



# Kingston Field Naturalists

## February and March 2022

### 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>

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 from September to April. Social starts at 7:00 pm.

### On Thursday 17 February

**Chris Burn and Mark O'Donoghue will present**

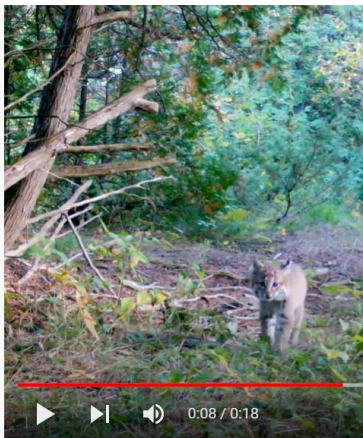
#### **Climate and industrial pressure on wildlife populations in central Yukon.**

Northwest Canada is undergoing the most rapid climate warming in the country. The observed climate change is the highest projected 20 years ago by the IPCC for the region. In the presentation we will describe some of the physical impacts on the landscape and discuss the results of wildlife population surveys and monitoring that have been conducted in collaboration with the First Nation of Na Cho Nyak Dun. These results demonstrate some of the cumulative effects of climate change and economic development in a remote part of the Boreal Northwest.

Chris Burn is Chancellor's Professor of Geography at Carleton University. He began fieldwork on permafrost in central Yukon in 1982 and has been back every year since then. He has also spent considerable time in the western Arctic, conducting investigations on the permafrost environment. In 2020 Carleton signed a seven-year agreement with the First Nation of Na Cho Nyak Dun for research and teaching -- in the area where Mark O'Donoghue works.

Mark O'Donoghue is the Regional Wildlife Biologist for the Yukon Government in the Northern Tutchone region, where he has lived since 1998. His professional work and graduate studies have focused on mammal ecology, predator-prey interactions, and integration of local and traditional knowledge with science for conservation in Maine, Newfoundland, Burkina Faso in West Africa, and the Yukon. As Regional Biologist, he collaborates with the three Northern Tutchone communities in the north-central Yukon on a wide variety of management, conservation, and land use issues.

In 2006 Chris and Mark published *Heart of the Yukon: a natural and cultural history of the Mayo area* with Lynette Bleiler. It was designed to make biophysical science of the area accessible to all residents.



A bobcat kitten caught on a trail cam by Chris Grooms.

### **Zoom meeting updates for Thursday 17 February:**

- 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.
- The topic for this month's breakout room, beginning at 7:00, will be the use of **trail cams** to capture images of shy and nocturnal wildlife.
- If you have a problem accessing the breakout room, turn on your microphone and ask to be placed in the room by the moderator.
- Join our monthly meetings by telephone. Contact Janet Elliott (613-547-2674) 1-2 days in advance of a meeting to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode.

Interested in frog monitoring? See page 6 for details of a frog survey video on **Saturday 12 February.**

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- 17 March** Mark Read speaking about Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas  
**21 April** Our Annual General Meeting

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

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

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

COVID questions will be asked of each individual at each ramble. Masks will be worn for travel and at the start of rambles. Please register with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742) to receive detailed information about meeting points. Dress warmly for winter rambles and be prepared for icy conditions. Grippers and hiking poles recommended.

**Tuesday 15 February 9:30 to 11:30 am Cataraqui Cemetery**

**Tuesday 1 March 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Camden Lake Wildlife Area**

**Tuesday 15 March 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Cataraqui Trail** (west of Perth Road village)

**Tuesday 5 April 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Presqu'île** (to view waterfowl)

## **FIELD TRIPS**

**Monday 21 February (Family Day) 8:45 to about noon Snowy Owls on Wolfe Island**

Leader: Erwin Batalla (simbat at bell.net or 613-389-0144) Wolfe Island is a great place to see Snowy Owls, and some of these majestic birds have been seen already this winter. As with any natural wildlife viewing, owl sightings are not guaranteed. However, volunteers are busy scouting the area and hopefully the owls will make an appearance for our group. Please email or phone the trip leader to register. Meeting location will be disclosed upon trip registration and the number of participants will be limited as per current COVID restrictions.

**Friday 18 February am to Sunday 20 February Field Trip to Algonquin Park**

Leader: Anthony Kaduck This field trip takes us to Algonquin Provincial Park to look for winter finches and other exotic bird species. We depart from Kingston on Friday morning and will be staying overnight at motels in Whitney. If you are interested in attending, please contact Anthony Kaduck by email: kaduckintransit at gmail.com. Maximum trip size is eight plus the leader.

**Saturday 5 March 9:00 am to 03:30 pm March Migrants at Presqu'île Provincial Park** (weather date Sunday 6 March) Leader: Gary Hillaby We will meet just outside the Presqu'île Provincial Park entrance sharply at 09:00 am. If social distancing cannot be maintained, masks must be worn. We will be looking for early migrants both in- and out-side the park. Participants are required to register at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org.

**Saturday 30 April 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Prince Edward Point (weather date May 1)**

Leader: Anthony Kaduck We will be looking for Spring migrants at some of the best hotspots in the County. Meet at the Adolphustown ferry dock at 7:00 am sharp. We will convoy down to the southern tip of the point, walking the trail that leads to the lighthouse. We may stop at a couple of short trails along the way, time permitting. Our group should be back at our meeting place at 3:00 pm. Contact Anthony (kaduckintransit at gmail.com) to register.

**Spring Roundup (Victoria Day weekend May 20 – 22)**

Spring is in the air and it's time to dust off those binoculars. Our traditional Spring Roundup will take place on the Victoria Day Weekend. Details to follow.

**See more excursion notices on page 4 and 5**

**Warbler Wednesdays in May**

**May 2022 trip to Point Pelee /Western Ontario**

The **KFN 2022 BioBlitz** is planned for **Camden East Alvar**, a property of the Nature Conservancy of Canada from Friday 10 June at 3:00 pm to Saturday 11 June at 3:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with running this event or recording species on the site, please contact Anne Robertson (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742). To be added to the emailing list for details and information please contact Janis Grant (janisgrant at icloud.com).

## **JUNIORS**

Until conditions for indoor meetings permit, only field trips will be held each month, on the fourth Saturday.



### **Field trips**

**Saturday 26 February 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Robertson Cottage**

#### **Wildlife in winter**

Details of meeting place on registration by 23 February please (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742). Bring lunch with something hot in a small thermos in a pack and dress very warmly with good boots.

**Saturday 26 March Ducks**

## **TEENS**



Details of Teen trips will be sent on registration with Anne (n8ture.anne at sympatico.ca or 613-389-6742).

**Saturday 12 February 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Meyer Wood Duck boxes**

Please register by 10 February.

For the following trips triple vaccination is necessary and masks will be worn throughout.

**Saturday 12 March 9:00 am to noon Bird Identification Workshop and Bird Collection Update**

At the Seniors Centre on Francis Street in Kingston.

Please register by Thursday 10 March.

**Saturday 9 April 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Rock Hounding** with Darryl Macfarlane (local geologist). This trip will visit several locations where specimens may be collected.

Please register by Wednesday 6 April

**Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May Birdathon**

## Club News and Updates

**Welcome to new members** Nicole Florent and Harold Feiertag, Dennis Bally, Jacek Mlynarek & family, Angela van Stam & family, Caitlin Newey & family, Amanda Pask & family, Victoria Johnston, David Fram, Debbie Millan & family, David Lisk and Jane Ninacs, Lucy Hoblyn & family, Tracey Ogilby, Jeff Jones, Grant and Patricia LeDrew, Mira Furgoch & family, John Malichen-Snyder, Gordon Sheard, Anna Panchenko & family, Lisa Werden & Scott Stevenson, Edward and Patricia Doleman, Hayley Lutz.

**Thank you to Mark Read** who every week posts an annotated report of bird sightings in the Kingston 50 km area on the KFN website. He is the curator of the iNaturalist Natural History of the Kingston Study Area. Mark is also coordinating the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas for our area, is involved in the Christmas Bird Count, and is the chair of the Ontario Birds Records Committee. The KFN executive appreciate his thoughtful comments on topics under discussion. Mark, the KFN appreciates you, and the birds do too!

**Please add you name to our Volunteer List!** From time to time the KFN executive need help with club tasks such as setting up and staffing information booths, maintaining nature reserve trails, delivering posters, stuffing envelopes. If you would like to add your name to our volunteer list, please contact our membership secretary Kathy Webb (kw2 at queensu.ca).

### **Wednesdays in May 6:30 am and 6:30 pm Warbler Wednesdays at Lemoine Point**

These walks will occur every Wednesday in the month of May to look for warblers at Lemoine Point Conservation Area. We will meet at one of the parking lots of Lemoine Point (north or south will be specified) at 6:30 am and 6:30 pm. Expertise is not required to participate and it's a good way to improve your warbler skills as these birds return to our area. We're looking for leaders to lead the warbler walks. If you are interested in leading a walk, please contact the field trip coordinator at fieldtrips at kingstonfieldnaturalists.org. More details to follow.

**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). The new format of the Blue Bill requires a different cover photo each issue, so if you have something in high definition, in focus, of local interest, with good lighting that shows a local subject well, please send it to editor at thebluebill.ca for consideration.

**Executive Elections** At the Annual General Meeting in April we will elect the members of the club's executive for the 2022-2023 term. The positions are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, the chairs of the Conservation, Bird Records, Junior Naturalists, Education and Field Trips committees, the Blue Bill editor and several members-at-large. If you are interested in serving on the executive in any capacity please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Anthony Kaduck (email kaduckintransit at gmail.com).

**Donation:** The KFN executive has approved a \$500 donation from the Habitat Preservation Fund to help pay for the acquisition costs of a parcel of land on the Napanee River in the town of Napanee. This property will be known as the Helen Hutchison Nature Reserve in recognition of Helen's many years protecting the heritage of Napanee.

## **Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve designated as a Managed Forest**

The Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) is a program of the Ontario government that identifies land that is maintained as a forest. The Helen Quilliam Sanctuary has been part of the program for over 25 years.

Thanks to the efforts of Paul Mackenzie, who wrote the application, and Stew Hamill, the forester who reviewed it, 86 acres of the 92 acres at the Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve have been designated as a Managed Forest. Now our taxes on that portion of the property will be reduced by 75%. Under this program, we are committed to improve the diversity of trees on this property on Amherst Island. Bravo to KFN members Paul and Stew and the whole team.

The management committee of the Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve is still not recommending unfettered access. A ramble or field trip may be planned later in the spring.

## **PROTECTION OF PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY SOUTH SHORE**

In September 2020 the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced that it was planning to create a Conservation Reserve along the south shore of Prince Edward County, including Point Petre and the Ostrander Point Crown Block. The aim of the Conservation Reserve is stated: "Creating this reserve will provide greater protection, and ecologically sustainable land uses including traditional outdoor heritage activities can continue." The Conservation Reserve designation will prohibit industrial development, but there is debate over whether "traditional outdoor heritage activities" includes hunting.

The detailed proposal for the new Conservation Reserve has now been posted on the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) site at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4597> **The notice welcomes comments until 12 March 2022. KFN members are urged to respond.**

**Wildlife by the Season** Shirley French, Kingston Field Naturalists Education Chair is offering a course at the Kingston Senior's Centre on Francis Street. "From fall migrating butterflies and birds, to mammals, turtles, and other critters surviving our winters; come and hear about their lives and habits. Hold a bird (skin) in your hand or see how impressive an eagle can be; all in time for spring birdwatching." The course runs Thursdays from 23 February to 21 April (11:15 am – 12:15 pm). Details in the senior's program guide: [www.seniorskingston.ca](http://www.seniorskingston.ca).

## **Field Trips 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.com or 613-386-7720) to register.

Participants will have to make their own accommodation and travel arrangements. Accommodation options in and around Leamington/Wheatley tend to get booked up quickly.

A new book on the **Freshwater Turtles of Canada** is now available. Written by a young Canadian, it is for Canadians of all ages in support of turtle research and conservation across the country. Find it at [http://canadianherpetology.ca/news/doc/Freshwater\\_turtles\\_of\\_Canada-2022-01-11.pdf](http://canadianherpetology.ca/news/doc/Freshwater_turtles_of_Canada-2022-01-11.pdf)

**Friends of the Salmon River Winter Speaker Series** are available on line: <https://www.friendsofsalmonriver.ca/videos/>

## More Volunteer Opportunities

From time-to-time KFN receives requests for volunteers to help with natural history research projects. Two requests were received recently:

**from Zach Kahn, an Ecologist at Blazing Star, an environmental consulting firm based in Oshawa:**

### **Saturday 12 February 11 am Frog Survey Video by Blazing Star Environmental**

Blazing Star Environmental has an exciting year ahead of us. For the past four years we have partnered with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Trent University to carry out a long-term, range-wide monitoring program for the western chorus frog. We are happy to announce that spring 2021 will be the third monitoring season for the program! This year will also be the last monitoring season before a 5-year hiatus.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence-Canadian shield population of Western Chorus Frog is listed as Threatened in Canada, and declines have been anecdotally noted in recent years. Our project hopes to determine the distribution and extent of the Western Chorus Frog in its range through periodic monitoring of the species. However, the success of this program is largely dependent on a strong base of organizations and individual volunteers willing to complete short surveys during the chorus frog calling season. Currently, we are in the process of recruiting volunteers to conduct these surveys.

We are hoping to appeal to the network of volunteers that might be interested in conducting frog call surveys. We are wondering if it would be possible to include a short article about this monitoring program in monthly newsletters, posting on a website news bulletin, or social media? We will also be **hosting a free virtual information webinar on Saturday (February 12<sup>th</sup>) at 11am**. The webinar will be talking about what volunteers can expect from the program and some results from last year's monitoring efforts.

If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to contact us at [info@blazingstar.ca](mailto:info@blazingstar.ca).

Zach Kahn

**from Erik Wing, a neuroscience research fellow at U of T:**

Hello Kingston Field Naturalists, This is Erik, the neuroscience researcher at U of T/Baycrest who got in touch back in 2020 about our online studies for birders. You kindly distributed our flyer back then and we had a few folks from your group participate in the research, which I'm excited to say should be published in the next few months. There is an article about the broader research program in the Ontario Field Ornithologists newsletter, here's a link in case people are interested:

<http://www.ofo.ca/library/serve/on-39-3/index.html?page=12>

I also wanted to say that we have a few new studies online now (and even a brain-imaging study of birders, although Toronto is probably a bit far for most of your members. This is mostly geared towards intermediate /experienced birders, or people without any real bird ID experience who are just curious about birds. We are working towards a future study that will be more appropriate for relatively new birders but don't have that ready quite yet. We got very positive feedback from the last study and I'm glad we've been able to sustain this collaboration with Ontario birders.

Erik Wing

*Thank you to everyone who has helped make our research a success over the past few years.*

**FEAR NO AGE™** Baycrest

#### **We are running several new studies**

Use your interest in birds to help us understand human learning and neuroplasticity.



Look at pictures of birds



Contribute to science



Get compensated for your time

**Online studies** – relatively experienced **birders** (ID ~40+ local sp.) OR **anyone** interested in birds but unfamiliar with local species (no bird ID experience beyond backyard birds)  
*future studies planned for beginner/intermediate birders*

**fMRI studies** (Toronto) – single visit to Baycrest, flexible scheduling in 2022 TBD

*For more info or to participate, please contact:*

[birdstudy@research.baycrest.org](mailto:birdstudy@research.baycrest.org)