonable, tasty and plentiful. One day, we lunched in style at the Prince of Wales Hotel—a world heritage site—situated on a knoll above the lakes with a terrific view of the mountains. At a window seat, Gerald had Mountain Trout and Shirley had Pacific Salmon. We finished up with the Chef's special strawberry dessert. The bill, including tax was $52. At our table we spent time looking out the window at the White Pelicans, ducks, grebes, Osprey and other birds on and over the placid lake waters.

We arrived back in Kingston in good health after a month on the road. Throughout our trip through the prairies, we

had no definite destination in mind, made no reservations, followed the philosophy of "the going is the goal" and returned home with our heads filled with images of the prairies, the sloughs, the birds, the skies, the mountains and small towns with interesting local residents. We can confirm what a rancher suggested to us as we studied the birds in his slough: "While summer is not a good time to bird Southern Ontario, it is a good time to bird the Canadian prairies."

On our trip west in July 2000, we birded sloughs, lakes, rivers, woods, marshes, back roads and highways on foot and in car from Kingston, Ontario through western Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to Waterton Lakes National Park on the southwest border of British Columbia. In all, we identified 185 species of birds.

RESOURCE MATERIAL

Besides a number of field guides to western birds, we found the following materials helpful: CAA Maps and Tour Books; *Bird-Finding Guide to Canada* edited by J. Cam Finlay; *Birder's Guide to Southeastern Manitoba* by Norman J. Cleveland *et. al*; and birding information at provincial welcome centres.

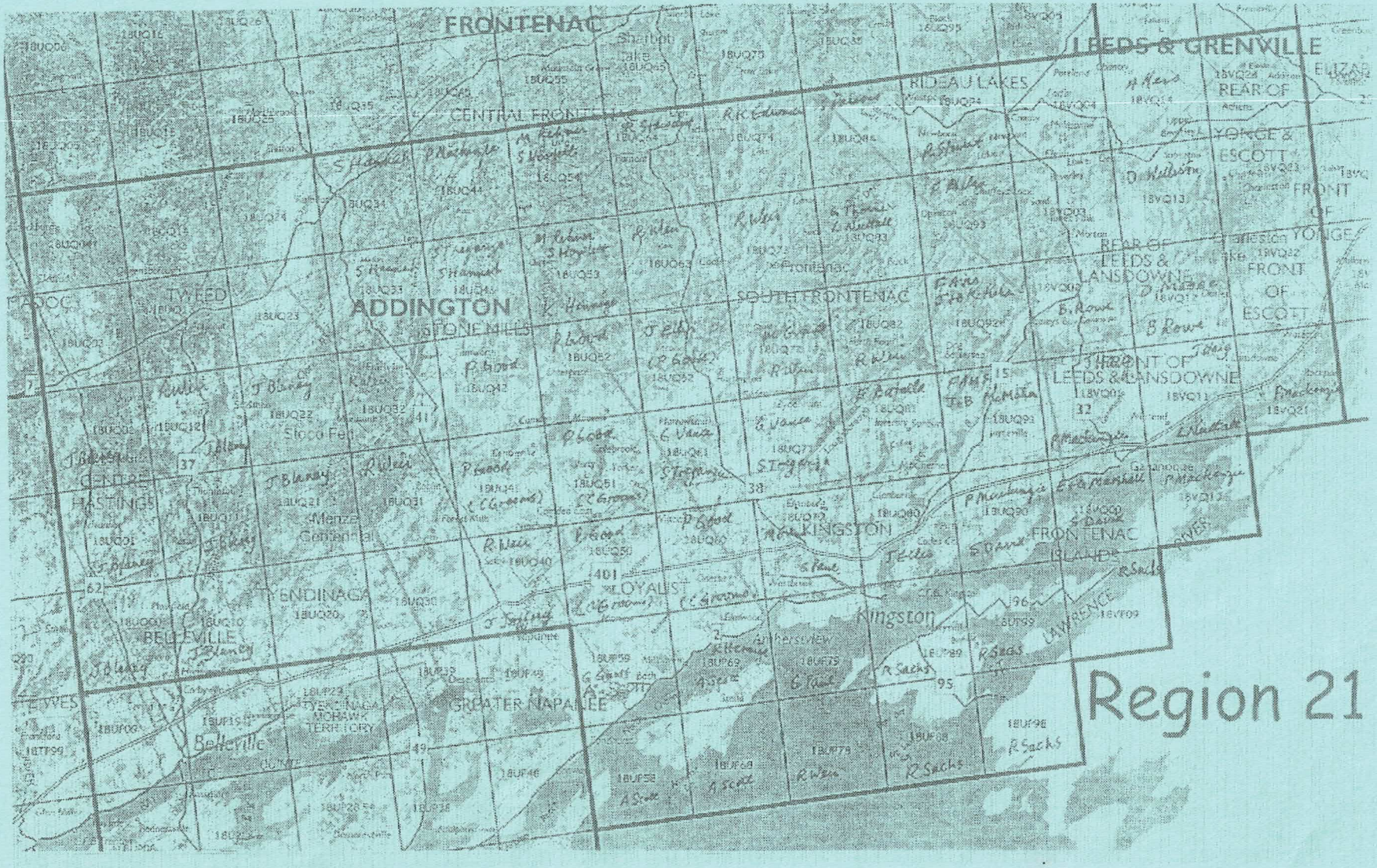
(continued from p. 44) **An Update for the Kingston Plant List,** *Crowder, Topping, and Topping*

The current authority for our region is now the *Ontario Plant List*, by S.G. Newmaster, A. Lehela, P.W.C. Uhlig, S. McMurray and M.J. Oldham. (1998) Forest Research Paper No. 123. ISBN 0-7778-7331811-4. The QK number is 203.05057.

In 1999, P.M. Catling and V. Brownell contributed a very interesting chapter on the flora of the granites of the Frontenac Axis to *Savannas, Barrens and Rock Outcrop Communities of North America*, edited by R.C. Anderson, J.S. Fralish and J.M. Baskin, published by Cambridge University Press. Their plant list includes some names which were not used in the 1996 Kingston list. Most of these are subpsecies which we lumped into larger groups in the interest of brevity. For example, Catling and Brownell's *Prunus susquehanae* was included in the Sand cherry, *P. pumila,* and the violet, *Viola fimbriatula,* was included in *V. sagittata.* Some of their lists however, are plants not recorded in the Kingston region in 1996. They include the Bear Oak, *Quercus ilicifolia* and the orchid *Spiranthes casei.* We hope local naturalists will look out for them and tell the Herbarium about new locations.

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, 2001-2005

The Atlas is under way. The map on the back cover shows who is surveying each square in the Kingston region. Contact the surveyor of the square if you see evidence of breeding birds in a square. Ron Weir is the co-ordinator for our area.



ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS, 2001-2005