

The Blue Bill

Quarterly Journal of the Kingston Field Naturalists



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2022/2023 Executive

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Cover photo: Northern Cardinal frozen in time. (Kathy Webb)

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1 President's Preliminaries

by John Donihee



Figure 1: KFN President, John Donihee.

As I noted in my report for the September Blue Bill, KFN has managed to continue a high level of activity outdoors, with rambles, walks and field trips throughout 2022. I thank the leaders of these events for volunteering their time and the participants for their ongoing commitment to KFN programs. We had hoped that fall 2022 might see us past lockdowns and masks, so that we could once again begin in-person general meetings. Unfortunately, it appears that for the first half of 2023 our general meetings must continue with members participating virtually.

This situation presents an ongoing challenge to our efforts to sustain the sense of community which can result

from participating directly in activities with friends who share a common commitment to nature, and sustainable management of the environment. We live in times when such a sense of community, and a commitment to action on behalf of nature, is essential. I want to thank KFN's Conservation Committee for assisting members to understand and respond to new legislative threats to wildlife and their habitats, and our Education and Youth committees for their work in promoting environmental education and conservation.

The detailed local knowledge of local wildlife and habitats possessed by KFN members can be an important foundation for any credible response to proposals for change, be it to legislation, or simply to the environment in the Kingston area. We must, when appropriate, have the courage, individually and collectively, to advocate in favour of nature and natural spaces. I encourage you to stay actively involved with KFN in 2023 both for your own enjoyment and on behalf of nature and the environment.

Best wishes to all of you and your families for the Holiday Season!

2 Salmon in Collins Creek

by Chris Hargreaves



Figure 2: Salmon out of water. (Jason Harris and Lisa Osanic)

Atlantic salmon were once abundant in Lake Ontario, but due to overfishing and the blocking of creeks for sawmills, vanished by 1898. In 1968 a program began to restock Lake Ontario with Chinook and Coho salmon from the Pacific. Salmon now spawn in Collins Creek at the end of October each year. Thanks to Jason Harris and Lisa Osanic for sending photographs taken near the CN Rail bridge over Collins Creek, close to the blue dot on the map.

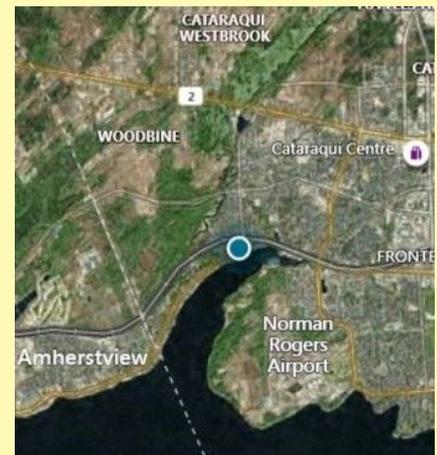


Figure 3: Collins Creek location. (Jason Harris and Lisa Osanic)

3 Odonata Report 2022

by Bruce Ripley

It's a satisfying surprise when an unknown species you photographed turns out to be something rare. On July 6, 2021 a KFN member photographed a pair of bluet damselflies at Upper Brewers Locks and later found out through iNaturalist that they were Westfall's Slender Bluets, a new species for the Kingston area. The area was revisited by several KFN members this year and more Westfall's Slender Bluets were successfully found. In Ontario this species is typically found in the south-western part of the province though in recent years some have been observed around the Tweed area.



Figure 4: Westfall's Slender Bluet, 2022-07-07, Upper Brewers Locks. (Peter Waycik)

This year 87 species were recorded in the Kingston area which includes Menzel Centennial Provincial Nature Reserve and Charleston Lake Provincial Park. These records are of species that were designated as "Research Grade" on iNaturalist and also includes four other sightings.

Swamp Darners and Painted Skimmers which are southern species were well represented this year with multiple sightings. Of the three spiketail species in the Kingston area the Delta-spotted Spiketail is the most difficult to find but on May 30 a KFN member found one off Opinicon Road. Mustached Clubtails were observed again at Depot Creek Nature Reserve. Also at DCNR a Lake Darner was found and photographed. A Uhler's Sundragon was observed this year at Third Depot Lake and another at Charleston Lake P.P. Carolina Saddlebags is a rare southern species which is not found every year. This species is always found late in the season during

late August or September but a sighting on June 4 was unexpected!



Figure 5: Carolina Saddlebags, 2022-06-04, Depot Lakes area. (Peter Waycik)

Menzel Centennial Provincial Nature Reserve contains habitats that host several species of the much-sought-after striped emeralds. This year three species of striped emeralds were found including Kennedy's, Williamson's and Brush-tipped Emerald. Another Williamson's Emerald was photographed at Marble Rock C.A. Several sightings of the rare Ebony Boghaunter were also observed at Menzel. Also, at Menzel were two records of Mottled Darner. Two other Mottled Darners were photographed near Chaffey's Lock.



Figure 6: Kennedy's Emerald, 2022-06-21, Menzel-Centennial. (Peter Waycik)

Other notable sightings include Cyrano Darner, Harlequin Darner, Horned Clubtail and Unicorn Clubtail. Species usually seen annually but missed this year include Swift River Cruiser, Arrowhead Spiketail, Spot-

winged Glider and Green-striped Darner.



Figure 7: Delta-spotted Spiketail, 2022-05-30, Rideau Trail off Opinicon Road. (Peter Waycik)

Identification Tips

Most of the bluet damselflies superficially look the same but perhaps the three most similar-looking species are Boreal, Northern and Vernal Bluet. There are many observations on iNaturalist for Boreal, Northern and Vernal Bluet for Kingston but none are "Research Grade." For the males of these species a macro-photograph of

the claspers on the abdominal tip is necessary. For females a macro-photograph of the mesostigmal plate is required. Boreal can be identified relatively easily but Northern and Vernal are tricky to I.D. Female Northern and Vernal Bluet cannot be identified to species. A good discussion on this topic can be found in *The Field Guide to The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Park*, pg. 62-64; (Jones, Kingsley, Burke, Holder).

Lancet, Dusky and Ashy Clubtail as well as Cherry-faced and Ruby Meadowhawk and female/immature meadowhawks also need to be treated this way. In conclusion, to get a "Research Grade" confirmation of any tough-to-I.D. odonate, a clear dorsal, ventral and head-on shot as well as a macro-photo of the hamules and claspers of males and the terminal abdominal appendages of females are needed.

To see photos and dates please see these iNaturalist links:

[Kingston Study Area 2022](#)

[Menzel-Centennial 2022](#)

[Charleston Lake Provincial Park 2022](#)

Also visit and join the [Kingston Field Naturalists: Odonata project](#)

Table 1: Odonata First and Last Sightings for 2022

Common Name	Scientific Name	First	Last
Broad-winged Damselflies	Calopterygidae		
River Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx aequabilis</i>	13 Jun	28 Jun
Ebony Jewelwing	<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	30 May	23 Oct
Spreadwings	Lestidae		
Spotted Spreadwing	<i>Lestes congener</i>	15 Jul	22 Sep
Northern Spreadwing	<i>Lestes disjunctus</i>	09 Jul	09 Jul
Sweetflag Spreadwing	<i>Lestes forcipatus</i>	22 Jul	22 Jul
Emerald Spreadwing	<i>Lestes dryas</i>	06 Jun	18 Jun
Amber-winged Spreadwing	<i>Lestes eurinus</i>	30 May	18 Jun
Elegant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes inaequalis</i>	06 Jun	03 Jul
Slender Spreadwing	<i>Lestes rectangularis</i>	15 Jun	20 Sep
Lyre-tipped Spreadwing	<i>Lestes unguiculatus</i>	01 Jul	05 Aug

Table 1: (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	First	Last
Swamp Spreadwing	<i>Lestes vigilax</i>	20 Jul	03 Aug
Narrow-winged Damselflies	Coenagrionidae		
Powdered Dancer	<i>Argia moesta</i>	31 May	18 Aug
Violet Dancer	<i>Argia fumipennis violacea</i>	06 Jun	10 Sep
Aurora Damsel	<i>Chromagrion conditum</i>	13 May	05 Jun
Taiga Bluet	<i>Coenagrion resolutum</i>	30 May	18 Jun
Rainbow Bluet	<i>Enallagma antennatum</i>	13 Jun ^{NA}	10 Jul
Azure Bluet	<i>Enallagma aspersum</i>	18 Jun	05 Sep
Northern Bluet	<i>Enallagma annexum</i>	See Report	See Report
Boreal Bluet	<i>Enallagma boreale</i>	See Report	See Report
Vernal Bluet	<i>Enallagma vernale</i>	See Report	See Report
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	04 Jul	14 Sep
Familiar Bluet	<i>Enallagma civile</i>	15 Jun	30 Sep
Westfall's Slender Bluet	<i>Enallagma traviatum westfalli</i>	07 Jul	08 Jul
River Bluet	<i>Enallagma anna</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Stream Bluet	<i>Enallagma exsulans</i>	13 Jun	09 Jul
Marsh Bluet	<i>Enallagma ebrium</i>	11 Jul	21 Jul
Skimming Bluet	<i>Enallagma geminatum</i>	20 Jun	02 Sep
Hagen's Bluet	<i>Enallagma hageni</i>	09 Jul	09 Jul
Orange Bluet	<i>Enallagma signatum</i>	19 Jun	15 Aug
Vesper Bluet	<i>Enallagma vesperum</i>	03 Jul	02 Sep
Citrine Forktail	<i>Ischnura hastata</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Fragile Forktail	<i>Ischnura posita</i>	04 Jun	19 Aug
Eastern Forktail	<i>Ischnura verticalis</i>	17 May	12 Sep
Sedge Sprite	<i>Nehalennia irene</i>	28 May	10 Aug
Sphagnum Sprite	<i>Nehalennia gracilis</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Darners	Aeshnidae		
Canada Darner	<i>Aeshna canadensis</i>	03 Jun	09 Sep
Mottled Darner	<i>Aeshna clepsydra</i>	20 Jul ^{MC}	10 Aug
Lake Darner	<i>Aeshna eremita</i>	10 Sep	10 Sep
Lance-tipped Darner	<i>Aeshna constricta</i>	21 Jul	15 Sep
Variable Darner	<i>Aeshna interrupta</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022

Table 1: (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	First	Last
Zig-zag Darner	<i>Aeshna sitchensis</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Black-tipped Darner	<i>Aeshna tuberculifera</i>	11 Jul	27 Aug
Shadow Darner	<i>Aeshna umbrosa</i>	21 Jul	11 Oct
Green-striped Darner	<i>Aeshna verticalis</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Common Green Darner	<i>Anax junius</i>	30 May	26 Oct
Springtime Darner	<i>Basiaeschna janata</i>	11 May	04 Jun
Fawn Darner	<i>Boyeria vinosa</i>	14 Aug	14 Aug
Swamp Darner	<i>Epiaeschna heros</i>	31 May	30 Jul
Harlequin Darner	<i>Gomphaeschna furcillata</i>	06 Jun	13 Jun
Cyrano Darner	<i>Nasiaeschna pentacantha</i>	13 Jun ^{NA}	13 Jun ^{NA}
Clubtails	Gomphidae		
Unicorn Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus villosipes</i>	18 Jun	22 Jun
Horned Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus cornutus</i>	05 Jun	05 Jun
Lilypad Clubtail	<i>Arigomphus furcifer</i>	26 May	09 Jul
Lancet Clubtail	<i>Phanogomphus exilis</i>	04 Jun	08 Jul
Ashy Clubtail	<i>Phanogomphus lividus</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Dusky Clubtail	<i>Phanogomphus spicatus</i>	16 May	29 Jun
Black-shouldered Spinyleg	<i>Dromogomphus spinosus</i>	24 Jun	19 Aug
Mustached Clubtail	<i>Hylogomphus adelphus</i>	20 May	20 May
Dragonhunter	<i>Hagenius brevistylus</i>	05 Jun	22 Jul
Rusty Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis</i>	13 Jun	17 Jun
Eastern Least Clubtail	<i>Stylogomphus albistylus</i>	28 Jun	16 Aug
Elusive Clubtail	<i>Stylurus notatus</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Spiketails	Cordulegastridae		
Delta-spotted Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster diastatops</i>	30 May	30 May
Twin-spotted Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster maculata</i>	05 Jun ^{NA}	05 Jun ^{NA}
Arrowhead Spiketail	<i>Cordulegaster obliqua</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Cruisers	Macromiidae		
Stream Cruiser	<i>Didymops transversa</i>	18 May	13 Jun
Swift River Cruiser	<i>Macromia illinoensis</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Emerald Dragonflies	Corduliidae		
American Emerald	<i>Cordulia shurtleffi</i>	06 May	05 Jun

Table 1: (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	First	Last
Racket-tailed Emerald	<i>Dorocordulia libera</i>	20 May	17 Jul
Beaverpond Baskettail	<i>Epithea canis</i>	06 May	30 May
Spiny Baskettail	<i>Epithea spinigera</i>	15 May	24 May
Common Baskettail	<i>Epithea cynosura</i>	24 May	20 Jun
Prince Baskettail	<i>Epithea princeps</i>	03 Jun	02 Aug
Uhler's Sundragon	<i>Helocordulia uhleri</i>	18 May	29 May ^{CL}
Stygian Shadowdragon	<i>Neurocordulia yamaskanensis</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Kennedy's Emerald	<i>Somatochlora kennedyi</i>	21 Jun ^{MC}	21 Jun ^{MC}
Brush-tipped Emerald	<i>Somatochlora walshii</i>	13 Jun ^{MC}	31 Jul ^{MC}
Williamson's Emerald	<i>Somatochlora williamsoni</i>	20 Jul ^{MC}	15 Aug
Ebony Boghaunter	<i>Williamsonia fletcheri</i>	10 Jun ^{MC}	13 Jun ^{MC}
Skimmers	Libellulidae		
Calico Pennant	<i>Celithemis elisa</i>	03 Jun	17 Aug
Halloween Pennant	<i>Celithemis eponina</i>	16 Jun	02 Sep
Eastern Pondhawk	<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>	31 May	07 Sep
Chalk-fronted Corporal	<i>Ladona julia</i>	13 May	17 Jul
Dot-tailed Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia intacta</i>	13 May	03 Aug
Belted Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia proxima</i>	04 Jun	04 Jul
Frosted Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia frigida</i>	24 May	04 Jul
Hudsonian Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia hudsonica</i>	10 May	10 May
Crimson-ringed Whiteface	<i>Leucorrhinia glacialis</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Widow Skimmer	<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>	30 May	23 Sep
Slaty Skimmer	<i>Libellula incesta</i>	30 May	12 Aug
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula pulchella</i>	28 May	17 Sep
Four-spotted Skimmer	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	16 May	01 Jul
Painted Skimmer	<i>Libellula semifasciata</i>	12 Jun	18 Jun
Elfin Skimmer	<i>Nannothemis bella</i>	04 Jun	05 Jun
Blue Dasher	<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>	03 Jun	10 Sep
Wandering Glider	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	02 Aug	19 Aug
Spot-winged Glider	<i>Pantala hymenaea</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Eastern Amberwing	<i>Perithemis tenera</i>	25 Jun	28 Aug
Common Whitetail	<i>Plathemis lydia</i>	13 May	20 Sep

Table 1: (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	First	Last
Saffron-winged Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum costiferum</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Cherry-faced Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum internum</i>	See Report	See Report
White-faced Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum obtrusum</i>	13 Jul	12 Sep
Ruby Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum rubicundulum</i>	See Report	See Report
Band-winged Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum semicinctum</i>	09 Jul	30 Sep
Autumn Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum vicinum</i>	13 Jul	01 Nov
Red Saddlebags	<i>Tramea onusta</i>	None in 2022	None in 2022
Carolina Saddlebags	<i>Tramea carolina</i>	04 Jun	04 Jun
Black Saddlebags	<i>Tramea lacerata</i>	20 Jun	09 Sep

^{MC} Dates marked with a superscript MC refer to observations from Menzel Centennial Provincial Nature Reserve.

^{CL} Dates marked with a superscript CL refer to observations from Charleston Lake Provincial Park that are outside of the KFN 50 km study area.

^{NA} Dates marked with a superscript NA refer to observations that are not on iNaturalist.

4 Fall Round-Up, November 4-6, 2022

by Erwin Batalla



Figure 8: Belted Kingfisher. (Kathy Webb)

The format for the 57th KFN Fall Round-up was the same as last year, with the focus on obtaining a better picture of the birds in the study area: the 50 km circle centered on the Murney Tower near MacDonald Park. Birds were recorded between noon Friday November 4 and noon Sunday November 7.

The weather was fabulous throughout the 49 hours pe-

riod. Daytime temperatures reached 19°C on Sunday and the lows were above 7°C on both nights. There was a brief rain on Sunday morning but it was mostly clear for the rest of the time.



Figure 9: Evening Grosbeaks. (Phil Harvey)

Following the trend in the past few years, birders alone or in very small groups visited locations near Kingston. Most checklists were submitted for two counties: Frontenac and Lennox & Addington. Few people visited

Prince Edward Point, a marked departure from past practices. Also, few birders took the ferry ride to Amherst Island or Wolfe Island.



Figure 10: Cattle Egret. (Christine Hough)

Two field trips were organized to coincide with the count. Gaye Beckwith led a group of ten people (Betsy Beckwith, Silas and Alana, Mike and Liz Evans, Kenneth Ross, Gary Hillaby, Roberta Panter and Rebecca Spaulding) to visit the area north of Sydenham on Saturday. They found the largest group of Wild Turkeys, a rafter of 12 birds. A second field trip to the Millburn Creek NCC property was led by Kathy Webb and William Depew. They had no takers but proceeded ahead and found two Belted Kingfishers and eight Rusty Blackbirds at that location.



Figure 11: Eastern Meadowlark. (Peter Waycik)

Wolfe Island and Prince Edward Point accounted for most of the unusual sightings this year. On Wolfe Island, Mark Read spotted a Little Gull at Button Bay. At the same location, Christine and Margaret Hough spot-

ted a variety of shorebirds: five Dunlins, four Lesser Yellowlegs, two Greater Yellowlegs and an extraordinary three Hudsonian Godwits. To top this find, the two sisters located a Cattle Egret on 4th Line Road. Meanwhile, at Prince Edward Point, Ayman Rizk found a lingering Blue-winged Teal and Paul Jones observed two Killdeers, one Red-shouldered Hawk and seven Fox Sparrows. John Licharson spotted a late Chipping Sparrow and together with Janis Grant and Paul Mackenzie, they recorded a White-crowned Sparrow.



Figure 12: White-crowned Sparrow. (Janis Grant)

Other findings of note were:

- Greater White-fronted Goose by Keith Mathieu in Napanee
- Cackling Goose by Chris Ellingwood at Finkle's Shore Park
- Ruffed Grouse by Todd Norris near Verona
- Black-crowned Night-heron by Erwin Batalla at Hillview Pond
- Golden Eagle by Megan Hatch at Lemoine's Point
- Great-horned Owl by Nick Bartok at Parrott's Bay
- Barred Owl by Martin Roncetti at Collins Bay
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet by Paul Mackenzie at Martin Edwards Reserve
- Winter Wren by Linda Nuttall and Mark Chojnacki near Bedford Mills
- Carolina Wren by Michael Hart in Kingston East
- Grey Catbird by Martin Cauchon on Amherst Island
- Three Pine Siskins by Gary Hillaby in Kingston East

- Eastern Meadowlark by Sharon David and Peter Waycik on Howe Island
- South of the border, a Tufted Titmouse visited a feeder near Cape Vincent

Evening Grosbeaks were seen by several observers at several locations. This could be an invasion year for this species. We may see them in large numbers this winter, harkening back to the 1970s. Darren Rayner and Megan Coleman had 13 at their feeders in Perth Road Village and near Lansdowne respectively.

Also, the bumper crop of Great Egrets this fall resulted in several still around during the count. Ken Edwards spotted two at Belle Park and Jenny Newton found another two on Wolfe Island.



Figure 13: Great Egret. (Phil Harvey)

Other contributors were: Peter Blancher, Bridget Butt, Daphne Christie, Anik Daigle, Pete Freeman, Skyler Freeman, Phil Harvey, Richard Lott, Paul Martin, Janine Psutka, Phil Rushworth, James Thompson, Gary Ure and Sharon Wadley.

Fifty-one participants took part and a total of 110

species were observed, one less than the number seen in 2021. This is below the 50-year average of 120 and may be due to the much warmer autumn temperatures in the past two years. The Greater White-fronted Goose is a new species for the cumulative list. The table below shows the highest number of each species reported in a single checklist (eBird) for the four counties: Leeds and Grenville (L&G, 8 checklists), Frontenac (F, 58 checklists), Lennox and Addington (L&A, 40 checklists), Prince Edward (PE, 13 checklists). The tallies of the highest count for the three islands near Kingston (Howe, Wolfe and Amherst) are also shown.



Figure 14: Hudsonian Godwits. (Christine Hough)



Figure 15: Rusty Blackbirds. (Kathy Webb)

Table 2: 2022 Fall Round-Up Bird Counts

Species	County				Island		
	L & G	F	L & A	P E	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Greater White-fronted Goose			1				
Cackling Goose			1				
Canada Goose	18	1506	800	1	300	1506	60

Table 2: (continued)

Species	County				Island		
	L & G	F	L & A	P E	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Mute Swan	2	65	60	2	42	65	29
Trumpeter Swan	9	7					
Tundra Swan		37				37	
Wood Duck	3	3			3		
Blue-winged Teal				1			
Northern Shoveler		25	2				
Gadwall		75	20	1		25	6
American Wigeon		250	75		2		75
Mallard	35	104	87	20	32	104	50
American Black Duck		35	35	3	18	35	35
Northern Pintail		10	50		7	10	50
Green-winged Teal		47	12	2		30	12
Canvasback		4	1			4	1
Redhead		6000	6	4		6000	3
Ring-necked Duck		400	3		2		3
Greater Scaup		350	450	500		350	450
Lesser Scaup		200	6			200	6
Surf Scoter		1	1			1	1
White-winged Scoter	3	8		22	3	8	
Long-tailed Duck		15	2	314		15	2
Bufflehead	31	43	35	24	31	35	35
Common Goldeneye		35	12	5		35	12
Hooded Merganser		18	4		3	3	1
Common Merganser	8	62	8	6	62	14	2
Red-breasted Merganser		13	50	20		13	50
Wild Turkey		12	2				2
Ruffed Grouse		1					
Pied-billed Grebe		25					
Horned Grebe			3	7			3
Red-necked Grebe							
Rock Pigeon	7	72	8		6		2

Table 2: (continued)

Species	County				Island		
	L & G	F	L & A	P E	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Mourning Dove	2	14	4	2	1	2	2
American Coot		5					
Killdeer				2			
Hudsonian Godwit		3				3	
Dunlin		5				5	
Greater Yellowlegs		2	1			2	1
Lesser Yellowlegs		4				4	
Bonaparte's Gull		25	8		1	25	1
Little Gull		1				1	
Ring-billed Gull	2	200	200	4	46	15	50
Herring Gull		11	160	22	2	11	160
Great Black-backed Gull			1				
Common Loon	5	22	14	38	22	1	6
Double-crested Cormorant	1	250	8	300	1	19	8
Great Blue Heron		2	2		1	2	1
Great Egret		2				2	
Cattle Egret		1				1	
Black-crowned Night-heron		1					
Turkey Vulture	10	5	1	3	5		
Golden Eagle		1		1			
Northern Harrier		2	3	1		2	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1		3			
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	1			1	
Bald Eagle		1	1	2	1		
Red-shouldered Hawk				1			
Red-tailed Hawk		1	3	50	1	1	3
Great-horned Owl			1				
Barred Owl		1					
Belted Kingfisher		2		2			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	2	2		2		2
Downy Woodpecker	1	4	2	1	2	1	

Table 2: (continued)

Species	County				Island		
	L & G	F	L & A	P E	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Hairy Woodpecker	1	3	1	1	2		1
Pileated Woodpecker		3					
Northern Flicker		1	1	1	1		
American Kestrel		1	1			1	1
Merlin		1	1	2			
Blue Jay	3	17	5	30	3	4	5
American Crow	2	15	3	5	15	9	3
Common Raven	3	7	5	4	1	2	5
Black-capped Chickadee	12	50	15	24	8	10	15
Tufted Titmouse							
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			1				1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	3	1	12	3		1
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4		1	2		
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	8	5	1	2		5
Brown Creeper		1	1		1		1
Winter Wren		1					
Carolina Wren	1	1					
European Starling	12	400	250	40	400	30	250
Grey Catbird			1				1
Eastern Bluebird		5		22			
Hermit Thrush		1	1				1
American Robin	9	30	3	30	8	20	2
Cedar Waxwing		12	9	300	12		
House Sparrow		8	15		1	4	15
American Pipit		160					
Evening Grosbeak	13	13		50	2		
House Finch		25	10		4		
Purple Finch		2	1	8	1		
White-winged Crossbill				3			
Pine Siskin	1	3		16	1		
American Goldfinch	4	13	10	40	9	4	10

Table 2: (continued)

Species	County				Island		
	L & G	F	L & A	P E	Howe	Wolfe	Amherst
Snow Bunting		12	20			4	20
Chipping Sparrow				1			
American Tree Sparrow		9	1		1		1
Fox Sparrow				7			
Dark-eyed Junco	5	25	40	10	12	15	40
White-crowned Sparrow				1			
White-throated Sparrow	3	4	2		3		
Song Sparrow		1		1		1	
Eastern Meadowlark		1			1		
Red-winged Blackbird	10	1000	2	20	25	15	1
Rusty Blackbird		8			2		
Common Grackle		2	1	20	2		1
Yellow-rumped Warbler			1	4			
Northern Cardinal	4	6	2	2	2		2
Total species	34	93	72	59	52	51	56

5 Butterfly Report 2022

by John Poland



Figure 16: Common Buckeye, September 12, 2022, near Hayburn. (Kathy Webb)

This year was a pretty good year for butterfly sightings. That was because of the continuing pandemic which meant a lot of people had more time to spend

outdoors and because the warm weather persisted well into November and that attracted a few rare southern visitors. The table shows that a record 86 species were reported for this year which included a Gorgone Checkerspot and a Spicebush Swallowtail, both new species for the Kingston area. The KFN Website contains a list of 102 butterflies reported over the years and tabulated on the Web under Wildlife -> [Butterflies of the Kingston Study Area](#). Some of these are old reports without photographs or were historically found here but are now absent.

Peter Waycik kindly provided me with a [web address](#) to the Kingston Study Area for butterflies of the Kingston Study Area for the 2022 calendar year. This gives you data for all the butterflies reported in 2022 on iNaturalist within the 50 km radius around Kingston. This year I have again incorporated results as given in iNaturalist for the Kingston region (50 km circle) along with others

communicated to me. For 2020 and 2021 there were 2391 and 2989 reported sightings of 78 and 81 species respectively. This year there were 2415 sightings of 86 species, the highest number of species we have ever seen in a single calendar year. The table includes sighting from the US as reported in iNaturalist. The final column in the table lists the number of times each species was reported which gives a broad indication of their abundance: duplicates have been subtracted where an author reported a species multiple times for the same location and date.



Figure 17: Gorgone Checkerspot. (Janet Elliott)

One of the new species was a Gorgone Checkerspot. This butterfly was seen, as reported last year, in 2017 and possibly 2021 just to the north of the 50 km circle. This year definitive photographs were obtained from within the 50 km circle and confirmed by several experts. The other new species was a Spicebush Swallowtail observed at Sackets Harbor, NY. This species is found in southern Ontario and to the south across the US but rarely this far north and east. One was reported at Tweed in 2012 and two others from Presqu'île Provincial Park in 2017 and 2020.

Three other very rare butterflies were seen this year. A Pipevine Swallowtail was seen at Willowbank on the 3rd and 9th of September. The only other sighting of this species in the Kingston area (and within the city), came in 2012, the last year that we had a major late influx of rare species from the U.S. Similarly Fiery Skippers were seen on 24 August at the Amherstview Sewage Lagoons and on 8 September at Henderson NY. The only other re-

ports of Fiery Skippers were in 2012 when several were seen in the area. The Mottled Duskywing is one of Ontario's rarest butterflies with only four known colonies. One of these colonies is in Hastings county at an undisclosed location. A Mottled Duskywing was observed this year in Jefferson County, NY in May; the only other report in the 50 km circle is from 1964. The species is designated as endangered in Ontario.



Figure 18: Fiery Skipper, Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, August 24, 2022. (Peter Waycik)

Two other rare species were also reported. The Common Buckeye is seen in our area about every other year. This year several were sighted at an old gravel pit south of Hayburn. The American Snout was again seen this year at several locations but was only first reported in the Kingston area in 2013. They were, however, seen and reported in 2017 and 2019-2022. The food plant of the American Snout is the Hackberry tree. All the reported sightings are from Hackberry trees and it is worth noting that the city of Kingston has planted over 1200 Hackberry trees during the past 10 years.

Species that were missed in 2022 were the Two-spotted Skipper, Painted Lady and Tawny Crescent. The Two-spotted Skipper has generally been found each year recently but requires some diligent searching. The Painted Lady was also not seen in 2021 but occasionally is seen in extremely large numbers such as in 2017. The Tawny Crescent was last reported in 2011 near Lyndhurst; it was first reported there in 1983 and again in the region in 1993, 2010 and 2011.

The identification of Azures is problematic. Several years ago there were four species reported but this has since been reduced to three by careful study. The

Northern Azure is the primary species seen in the Kingston region but there were about 20% of azures that were reported as Summer Azures this year. Butterflies increasing in numbers over the past few years are the Compton Tortoiseshell and Mulberry Wing.

This is the first year that butterflies from the US but within the 50 km circle have been reported. That is thanks to iNaturalist where they are documented; it's likely that others may have been missed in previous years due to a lack of reporting sources. A good idea for 2023 is to visit some locations south of the border as they are an easy day's outing and it's always exciting to visit new locations.

A new collection project on iNaturalist, [Kingston Field Naturalists: Butterflies](#), is now available. Any observations of butterflies in the Kingston Study Area will become part of the project. Anyone with an iNaturalist

account can become a member of the project to receive updates and information about butterflies in the area.



Figure 19: American Snout, July 10, 2022, in the Hackberry tree in the arboretum at the MacLachlan Woodworking Museum. (Peter Waycik)

Table 3: Reported Butterfly Sightings for 2022

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports in iNaturalist
Pipevine Swallowtail	3 Sept	9 Sept	chrysalis	2
Black Swallowtail	14 May	5 Sept	chrysalis	46
Giant Swallowtail	24 May	24 Sept	chrysalis	78
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	21 May	14 June	chrysalis	12
Canadian/Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	29 June	12 Sept	chrysalis	15
Spicebush Swallowtail	7 Oct ^{NY}	7 Oct ^{NY}	chrysalis	1
Mustard White	1 May	14 Aug	chrysalis	14
West Virginia White	12 May	14 June	chrysalis	3
Cabbage White	30 Apr	6 Nov	chrysalis	73
Olympia Marble	6 May	18 May	chrysalis	8
Clouded Sulphur	18 May	10 Nov	chrysalis	51
Orange Sulphur	17 Jul	2 Nov	migratory	11
Harvester	13 July	24 Aug	unknown	7
American Copper	20 May	10 Sep	unknown	3
Bronze Copper	22 Jun	30 Sep	egg	6
Bog Copper	26 Jun	27 Jun	egg	2
Coral Hairstreak	4 July	7 Aug	egg	11

Table 3: (continued)

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports in INaturalist
Acadian Hairstreak	8 July	11 Jul	egg	3
Banded Hairstreak	3 July	10 Aug	egg	9
Hickory Hairstreak	2 July	19 July	egg	3
Striped Hairstreak	9 July	19 July	egg	3
Hoary Elfin	8 May	14 May	chrysalis	7
Henry's Elfin	1 May	14 May	chrysalis	12
Eastern Pine Elfin	24 Apr	11 June	chrysalis	20
Juniper Hairstreak	11 June	11 June	chrysalis	1
Gray Hairstreak	14 May	17 Sep	chrysalis	8
Eastern Tailed Blue	21 May	10 Oct	caterpillar fully grown	23
Summer Azure	30 June	10 Aug	chrysalis	9
Northern Azure	29 Apr	24 Sep	chrysalis	59
Silvery Blue	13 May	13 July	chrysalis	22
American Snout	9 July	27 July	unknown	6
Great Spangled Fritillary	28 June	8 Sep	caterpillar newly hatched	33
Aphrodite Fritillary	8 July	13 Aug	caterpillar first instar	4
Silver Bordered Fritillary	4 June	13 Aug	caterpillar half grown	3
Meadow Fritillary	21 June	2 Sep	caterpillar	11
Gorgone Checkerspot	4 June	4 June	caterpillar	1
Harris Checkerspot	28 May	1 July	caterpillar	12
Northern Crescent	31 May	16 Sep	caterpillar	46
Pearl Crescent	11 May	12 Sep	caterpillar	41
Baltimore Checkerspot	8 June	8 July	caterpillar	7
Question Mark	30 May	3 Sep	migratory	12
Eastern Comma	12 Apr	10 Nov	butterfly	64
Gray Comma	1 May	5 Oct	butterfly	9
Mourning Cloak	21 Mar	30 Oct	butterfly	57
Compton Tortoiseshell	21 Mar	11 Oct	butterfly	10
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	5 Apr	5 Nov	butterfly	22
American Lady	29 May	14 Sep	migratory	22
Red Admiral	28 May	22 Oct	migratory	22

Table 3: (continued)

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports in INaturalist
Common Buckeye	2 Aug	12 Sep	migratory	4
White Admiral	10 June	8 Sep	caterpillar partly grown	22
Viceroy	4 June	29 Sep	caterpillar half grown	56
Monarch	23 May	6 Nov	migratory	182
Hackberry Emperor	6 July	6 July	caterpillar mature	2
Northern Pearly Eye	19 June	4 Aug	caterpillar	33
Eyed Brown	24 June	24 July	caterpillar half grown	8
Appalachian Brown	10 July	19 July	caterpillar half grown	4
Little Wood Satyr	30 May	17 July	caterpillar	56
Common Ringlet	28 May	9 Sept	caterpillar	53
Common Wood Nymph	4 July	27 Aug	caterpillar newly hatched	35
Chryxus Arctic	May 16	May 16	caterpillar	2
Silver Spotted Skipper	13 June	19 Aug	chrysalis	20
Northern Cloudywing	25 May	17 July	caterpillar mature	51
Dreamy Duskywing	24 May	11 June	caterpillar mature	3
Juvenal's Duskywing	11 May	20 June	caterpillar mature	26
Mottled Duskywing	May ^{NY}	May ^{NY}	caterpillar mature	1
Columbine Duskywing	9 May	23 July	caterpillar mature	16
Wild Indigo Duskywing	24 June	17 Sep	caterpillar mature	8
Arctic Skipper	5 June	26 June	caterpillar mature	6
Least Skipper	15 June	14 Sep	caterpillar mature	23
European Skipper	17 June	11 July	egg	23
Fiery Skipper	24 Aug	8 Sep	unknown	2
Leonard's Skipper	12 Aug	5 Oct	caterpillar early instar	6
Indian Skipper	28 May	26 June	caterpillar	15
Peck's Skipper	14 June	15 Sep	caterpillar partly grown	12
Tawny Edged Skipper	24 May	8 Sep	chrysalis	29
Crossline Skipper	1 July	1 Aug	caterpillar mature	10
Long Dash	11 June	29 June	caterpillar partly grown	8
Northern Broken Dash	1 July	15 Aug	caterpillar	24
Little Glassywing	28 June	11 July	caterpillar	7

Table 3: (continued)

Butterfly	First Date	Last Date	Overwintering Stage	Reports in iNaturalist
Delaware Skipper	28 June	21 July	caterpillar or chrysalis	14
Hobomok Skipper	21 May	9 July	caterpillar	54
Mulberrywing	9 July	16 July	unknown	5
Broad Winged Skipper	8 July	12 Aug	caterpillar	8
Dion Skipper	8 July	17 July	caterpillar partly grown	4
Dun Skipper	28 June	27 Aug	caterpillar	51
Common Roadside Skipper	18 May	17 June	caterpillar	4

^{NY} Dates marked with a superscript NY were from New York State. The exact date of the Mottled Duskywing observation is obscured on iNaturalist.

Contributors: Gaye Beckwith, David Edwards, John Hall, Paul McKenzie, John Poland, Bruce Ripley, Peter Waycik, Kathy Webb, Bill Depew and many others via iNaturalist.

6 Kingston Region Birds—Summer 2022 (June 1 to July 31)

by Anthony Kaduck and Mark Read

The KFN reporting area is centred on the datum point in MacDonald Park, Kingston and extends for a radial distance of 50 km. An interactive map showing the KFN circle is available on the website. If errors are noted or significant observations omitted, please contact me and I will update accordingly. We also encourage you to submit *all* sightings, so that a better understanding of our region's birdlife can be achieved. Members already using eBird can very easily share their sightings with the username 'Kingston FN'. Alternatively, please email or phone me directly with your sightings (kaduckintransit at gmail.com / 613-331-1391).

Please note the total below includes the following species that remain unconfirmed until accepted by the Rare Birds Committee: **White Pelican (June 9 Wolfe Island), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (August 31, Perch River).**

In total, **202 species of birds** were recorded in our region during the reporting period, two more than last year's total. 464 observers submitted 3508 checklists over period, equating to 53 588 sightings. In total 210 938 birds were recorded, though a portion of this number reflects the same birds being seen on subsequent days.

All observations were obtained from <https://ebird.org/canada/home>. A huge thank you goes out to every observer, without whom our understanding of bird distribution would be far more limited.

Following are the highlights of summer 2022.

Snow Goose: One bird was seen flying with a flock of Canada Geese on 20 June (MEC, LJN).

Trumpeter Swan: 59 records, with a high count of 9 on Odessa Lake on 25 July (StT).

Blue-winged Teal: 43 records, with a high count of 6 at Perch River WMA on 16 June (RaN).

Northern Pintail: One bird was observed in Atlas square 18TUQ61 (Frontenac County) on 2 July (CJG).

Redhead: A few reluctant migrants were observed, including one that was last seen on 31 July in Cataraqui Bay (MaH).

Ring-necked Duck: Two late birds were spotted on Camden Lake on 10 June (CHB, MAJ).

Surf Scoter: A late bird was seen daily from 24 June

to 1 July off of Prince Edward Point (PBJ).

White-winged Scoter: There were 30 summer records for this species, all but one of which came from a viewing point at Long Point Road and Gravelly Bay Road in Prince Edward County. A flock of 57 birds on 1 June had dwindled down to four by the end of July (PBJ).

Black Scoter: There were seven records in this period, all from the viewing point at Long Point Road and Gravelly Bay Road. Up to two birds were seen from June 6 to 16 (PBJ).

Long-tailed Duck: Completing the roster of late staying winter ducks, one bird of this species was seen off Prince Edward Point on June 6, 8, and 9, and a pair were seen off Salmon Island on 13 June (PJH, PBJ).

Sora: Once considered a common summer resident, their numbers seem to be declining steeply. There were only 15 records in this period – two at Perch River WMA in New York, and the remainder at various sites in Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Counties.

American Coot: Only one record from the Canadian side – a single bird seen at Camden Lake PWA on 10 July (MiB).

Sandhill Crane: There were 16 records, with breeding confirmed in the area of Camden Lake PWA (KSB, ChE, KenR) and Florida Road (CJG).

Black-bellied Plover: One bird was seen at Camden Lake PWA on 4 June (JPR et al).

Semipalmated Plover: Two were seen by four observers at Martin Edwards Reserve on 4 June (NiB et al).

Ruddy Turnstone: There were seven sightings, with the last being a single bird on Salmon Island on 13 June (PJH).

Red Knot: One bird was seen on Amherst Island 2 June, mixed in with a flock of 65 Ruddy Turnstones (KJH).

Sanderling: Ten were spotted on Amherst Island on 10 June (WiK, AnN), and then two very late birds lingered on Salmon Island to at least 13 June (PJH).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Three sightings of single birds between 3 and 13 June, at Amherst Island (ChE), Salmon Island (PJH), and Kaiser X-Road (PBJ).

Pectoral Sandpiper: A single bird was seen on 27 July at Woods Farm, Jefferson County (RiB).

Wilson's Phalarope: All 17 records came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island. A high count of 5 was made on 4 June (JeN et al).

Great Black-backed Gull: One record of a single bird on 2 July came from Millens Bay, Thousand Island Park, NY (JeC).

Black Tern: There were 95 records this summer from a number of locations with a high count of 36 at Camden Lake PWA on 29 June where breeding was confirmed (KAW et al). Breeding was also confirmed at two locations within the circle in Jefferson County, NY (KFN).

Neotropic Cormorant: A single bird was discovered on 28 July in Cataraqui Bay (JeN). It remained past the end of this reporting period, providing good views for every birder in southern Ontario.

American White Pelican: Two birds were seen flying over Wolfe Island on 9 June (GPB).

Least Bittern: There were 60 records this summer, with a high count of eight coming from Camden Lake PWA on 30 June (TMW). Breeding was confirmed in the marshes of the Lennox Generating Station (restricted access), with recently fledged young seen on 29 June (KJH).

Tricolored Heron: A single bird was present at Perch River WMA from 4 to 21 June (BrM).

Glossy Ibis: Three birds were at Martin Edwards Reserve from 2 to 5 June (found by BeDL, reported by KJH).

Golden Eagle: There was 1 summer record: an immature bird seen in flight south of Railton on 2 July (DaK).

Rough-legged Hawk: A very late bird was seen and photographed on Amherst Island on 5 June (WiK, AnN).

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 12 records this summer, including a breeding pair on James Wilson Road (PJH) and probable breeders on Florida Road (VPM, CJG).

Peregrine Falcon: There were just 13 records across the region this summer, with no evidence of breeding recorded.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: There was one record this summer: a single bird seen along the Cataraqui Trail near Chaffey's Lock on 31 Jul (MaC).

Philadelphia Vireo: A singing bird was found during an off-road point count east of Enterprise on 29 June (NAK, RSL).

Loggerhead Shrike: There were 13 summer records, all from the Napanee Limestone Plain IBA (KFN).

Fish Crow: There were 15 summer records of the pair that set up residence in the City Park area of Kingston. The birds called regularly but breeding was not confirmed, although there was a report of two adults and two juveniles in the north end of the city on 31 July (KeD).

Tufted Titmouse: Single birds were recorded 11 times, mostly in Jefferson County but a singing male was found on the Howe Island Road on 14 June (JET) and another near Verona on the 15 June (RKFE).

Horned Lark: Up to three birds were seen carrying food on Wolfe Island on 8 June, confirming that they were breeding on the site (MDR). Single birds were seen in Jefferson County on 16 and 18 June (RaN), and at Morven/Wilton Creek on 18 June (MiF et al).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Two late birds were seen and photographed at the Little Cataraqui Creek CA on 3 June (PJH), and one was singing at Chaumont Barrens, Jefferson County on 10 June (MiG).

Blue-grey Gnatcatcher: There were only two summer records, both from the general area of Perch River WMA: 24 June (FrL) and 26 June (MaB).

Sedge Wren: There were nine summer records, most of which involved a bird singing near Moscow from 30 June to 24 July (TMW).

Northern Mockingbird: There were 12 records of this species from a wide variety of locations within the circle.

Swainson's Thrush: Single birds were recorded at Pumpkin Island on 2 June (GaG), on CR 38 north of Verona on 4 July (iaB, JoG), and on Opinicon Road on 9 July (LiL).

American Pipit: Two out-of-season birds were spotted on Bongards X-Road in Prince Edward County on 1 June (PBJ).

Pine Siskin: After the multitude siskin records in the spring, it is a bit surprising that a lone bird at a feeder near Bedford Mills on 3 June was the only summer record (MEC, LJJ).

Henslow's Sparrow: Just two records of single birds from the same location in Jefferson County, NY, on 16 and 23 (PaM, RaN).

Orchard Oriole: These orioles were seen in multiple locations throughout the summer, but the only definitive breeding evidence came from the Lemoine Point population (AIG).

Louisiana Waterthrush: The "usual suspects" on Canoe Lake Road were heard and seen as late as 10 July (KFN).

Mourning Warbler: There were five summer records, with singing birds in the Bedford Mills area on 2 and 3 June (MEC, LJJ), and on the Opinicon Road on 8 June (NLB).

Blackpoll Warbler: A single bird was heard near Parrott's Bay CA on 8 June (NiB).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Single birds were spotted on Canoe Lake Road on 3 June (KJH), on Wellesley Island on 6 June (RGB, RaM), and on the Rideau Trail near Upper Rock Lake (GaH et al).

Other species observed during the reporting period: Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pied-billed Grebe, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, Killdeer, Upland Sandpiper, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker,

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Grey Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Gold-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Cerulean War-

bler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

Observers: Nick Bartok (NiB), L. Gary P. Bell (GPB), Kevin S. Bleeks (KSB), Carolyn H. Bonta (CHB), Michael Brais (MiB), Richard Brouse (RiB), Matthew Brown (MaB), Robert G. Buckert (RGB), Ian Burgess (IaB), Maureen Carrier (MaC), Mark E. Chojnacki (MEC), Jeanne Cimorelli (JeC), Ken Debney (KeD), Ben Di Labio (BeDL), R. Ken F. Edwards (RKFE), Chris Ellingwood (ChE), Mira Furgoch (MiF), Allison Gagnon (AIG), Gabriel Galson (GaG), John Gapski (JoG), Chris J. Grooms (CJG), Michael Gullo (MiG), Phil J. Harvey (PJH), Kurt J. Hennige (KJH), Gary Hillaby (GaH), Margaret Hough (MaH), Michael A. Johnson (MAJ), Paul B. Jones (PBJ), N. Anthony Kaduck (NAK), Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), William Konze (WiK), Dale Kristensen (DaK), Linda Lackner (LiL), Fred Leff (FrL), Richard S. Lott (RSL), V. Paul Mackenzie (VPM), Patricia Martin (PaM), Ray Marszalek (RaM), Brian Miller (BrM), Jenny Newton (JeN), North Leeds Birders (NLB), Andy Nguyen (AnN), Raphaël Nussbaumer (RaN), Linda J. Nuttall (LJN), Ken Robinosn (KenR), James E. Thompson (JET), Steve Tooley (StT), Kathy Webb (KAW), Tom M. Wheatley (TMW),

7 Articles

7.1 Wildlife Photography Tips #14 —Travel Adventures —Part 2

by Anthony Kaduck



Figure 20: Don't you DARE lose my photo! (Anthony Kaduck)

If you are planning to go to exotic destinations and photograph wildlife, one of the decisions you should make before you go is whether or not you will back up your images during the trip.

The reason why you might want to back up in the field is the same as when you are at home: if your image only exists in one place it can be lost forever as a result of misadventure. At home the risks include fires, floods, theft, component failure or even inadvertently deleting a file. In the field the risks multiply, as you will be in an unfamiliar place, you may be fatigued, you may be staying in multiple locations, and you may be among people for whom your flashy camera equipment represents a year or more of their earnings.

So if there are good reasons to consider backing up in

the field, why might you choose not to?

Because backing up in the field requires discipline, and it involves a set of penalties that you might not want to deal with. An effective back-up plan may require you to bring additional equipment, to develop an efficient workflow, and to dedicate some of your limited downtime in the evenings to backing up photos as opposed to contacting the home base, relaxing in the bar, washing some clothes, or just catching up on sleep before the early morning wake up call.

To understand what is involved let's look at three backup options.

Cloud Backup

Backing up images to the cloud offers one big advantage. Your images will be stored in a remote location so regardless of which misadventures might befall you on your trip the uploaded images will be safe.

Cloud storage has become relatively inexpensive, so it is often offered for low or no cost as part of a software package. For example, any Gmail account includes 15GB of free cloud storage on Google Drive (this can be expanded at a low monthly cost). If you have a Microsoft Office subscription 1 TB of cloud storage is included.

But... the big downside to cloud storage as a field backup solution is the amount of Wi-Fi bandwidth required. If you take a lot of photos and/or use large file sizes your ability to upload images will be limited by the available connection. With the exception of downtown business hotels the Wi-Fi connections in hotels and motels in North America tend to be sluggish. Go a bit farther afield and you can find yourself in places that have very slow and unstable connections, or no connection at all. For example on a recent trip to Peru, out of 20 nights there were two with decent Wi-Fi connections, nine with weak and intermittent connections, and nine with no Internet available. So depending on where you go it may not be possible to rely on cloud backup.

Backup using secondary cards

If your camera has multiple memory card slots, instead of using the secondary card as an overflow you can configure it to copy the same files that are going to the main card. This method is easy to use as once the camera is set up you do not have to do anything different from your normal shooting routine. Once the cards get

filled up you can keep the two sets of completed cards in different places, which reduces the chance of a catastrophic loss.

One potential downside to this method is that if you tend to shoot large files in quick succession you may find that your shot buffer is slow to empty.

A typical dual-slot camera body has a primary slot that accepts a fast card (XQD or CFExpress format), and a secondary slot that takes an SD card. The write speed (the speed at which files can be transferred to the card) for XQD or CFExpress cards is typically 1400-1500 MB/sec, whereas most SD cards tend to have write speeds in the 10-40 MB/sec range. Because your camera is trying to write the same information to two cards the whole process can be slowed down dramatically.



Figure 21: Memory cards: SD, XQD and CFExpress. (Anthony Kaduck)

There is no easy fix to this issue. The fastest SD cards claim write speed of up to 300 MB/sec, but they are much more expensive than regular cards, and will still act as a bottleneck in the system.

Whether or not this issue presents a problem for you depends on your shooting style, in particular the size of file you shoot and the number of shots you take in quick succession. In my own experience, when shooting with a camera that generates 25-30 MB files, and using a middle of the range SD card as a secondary backup, I have rarely if ever had to wait for the buffer to clear. On the other hand the main camera body I use generates 55-60 MB files, and even with a high speed-rated SD card backup I frequently have to wait for a moment for the buffer to clear.

The second issue with the secondary card backup method is that it makes chimping more difficult. Chimping, as you may recall from a previous article in this series, refers to reviewing shots in the camera monitor and deleting ones you don't want (e.g. images that are out of focus, or that show the branch that a bird had been on moments before). This frees up space on the card for new images.



Figure 22: A bird image to break up a long run of text. (Anthony Kaduck)



Figure 23: Who is that mystery birder? Is he chimping? (Anthony Kaduck)

You can still chimp using the secondary card backup method but it involves deleting shots from the main card, then removing that card and going through the images on the secondary card trying to delete the same images. Given that the cards hold between 700 and 1300 images this can be a time-consuming and error-prone business. My advice, if you want to use this

method, is to travel with a sufficient number of memory cards that you don't have to chimp to economize on card space.

On balance the secondary card backup method is simple and effective, but of course it only works if your camera body has dual card slots. Most of the professional level and higher-end enthusiast level camera bodies made by Nikon, Canon and Sony have dual card systems, but beginner camera bodies, superzooms and bridge cameras typically do not.

Backup to a portable hard drive

Which leads to the third method – backing your images up to a portable hard drive.

This method is used by most professional wildlife photographers and is increasingly popular with amateurs. It is a very effective means of backing up images from any camera, but it requires a certain level of self-discipline and attention to detail.

The advantage of the method is that you end up with a backup that is not connected to the camera, thus less likely to be compromised by the perils of wildlife photography: theft, drops, rain-induced failure, card failure, etc. SSD hard drives are compact and rugged, and can be slipped into a pocket or hidden in a safe place. When you are travelling you can keep the hard drive in a separate location from your full memory cards. For example, when flying you can carry the hard drive in your "personal item," and put the cards in your carry-on bag or, if you like living dangerously, in your checked baggage.

To use this method you need the following equipment:

A portable hard drive. Solid state hard drives (SSD drives) are the practical choice as they are a lot less fragile than spinning drives, don't require an external power supply, and are very compact. For most uses a 500GB drive would be more than sufficient to hold a trip's worth of photos, though at the moment it is very hard to find anything under 1TB.

I use a 500GB drive and it has served well. If I were starting out now I would probably look at something like the Samsung USB 3.2 Gen. 2 2TB Portable SSD, which is dust and water resistant, ruggedized, and sells for about \$270.

A card reader. This is an external device that allows you to plug in the cards from your camera. These are

often specific to a single type of card (SD, XQD or CFExpress), so obviously you need to have one that matches your camera. If you use two different card formats you should look for a multi-card reader which fits both of the card types you use.



Figure 24: Card readers (flimsy Lexar one held together with tape). (Anthony Kaduck)

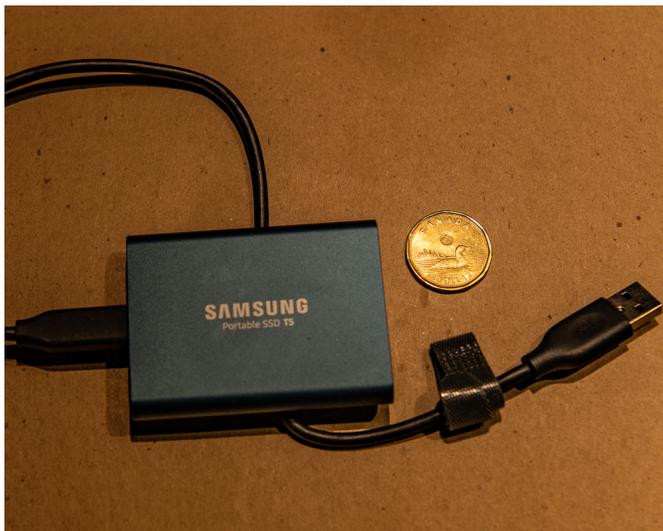


Figure 25: SSD drive with Loonie for size comparison. (Anthony Kaduck)

A transfer device. This is any device that will allow you to shift the files from the card reader to the portable hard drive. Any laptop computer would work, but because the task does not require much computing power a laptop may be overkill. I use a Chromebook, which is much lighter and less expensive than a laptop and has much better battery life. A reasonably capable tablet like a Microsoft Surface would work as well provided it has the right slots to attach to your card reader and SSD drive.

Cables. To state the obvious, this system will only work if you remember to bring the correct cables to connect the card reader and the SSD drive to your transfer device. So you probably want to add them to your trip packing list.

Hard drive backup – workflow

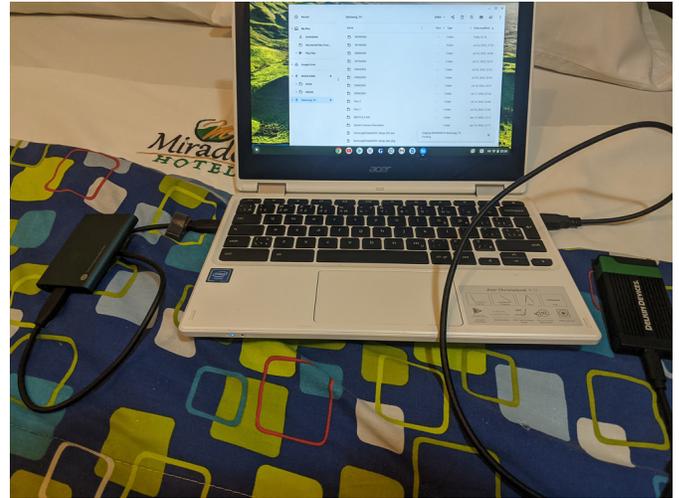


Figure 26: Backing up to an SSD drive. (Anthony Kaduck)

(This is my preferred method, worked out through trial and plenty of error).

Before you go out on your expedition, set your camera so that it writes your files to a named folder. This is done through the menu system. If you are using a Nikon camera you typically go to Menu > Photo Shooting Menu > Storage Folder. This will take you to a screen where you give a number to the folder. Give the folder a logical name: either 1 or 101, or perhaps the start date of your trip.

At the end of each day's shooting, set up your hard drive, card reader and laptop/transfer device in a place where it can sit undisturbed. Start up the laptop, insert your card in the reader, and then use the device's file system to copy the named folder from the card to your external hard drive.

And then sit back and wait. Or hand wash some laundry. Transferring a day's worth of images can take 20-25 minutes: less when the hard drive is empty, and then getting progressively longer during a trip as it fills up.

If you are using a Chromebook, ignore the messages stating that the transfer will take 12 or 27 or 35 hours. Chromebooks are not very clever in this regard. Plan on 20-25 minutes.

Once the download is finished, (**key point!!!**) don't just unplug the card reader and hard drive. Use the proper method of ejecting them. Failure to do so can lead to card failure, error messages and other horrors.

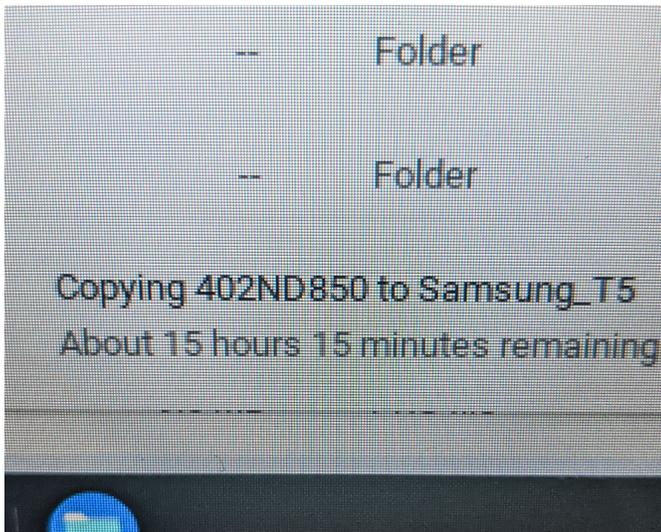


Figure 27: Google disinformation. (Anthony Kaduck)

This is not just a theoretical possibility. On a recent trip I experienced a failure of my main card. Fortunately I was running the second card slot on backup mode so that day's shots were saved, and the remainder of the images had been backed up to SSD the night before. So I just had to swap in a new main card and carry on. The card failure appears to have been caused by my not properly ejecting the card from the file explorer before I disconnected it. Once at home I erased all data on the card and it has been returned to service.

The final step is to go back to the camera menu and assign a new number to the storage folder. Subsequent shots will go to this new folder, so each night you just have to copy that day's folder to the hard drive instead of trying to work out which photos have already been transferred. This will make your backups more efficient and allow you to get more sleep.

Backup to a laptop

There is a fourth backup method that could be used:

7.2 Kingston's Birds Through a Traveller's Eyes

by Hanno Müller

A business trip took me from Nijmegen in the Netherlands to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Following the official business, I took a few days off during which I strove to

download your images to a laptop. I have tried this a few times but I don't recommend it as a general rule.

If you need/want to post images from your trip on social media as you go along – for example if you are on a sponsored or fund-raising trip – then you might need to have the ability to process images. So the images downloaded to Lightroom files become your backup.

But remember that laptops are heavier and typically larger than a Chromebook or tablet, so they eat into the limited space you are allocated for carry-on luggage. They are also highly attractive to the light-fingered. If someone nicks my Chromebook I will be out \$400 and lose no images. If I lose a Lightroom-capable laptop I will be out \$1000 plus and all my image backups. If you still think you need a laptop so you can process images in the evenings, I would simply observe that I have never been on a birding trip where I had time and energy left after dinner for image-processing before the next 04:30 wakeup. But perhaps your trips are less intense than mine...

Decision time

So now that you know all about backups, should you back up your photos during a trip?

My own decision on this will vary according to the situation. If I am on a trip in Ontario, unless I see a bird or other creature that I have not seen before, or capture what I think is going to be a really great image, I probably won't bother to back up to the hard drive. And if I happen to be staying in a place with good WiFi connectivity I might upload a few key images to cloud storage.

On the other hand if I am going to a place that I will probably only get to once in my life I will run my secondary slot in backup mode and download the images to an SSD every night.

But as they say in the investing business, your experience may vary!

(photographically) study the bird life of eastern Canada. I found oodles of information on the Kingston Field Naturalists website, such as species lists and areas worth

seeing. I decided to reach out. Ken Edwards responded promptly to my mail and put me in touch with Kathy Webb and Peter Waycik, who were equally forthcoming. With such support, it is not surprising that I spent my short vacation in Kingston. From October 16 to 19 I had four full days at my disposal, about which I will be reporting in the following.

Day 1: Kingston Conservation Areas

On my way to Marshlands Conservation Area, I took my very first photograph. I was lying in the meadow north of Providence Care Hospital at 7:15 a.m. observing a Mourning Dove. Suddenly, crows were making a loud noise in the distance and caught my attention. They were attacking a bird of prey that, fortunately for me, found refuge in a tree not ten meters from me. The bird revealed itself as a Red-tailed Hawk. Only a few moments later, a second Red-tailed Hawk joined it. For a full 20 minutes the two raptors remained perched in the bare branches. What a beginning of my birding adventure! After they left, I found the eaten skeleton of a squirrel on the ground. I was wondering whether the two raptors regularly hunt in this meadow.



Figure 28: A Red-tailed Hawk seeks refuge from crows in the branches. (Hanno Müller)

Through Lake Ontario Park (Dark-eyed Juncos, Mallards, Canada Geese, Double-crested Cormorants) I reached my actual destination: Rideau Trail. Already at the parking lot I could photograph an American Robin and a Red-winged Blackbird. Just as the sun was rising, a Downy Woodpecker landed on a tree next to me – too close to take any pictures. But lively and without shyness “woody” jumped from branch to branch, so that I finally managed to take some pictures. A White-throated Sparrow also presented itself in the most beautiful light. What a wonderful morning atmosphere.

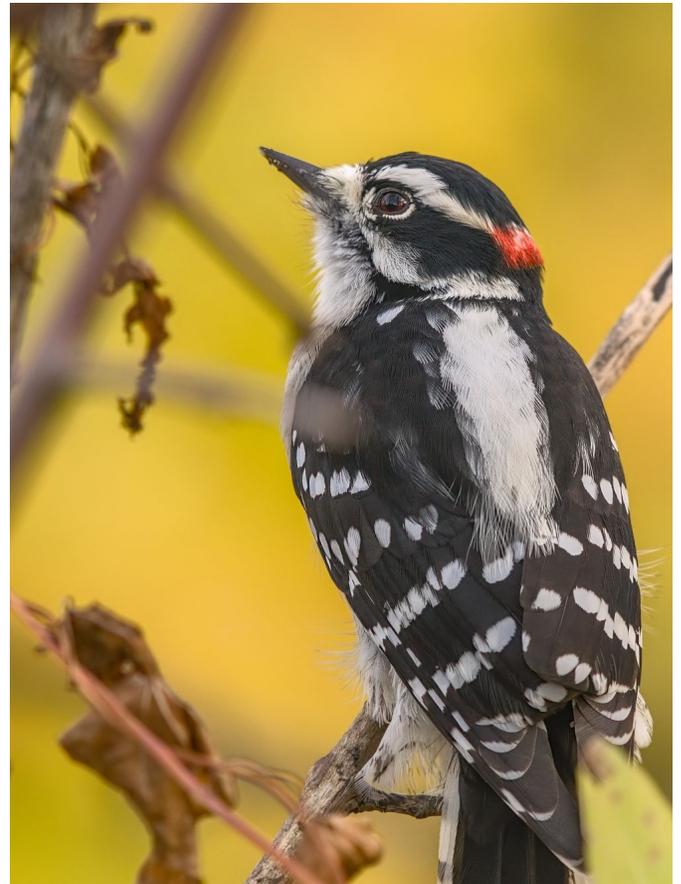


Figure 29: The Downy Woodpecker flits nimbly through the undergrowth. In the rising sun, the background glows in warm colors. (Hanno Müller)

During my walk on Rideau Trail I had sightings of a Northern Cardinal, a bunch of American Goldfinches, a group of mixed Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Hairy and Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatches, Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, Common Grackle, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, and the omnipresent Black-capped Chickadees. While skimming the footbridge through the reeds, I saw a Northern Harrier in the distance. A Pileated Woodpecker caught my attention with its call, which is very similar to that of Central European woodpeckers and made me scan the

forest. The large, distinctive bird unceremoniously decided to land on a log just off the trail. He stood there for five minutes and was not disturbed even by the chatting walkers passing by. I was not used to this behaviour from woodpeckers and was overwhelmed!

From Marshlands Conservation Area I started walking to Lemoine Point Conservation Area and spotted a flock of Lesser Scaups in the water next to the Invista area. But soon I became aware of the size differences between Canada and the Netherlands. For comparison: my adopted city Nijmegen is the tenth largest city in the Netherlands and would fit nine times in Kingston! Eventually I hitchhiked to Lemoine Point.

Shortly after arrival, I was able to photograph two yellowlegs on the shore along the Shore Trail. The birds waded through the water without being disturbed, while park visitors fed the ducks and Canada Geese. Completely incredulous, I learned as my field trip progressed that it was possible to hand-feed wild birds (Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches). Park visitors shared their seeds with me, so that I could participate in this spectacle. Awesome! During the afternoon, I struck up a conversation with other park visitors who had become aware of me through my equipment. A woman showed me photos of a Barred Owl, which she had taken a few minutes ago, but I was denied the sight of the beautiful owl. Instead I saw my first loon.



Figure 30: The Blue Jay stuffs several peanuts down its gullet to hide them in the surrounding area and collect new food right after. (Hanno Müller)

I could observe Blue Jays collecting food and hiding, but I will not talk about already mentioned species from this point on, unless the sighting is worth telling because of high rarity value. So my day ended with the sighting

of the Red-breasted Nuthatches and a flock of Cedar Waxwings, which were too high in the canopy for photos, but filled me with great happiness.

Day 2: Wolfe Island

After a 30-minute walk, shortly before 6 a.m., I reached the ferry to Wolfe Island. Since the rain was bucketing down, I was already completely soaked on the ferry despite rain clothes. On Wolfe Island, with a headlamp on my forehead, I walked on the 96 through the darkness and the heavy rain while the pick-ups and trucks raced past me, which did not exactly boost my morale. But in the first light of the day I could observe birds in flight, which comforted me over the strains: a Ring-billed Gull, five Mute Swans, a group of Common Mergansers moving shallowly over the water, a Great Blue Heron and a Great Egret. Again and again large groups of Canada Geese – probably practicing flying in preparation for the migration south – flew through the sky of dawn. Normally, geese wouldn't catch my interest, but their omnipresence in this moody grayish habitat had something going for it.



Figure 31: The Great Egret captures a small fish, but this does not devalue how great it feels to witness this moment. (Hanno Müller)

I actually wanted to follow 96 to 2nd, run it south to the end, and march to Sandy Bay Park. Once again I felt the incredible size of Canada with my own legs. I only made it as far as 2nd and all my sightings were along 96 – including one of my favorite birds: the Northern Flicker. Of course, it made me very excited and boosted my morale. Also uplifting was the sighting of otters, which I saw in the wild for the first time in my life. Three of them were swimming parallel to the shore. When they were at my height, they dived, and I feared that my presence might have scared them away. But shortly

thereafter they reappeared, all three with a fish in their snout. What a spectacle. As the trip progressed, I saw a Song Sparrow, an Eastern Wood-Pewee, a Turkey Vulture, seven Whistling Swans (four old and three young), and a group of Rock Doves.



Figure 32: With a capital catch, the otter emerges on the surface of the water. The fish is eaten within seconds. (Hanno Müller)

When I reached the west coast, I decided to turn back. Fortunately, I was able to get a lift again for the return trip. My drivers let me out at a bay just past Marysville, since there would always be egrets to see. Great Egrets I personally didn't find that interesting, as they are also massed in the Netherlands (a few decades ago they were a rarity), but in spite of the rain I wanted to take home a neat trophy. For half an hour I was lying on my belly, hidden in the reeds, too far away from my subject to take the kind of picture I enjoy. But then I got lucky. An egret landed just between the water lilies where I had imagined him. There I was able to observe and photograph him successfully fishing.

Day 3: Frontenac Provincial Park

On October 18 and 19 I had borrowed a car – I would have preferred to have it on all days! Anyway, on day three I visited Frontenac Provincial Park with a friend who came to visit me from Toronto. On our way to the ranger station, we were able to watch a White-tailed Deer in about 10 meters from the car that just wouldn't leave. Great start. The park ranger took time to put together a suitable route through the park for us, and the route was excellent. We passed along numerous beaver dams and lakes and had wonderful views over and over again. The foliage shone in the most magnificent colors, the paths covered by the foliage shone just as joyfully, and the air was pure and fresh.

From an ornithological point of view, only a few sightings were recorded: a Turkey Vulture circling through the sky in the distance, Black-capped Chickadees, a loon in the middle of one of the lakes, Downy Woodpecker and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Nevertheless, I managed to get a shot of a Dark-eyed Junco against the gorgeous autumn backdrop, which gave the photo a beautiful bokeh.



Figure 33: The fall foliage in Frontenac Provincial Park glows in the most beautiful colours. (Hanno Müller)



Figure 34: A Dark-eyed Junco waits patiently in front of the astonishing autumn scenery until the background is optimally positioned behind the bird. (Hanno Müller)

Day 4: Sand Hill Road and Howe Island

On my last day, I visited members of the Kingston Field Naturalists. I spent the sunrise at the small farm of Kathy Webb and William (Bill) Depew. Kathy was unfortunately not present, but Bill welcomed me and let me roam freely around the farm. At the platform feeders, suet feeders, and hanging feeders that morning I saw Blue Jays, Downy Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, Mourning Doves, and Red-

winged Blackbirds, which I mention here to outline the diversity and abundance of birds visiting the feeders. I also had two personal first sightings: an Eastern Towhee sat first at some distance in the meadow; shortly thereafter, an individual appeared right in the fruit tree next to me. I also saw a Yellow-rumped Warbler.

I spent part of the morning cleaning my camera, which had taken quite a beating in the last few days. Particularly in the zoom lens water had penetrated, which condensed in the warm morning light, so that I could make no more sharp photos. However, I was able to get rid of the water by continuously zooming in and out. Afterwards I devoted my time to flight studies of the Blue Jays in front of the colours that autumn had painted in the trees. At the end there was coffee and cake and a very nice conversation with Bill. My great gratitude goes to him and Kathy for their exceptional hospitality.



Figure 35: Five Turkey Vultures sit in the branches of a dead tree in the 'Valley of the Vultures.' (Hanno Müller)

From Sand Hill Road I drove to Howe Island, where Peter Waycik picked me up at the ferry. Before we even reached our actual destination, a forested trail, Peter spotted from the car five Turkey Vultures in a dead tree. I got out of the car and was able to take some photos,

then the large birds flew up, giving me the opportunity for flight shots. Afterwards we walked along the trail – although it had started to rain heavily in the meantime. Once again it was worth braving the rain: Peter pointed out a Merlin sitting in a tree in the distance. On the trail I could spot my first Blue-headed Vireo (among numerous other species already listed). Later, I also saw an American Kestrel.



Figure 36: Unusually cooperative, this Northern Cardinal allows himself to be photographed feeding on berries. (Hanno Müller)

After our walk my equipment was soaking wet again, the light was too dark, so I could leave from a photographic perspective. But Peter was convinced that the list of my first sightings that day would grow when we paid a visit to his bird feeders. I couldn't and wouldn't argue with that. In the end, Peter was right: I saw my first House and Purple Finches. I also saw my first White-crowned Sparrow. (American Goldfinches, White-throated Sparrows, and Northern Cardinals also frolicked among the feeders). If I ever have a suitable property to set up feeders myself, I will do as Peter did! I am very grateful to him for showing me not only the feeders, but also Howe Island and spending a whole afternoon with me.

Joyfully I think back to the days in Kingston.

Even a good month after my stay in Canada, I am still sitting at the computer until dawn editing photos. I think that the people in Kingston and the surrounding area can consider themselves very lucky with the multitude of great destinations in the immediate vicinity. The great hospitality with which I was received by Kathy, Bill, and Peter, and the openness of the people I met on my outings, and who gave me rides in their cars speaks for itself. If members of the Kingston Field Naturalists ever travel to Europe, I will do my best to assist them

as I have been assisted. Not only to birdies, but also to any nature lover, I can highly recommend the Wadden Sea, which is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List due to its great biological diversity and importance for breeding and migrating birds. As a volunteer mudflat guide for the Dutch "Waddenvereniging," I have come to appreciate and love it.

You can contact me any time at:
hannomueller@gmx.net.



Figure 37: The Eurasian Spoonbill takes advantage of the abundant food supply in the Wadden Sea. This majestic specimen landed right in front of me while I was lying in the mud at dawn. (Hanno Müller)

8 KFN Outings

8.1 Westbrook Area Ramble, September 6, 2022

by Mike Parry



Figure 38: Dry creek bed. (Mike Parry)

Seventeen KFN members took advantage of Jane Revell's suggestion to ramble in her Westbrook neighborhood on a sunny 17°C late summer morning. Ramblers mustered at the well-maintained Westbrook Meadows Park situated at 615 Mandara Drive. From the NW corner of the park, we proceeded on a narrow but well-travelled path amongst dense woodland. No signs were posted regarding private or public ownership of the property that we were about to explore, but it is a popular walk used by local residents.

Park landscaping Silver Maple trees showed examples of Tarspot Fungus (*Rhytisma acerinum*), a late season leaf-disfiguring fungus that seemingly does little damage to maple trees. Anne pointed out Shepherds Purse,

Black Medick, Birdfoot Trefoil, Black Knapweed, Crown Vetch, Wild Parsnip and Queen Anne's Lace with its anise tasting seeds. We also sampled the citrus aroma of the Prickly Ash seeds. Growing side by side were Showy Goldenrod with its sticky pollen adapted to insects for pollination and the insignificant Common Ragweed which casts its pollen to the winds to the dismay of allergy sufferers. Anne showed us the Goldenrod Fly larva (*Eurosta solidaginis*) developing inside the goldenrod gall.

The narrow path led us through mixed woodlands for 500 m to reach Glenvale Creek. The creek bed being dry, we walked north dry-shod approximately 400 m to find the creek disappearing into sinkholes in the limestone bed – your reporter was a "spelunker" in his youth and sight of this would have sparked an interest in caverns beneath waiting to be discovered. The creek was bordered by fine specimens of Bur Oak (Mossycup Oak) and aptly named Rock Elms, displaying their corky ridged bark, with their roots securely anchored in bare limestone joints.

We returned along the creek to a dry waterfall and then proceeded south between a tight Prickly Ash avenue reaching an open woodland of Sugar Maple, Black and Pin Cherry. Our progress was halted after 400 m by the return of the water in heavily rutted wheel tracks. Here the open areas allowed wet ground loving displays of Turtlehead, Spotted Touch-me-not, Joe-pye-weed and an impressive example of a 3 m tall Wild Lettuce.

Kathy Webb logged [16 species of birds](#) on our ramble. The notable observation was a Solitary Sandpiper which obligingly allowed our group to approach closely to observe it searching for food in a vestigial pond in the stream bed.



Figure 39: Solitary Sandpiper. (Kathy Webb)

Your scribe returned a few weeks later after a rainfall to find the stream in full spate with a very attractive wa-

terfall. The limestone pavement stream bed, now wet, was slippery underfoot.

On behalf of all fellow ramblers, I would like to thank Anne for her enduring leadership, and Jane for giving us the opportunity to experience her little-known natural haven.



Figure 40: Wet river bed. (Mike Parry)

8.2 Blue Mountain Fungi and Feathers, September 10, 2022

by Gary Hillaby



Figure 41: Gathering at the trailhead. (Gary Hillaby)

Blue Mountain, elevation 636 ft, is the highest point in Leeds and Grenville. It falls within the boundaries of Charleston Lake Provincial Park. On a clear day you can see the Adirondacks off to the south, on the other side of the St. Lawrence. Blue Mountain got its name because at one time there used to be prolific bushes of blueberry and/or huckleberry on its slopes.

It was a good turnout with a mix of new and experienced members. We met at the carpool lot near the casino in Gananoque and headed east on Highway 2 until Blue Mountain Road. At the trailhead, the access road was fairly dry. There was a Great Blue Heron at one of the larger puddles feasting on frogs.



Figure 42: Look closely, one of the Ghost Pipes is lit. (Gary Hillaby)

Once the trail got us under the forest canopy, we started to see fungi along our route. The forest floor could have been more damp to make conditions more ideal but there was still a wide variety of fungi to see. Some of the fungi we witnessed were Candy Apple Waxy Cap, Pear-shaped Puffballs, Chocolate Tube Slime and Jellied False Coral Fungus. Some of the mushrooms present were Deer, Chicken Fat, Pinwheel and Amanita Mushrooms.

8.3 Teen Canoe Trip to Otter Lake, September 10, 2022

by Beckett Robertson

On September 10, 2022, the Kingston Teen Naturalists met outside the Tim Hortons on Sydenham road for the canoe trip on Otter Lake. Leading the group and guiding the attendees were Anne Robertson and Peter Waycik, an expert in Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies), butterflies, and birds. Four teens arrived: Abigail, Koen, Liam, and Beckett.

The conditions were favorable to be out on the water – sunny, approximately 25 degrees Celsius, and with very light wind. We acquired canoes, paddles, and life jackets from the Frontenac Outfitters Canoe and Kayak Center, and drove to the culvert separating North and South Otter Lake. On this drive, we saw a small, raptor-like bird fly across the road in front of us. The bird had notable dark banding on the underside of its wings. This, coupled with the length of its tail and its small size, led us to believe it was a Cooper's hawk. Upon arriving at the culvert, we loaded the canoes into the water. Once everybody was safely in a canoe, Anne identified some of the fascinating aquatic and semiaquatic plants that grew along the shore near the culvert, such as Pickerelweed. She noted that a parasitic plant – a member of the *Cuscuta* genus – that had previously been afflicting some of the shoreline plants, had seemingly disappeared. We soon entered open water, and after a brief paddle, we came to a stop near a large patch of native White Waterlilies, some of which had perceivable damage from beetles of the genus *Donacia*. Waterlily aphids were present on many of the leaves. We also found several invasive European Frogbit plants, which we learned had been displacing native floral species especially duckweed. We then began a slow, relaxed paddle along the shoreline, looking for any signs of wildlife. Over the course of this paddle, we observed and heard many bird species, which were identified by Anne and Peter. Birds seen and heard were Blue Jays, Turkey

We did make it to the summit of Blue Mountain for the excellent view of Charleston Lake and the Pitch Pines. On the way out of the park we saw some Ghost Pipe but no skinks.

I'd like to thank all the participants for coming out and especially Janet Elliott for her expertise in the fungi world. I would like to see this Blue Mountain excursion become an annual event.

Vultures, a White-breasted Nuthatch, and Black-capped Chickadees. During this paddle we also noticed signs of beaver activity at the bases of shoreline trees and saw a Grey Squirrel.



Figure 43: Stopping to observe and perceive nature. (Peter Waycik)

We stopped in a shallow bay-like area, where we used sieves to filter through mud and locate small aquatic animals. Found using this method was a nymphal Giant Water Bug of the genus *Belostoma*, several water scorpions, a Hydrachnidia water mite, and various damselfly nymphs. In the same bay, several terrestrial and semi-aquatic invertebrates were also seen, including Long-jawed Orb Weavers (*Tetragnatha*), a Six-spotted Fishing Spider, and a young unidentified orbweaver. Over the course of this paddle, Peter identified many dragonflies and damselflies, such as Blue Dashers, Autumn Meadowhawks, a Slaty Skimmer, and a Powdered Dancer. He showed us how to differentiate Autumn Meadowhawks from other members of the genus by their light-coloured legs, and explained that male meadowhawks can eas-

ily be discerned by their deep crimson coloration, while females tend to be a more muted orange.

Afterwards, we paddled to the far end of the lake for lunch. Along the way, we noticed many whirligig beetles skimming across the surface and Anne explained how the compound eyes of a whirligig beetle are separated by a horizontal dividing line, which allows the beetles to see both above and below the water at the same time. When we arrived at the far end of the lake to eat, we noticed that present on the shore were many interesting plants, such as Canada Holly and Button-bush. While eating lunch, we found a snake-mimicking caterpillar, likely an Eastern \times Canadian Tiger Swallowtail hybrid, though it is also possible that it was one of those two species. Once we finished lunch, we paddled a brief distance to a large rock face with a cave that had previously served as both a nesting ground for turkey vultures and a home for a porcupine. Liam and Abigail scaled the cliff to inspect the cave, which proved to be empty. After this excursion, we turned and headed back to the culvert.

On the paddle back, which was more expedient than the paddle to the far end of the lake, we saw a Midland Painted Turtle, as well as various dragonflies and damselflies. Throughout the trip we also saw many fish, the most notable of which were Pumpkinseed sunfishes and Largemouth Bass. Once we arrived at the culvert,

we gave our canoes and paddles back to the Frontenac Outfitters and headed for home with a canoe trip to remember. We would like to thank Peter Waycik for joining us on this trip and offering us his invaluable expertise. Without him, many of the organisms listed would have been unidentified. We would also like to collectively thank Anne Robertson for sharing her extensive knowledge of the natural world, for teaching us about it, and for organizing these wonderful events and invariably making them such incredible and inspiring experiences for all of us.



Figure 44: Checking out an historical vulture nest. (Peter Waycik)

8.4 Wednesdays on the Water (September 2022)

by Kathy Webb



Figure 45: Our group of paddlers on Third Depot Lake. (Kathy Webb)

The last two paddling field trips of the year took place in September. Similar to the summer events, we spent our mornings discovering the beauty of our local waterways and enjoying nature. The splendour of fall colours

was an added bonus in these outings.

Napanee River – September 14

Six of us met at a boat launch north of Petworth for a morning paddle up the Napanee River. The weather was sunny but cool as we paddled north on a narrow meandering section of the river heading towards its source, Camden Lake. Soon after we set out, we watched a number of Eastern Phoebes flitting amongst the branches of some trees that had fallen into the water. We also surprised an Osprey which flew ahead of us for a while. In total, we observed 27 species of birds during our paddle (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S118738502>). Other notable wildlife included some Painted Turtles and three otters seen by Walter. Although none of us knew a lot about water plants, we took advantage of the iNaturalist phone app to determine that there was

a lot of Pickerelweed, Buttonbush, Dotted Knotweed, Swamp Smartweed and Water Smartweed. When we arrived at Napanee Lake, we split up; half turned around and headed for home while the other half continued a bit further up the river towards the entrance to Depot Creek. The section of river heading towards Depot Creek was even narrower but looked interesting and, if we'd had a bit more time, we were keen to explore the area further – maybe next year!

Third Depot Lake – September 28

The Third Depot Lake boat launch is at the end of a single lane dirt road located west of the main entrance to the Depot Lakes Conservation Area. Eight of us assembled at the boat launch on a cloudy, cool and windy day. We paddled north in Third Depot Lake, selecting a route along the east side of the lake based on the direction of the wind and waves. The shore of the lake was quite rocky and markings on the rocks indicated that the water level was much lower than usual. This provided some mudflats that might normally not be there. In some of these mudflats we saw a group of Greater Yellowlegs foraging at the water's edge as well as a few Great Blue Herons hunting and eating fish. We counted 16 species of birds (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S119596178>) which included a large flock of Hooded Mergansers, a curious young Common Loon and a circling pair of adult Bald Eagles. About half way through our paddle, we came across a lot of big jelly-like masses adhering to the sticks of a beaver lodge. From a previous KFN field trip, Gary remembered that they were called Magnificent Bryozoan. Other notables from this trip: several

of us saw a muskrat hiding in a rock cave by the water; Gary caught and released a Northern Pike; and Maureen saw a beaver and a mink.



Figure 46: A Greater Yellowlegs with a crayfish. (Kathy Webb)



Figure 47: A Great Blue Heron enjoying a fish lunch. (Kathy Webb)

8.5 Milburn Creek NCC Property Ramble, September 20, 2022

by Richard Sutherland



Figure 48: Bear's Head Tooth. (Kathy Webb)

Twelve of us showed up for this ramble. It was an overcast day, but, fortunately, the rain held off and we didn't need our rain gear. A 2.7 km trail, this NCC (Nature Conservancy of Canada) property has a variety of habitat. A large marsh, which attracts an abundance of waterfowl, is one of its distinguishing characteristics. Milburn Creek flows in and out of the marsh, and the trail passes a section of this creek.

There was a lot of mushrooms from the rain the previous week, particularly in the wooded areas. Mostly they were in various stages of decay, however, there were exceptions. One was several prime specimens of

Bear's Head Tooth (*Hericium coralloides*).

Kathy Webb, who was leading the hike, listed [35 species of birds](#), including Blue- and Green-winged teals, Common Gallinule, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Green Herons, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Swainson's Thrush, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Belted Kingfishers to name a few. Bill Depew kindly brought a spotting scope, to allow members of our group to see birds in the marsh, out of range of our binoculars.

Anne Robertson showed us the difference between the nuts of the Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) and the Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*). Some of us spent time trying to find an unopened Shagbark Hickory nut to aid in Anne's identification. As it happened, it was easy to find unopened Bitternut Hickory nuts – apparently the animals are not fond of them – but not easy to find an unopened Shagbark Hickory nut.

An enjoyable outing and easy walking; thanks to Kathy and Anne.

8.6 Helen Quilliam Sanctuary Ramble, October 4, 2022

by Anne Robertson

Eighteen KFN rambles met at the gravel pit at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary on a cool but sunny morning. After introductions we walked slowly around the Art Bell Trail dividing into three groups which fluctuated between three guides.

The lead group with Kathy Webb went ahead and recorded 17 species of birds all listed below. The final group with Janet Elliott looked carefully at Snakeskin Liverwort (*Conocephalum conicum*) then at Salamanders – first Red-backed and later Yellow-spotted. They also looked at a number of fungi and observed a crane-fly. The middle group enjoyed various plants including Striped Maple, Yellow Birch, Herb Robert (still in flower), and Royal Fern.

Having passed through a low wet woodland along the lakeshore we climbed up to the lookout over North Otter Lake, near the property's east boundary line, for an early social lunch.

Lastly, we headed back out to Bedford Road through the higher dry woodland where some people decided to walk the Betty Hughes Trail from south to north, and the rest opted for an early return home after a 4 km hike.

Bird list: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Common Grackle, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped War-

bler, Black-throated Green Warbler and Turkey Vulture.



Figure 49: Maidenhair Spleenwort. (Janet Elliott)



Figure 50: Snakeskin liverwort a.k.a. Snakewort (Janet Elliott)

8.7 Amherst Island Field Trip, October 8, 2022

by Kurt Hennige



Figure 51: Blue-headed Vireo. (Kurt Hennige)

Ten KFN Members met on a frosty morning at the Mill-haven Ferry Dock to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day by visiting several eBird Hotspots. We boarded the 8:30 am ferry to Amherst Island, which became our first eBird hotspot of the day and on return our last hotspot. While numbers of birds are limited being on a ferry it never can be predicted what nature has to offer. One of the surprises came when half way across to Amherst Island we spotted a Merlin chasing an unidentified small bird and the bird dropped on the water and tried unsuccessfully to get up. With the expectations from the observers that the Merlin would snatch the prey and fly away we were totally surprised when instead of the Merlin, a Herring Gull picked up the still alive bird and flew away with it. Was this team work from the two species or just an example of opportunistic behaviour of a Herring Gull?

After getting off the ferry we picked up one more member, and since half of the participants were on the island for their first time, we stopped opposite the school to learn about the many examples of dry-stone build walls

exhibited there. Our next hotspot was the “Amherst Island–Dump Road” which is infrequently visited by birders. We did find it very birdy with large numbers of migrating sparrows and a late Blue-headed Vireo.

South Shore Road east of Stella 40 Foot was our next eBird hotspot where we found 21 species including one Killdeer, which was not recorded on the other spots.

Our main target for birding was the KFN Martin Edwards Reserve where we walked along the south-shore to the sand-spit. We discovered that the shore-bird species often seen at this time of year were missing and possible the extreme low water level on Lake Ontario is providing more and better feeding habitat somewhere else. The only shorebirds we saw were nine Black-bellied Plovers. The best bird for the trip came when a Northern Parula was spotted and seen by most in the group.

In total we recorded 49 species.



Figure 52: Northern Parula. (Kurt Hennige)

8.8 Teen Naturalists Seed Adaptations, October 15, 2022

by Anne Robertson

Three Teens (Ben, Liam and Pamela) met in Kingston to drive to the Robertson Cottage for a hike with a focus on seed adaptations.

At the cottage we started the fire, filled the bird feeder and discussed the different methods of seed dispersal and how we would make a collection to illustrate their

adaptations. Our $\times 10$ magnifiers were most useful for many of these investigations.

First we explored the shoreline and collected a few specialised seeds for our collection. Here we found Button-bush and talked about how the seeds fall in the water (and tried, to see they do float!) and often get

eaten by ducks – a favourite food. We then looked at Flat-topped White Aster seeds and milkweed seeds and the different plumes that carry them away in the wind (also tested out). Later we compared the wind dispersal adaptation of White Pine seeds and we found White Ash winged seeds which are single compared with the maple's double-winged seeds.

Next we followed a trail to a beaver pond and up along the watershed to the next pond. We found Shagbark Hickory nuts and compared them, with thick outer shells, to the Bitternut Hickory with its thin outer shells. We looked at burs with hooked bracts that attach to animal fur for dispersal and compared that mechanism with Beggar's Ticks (found near the water) with its two barbs that attach, and agrimony, another plant with animal fur dispersed seeds. We discussed the barometer effect of the Queen Anne's Lace seed head which closes when wet and opens when dry for a reason. The tiny seeds have hooks which attach to fur when dry and not when

wet when they would fall to the ground and not be dispersed. Berries, eaten by animals for their juicy nature, included Canada Holly, Staghorn Sumac and Wild Grape were found.

We returned around the other side of the first pond and discovered a new dam where the water level had been overflowing as the original dam had been built up raising the water level. Now it was lunch time in the cosy cottage and time to observe the feeder birds.

After lunch we sorted our collections and glued them into a small booklet and wrote our field notebooks. Then we walked to find an example of a seed pod that explodes to disperse the seeds. With some difficulty we found the siliqua (pod) of Garlic mustard. Another example might have been jewelweed.

Altogether a good field trip and a good topic, much enjoyed.

8.9 Moose Prowl, October 18-20, 2022

by Gary Hillaby



Figure 53: Great Blue Heron. (Richard Cooper)

There have been some glorious weather days this fall and unfortunately the three days of this field trip weren't even close to glorious. It was three days of rain and we even had snow on our final day. Algonquin Park's fall colours were past their peak but the beauty of the park is always present.

Our KFN group was small which gave us more flexibility if we needed to change our itinerary at a moment's notice. The motel allowed us to check-in early so we headed into the park after arriving in Whitney. We made several stops at potential wildlife areas but did not see

much. Spruce Bog, Cache Lake and the Visitor Centre were checked out for wildlife but we saw only chickadees and nuthatches. We finished our first day off by driving up to Lake Opeongo seeing some distant otters and some waterfowl.

The second day highlight was to get onto the Mizzy Lake Trail. Mizzy Lake had given me my two major Moose encounters a few years ago, so maybe I was expecting too much. We got off to a good start spotting Spruce Grouse and a Great Blue Heron. The only thing we came across on the trail was two ravens begging for food but we did see some fairly fresh Moose prints. We knew they were fresh because they had not been rained on.

I don't think I'm divulging any secrets when I say you need luck on your side whenever you venture outdoors to see nature. You even need more luck when you are focusing on specific species. Our luck rained (pun intended) down on us that afternoon. We were working our way east along Highway 60 and I would pull over and stop at the side of the road as vehicles came up behind us. At one of our stops, Maureen Addis spotted a Bull Moose foraging in thick brush at the side of the road. You could barely see this bull but he eventually worked his way out to a clearing by the water's edge. Drivers, seeing this Moose at the side of the road, started pulling

over on the shoulder. A crowd was forming. Just as the Moose was heading back into the woods three alumni members of the University of Stupid showed up late to the party and wanted to create their own personal photo opportunity. They proceeded to chase the Moose into the bush. Disgusted with humanity we returned to our motel.



Figure 54: Bull Moose foraging in thick brush. (Richard Cooper)

Snow greeted us on our final morning and we were only going as far west as Opeongo Road. A family of River Otters put on a show for us but did not mind the snow. It took us three days but three Canada Jays finally graced

us with their presence while we were watching the otter aquarama show. We left Opeongo, had a quick brunch and headed back to Kingston.

On this trip I got to explore some areas of Algonquin Park that I've heard about but had never been to. We did make the most of the time we had even with the nasty weather. A special thanks to Richard Cooper for the great photography and Maureen Addis for her great Moose spotting skills. I'll have to see how long it is before the beauty of Algonquin calls me back. I hope sooner than later.



Figure 55: River Otter in the snow. (Richard Cooper)

8.10 K & P Trail Ramble, October 18, 2022

by Janet Elliott



Figure 56: Wild Strawberry. (Janet Elliott)

So... what exactly **can** you observe in mid-October, along the K&P trail, in the rain, when temperatures are below 10°C? On 18 October, seven well-dressed indi-

viduals accompanied Anne on a ramble to answer this question. As we headed south from the carpool area in Verona, an American Robin cheered us on. Anne challenged us to find flowers still in bloom. The birders had their binoculars at the ready. The search was on!

The K & P trail was formerly a rail line linking Kingston and Pembroke. It is now a three meter wide gravel trail. South of Verona, ATV's are not allowed, but snowmobiles are allowed in the winter. It is not a pristine wilderness area, although we saw surprisingly few invasive plants and many interesting habitats.

This portion of the trail from Verona to Hartington starts on the Canadian Shield at Verona and sharply transitions to limestone about 2.5 km south. It crosses the Napanee River and then passes several wet areas, including ponds and streams, marshes and swamps. We discussed the differences between bogs and fens (which are nutrient poor) and marshes and swamps (which are

nutrient rich). Marshes remain wet for most of the growing season and are dominated by rushes and sedges. Swamps are generally wet for only part of the year and are therefore able to support certain species of trees and shrubs.



Figure 57: Many-fruited Pelt Lichen. (Janet Elliott)

We quickly found Calico Aster and Heart-leaved Aster (aka Common Blue Wood Aster), two late-flowering plants that are common along roadsides and trail sides. We also found three species of goldenrod in bloom: Canada Goldenrod, Tall Goldenrod, and Zigzag Goldenrod (aka Broad-leaved Goldenrod). We found several Deptford Pink plants with their tiny hot-pink flowers.

We also found, amongst other species, Virginia (Wild) Strawberry, Queen Anne's Lace, Catnip, Common Sow-Thistle, Oxeye Daisy, Red Clover, Wild Basil, and Chicory, all blooming rather late in the season for their respective species.

Many other flowering plants were identifiable although they were not in flower: Purple-Flowering Raspberry with big maple-like leaves, Tall Thimbleweed, Common Milkweed, American Bittersweet with its orange berries, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed and Tall Hairy Agrimony with its

sock-catching, top-shaped burrs.



Figure 58: Tall Hairy Agrimony burr in my sock. (Janet Elliott)

Several species of fern were observed, including Marginal Wood Fern, Royal Fern, Maidenhair Fern and Sensitive Fern.

Two colonies of Liverworts (small, moss-like, non-vascular, spore-bearing plants) were found, both of the species *Réboulie Commune*. (This must be a French-speaking liverwort, since iNaturalist gives this as its common name.)

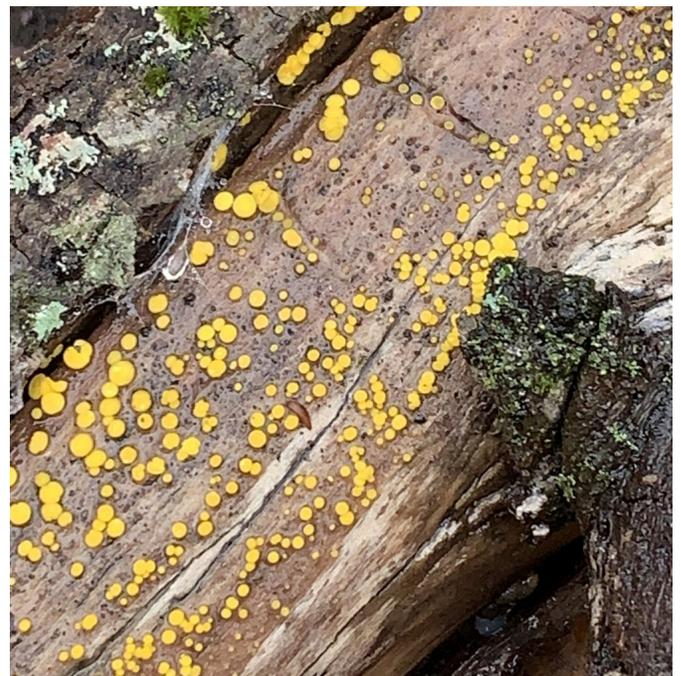


Figure 59: Yellow Fairy Cups. (Janet Elliott)

We took time to identify some tree species. We ob-

served Black Maple, which has leaves similar in shape to Sugar Maple but are distinguishable by the velvety feel of the underside of the Black Maple leaves. It is difficult to distinguish Black Walnut from Butternut from hybrids: we can still only say that the sapling we found was a "Walnut species."

Despite the occasional light rain, some birds were singing and foraging. The birders recorded 17 species, including Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Ruffed Grouse, and Downy Woodpecker. Turkey Vultures were soaring overhead. Eleven Red-winged Blackbirds and 26 Rusty Blackbirds were counted. See the full eBird list below.

It was too cold and late in the season for salamanders and other herps, but carefully flipping logs revealed some earthworms.

We found some interesting fungi, lichens and slime molds. We found a colony of Yellow Fairy Cups (an Ascomycete fungus) and some Wolf's Milk (a Slime Mold). We observed but did not identify several species of bracket fungus. Several species of pelt lichens and shield lichens were noted.

Thanks to Anne for finding us another interesting place to spend an enjoyable morning slowly noticing nature in all its forms!

eBird list submitted by Kurt Hennige: 1 Ruffed Grouse, 2 Mourning Dove, 10 Turkey Vulture, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Blue Jay, 15 American Crow, 8 Common

Raven, 8 Black-capped Chickadee, 13 European Starling, 6 American Robin, 1 Purple Finch, 2 American Goldfinch, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 11 Red-winged Blackbird, 26 Rusty Blackbird, 1 Common Grackle.



Figure 60: Réboulie commune. (Janet Elliott)

8.11 Queen's University Biological Station Ramble, November 1, 2022

by Kathy Webb



Figure 61: Cow Island as seen from the QUBS facility at Lake Opinicon. (Kathy Webb)

The main facility of the Queen's University Biological Station <https://qubs.ca> is located alongside Lake Opinicon and provides access to a wide variety of habitats. Eleven KFN members participated in the ramble at QUBS on this calm but somewhat dreary fall day. Luckily it wasn't too cold and the drizzle was only sporadic. We began our walk on the Queen's Point Trail beside the lake and noted that a variety of conifers could be seen around us: Red and White Cedar, White Pine and Eastern Hemlock. As we crossed the boardwalk over to Cow Island, we were surrounded by cattails; Anne explained that they were Narrow-leaved Cattail and how they were different from Broadleaf Cattail. Other observations made from the boardwalk included Ivy-leaved

Duckweed floating in the water, the beaver lodge and how it was different from a Muskrat lodge, some scat on the boardwalk which contained small bits of bone and hair, and we wondered whether a series of muddy holes had been excavated by beavers.



Figure 62: Nest boxes used for wild mouse research. (Kathy Webb)

Throughout our walk around Cow Island, we passed many wooden “mystery boxes” suspended low on trees with small entry holes that faced the tree. There were also a lot of rectangular metal boxes on the ground. As we later found out, they were related to the research being done on wild mice by Vincent Careau from the University of Ottawa. Notably, the QUBS field station hosts researchers and students from various institutions across Canada and other countries.



Figure 63: A camouflaged Spring Peeper. (Kathy Webb)

Fitting for our post-Halloween walk, we saw peepers, creepers and ghosts! The Spring Peepers were calling all around us and we were lucky enough to spot one camouflaged in the leaves by the trail. We also heard the high pitched calls of a number of Brown Creepers and searched for these tiny brown and white birds which blend well into the tree bark they creep on while foraging for insects. As we left the understory of the woods on Cow Island, some old Ghost Pipe was seen. This is an interesting plant that does not contain chlorophyll and does not require sunlight to grow; it is parasitic and has a relationship with certain fungi which ultimately get their food from trees.

After finishing our walk, we ate our lunches at picnic tables set up under a tent outside the dining hall. After lunch we went to explore the boat house. Outside the building, we looked at the turtle tanks which had been cleaned and decommissioned for the winter. Inside the building, we looked at the bird’s nests in the rafters: two mossy ones that looked like Eastern Phoebe nests and a third mud nest that likely belonged to some Barn Swallows. The final tally of bird species seen during our morning at QUBS was 12, not including the distant swans, ducks and gulls that we weren’t able to identify <https://ebird.org/checklist/S121711054>.



Figure 64: Walking across the boardwalk to Cow Island surrounded by Narrow-leaved Cattails. (Kathy Webb)

8.12 Teen Naturalists Taxonomy Hunt at Elbow Lake, November 12, 2022

by *Liam Rodgers*

The Kingston Teen Naturalists, on November 12, 2022, went on a taxonomy trip to Elbow Lake. The Green trail was wonderful this Saturday, as the rain held off and

the sun peaked through the clouds, and it was not too cold. Under the leadership of Anne, the crew this day consisted of Abby, Beckett, Ben and Liam. We observed

many species on this excursion.

There were many vertebrates. Birds like chickadees and Blue Jays as well as woodpecker holes and an oriole nest were observed. There was Coyote scat on the trail. Also surprising us this day was a Dekay's Brownsnake. We heard amphibians like the Spring Peeper and we saw a Yellow-spotted Salamander.

Invertebrates like a hackledmesh weaver (a spider), Bagworm Moth, carpenter ants, crickets and termites were present. A nice discovery was an Autumn Meadowhawk dragonfly. There was also evidence of other insects such as a cicada cast skin. We also saw soil centipedes and earthworms.

8.13 Wartman/Patterson Park and Invista Shoreline, November 15, 2022

by Jacqueline Bartnik



Figure 65: Star Jelly sample. (Shirley French)

This area was chosen by Anne for the ramble due to the hunting season. There were 24 brave souls, as it was cold and windy. This area is a very interesting location due to the mixture of bird species, old trees, shoreline and grasslands. The ramble started out with Anne explaining about the very old Black Willows (approximately 100 years old), Large Tooth Aspen and Manitoba Maple trees. Anne picked up several seeds, showing us the difference between Manitoba Maple, Sugar Maple and Ash. We started walking toward the shoreline and noticed Nannyberry, Red Osier Dogwood and Grey Dogwood. Several people noticed a green blob on the trail, which someone recognized from Elbow Lake, and Shirley took samples to examine under a microscope.

Vascular plants were in abundance. Seed bearing evergreen trees like the red cedar, deciduous trees such as the elm, oak, Shagbark Hickory, ash and maple trees had lost most of their leaves already this autumn. Scattered amongst the trees in clusters were raspberry bushes and herbaceous flowers like Queen Anne's Lace, clover species, mullein and goldenrod resting until spring. There was an abundance of spore bearing fungi, three types of lichen and two of three types of moss.

The Kingston Teen Naturalists observed many things and the taxonomy trip to Elbow Lake was a success.

It was Star Jelly (*Nostoc commune*).

We also saw a dead fish that turned out to be a Freshwater Drum (a native fish to this area). The shoreline was covered with thousands of invasive Zebra Mussel shells (calcium is a good fertilizer for our gardens). The shoreline is used by locals in the summer for swimming as the water is very warm and shallow due to the limestone bedrock. Anne tried to convince us to eat some Garlic Mustard leaves, but not many of us were hungry. Maureen admired how beautiful the grape vines looked at this time of the year with just the grapes hanging on them.



Figure 66: The beauty of Riverbank Grape in late autumn. (Shirley French)

We returned to the open field area where we saw the remains of wildflowers like goldenrods and asters. During the summer, the field is covered with butterflies,

dragonflies, bees and hundreds of other insects. This area is quite protected and we saw several species still in bloom, such as dandelion and Queen Anne's Lace. As we headed to the lagoon, Nancy turned back due to the smells coming from the factory and she escorted a neighborhood Russian Blue cat home who was following us.



Figure 67: Dead Freshwater Drum. (Shirley French)

At the lagoon, we took out Erwin's scope and enjoyed the hundreds of birds in the area. Phil Harvey created two lists ([S122469731](#), [S122470618](#)) of all the bird species which included Bald Eagle, Surf Scoter and Tundra Swan. The lagoon was not quiet due to the calling of the ducks and the Tundra Swans. They knew that we were watching them, so the swans showed off by flap-

ping their wings and singing. As we admired the birds, we also noticed many wild plants that were still green, such as Canada Anemone. At noon, we returned to the cars and drove slowly along Front Road still noticing the Tundra Swans and several ducks. Thanks Anne for such a wonderful Ramble.

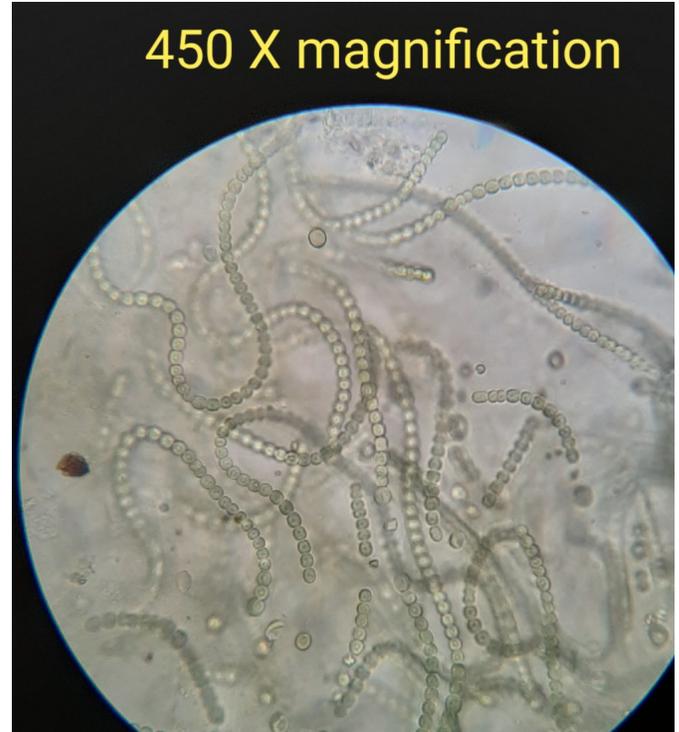


Figure 68: Star Jelly under the microscope. (Shirley French)

8.14 Snow Geese and Fromage, November 26, 2022

by Gary Hillaby

Our group met at the carpool lot at 7:00 am near 401 and Highway 15. The plan was to stop at Gananoque and Winchester to pick up some KFN members along the way. When we got off Highway 416 and were heading to Winchester, I received a call from Peter Waycik. Peter said he had found a flock of Snow Geese in a cornfield to the south of us. We immediately headed his way and could see airborne geese circling in a column above the cornfield. By the time we showed up, the original flock of thousands was down to two hundred and were all in the air.

These geese had decided to move on so the decision was made to head south to the St Lawrence River. Our convoy stopped at various spots in Iroquois, Morrisburg and Long Sault, where we did see a small variety of water-

fowl. A lone Snow Bunting paused at a park we stopped at and a Bald Eagle gave us a fly-by at another stop. We finished our outing at the Glengarry Cheese Company retail store and gave the local economy a "shot in the arm." We did check-out the cornfield in Lancaster that was lucky last year but not this year.

Ontbirds has said that this year's Snow Goose migration has been less satisfying. It is difficult to find which cornfields the birds have decided to congregate in but I believe breaking into groups may still pay the best dividends. A special thanks to Peter Waycik and his bird spotters allowing our group to witness some Snow Geese. I look forward to next year's challenge and it is a beautiful part of Ontario to go exploring.



Figure 69: Snow Geese taking flight from a corn field near Williamsburg. (Peter Waycik)

Cities

by Rick Bortolotti

I visit them now
for work mostly
but once I lived there

our yard was small, downtown backyard chain linked fenced and bare
we planted and planted and plants lived and plants died
planted more and more lived and the birds came

The city grew too and we moved but the city is where the people live that buy what I sell

So sometimes I'm too far from the forest and rocks and for too long
I forget what it's like and I rush and I miss important things to do
work, ok, it's important
there is no time in the forest for me without some work ahead of it
that is, a somewhat more comfortable time in the forest,
glamping is the new roughing it for me

tomorrow I will go back to the forest
and rocks
and ponds
and ahead of my return my body says ahhhh!
that's where I need to be!

Kingston Field Naturalists

Objectives

The Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN) is an active, local club of over 500 members interested in a wide variety of natural history. The objectives of the club are:

- to acquire, record and disseminate knowledge of natural history;
- to stimulate public interest in nature and in the protection and preservation of wildlife and natural habitats; and
- to acquire, receive and hold lands for the purpose of preserving their natural flora and fauna, and to encourage and assist other organizations and individuals to do likewise.

Nature Reserves

The KFN owns properties that are designated as nature reserves.

Helen Quilliam Sanctuary at Otter Lake

A 217 hectare (536 acre) property of mixed forest located in the Canadian Shield in the Township of South Frontenac accessible to members through a trail system.

Martin Edwards Nature Reserve

A 100 hectare (247 acre) property of fields and marshland located on the southeast shore of Amherst Island accessible to members through a single trail along the south shore.

Sylvester-Gallagher Nature Reserve

An 80 acre (32.4 hectare) parcel of forest and grassland, adjacent to the Martin Edwards Nature Reserve not currently accessible.

Conservation and Education

The KFN actively supports conservation efforts. Issues such as park creation, wildlife and habitat protection, and environmental welfare are of on-going concern. The club also makes natural history resources and knowledge available to the community through education programs which include field courses, talks, awards and a loan library.

Be a Contributor!

This edition of the Blue Bill could have contained your article, photo, nature sketch, report, puzzle, quiz, conundrum, cartoon, or other contribution (if it did, many thanks)!

Submission Guidelines:

Submit the **text of your article** in Word, Open Document Format (.odt), or Plain Text.

If your article includes a **table**, send it as a separate document in Excel, Open Document Format (.ods), or CSV even if it is contained in your text document.

Send images as separate files (e.g. png, jpg, gif) even if they are included in your text document. Please "attach" them to the email.

Crop images to show the subject and ensure they are a **minimum of 1000 px** wide for a column width photo and 2000 px wide for a page width photo.

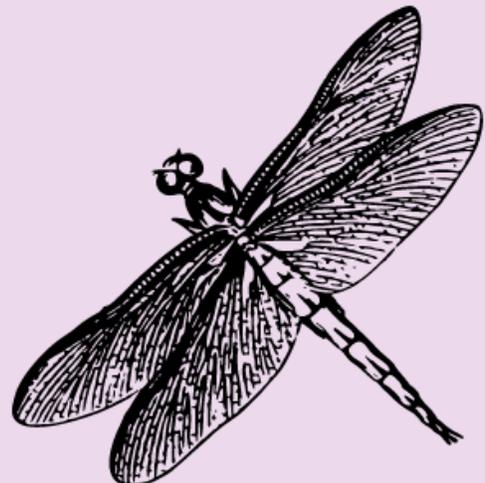
Include a **caption and credit or attribution** for each image.

Verify common and scientific names with an up-to-date curated resource such as iNaturalist.ca.

Send submissions to the editor:

editor@thebluebill.ca

by the first of the month of publication (i.e., March 1, June 1, September 1, or December 1).





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