



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## March 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

Meetings are normally held at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month.  
Social starts at 7:00 pm. (See below.)  
Telephone users should contact Carolyn Bonta (613-531-4578) for the meeting ID and passcode.

The KFN general meeting on Thursday 18 February will begin at 7:30 pm. The Zoom link will be open at 7 pm. We will be showing members' photos and videos in the 30 minutes before the meeting starts.

**NEW this meeting will be the availability of "Breakout Rooms".** One room will be labelled "eBird Q and A" where past president Anthony Kaduck will talk about using eBird and answer questions. Please join this room if you would like to learn how to use this valuable citizen science platform. The second room will be labelled "social room". This room will allow members to leave the looping slideshow in the main meeting room and converse with other participants.

To enter a breakout room, go to the tab called Breakout Rooms and pick the one you want to enter. You can enter and leave as often as you wish. The rooms will close at 7:25 pm.

If members find breakout rooms useful, we can schedule other information or discussion sessions for future meetings. iNaturalist has been suggested as a topic. Please send any suggestions or feedback to: [info at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:info@kingstonfieldnaturalists.org)



Snowy Owl  
Photo: J. Grant

### Thursday 18 February our speaker will be

#### **Dr. Elizabeth Gow, University of Guelph and Birds Canada: Assessing the impacts of domestic cats on Canada's wildlife**

Dr. Elizabeth Gow is a behavioural conservation ecologist. She is a past *Liber Ero* postdoctoral fellow (a fellowship program that trains and supports young conservation leaders in Canada). She currently works as a scientist at Birds Canada and runs a research program at the University of Guelph, where she is an Adjunct Professor. Her research focuses on understanding where, when, and how migratory bird populations are declining. She uses innovative tracking devices and technologies to follow birds and bird predators. One of the current focuses of her research is on understanding the impacts of cats on wildlife in Canada.

Domestic cats live in our homes as our pets, but they also hunt wildlife, capturing billions of animals a year worldwide. This presentation will show how Dr. Gow is working with a variety of groups interested in cats to help reduce the impact of cats on wildlife, and to better the lives of cats and people. Dr. Gow's uses state-of-the art camera systems and tracking technologies to capture sneak peeks into the lives of unsupervised domestic cats.

**Please see page 5 for a review of KFN's Sensitive Sightings Policy.**

## **Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings**

**All field trips are cancelled until further notice due to the ongoing pandemic.**

**Rambles and Junior and Teen activities will proceed as COVID restrictions allow.**

**Please check the KFN website.**

**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.** Cancellation, if necessary, will be sent to those who have registered. Ice and or mud are possible; grippers and/or hiking poles are recommended. Please do not join us if you have COVID contacts. **Masks will be worn.**

**Tuesday 16 February 9:30 to 11:30 am Fallow Deer Reserve near Murvale**

**Tuesday 2 March 9:30 to 11:30 am Trail along Little Cataraqui Creek**

**Tuesday 16 March 9:30 – 11:30 am Butternut Creek**

**Tuesday 6 April 9:30-11:30 am Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area**

## **FIELD TRIPS**

**Car-Birding Portsmouth Harbour to Lemoine Point CANCELLED**

**Leader: Jenny Newton** (jennyn1434 at gmail.com)

**Monday 15 February (Family Day Event) Prowl for Owls CANCELLED**

**Leader: Erwin Batalla** (simbat at bell.net)

**Field Trip to Algonquin Park POSTPONED to 2022**

**Leader: Anthony Kaduck** (kaduckintransit at gmail.com)

**Friday 11 June 3:00 pm to Saturday 12 June 3:00 pm BioBlitz**

We are making plans for our 2021 BioBlitz at the Fourth Lake Nature Reserve of the Land Conservancy for KFLA (near Parham). Holding the BioBlitz will depend on pandemic restrictions at that time. Modifications will be made as required. Details will be finalized closer to the time.

The date is **11 June to 12 June 2021**. Do save the date.

Questions? Contact Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742)

## **JUNIORS**

### **MEETINGS**

Unfortunately, we are still unable to plan indoor meetings.



## **Family Field Trips**

### **Saturday 27 February 9:00 am to noon Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area**

Cancellation, if necessary, will be emailed a week ahead. Please register to receive details and exact meeting place by Thursday 25 February (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca).

**Saturday 27 March 9:00 am to noon Nature in Spring** including animal homes and signs. The trip will take place at the Collins Creek Woods. The meeting location (or cancellation due to pandemic) will be divulged on registration. Please register by Thursday 25 March (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742)

## **TEENS**



### **Saturday 13 February 9:00 am to 1:30 pm**

Wood Duck nest box cleanout at **Helen Quilliam Sanctuary** with Gaye Beckwith. Details a week ahead. Register by Thursday February 11 please (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca). Cancellation, if necessary, will be emailed a week ahead.

### **Saturday 13 March 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.**

**Visit Fallow Deer Reserve** with Chris Grooms to learn about animal tracking. Details of meeting point and transportation (or cancellation due to pandemic) in email a week ahead. Please register by 11 March (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members:** John Dorland and Ruth Bailey, Thomas Allen, Barry Monaghan & family, Phillip and Carrie Batt, Kristin and Jim Robinson, John Hefford, Peter Bedoukian, Maureen-Ann and Peter Owens, Carol VandenEngel & family, Daphne Brouwer, Renka and Adam Gesing, Elizabeth MacEachren, Tiina Liinamaa and Ian Brown.

### Zoom meetings Update

If you have any observation pictures that you would like to show, please send them to Ken (rkfe at queensu.ca) by Wednesday 17 February.

### NEW THIS MONTH Break Out rooms .. see page 1

**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.

### KFN Executive 2021-22 Call for nominations

At the April AGM, KFN members will vote in the election of the club's executive. The nominating committee is looking for volunteers willing to stand for election. Two of our long-serving members have announced their desire to step down, so we are looking to fill the following positions:

\* Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary is an officer of the club, whose key responsibilities are taking the minutes at General and Executive meetings. The new Recording Secretary will take over the responsibility right after the election.

\* Treasurer: The Treasurer is a Director and senior member of the executive, and essentially is the Club's financial manager and bookkeeper. The plan is to elect a new Member-at-Large, who would work with Larry McCurdy for the next year and then take over after the 2022 AGM. This would allow the new Treasurer to learn from Larry the corporate knowledge needed.

If you are interested in serving the club in one of these important roles, or would like to learn more about what these responsibilities involve, please contact Anthony or one of the other members of the Nominating Committee:

Anthony Kaduck – kaduckintransit at gmail.com or 613-767-8398

Alexandra Simmons – simbat at bell.net

Paul Mackenzie – mackenzp at queensu.ca

## KFN Sensitive Sightings Policy

KFN encourages people to experience nature and does this partly by providing information about sightings of many species. In particular, notable bird sightings are reported in weekly summaries; members are also encouraged to report their sightings to eBird, "a real-time, online checklist program, that has revolutionised the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds" ([www.ebird.ca](http://www.ebird.ca)). However, there are certain situations where information about a bird, or other, sighting may be considered "sensitive" and should not be posted on the Internet or elsewhere that would provide unfettered public access to the information

**Why do we need a sensitive sightings policy?** The Internet is a wonderful thing and it makes accessing information about plant/animal sightings very simple. In the vast majority of cases, this access to information does nothing but make it easier for people to find birds or other plants/animals and ultimately connect with nature. However, in some situations making information about a sighting public to everyone, without a way to control who has access to that information, could result in negative impacts to the plant/animal through excessive disturbance.

**What is it?** The KFN Sensitive Sightings Policy can apply to any species, depending on the situation. KFN will withhold specific information about a sighting if it is deemed to not be in the best interest of the species involved. Some examples include:

- Roosting owls are particularly sensitive, especially when they occur in areas likely to be visited frequently by birders and photographers. Each time owls are flushed, they use up valuable energy, and are also put at risk from being mobbed by smaller birds and even predated by hawks and larger owls.
- Rare nesting species can also be sensitive, especially if they are likely to attract attention that could repeatedly disturb them in ways such as flushing from the nest, playing audio recordings of the species, or getting too close to the young/nest.
- Rare wildflowers are a target for some people who may, in their enthusiasm to observe them, destroy or damage the plant or its habitat. This is particularly true of some orchid species and even of common wildflowers at heavily used locations.
- Sensitive species are species that are inherently sensitive to disturbance or abuse. Some examples include certain reptiles that are targets of the illegal pet trade or American Ginseng, which is illegally harvested in a destructive manner.
- A rare bird on private property can be sensitive if the private landowner does not wish the presence of the species to be known. For example, a Varied Thrush visiting a feeder in the winter and which the home owners do not wish to be disturbed by people coming to view the bird.

In these examples, the risk is heightened because the plant or animal is likely to remain in an area for a prolonged period of time and may attract considerable attention. However, there are many situations where a species may be present for an extended period of time and be safely (for the plant/animal and the observers) viewed.

In these examples, and other similar situations where a sighting is deemed to be "sensitive", KFN will not publicise its presence until any threat to the species has passed (for example, after the season has ended and the species has left). All KFN members are encouraged to follow these guidelines, particularly when reporting a species to online bird sightings forums. A general rule of thumb is to err on the side of caution – ask someone (including a KFN executive) before posting a sighting if you are not sure. It should be noted that KFN still keeps track of these sensitive sightings for club records, so you are encouraged to submit that information privately.

The purpose of these guidelines is to balance the needs of the species with the benefit of people having an opportunity to engage with nature.

## Other meetings only a Zoom away

**350 Kingston** has organized "**Turning the Tide on Climate**" - a weekly seminar series on Zoom featuring local climate experts. Seminars are held on Mondays from 7 to 8 pm. The talks are recorded and are available through the 350 Kingston website at [350 Kingston – About Us - 350.org](http://350 Kingston – About Us - 350.org)

Our Conservation Committee chair says he would highly recommend the John Smol presentation for anyone interested in learning how we know what the climate was like years ago.

Talks in the series are:

- Feb. 1 Lakes in a Changing Climate with Dr. John Smol
- Feb. 8 Waste, Recycling and Climate Change with Dr. Myra Hird
- Feb. 15 Climate Emergency Economics with Steven Moore
- Feb. 22 Health and the Environment with Dr. Cathy Vakil
- Mar. 1 Youth and Climate Action with Isidora Ferguson

For more information see <https://world.350.org/kingston/turning-the-tide-on-climate-speaker-series/>

**Friends of the Salmon River and Friends of the Napanee River**, with support from Hastings Stewardship Council, are presenting a winter speaker series. All events are free and will be recorded and made available on a YouTube link following the event.

**Tuesday 23 February 7 pm** Dragonflies and Damselflies: Guardians of our Wetlands and Creeks presented by Colin Jones, a lifelong naturalist and the Provincial Arthropod Zoologist at the Natural Heritage Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Peterborough. Please register ahead at [friendsofsalmonriver.ca](http://friendsofsalmonriver.ca). You can find the entire speaker lineup at this site, or contact susan at [moorepartners.ca](mailto:moorepartners.ca)

**The South Shore Joint Initiative (in Prince Edward County)** is also hosting zoom meetings. You can find their schedule, and recordings of previous meetings at: [https://www.ssjj.ca/south\\_shore\\_events](https://www.ssjj.ca/south_shore_events)