



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## January 2021

### KFN

A registered charitable organization and a member of Ontario Nature  
Box 831  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 4X6

KFN Website and links to other sites:  
<https://kingstonfieldnaturalists.org>

Blog: <http://kingstonfieldnaturalists.blogspot.com>

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Kingstonfieldnaturalists>

Membership Inquiries:  
Kathy Webb  
kw2 at queensu.ca



Red-bellied Woodpecker  
on feeder  
Photo K. Webb

Meetings are normally held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month.  
Social starts at 7:00 pm.

Please **see page 4 to learn how you can contribute to the social time picture show.** Telephone users should contact Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) for the meeting ID and passcode.

### Thursday 17 December will be Members' Night

The meeting will be hosted on ZOOM. This is your chance to show off your favourite flora and fauna photos (up to 10) or short videos (up to 5 minutes).

Send your digital presentation to Erwin Batalla (*simbat at bell.net*) by **Monday 14 December**. You may comment on your presentation during the meeting OR send comments to be read by the host.

### Thursday 21 January 2021 our speaker will be **Dr. Anne Gunn, one of Canada's top caribou scientists**

Dr. Gunn lived, worked and conducted research on caribou and muskox in the NWT and Nunavut for over 30 years. She is still actively involved in caribou management efforts, working with both government and Indigenous organizations. Her talk will focus on climate and the circumpolar decline in caribou populations.

Dr. Gunn was educated in UK prior to immigrating to Canada. She worked as a field biologist with the Government of the NWT (1979-2006), with time as the regional biologist in the central Arctic (Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk, 1984-1993) and then the Caribou Biologist based in Yellowknife. Her knowledge and experience are from working and travelling on the land with people and from watching and counting caribou and muskoxen from the ground and the air.

Since leaving the government in 2006, Anne has continued to contribute on caribou for aboriginal co-management boards and councils including the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resource Board and Kivalliq Inuit Association. At the international scale, Anne helps run the Circum-Arctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Network which is the international voice for wild reindeer and caribou and is recognized by the Arctic Council. As well, Anne contributes to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Deer Specialist Group and the Sheep/Goat Specialist Group (for muskoxen). As a member of the Global Initiative for Ungulate Migration, Anne is now working with many experts to create a global atlas for migrations.

### Christmas Bird Counts **see page 4 for the full schedule**

In the 2018/19 count year, Kingston took top honors in Ontario for the number of feeder-watchers with 75 – *let's make this an even better year and try to top 100 feeder-watchers!* If you live within the count circle and are interested in taking part, please contact Kathy Webb at kw2 at queensu.ca.

## Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

**RAMBLES** are slow walks to notice nature in all its forms.

To join a Ramble you must **register with Anne** (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) to get details of the meeting location. **Limit 10 participants per leader.** Masks will be worn at the start of each trip. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring a snack and drink if you like. Please do not join us if you have COVID symptoms or contacts.

**Tuesday 5 January 9:30 to 11:30 am Butternut Creek**

**Tuesday 19 January 9:30 to 11:30 am Lemoine Point**

**Tuesday 2 February 9:30 to 11:30 am K and P trail**

## FIELD TRIPS

### **Conduct a CBC Survey workshops**

**Presenter/Leader: Carolyn Bonta** (bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca or 613-531-4578)

Interested in learning how to conduct a Christmas Bird Count survey? Our local CBC's are always seeking Citizen Scientists to help tally winter birds. Basic bird ID skills paired with enthusiasm is all you really need, yet the logistics and data-collection aspects of surveying can appear daunting the first time. This two-part training session is suitable for anyone who has never led a CBC survey (or even participated on a CBC!) and will cover the basics of surveying for both feeder-watching and outdoor census. While each of the virtual and outdoor sessions can suffice on its own, some aspects of surveying are better demonstrated online while others are best practiced in the field.

**Friday 11 December 7 to 8 pm Zoom: Part 1 – virtual workshop** Training will run 30-45 minutes followed by time for Q&A.

**Saturday 12 December 10am to 12noon Tree Frog Woods: Part 2 – mock survey** This outing will run approximately 2 hours over ~3km of gentle trails. There are benches and a pit privy on site. Bad weather date will be Sunday 13 December. Experienced birders and CBC surveyors are encouraged to attend and help mentor the new cohort!

Zoom details and directions to Tree Frog Woods will be provided upon registration.

### **Sunday 17 January 8am to 10am Car-Birding Portsmouth Harbour to Lemoine Point**

**Leader: Jenny Newton** (jennyn1434 at gmail.com) The distance may hardly be 12 km, but this stretch of waterfront boasts many excellent vantage points over a diversity of habitats. New to Kingston and new to birding, Jenny shares her favourite local route. Join her on a tour of where to go, where to park, and what to look for throughout the seasons. This month, keep an eye out for resident red-tailed hawks and bald eagles, winter waterfowl such as long-tailed ducks and red-breasted mergansers, and possible passerines such as snow buntings and northern shrikes. The emphasis of this trip will be on birding locations – an ideal orientation for new or out-of-town KFN members. Members with mobility issues are especially encouraged to participate on this outing, as our tour and birding will take place entirely from our vehicles. Walkie-talkies will be provided to allow communication between participants. Please email the trip leader to register; those without email can call the KFN Field Trips Coordinator at 613-531-4578. The number of vehicles will be limited for safety, so register early! Meeting location will be disclosed upon trip registration. It is anticipated this trip will take approximately 1.5-2 hours.

### **Monday 15 February (Family Day Event) 10am to 12noon Prowl for Owls at Lemoine Point**

**Leader: Erwin Batalla** (simbat at bell.net) Amherst Island and Wolfe Island may be well-known for owls, but you don't have to leave the mainland to see these majestic birds. This walk is open to the public and especially welcomes families. As with any natural wildlife-viewing, owl sightings are not guaranteed. However, volunteers are busy scouting the area and hopefully the owls they have located will make an appearance for our group. Please email the trip leader to register; those without email can phone the KFN Field Trips Coordinator at 613-531-4578. Meeting location will be disclosed upon trip registration and the number of participants will be limited as per current COVID restrictions.

**MORE OUTINGS, and Christmas Bird Count schedule ... see page 4.**

## **JUNIORS**

### **MEETINGS**

Unfortunately, we are still unable to plan indoor meetings.



### **Family Field Trips**

#### **Saturday 23 January 2021 9:00am to noon**

The topic for the monthly Junior field trip will be

**Nature in Winter** and will cover animal homes and signs. It will take place at the Collins Creek Woods. The meeting location will be divulged on registration by Thursday 21 January please (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

## **TEENS**

#### **Saturday 19 December Christmas Bird Count**

**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

The December outing will be a **Christmas Bird Count**. As part of the Frontenac Area count, we will be birding at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. Details in email a week ahead.



#### **Saturday 16 January 2021 Animal Tracking**

**9:30am to 1:00pm**

Visit Murvale woods with Chris Grooms to learn about animal tracking. Details of meeting point and transportation will be sent by email a week ahead. Please register by 14 January (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

In November, the Teens had a field trip to a local land trust property. They cut off seed heads from invasive Phragmites and carried them out in thick plastic bags.

**Well done, Teens, thank you!!**

Teens and others may be interested in virtually visiting the **Invasive Species Centre** which is located in Sault St Marie. The Centre has a extensive webinar series (<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/learn/webinar-series/>), including a webinar on control of invasive Phragmites and information about gypsy moths.

## **Club News and Updates**

**Welcome to new members:** Mersad Adembegovic & family, Susan Mabardi & family, Joshua Allen & family, Liz and Phil Ward, Kelly-Sue O'Connor & family, Richard Fernandez, Darshit Majmudar & family, Brianna Vandyke & family, Leslie Wood and Colin Dyke, Kari Galasso, Diane Irwin & family, Ian and Linda Fuggle, Laura Cupper & family, Samantha Kemp & family, Alex Scott & family, Rory Skelly, Christina Steinecke.

### **Zoom meetings Update**

The link to join the meeting will be open starting at 7:00, the meeting will start at 7:30. President Ken will organize a picture show for the social. If you have any observation pictures that you would like to show, please send them to Ken ([rkfe at queensu.ca](mailto:rkfe@queensu.ca)) by Wednesday 16 December. We are trying to organize "break out rooms" for the half hour social; more about that for next month.

**No computer? Don't miss the meeting:** Join our monthly meetings by telephone! Contact Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) 1-2 days in advance of a meeting to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode. Then dial 1-647-374-4685 and follow the Zoom instructions. Press \*6 to mute/unmute and \*9 to raise your hand. Note: Long distance charges may apply.

### **Christmas Bird Counts 2020 in the Kingston Area**

We are optimistic that many of our local Christmas Bird Counts will take place this year and we encourage new and experienced surveyors to attend. Contact the area compiler listed below for more information or to register.

**Monday 14 December Westport** with Wendy Briggs-Jude (613-273-5449 or [bwlaird at rideau.net](mailto:bwlaird@rideau.net))

**Wednesday 16 December Delta** with Jim Thompson (613-329-0959 or [jthompson211 at cogeco.ca](mailto:jthompson211@cogeco.ca))

**Friday 18 December Thousand Islands** with Josh Van Wieren ([josh.vanwieren at canada.ca](mailto:josh.vanwieren@canada.ca))

**Saturday 19 December Frontenac** with Michael Johnson & Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578 or [bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca](mailto:bonta.johnson@sympatico.ca))

**Saturday 19 December Prince Edward Point** with Peter Fuller (613-968-4643 or [petefullz at gmail.com](mailto:petefullz@gmail.com))

**Sunday 20 December Kingston** with Kathy Webb ([kw2 at queensu.ca](mailto:kw2@queensu.ca)) and Bill Depew ([william.depew at gmail.com](mailto:william.depew@gmail.com)). The section leaders within this CBC have kindly agreed to return this year to coordinate the field participants and surveys within their sections. Feeder watchers will be an integral part of this count.

**Wednesday 23 December Gananoque** with Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or [khennige at](mailto:khennige@)

**Sunday 27 December Napanee** with Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or [khennige at xplornet.com](mailto:khennige@xplornet.com))

**Saturday 2 January Moscow** with Bonnie Bailey ([countrypgal354 at gmail.com](mailto:countrypgal354@gmail.com))

**Saturday 2 January Amherst Island** with Janet Scott ([jiscott at kos.net](mailto:jiscott@kos.net)) and Bonnie Livingstone (613-389-8516). Amherst Island residents ONLY please.

### **Kingston Christmas Bird Count**

The Kingston Christmas Bird Count takes place Sunday 20 December. Due to COVID-19 and the need to limit the number of people surveying in the field, we are concentrating on adding to the feeder/yard watch portion of the count this year. In the 2018/19 count year, Kingston took top honors in Ontario for the number of feeder-watchers with 75 – *let's make this an even better year and try to top 100 feeder-watchers!* If you live within the count circle and are interested in taking part, please contact Kathy Webb at [kw2 at queensu.ca](mailto:kw2@queensu.ca). A map of all of the count circles can be found at <https://www.birdscanada.org/apps/cbc/mapviewer.jsp>

### **Friday 26 February to Sunday 28 February Algonquin Provincial Park**

Leader: Anthony Kaduck ([kaduckintransit at googlemail.com](mailto:kaduckintransit@googlemail.com))

A weekend trip to look for winter specialties. This is mainly a birding and bird photography trip but if we are lucky, we might catch up with American Marten or even a moose. Target birds are Evening Grosbeak, Canada Jay, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill. Spruce Grouse should start becoming more active at this time of year. The elusive Black-backed Woodpecker is always possible. More details to follow in an upcoming Newsletter and on the website.

## **Any day, any time, grab a friend and go!! KFN trails challenge**

We know that our members **HAVE** been out on the KFN trails, but apparently they are too shy to send selfies to show us. Our new challenge is to send a photo to Ken (rkfe at queensu.ca) to show that you have been, or what you have seen. Photos will be shown in the pre-meeting social time.

## **FALL ROUND-UP 2020: WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH PICTURES**

The Fall Round-up took place between Friday Nov 6 and Sunday Nov 8.

Pictures taken on those days of unusual birds were used to illustrate the article which will appear in the Blue Bill December issue. We did not have pictures for several other notable birds seen on that weekend so we are still looking for some pictures that will appear in a follow-up article.

The species we are looking for are: Cackling Geese, Canvasback, White-winged Scoter, Common Nighthawk, Black-bellied Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Eastern Screech Owl, Horned Lark, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin.

The pictures must have been taken in 2020 in the Kingston region but otherwise there are no restrictions. Please send one, two or sixteen pictures to Gaye Beckwith (beckwithb at sympatico.ca). The selected pictures will appear with full credit in the March Blue Bill.

## **Field Trips and Rambles in the times of COVID**

- The maximum number of participants in a field trip or ramble will be based on the destination and focus of the trip and will be set by the trip leader.
- Participants must register with the leader by email or phone prior to the trip in order to receive details of the specific meeting point. *Please contact the trip leader by the means (email or phone) specified in the trip description.* Pre-registration will also facilitate contact tracing.
- Please bring a mask and hand sanitizer for yourself.
- Please observe a 2m physical distance from others at all times.
- Equipment sharing (scopes, binoculars, lenses) is not encouraged by the KFN.
- Participants must declare: ✓ that they have not experienced any flu-like symptoms, ✓ that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 or been in contact with a person who has tested positive, and ✓ that they have not been outside of the country in the past 14 days.
- Be aware that these activities may be cancelled on short notice if there is a spike in COVID-19 infections in the Kingston area. Check the KFN website for updates.

**The South Shore Joint Initiative (in Prince Edward County)** has announced that the Ontario Government has begun the process to designate the Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area and the Ostrander Point Crown Land Block as a new conservation reserve! In November SSJI held a zoom meeting "What is a Conservation Reserve?" The meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNJUrYZbscw>. "A Conversation with Terry Sprague" will be presented in January; more information here: [https://www.sssi.ca/south\\_shore\\_events](https://www.sssi.ca/south_shore_events)

Did you know? **The Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington** (LC-KFLA) grew out of the Kingston Field Naturalists.

An Ad Hoc committee of ten members of the KFN executive was formed in 1999 to look at maintenance of the club's two properties, and the acquisition of several other properties. Ultimately, the KFN decided that land protection was not a priority for the club. KFN members Anne Robertson and Arthur (Bud) Rowe approached Vicki Schmolka for help setting up a local land trust. Founding members included Mike Evans, Paul Mackenzie, Larry McCurdy, and several other KFN members. The LC-KFLA's goal is to protect natural lands of significance in the region.

The LC-KFLA is a registered charity. It currently owns nine properties and holds conservation easements on two properties, preserving 310 hectares of ecologically-significant land for nature and providing habitat for eighteen species at risk.

You can find more information about our local land trust at [www.LandConservancyKFLA.org](http://www.LandConservancyKFLA.org)