



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## November and December 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://kingstonfielddnaturalists.org>

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

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

Membership Inquiries:  
Kathy Webb  
kw2 at queensu.ca

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

### On Thursday 18 November

**Dr. Jesus Vargas Soriano** of the University of Campeche will speak to us about **Biodiversity in the State of Campeche Mexico**. Jesus Vargas Soriano is a Professor attached to the Center for Sustainable Development Studies of Campeche University (UACam) in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. He specializes in bird population genetics. He has done research in North and South America, mainly in Ecuador and Venezuela, working with the breeding phenology of Parulidae family. He has published various scientific works and organized bird courses and workshops. He is currently studying at Queen's University with the topic: Diversification of *Campylorhynchus* wrens in Southern Mexico: Speciation of the Yucatán Wren (*Campylorhynchus yucatanicus*) in the Yucatan Peninsula.

### Zoom Meeting Updates for Thursday 18 November

- You will receive a zoom link a few days before the meeting. The ZOOM link will be opened at 7 pm. The formal meeting begins at 7:30 pm.
- There will be two breakout rooms: The room labeled "social" is available for people to enter and chat. The second room will be hosted by Erwin Batalla who will be giving tips on waterfowl identification. You can enter and exit the rooms by clicking on the "breakout room" tab on your Zoom screen. Some computer platforms do not allow you to enter on your own. If this happens to you, just turn on your microphone and ask to be placed in the room by the moderator. The rooms will be open from 7:00 to 7:25 pm.
- 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.

### Thursday 16 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 a short video (up to 5 minutes).

Send your digital presentation to Erwin Batalla ([simbat at bell.net](mailto:simbat@bell.net)) by Monday 13 December. You may comment on your presentation during the meeting OR send comments to be read by the host.



Dr. Jesus Vargas Soriano

**REMINDER! The Owl Woods will be closed from 15 November through to 5 December. Thank you everyone for your patience and respect to the Laurets who own the property and have allowed us for many years to enjoy this treasure.**

## Rambles, Field Trips, and other outings

**This is hunting season! When hiking and birding, wear bright clothes, make noise. In South Frontenac crossbow hunting is allowed from 1 October to 31 December. Gun hunting for deer is allowed in November and December. Check the MNRF site <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-hunting-regulations-summary>**

**Be prepared for ticks! Wear long sleeves, tuck long pants into socks, and use repellent. Check your clothes and your body as soon as possible after being out.**

**Please check the website for any updates on rambles and field trips.**

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

Registration is still required for COVID tracking. Please register with Anne (nature.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742) to receive detailed information of meeting points. Ticks are still around: be prepared. For winter rambles dress for moving slowly. Be aware sites may be slippery: hiking poles are recommended.

**Tuesday 16 November 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (ELEEC)** Meet in town at 9:00 am or at site at 9:30 am. Return in town 1:00 pm. Bring a snack.

**Tuesday 7 December 9:30 to 11:30 am Collins Creek from McCullough Park**

Meet on site (Elmwood subdivision). Dress warmly!

**Tuesday 4 January 9:00 am to noon Little Long Lake Road** (north of Sydenham)

**Tuesday 18 January 9:30 am to noon Cordukes Road** (Hwy 38) **to Jackson's Mill**

**Tuesday 1 February 9:30 am to noon Bayview Bog** (from Taylor Kidd)

**FIELD TRIPS Please contact the leader to register for these trips.**

**Saturday 27 November 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Snow Goose Prowl**

Leader- T.B.A. We will be prowling for Snow Geese, stopping at various spots along the St. Lawrence River. The trip will go as far east as Lancaster and requires an early start because of the distance covered. We will meet at the carpool lot at Hwy 401 and 15 to arrange carpooling. Those interested should contact Gary Hillaby (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalist.org)

**December Christmas Bird Count** see page 5

**The Frontenac CBC on Saturday 18 December** will support some in-person outreach and survey activity again this year. Carolyn Bonta and Michael Johnson are the co-coordinators (613-531-4578 or bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca).

**To register** for one or both of the following sessions, contact Carolyn Bonta:

**Friday 10 December 7 to 8 pm "How to Conduct a CBC Survey" virtual training**

Interested in learning how to conduct a Christmas Bird Count survey? We are always seeking Citizen Scientists to help tally winter birds. Basic bird ID skills paired with enthusiasm is all you need, yet the logistics and data collection aspects can be daunting the first time. Learn the basics of surveying in this Zoom presentation.

**Saturday 11 December 10 am to 12 noon Mock survey at Tree Frog Woods** near Verona

We will cover 3 km of gentle trail. Experienced birders and CBC surveyors are welcome. Come meet and help mentor the new cohort!

**Wednesday 5 January 7:45 am to 3:00 pm Amherst Island**

Leader Gary Hillaby (fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org or 613-547-8121)

We will circumnavigate the island looking for winter bird's. This trip will mostly be "birding by car"; if time permits we may do a short trail on the southern side of Amherst Island. We plan to catch the 8:30 ferry. We will meet at Gardiners Town Center (Bath Road at Gardiners Road) at 7:45 am sharp to arrange carpooling. Contact Gary to register.

**Advance Notice! May 2022 trip to Point Pelee /Western Ontario** see page 4

## **JUNIORS**

### **Indoor meetings**

An email will be sent to registered members if indoor meetings become possible.



### **Field trips**

**Saturday 27 November 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Camden Lake Wildlife Area**  
(times from town) **Focus on habitats**

Details of in town meeting place on registration with Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) by Wednesday 24 November please.

**Saturday 22 January 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre (ELEEC) Nature in Winter**

Details of meeting place on registration by 19 January please (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742). Bring lunch and dress very warmly with good boots.

## **TEENS**



**Saturday 13 November 9:00 am in town to 3:00 pm**  
**Fun with Ferns**

This trip will introduce you to fern identification and recording through photography, drawing and pressing plants. At Robertson Cottage. Includes a hike.

Please register with Anne (613-389-6742 or n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca) by 10 November.

**Friday 10 December,**  
**Saturday 11 December AND**  
**Saturday 18 December 9:00 am to noon**  
**Christmas Bird Count Activities**

Hope you can join all of these events but let me know what you can do by Wednesday 8 December and I will keep you informed.

**Friday 10 December evening** Surveyor training virtually  
**Saturday 11 December** Surveyor training Outing at Tree Frog Properties  
**Saturday 18 December** Hike Elbow Lake Nature Trail to record as many bird species as possible.

**Saturday 8 January 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Bird identification and KFN bird collection workshop** We hope to be able to have an indoor meeting. A confirmation email will be sent by 2 January. Registration by email.

**Saturday 12 February** Next meeting

## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members** Cristiana Zaccagnino and Fabio Colivicchi, Janis Coligan, Diane Larsen-Paré & family, Jeffrey Brady, John Barker, and Jean Mair.

**Thanks to Kathy Webb**, our membership secretary. Kathy handles all the membership details: KFN now has more than 600 members, so this is a big task. Kathy also sends out notices about the newsletter and The Blue Bill, and the link to our Zoom meetings. Thank you Kathy!

### **You can still make a donation to the KFN's Endowment Fund!**

Thanks to all who donated to KFN's Habitat Preservation Fund. Your contributions have secured a \$1000 donation from the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area. Further donations will not be matched, but will still help us provide for the future of our protected properties. All donations are tax deductible.

### **The Blue Bill**

The Blue Bill is the quarterly publication of the Kingston Field Naturalists, published in March, June, September and December as a benefit to our members. Articles and reports on topics of interest to KFN members may be submitted to The Blue Bill Editor (email: editor at thebluebill.ca).

### **Protection for Black Ash**

The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario determined that Black Ash is endangered in Ontario. However, the provincial government is proposing to delay Black Ash protected status for another two years. Kingston Field Naturalists have joined Ontario Nature opposing the proposed delay in protections for Black Ash and its habitats.

### **Kingston Photographic Club**

If your interest in nature includes nature photography, check out the Kingston Photographic Club. This group of dedicated photographers meets twice a month (currently on Zoom). Meetings feature guest speakers on diverse photography topics, including nature photography, Club and online competitions, monthly outings and critique nights. New members are welcome. Potential members are welcome to audit 1-2 meetings before committing. Check out the KPC website for a calendar of events, photo gallery, and joining information: <https://kingstonphotographicclub.ca/>

If you have questions or would like to audit a meeting prior to joining, contact Club President at: dennis.bally at kos.net

### **Field Trip Advance Notice**

#### **Monday 2 May 8:00 am to Monday 9 May 2022 5:00 pm Western Ontario/Point Pelee**

We will bird the South end of Lake St. Claire (Lighthouse Point & Mitchell's Bay), Pt. Pelee National Park, Hillman Marsh, Wheatley Provincial Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Blenheim Sewage Lagoons, plus anything else of interest in between. Long Point Provincial Park and Windsor area are also possibilities, either as twitches or optional private pre/post extensions.

We will try to carpool in situ to reduce parking difficulty at locations visited.

Maximum group size limited to 7-8 participants. Contact John Licharson (jlicharson at tlaacanada dot com or at six one three, three eight six, seven seven two zero) to register.

Participants will have to make their own accommodation and travel arrangements. (There are hotel, motel, B&B and VRBO/AirBnB options in and around Leamington/Wheatley, but they tend to get booked up quickly.)

## **Christmas Bird Counts 2021**

Please click on the map link of the following website for the most up to date information for each count (<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count/>). All counts will be conducted in a COVID-safe manner and comply with public health guidelines.

The following are bird counts in which members are encouraged to participate:

**Frontenac** Saturday 18 December

Contact Carolyn Bonta or Michael Johnson (613-531-4578 or bonta.johnson at sympatico.ca )

**Prince Edward Point** Saturday 18 December

Contact Dale Smith (doc0013 at icloud.com)

**Kingston** Sunday 19 December

Contact Kathy Webb (kw2 at queensu.ca)

**Gananoque** Wednesday 22 December

Contact Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or khennige at xplornet.com)

**Napanee** Monday 27 December

Contact Kurt Hennige (613-876-1804 or khennige at xplornet.com)

**Amherst Island** Thursday 30 December

Contact Janet Scott (613-389-4608 jiscott at kos.net ) or

Bonnie Livingstone (613-389-8516 bonnie.livingstone at gmail.com)

**Moscow** no date yet

Contact Jeff Brady (bradyjeff1963 at gmail.com)

**Westport** Wednesday 15 December

Contact Wendy Briggs-Jude (613-273-5449 or bwlaird at rideau.net)

The following counts do not need/want additional participants this year:

**Delta** Wednesday 15 December

**Thousand Islands** Thursday 16 December

## **Kingston Inner Harbour Remediation**

### **KFN to provide feedback on the Inner Harbour Remediation Plan**

The KFN Conservation Committee will be meeting Monday 6 December 3 pm with representatives from Transport Canada, Parks Canada, Public Works and consultant (Golder Associates) to address feedback concerning the Kingston Inner Harbour Remediation Plan made to the city's Environment Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Committee (EITP). According to Parks Canada: *The purpose of the meeting is to better understand the concerns and thoughts of the Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), and for us to share our assessment and proposed plan. We are seeking to engage with KFN and are open to having multiple KFN members at the meeting. However, in our opinion, 3 or 4 members would best allow a broad and robust discussion. ... Presentation materials will be available closer to the meeting date for your review.*

The Conservation Committee Chair would welcome KFN members to join this meeting. Please contact Chris Hargreaves (hargreavescp at sympatico.ca) if you would like to participate.