



# The Blue Bill

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## Contents

President's Page	<i>Alexandra Simmons</i> .....33
Spring Round-up	<i>Erwin Batalla</i> .....34
KFN Annual Reports	<i>Various</i> .....39
Kingston Region Birds Spring (Dec 1 2015 – Feb 28 2016)	<i>Mark D. Read</i> .....45
Bud Rowe wins Nature Award	<i>Chris Hargreaves</i> .....52
Teen Night Hike	<i>Zoe Coulter</i> .....55
Bird Nerd Bonus	<i>James Barber</i> .....56

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[jamesrdbarber@gmail.com](mailto:jamesrdbarber@gmail.com). Please include contact phone number.

Submissions should be in MS Word format or in "plain text" format (PC or Macintosh) or unformatted in the body of an e-mail.

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## President's Page

### Alexandra Simmons

"The world's favorite season is spring. All things seem possible in May" - Edwin Way Teale

Spring is the highlight of the natural year for many Northerners, as plants and animals come back to life and the strengthening sun revives us as well. Days when tree branches are covered with buds of every shade of green give way all too soon to summer. That is why I have been captivated by the voyage undertaken by Edwin Way Teale in 1947. The John Burroughs and Pulitzer Prize winning naturalist and his wife left from the Everglades in late February and zigzagged north covering 28,000 km to reach northern New England on the day of the summer solstice. They experienced more than 100 days of spring that year! The journey, recounted in Teale's book "North with the Spring" was recently repeated by John R Harris who in his book "Returning North with the Spring" chronicles the changes he found after the passage of 65 years. While there were some losses, there is cause for optimism as Harris found certain sites improved and "re-wilded" thanks to dedicated conservation efforts.

Spring is also a time of transition in the KFN Executive. As I take on the role of President, there are others leaving their positions. Our (now) Past-president Kurt Hennige has been on the KFN executive for nearly 15 years. In addition to doing an excellent job as president for the last 2 years, Kurt is passionate about collecting accurate data about nature in the Kingston area. He has done careful work for the Breeding Bird Survey, and Owl and Loon Surveys, the Marsh Monitoring Program, and submits frequently to the Bug Guide. His data on use of Amherst Island by grassland birds were crucial input to the Environmental Review Tribunal for the proposed Wind Turbine Project on Amherst Island. Kurt has led nature watching trips near (Napanee Plain) and far (Brazil), fulfilling the KFN objective of stimulating public interest in Nature, and is a driving force behind the Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council. I am happy that he is staying on the Executive as Past-president and has agreed to take

on the Role of Ontario Nature Representative.

Ken Robinson has left the Executive after serving as the KFN's Ontario Nature representative for 3 years. Ken's long career with Parks Canada and his ability to identify important points and express them clearly and diplomatically made him an invaluable contributor to the Executive. He has been an effective liaison with the provincial organization, culminating in organizing and hosting the Ontario East Fall 2015 Regional Conference at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. Thank you Ken and Sigrid for a great event!

Peter and Lorraine McIntyre have presented the Silent Auction of nature related items at the KFN May Dinner for as long as I can remember. Receiving, organizing, labelling and transporting the items and finalising the purchases is a big job that the McIntyres do cheerfully and effectively year after year. This is a treasure hunt which May dinner attendees look forward to, and the auction has raised thousands of dollars for the KFN. Many thanks Peter and Lorraine and welcome to Janet and Bruce Elliot, who have agreed to organise the Auction next year.

Another rite of spring is the Ontario Nature Annual General Meeting. I am proud to announce that at the meeting on June 3, Bud Rowe, KFN President from 2002-2004, received the W. E. Saunders Natural History Award for his outstanding contributions to protect natural areas in Eastern Ontario. Bud has been a KFN member for over 20 years and was co-founder of the Land Conservancy for Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington. You can learn more about him and the award in an article in this issue.

There have been changes, still "All things seem possible in May". The 2016-17 KFN Executive is a group of capable, knowledgeable energetic people who are committed to the Club's objectives. I look forward to continuing to work with them.

## Spring Round Up

### *Erwin Batalla*

The KFN's 59<sup>th</sup> Spring Roundup took place from 1500h Saturday May 21 to 1500h Sunday May 22. The weather on both days was sunny with low winds. The overnight low was 8 C, rising to 25 C during the day.

The final tally of species was 181, well below the average of 199. Areas visited included Amherst Island, Amherstview Sewage Lagoons, Canoe Lake Road, Moscow marsh, Napanee Limestone Plain, Opinicon Road, Kingston City, Prince Edward Point, Wilton Creek at Morven.

Noteworthy finds are a Least Bittern, 23 Red Knots, a Whimbrel, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Blue-headed Vireo, a Vesper Sparrow and an exceptional Summer Tanager.

Participants were invited to the home of Marian and Joel Ellis for the potluck supper and the species tabulation. Thanks to Marian and Joel.

Five teams took part in the Roundup with a total of 13 participants. They were:

Party #1 Lynn Bell, John Cartwright and Paul Mackenzie

Party #2 Andrew Edwards and Ken Edwards

Party #3 Erwin Batalla, Gaye and Betsy Beckwith, Hugh Evans, Jane Revell and Alexandra Simmons

Party #4 Mark Read

Party #5 Kurt Hennige

Sightings obtained from eBird and from Private Communications are shown in the last two columns in the table below. Contributors from eBird are: HB, Humberto Berlanga at Prince Edward Point; WF, Wayne Fidler at the Chaumont Barrens Reserve; TS, Taylor Sturm at Perch River WMA. Peter Good reported the only sighting of a White-crowned Sparrow from his home near Camden East.

Species	Party 1	Party 2	Party 3	Party 4	Party 5	eBird	Priv. Comm.
Snow Goose						TS	
Canada Goose	52	60	34	103	83		
Mute Swan	12		4	1			
Trumpeter Swan		1	4				
Wood Duck		14	4	3	2		
Gadwall	4	3	1	5	4		
American Wigeon					1		
American Black Duck		2		1			
Mallard	12	12	22	29	10		
Blue-winged Teal	2	2		1			
Northern Shoveler	2	2		2	2		

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Green-winged Teal	3					
Greater scaup				4	80	
Surf Scoter				4		
White-winged Scoter	6	25		300	32	
Long-tailed Duck	8	500		36	23	
Bufflehead						HB
Hooded Merganser		1	1			
Common Merganser	2	33	1	1	11	
Red-breasted Merganser	12	45		16	19	
Ring-necked Pheasant	1			1	1	
Ruffed Grouse	1	2		5		
Wild Turkey	2	1	2	3		
Common Loon	2	9	5	5	4	
Pied-billed Grebe	1		1	1		
Double-crested Cormorant	90	8	2	265	291	
American Bittern		2	1	1		
Least Bittern		1				
Great Blue Heron	7	12	6	5	3	
Great Egret				1		
Green Heron	1		1	1		
Black-crowned Night- heron		2				
Turkey Vulture	16	28	5	7		
Osprey	1	12	2	2	3	
Northern Harrier	1	3	1	4	1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1				
Bald Eagle						TS
Red-shouldered Hawk	2					
Broad-winged Hawk		1	1	1		
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	1	1	1	
Virginia Rail	1	2		2		
Sora	1	2	1			
Common Gallinule	2	1	2	1		
Semipalmated Plover	12			2	7	
Killdeer	15	2	7	11	5	
Spotted Sandpiper	10	16	10	32	4	
Upland Sandpiper	1	2		2	5	
Red Knot					23	
Solitary Sandpiper	1		3	2		
Greater Yellowlegs	1		1			
Lesser Yellowlegs	3		1	1		
Whimbrel	1					
Dunlin	5				45	
Least Sandpiper	80	21	23	49	14	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	1	1			

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Short-billed Dowitcher	1				
Wilson's Snipe	2	6	1	7	7
American Woodcock	2	5		3	1
Wilson's Phalarope	7	16		7	1
Ring-billed Gull	12	3	5	40	4
Herring Gull	22	14	1	16	3
Great Black-backed Gull		1			
Caspian Tern	2	4	2	2	2
Black Tern	1		6	2	
Common Tern		1		1	1
Rock Pigeon	2	6	5	18	5
Mourning Dove	19	14	7	18	14
Black-billed Cuckoo	1		1		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		1		2	
Great Horned Owl				1	
Barred Owl		2	2		
Common Nighthawk	2	1		3	
Eastern Whip-poor-will	2	9	1	3	
Chimney Swift	2	1	2	13	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1	1	1	
Belted Kingfisher	1	8	2	5	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	2		1	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			1	1	2
Downy Woodpecker	1	4	2	4	1
Hairy Woodpecker		1	2	1	
Northern Flicker	8	4	1	1	5
Pileated Woodpecker	1	1	2		
American Kestrel	1	1	1	1	1
Merlin		1	2	1	1
Peregrine Falcon				2	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	2	2	1	
Alder Flycatcher	1				
Willow Flycatcher	1	2	1		1
Least Flycatcher	1	8	1	2	4
Eastern Phoebe	2	6	3	8	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	11	3	7	2
Eastern Kingbird	16	8	9	15	15
Loggerhead Shrike			1	1	
Yellow-throated Vireo		6	2	2	
Blue-headed Vireo				1	
Warbling Vireo	10	16	2	29	5
Philadelphia Vireo	1	1		1	
Red-eyed Vireo	12	22	4	40	2
Blue Jay	22	15	3	13	8

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American Crow	11	18	4	27	2
Common Raven	1	5	5	3	6
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	6	x		2	4
Purple Martin	16	4	5	17	39
Tree Swallow	38	4	9	57	24
Bank Swallow		2	1		
Barn Swallow	20	18	8	28	21
Cliff Swallow	25	4	2	25	2
Black-capped Chickadee	11	30	2	10	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	3	1	2	1
Brown Creeper		1			
House Wren	11	13	1	9	7
Winter Wren	1	1		1	
Marsh Wren	6	7	2	9	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		10			1
Eastern Bluebird		1	3	1	
Veery		3		3	
Grey-cheeked Thrush		1		2	
Swainson's Thrush		1			
Hermit Thrush		2		1	
Wood Thrush	5	14	1	4	3
American Robin	34	x	9	46	15
Gray Catbird	14	13	1	18	2
Brown Thrasher	5	10	1	7	5
Northern Mockingbird		1			
European Starling	62	x	16	16	7
Cedar Waxwing	20	32		19	
Ovenbird		7	1	15	1
Louisiana Waterthrush		1	1		
Northern Waterthrush		4	2	1	
Golden-winged Warbler		3		8	
Blue-winged Warbler				2	
Black-and-white Warbler	1	6	1	5	
Tennessee Warbler	6	16		36	3
Nashville Warbler		2		10	
Common Yellowthroat	10	13	3	36	7
American Redstart	6	19	1	14	
Cape May Warbler	5	2		2	
Cerulean Warbler		4		1	
Northern Parula	3	7		7	2
Magnolia Warbler	5	8		3	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	14		26	
Blackburnian Warbler	4	5		4	2
Yellow Warbler	48	x	7	58	21
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	11	1	8	

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Blackpoll Warbler	6	18		24		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	3	1	2	1	
Palm Warbler		1				
Pine Warbler	1	6	1	3		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	18	34	1	9	3	
Prairie warbler						WF
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	6	1	9	2	
Canada Warbler	1					
Wilson's Warbler	1					
Grasshopper Sparrow		1	1	1	1	
Chipping Sparrow	11	10	2	2	6	
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	1		2		
Field Sparrow	8	10	1	10	2	
						Peter Good
White-crowned Sparrow						
White-throated Sparrow	3	3		1		
Vesper Sparrow			1			
Savannah Sparrow	7	10	1	16	11	
Song Sparrow	24	x	5	36	9	
Lincoln's Sparrow				1	2	
Swamp Sparrow	3	7	2	23		
Eastern Towhee	9	8	1	16	2	
Summer Tanager		1		1		
Scarlet Tanager	7	19	1	13		
Northern Cardinal	4	3	1	2	2	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	7	20	1	12	8	
Indigo Bunting		8	1	6		
Bobolink	19	6	5	30	41	
Red-winged Blackbird	63	x	10	163	55	
Eastern Meadowlark	6	11	1	6	12	
Common Grackle	30	x	8	105	16	
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	4	10	14	13	
Orchard Oriole	3	1		2		
Baltimore Oriole	19	10	10	16	9	
House Finch	4	1	2	1	1	
American Goldfinch	16	22	3	22	5	
House Sparrow	6	4	2	27	2	
Party Total	128	144	110	144	94	

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## KFN Annual Reports May 2015 – April 2016

**Vice President**      *Alexandra  
Simmons*

As KFN Vice-president, I sat on the Executive, replaced the President when he was unable to attend Executive or General Meetings, and was responsible for finding and hosting speakers for the September 2015 - April 2016 General Meetings and the 2016 May Dinner Meeting.

Speakers and Topics are listed below. *Thank you to everyone who helped to host, introduce or thank the speakers.*

September 17, 2015

**Jeff Bowman, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**  
*Flying Squirrels in Ontario*

October 15, 2015

**Christine Grossutti, Ph. D. Candidate, Dept. of Geography and Urban Planning, Queen's University**  
*The Historical Geography of Social Science within UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves*

November 19, 2015

**Noah Perlut, Associate Professor, Dept. of Environmental Studies, University of New England**  
*Grassland Bird Conservation in the Northeast: Keep the Cows and Manage Creatively*

December 17, 2015

Members' Presentations hosted by Erwin Batalla

January 21, 2016

**John Riley, emeritus chief scientist  
Nature Conservancy Canada**

*The Once and Future Great Lakes Country:  
An Ecological History*

February 18, 2016

**Sharon David**  
*Catering to Birds in All Seasons*

March 17, 2016

**Stuart Mackenzie, Bird Studies Canada**  
*The Motus Wildlife Tracking System - A Hemispheric Monitoring Network for Migratory Animals*

April 21, 2016

**Kurt Hennige, Kingston Field Naturalists**  
Habitat Selection, Population Size and Breeding Success of Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark in Various Habitats near Kingston

May 19, 2016 (May Dinner)

**Kyle Blaney, Outreach Coordinator, SHAD Enrichment Program**  
*North American Photo Stories*

**Membership**      *John Critchley*

At the end of the membership year we have 364 paid adult memberships including 14 Life members and 2 Young Adult members. The adult membership is almost evenly split between individual and family memberships which increases the actual membership to 566 voting members.

There are also 37 junior and 8 teen memberships.

Renewal notices and reminders are now mailed separately instead of being included with a newsletter. Membership cards are also mailed separately or included with a charitable receipt if a donation has

been made with the membership renewal.

The majority of members are renewing their membership before the end of the fiscal/membership year and hopefully the number of reminders along with the increased postage costs will be reduced in the future.

The renewal notices form part of the hard copy audit trail necessary for tracking payment of membership fees and donations so it is important to return them.

I have received a few queries from members and prospective members about electronic payment of membership fees and donations. So far we are not able to receive payments this way but I am working with the Treasurer to see if we can accommodate this in the future. One of the issues I have as Membership Secretary is that I will still need to have the Renewal Form returned but it would be separated from the payment.

John Critchley, as Membership Secretary, manages the membership database, sends up to three membership renewal reminders, if required, prepares charitable receipts and thank you letters for the treasurer, and distributes the email notices for the e-Blue Bill and Newsletter recipients. Norma Graham supports John by mailing *The Blue Bill*.

#### *Conservation      Chris Hargreaves*

Over the past year, the Conservation Committee has been monitoring the

spread of wind turbines on the north shore of Lake Ontario. We made a presentation about the risk to Bobolinks at the Amherst Island Environmental Review Tribunal, and have closely followed the Ostrander Point and White Pines ERTs. Thanks again to Erwin Batalla, Mike Burrell, Bill Evans and Kurt Hennige for all their work on the KFN presentation, and in providing information on other environmental issues to the Association to Protect Amherst Island.

We have also been following various developments and initiatives within the City of Kingston. Many thanks to Lesley Rudy for representing the KFN at the Focus Area meetings and other presentations that provided public input into the Kingston Waterfront Master Plan.

#### *Nature              Ken Robinson*

As member at large I serve as liaison between Ontario Nature and the Kingston Field Naturalists.

As such, I attended the East Ontario regional meetings of Ontario Nature for KFN as follows:

- April 18, 2015 at the Mill of Kintail near Almonte, hosted by Mississippi Valley Field

Naturalists,

- October 3, 2015 at Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre, hosted by KFN,

- April 2, 2016 at Bloomfield Town Hall, hosted by Prince Edward County Field Naturalists.

For the October 3, 2015 meeting, KFN rented the visitor centre at ELEEC, provided a buffet style luncheon for participants and led a walk on one of the trails. The venue

was well suited for this group and there were many favourable comments.

As in past years, Ontario Nature's Christmas cards were sold as a club fund raiser at Christmas time. Because of E Cards on the Internet and the increased postage cost, only 25 packages of new cards and 18 of the old left-over stock from the previous year were sold. The net profit was only \$44.29. The club needs to decide whether this is a worthwhile endeavour going forward, as sales have dropped dramatically.

Prior to the deadline of the first day of each month for publication on Ontario Nature's website, I am sending event listings for KFN. I include only those open to the general public, excluding field trips and rambles which require paid membership, but including the monthly general meetings. We submit these to "nature network event listings" at ontarionature.org . Other member clubs send in their events as well.

### *Field Trips*                      *Gaye Beckwith*

Since last May we have offered 18 field trips to the following locations. Most trips were well attended with usually 10 to 15 people participating. Listed with each location is the leader of the trip who deserves a great deal of thanks for his/her efforts, expertise, and their willingness to lead members out into the region to explore nature in all kinds of weather.

May 24 Opinicon Road, Erwin Batalla

June 7 Napanee Plain, Bonnie  
 July 4 Moth Night, Mike Burrell  
 July 11 Butterfly and Dragonfly, John Poland, Carol and Murray Seymour  
 August 15 Purple Martin/Swallow Roost on Wolfe Island, Erwin Batalla  
 August 29 Amherst Island (Martin Edwards Reserve), Peter Good  
 September 13 Prince Edward Point, Paul Mackenzie  
 September 27 Kingston Region, James Barber  
 November 22 Wolfe Island, Mark D. Read  
 December 6 Cataraqui River and Kingston Inner Harbour, Ken Robinson  
 January 23 Parrott's Bay Conservation Area, Kurt Hennige  
 March 6 Amherst Island, Gaye Beckwith and Bonnie Livingstone  
 March 20 Kingston Region, Ken Robinson  
 April 10 Inner Harbour, Kingston, Lesley Rudy and Gaye Beckwith  
 April 24 Charleston Lake Provincial Park, Erica Barkley  
 May 1 Amherst Island Martin Edwards Reserve, Erwin Batalla  
 May 7 Prince Edward Point, Paul Mackenzie  
 May 29 Menzel Centennial Provincial Park, Alexandra Simmons

### **Bird Walks at Lemoine Point**

Our annual traditions continued with eight May Bird Walks which are open to the public

May 4        6:30 am Paul McKenzie  
                  6:30 pm Darren Rayner  
 May 11      6:30 am Erwin Batalla  
                  6:30 pm Gary Ure  
 May 18      6:30 am Ken Edwards  
                  6:30 pm Janis Grant/Nancy Spencer  
 May 25      6:30 am Gaye Beckwith  
                  6:30 pm Alexandra Simmons

### Round-ups

The annual Fall (November 1 and 2) and Spring (May 21 and 22) Round-ups were also organized this year. Groups of members spend 24 hours searching for bird species in the Kingston Region. This year's events were coordinated by Peter Good with Joel and Marian Ellis graciously hosting the follow-up pot lucks.

### Special Events

On February 15 (Family Day Event) Erwin Batalla led a group to Wolfe Island to look for Snowy Owls which were again abundant this year.

### Christmas Bird Counts 2015 Kingston Area

Many of our members coordinated and participated in 8 Christmas Bird Counts in our region.

December 14, Westport, Wendy Briggs-Jude

December 16, Delta, Kathleen Burtch

December 18, Thousand Island, Josh Van Wieren

December 19, Prince Edward Point, Pamela Stagg

December 20, Kingston, Mark Read

December 23, Gananoque, Kurt Hennige

December 27, Napanee, Bonnie Bailey

December 28, Amherst Island, Janet Scott

### Bird Sightings Mark Read

4 Quarterly Blue Bill reports: Spring 2014, Summer 2014, Autumn 2014, Winter 2014/15

4 Quarterly North American Birds reports: As above

1 Yearly (2015) Blue Bill report

50 Weekly Ontbirds reports

### The Blue Bill James Barber

Four issues of the Blue Bill were printed, 102 pages in total. Twenty-two authors of all ages contributed articles. Information about local species and abundance of birds, butterflies. Odonates, moths, and *Orthoptera* was presented. Articles describing KFN activities and member trips, as well as interesting local natural sites were published.

The majority of members receive the e-version of the Blue Bill, reducing the environmental impact of its publication.

**Thank you to John Critchley who maintains mailing lists, prepares labels and sends e-mail notices, to Mike Burrell who posts the electronic version on the KFN website, and to Norma Graham, who mails the hardcopy version.**

### Rambles Anne Robertson

Rambles are slow walks to notice nature and take place twice a month on Tuesdays. This year 20 rambles were held (one was cancelled due to heavy snow). An average of 9 (2-15) people participated with a total of 48 different participants over the year. These numbers are an increase over the last couple of years but not so different from when rambles began in the late 1980's.

Many thanks to Karen Stinson and Maureen Sly who led a ramble in my absence, and assistance from Jackie Bartnik.

These trips continue to attract old and new KFN members. Sharing our knowledge, challenging our identification skills, socialising and the exercise are all good aspects of

the walks. Photography is increasingly of interest and important for identification confirmation.

The majority of trips this year were shorter and more local which may be the reason for increased participation. Our longer trips visited Hawkridge, Meisel Woods, Millen property, Arthur Nature Reserve and Rock Dunder. Mid-distance trips included Camden Lake, Van Luven Point trail at Helen Quilliam Sanctuary, property of Peter and Jane Good, Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre, property of Ed Fletcher and Little Long lake Road.

More local sites included Collins Creek, Cataragui Trail, CRCA, Pittsburg Library trails, K and P trail (Binnington Court and Orser Road), Milton waterfront, Rideau Trail (north of Queen Mary Rd) and Rideau River waterfront.

Thank you all for your continued support of these natural adventures.

### *Youth Report*      *Anne Robertson*

This report covers September 2015 to May 2016 -the Youth program year- and includes Junior and Teen activities.

39 Juniors registered (40 last year) and of these eight were new members in September and five more joined us in January. The three age groups were each led by a team of three leaders. We had fifteen indoor meetings (one was cancelled due to freezing rain) and six field trips. This year two of our groups came up with a name: the youngest members belong to the Tadpoles and the middle group are the Nature Nuts.

We are most grateful to our leaders: Stephanie Kim (2 years), Paisley

Thomson (3 years), Amanda Tracey (2 years), Sarah Wallace (3 years), Kassandra Yun (2 years). As well we had several occasional leaders including Erica Barkley, Chrissy Emerton, Janet Fenton, Bronwyn Harkness and Leanne Laracey. The continuity of these wonderful volunteers is appreciated and their energy and ideas invaluable. Diane Lawrence has been assisting as co-coordinator for 35 years now! Her many skills are much appreciated. She ran the September orientation meeting and the December meeting and field trip in my absence. She also organised T shirt sales (grey with a black logo) and the card swap, this year on Herpetiles. Her many contributions make the program so much better.

Naturalists can help nature with money (December /January), hands on cleanup and trail maintenance (April) and through advocacy (April). We include each of these elements every year. Our annual coin collection went to the Bird Observatory at Prince Edward Point. We had our usual annual meetings which include Orientation, Seasonal Crafts, Advocacy meeting, May Bird walk (18 Juniors) and Wild Food Picnic (10 families, 39 people). Other topics covered this year included Diptera, Skeletons, Tree leaves and i.d. keys, Animal Sounds (a noisy meeting where all the groups rotated through three stations), Wild Cats, Subnivean Life, Endangered Plants, Piscivores, Born to be Wild and Pollinators. Our out of room meeting was a trip to the Geology department at Queens (15 Juniors) for an introduction to geology and visit to the museum there.

Field trips went to the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary (NW Trail) in October (4 Juniors), and in

November a bird feeder making workshop was held (8 Juniors) and the December trip was a joint meeting with the Teen Naturalists, a CBC4Kids (Christmas Bird Count) with help from Mark Read and James Barber. In January we went along the St Lawrence shoreline at Milton (8 Juniors) and in February to Frontenac Park (1 Junior). Our annual cleanup trip was a shoreline search at the Martin Edwards Reserve on Amherst Island (5 Juniors). Although we do not have large numbers for these trips they are always enjoyed and worthwhile. Increasingly participation is by families which we are encouraging. Summer projects were completed by six Juniors and prizes presented. The Roland Beschel Prize was given to Austin Bailey, Mackenzie Bailey, Paige Bailey, Sarrahe Windatt and Elijah Windatt. A Nan Yeomans Prize was given to Everett Bark and photo prizes to Austin Bailey and Paige Bailey.

Two Stirrett scholarships were awarded for a nature camp to Amelie Robitaille and Everett Bark.

The Teen program registered 9 members. Although a small group the members are all enthusiastic. The Teen years are busy times so an average of 5 Teens was a good turnout. These Teens are so enthusiastic! Each trip (once a month, total 10 trips planned) has a co-leader/role model and ends with writing up field notebooks as a record of the event. One Teen writes a report for Blue Bill each time.

Our trips this year began with a canoe trip in September- again in rain, from North Otter Lake to South Otter Lake. Thanks Liz Evans for joining us. A full report is in Blue Bill Vol. 62 #4. In October we had a

Focus on Ferns field trip to the Robertson Cottage where 14 species of fern were studied along a good hike. (Blue Bill Vol.62 #4). In November, to avoid the hunting season, we again had an indoor bird identification workshop where the bird specimens accumulated for the KFN collection over the past year are prepared for preservation by identifying and labelling. The previous years (preserved) specimens are bagged, labelled and stored in boxes of the different groups of birds. They are then used for education and in displays. Thanks James for helping. December was the CBC4Kids. This was an outing combined with the Juniors and assisted by Mark Read and James Barber.

In January our trip went to Wolfe Island due to lack of ice on the river. Thanks Erwin and Alexandra for showing us Bald Eagles amongst a variety of birds. (Blue Bill Vol.63 # 1). In February we monitored Wood Duck boxes at the Meyer Woods property of the Land Conservancy. Thanks Brooks Gee for joining us. In April we visited the BioBlitz site at Menzel Centennial Provincial Park. We laid boards and tarps to attract herpetiles for the Blitz and hiked the trail to the Lake. Brooks Gee again accompanied us. In May we had a night hike with Paul Mackenzie to the Gould Lake area and Frontenac Park. Highlights were the Woodcock display and a Barred Owl called in by Paul. (Blue Bill Vol 63 # 2). In June a canoe trip is planned to Mitchell Creek with rental canoes from Snug Harbour. Thank you to all our role models!

Despite gradually declining numbers the programs are worthwhile and continue to be fun.

## Kingston Region Birds – Spring 2016 (Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>)

*Mark D. Read*

The KFN reporting area is centred on MacDonald Park, Kingston and extends for a radial distance of 50km. An interactive map showing the KFN circle is available on the website. If errors are noted or significant observations omitted in the following report, please do 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, phone or post records directly to me (contact details are found inside the front cover).

In total, **239 species of bird** were recorded in our region during the reporting period, six down on last year's spring total of 245. The vast majority of sightings were obtained from eBird – 55.9% of which were shared with the KFN account (compared to the 53.7% shared in the winter). In total, 297 observers logged 3272 checklists, equating to 47,434 sightings. Just a handful of those checklists (5) were received

via phone/email/word of mouth, indicating the increasing popularity of eBird ([www.ebird.ca](http://www.ebird.ca)). As usual, an impressive number of individual birds (579,664) were recorded, though many of these were, of course, the same birds seen on subsequent days. A huge thank you goes out to every observer, without whom our understanding of bird distribution would be far more limited. Unfortunately, only observers with sightings in the current report are noted below.

The 'spring' of 2016 was remarkable for coming so early and then dragging on for what seemed to be months. Many birds arrived very early but then rapidly dispersed. Birders with the usual anticipation and expectations of spring migration were somewhat disappointed as the regular arrival periods came and went for many other species. However, we had a good showing of geese in the area, with a potential new bird for the KFN list – Pink-footed Goose. A male Summer Tanager at Prince Edward Point during the spring round-up was another highlight for some. Here are the highlights of spring 2016:

**Pink-footed Goose:** Arriving with an influx of Greater White-fronted Geese, the bird found at Horne's Ferry, Wolfe Island on 11<sup>th</sup> March was seen by only a few (EDB, DaD, VPM, AIS, MDR, JuW). If accepted, this would constitute only the second record of the species in Ontario; the first being an individual found in late 2015 at Moose Creek, near Ottawa.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** With few records in the Kingston area, the presence of 8 birds on Wolfe Island from 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Mar was welcomed by many observers (MDR *et al.*). This record also represents the earliest date for our area (previous 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2015, Kingston).



**Photo: James Barber**

**Snow Goose:** The first record was of 18 birds seen at Button Bay, Wolfe Island on the early date of 8<sup>th</sup> Mar (MDR). However, 15000 were seen later the same day just across the St. Lawrence in the town of Cape Vincent, NY (RiB). Generally good numbers were seen this spring (there were over 60 records submitted), especially along the St. Lawrence corridor.

**Brant:** The first birds of the season (2) were seen at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 5<sup>th</sup> May (JRB). The largest flock, totalling 900 birds was observed flying over Florida Road, Murvale

on 20<sup>th</sup> May (CJG). The last observation of the season was of a single bird the next day on Amherst Island (VPM).

**Cackling Goose:** Six records were received this season, the first being of 5 birds at Cressy Lakeside Road (Prince Edward County) on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (JPR). An incredible 32 birds were seen on the east end of Wolfe Island on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar (TLH). The last sighting was of a single bird on 7<sup>th</sup> Line, Wolfe Island on 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar (MDR).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Regular along the Rideau Canal throughout the period but with decreasing numbers as the birds moved away to breed in April/May. Two birds remained at Perch River, NY, throughout the period and into the summer (many observers).

**Tundra Swan:** Due to the mild winter, birds were still to be found in the area over the winter period. The largest spring numbers totalling 250 birds were noted on Wolfe Island on 12<sup>th</sup> March (HeP, JaC, IsA). The last bird was seen at Kaiser Cross Road, Prince Edward County on 24<sup>th</sup> April (JoB).

**Wood Duck:** The first genuine spring arrivals (2) were seen at Kaiser Cross Road, Prince Edward County, on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar (JPR).

**Blue-winged Teal:** No longer seemingly as common as they once were, 34 records were received this spring. The earliest bird was seen on Amherst Island on 15<sup>th</sup> Mar (RKFE).

**Northern Shoveler:** The first record of the year was of a single bird seen on Wolfe Island on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar (JJC).

**Northern Pintail:** The first birds of the season were a pair at Invista on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar (WTD).



**Green-winged Teal:** Four birds were seen at Kaiser Cross Road on 9<sup>th</sup> Mar (JPR).

**Canvasback:** After an exceptional winter for this species, the last record was of 2 birds at Invista, Kingston on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar (AEK).

**Greater Scaup:** The last record was of 4 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> May at Prince Edward Point (MDR).

**Lesser Scaup:** The high count of the season was 600 birds seen in Kingston's Inner Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (MDR).

**Surf Scoter:** A poor season with just 4 records, the last of which was of 4 birds on 21<sup>st</sup> May at Prince Edward Point (MDR).

**Black Scoter:** Just 3 records: 1 at Prince Edward Point on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr (JCG, MDR); another at the same location on 19<sup>th</sup> Apr (JRB); and 4 on Amherst Island on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (KJH).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** A single male was seen on 5-6<sup>th</sup> Mar at Fishers Landing, Wellesley Island, NY (JSB *et al.*).

**Hooded Merganser:** The first returning birds (4) were at Invista, Kingston on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar (WTD).

**Ruddy Duck:** Four birds were present at the Wolfe Island Ferry Dock, Kingston on 8<sup>th</sup> Mar (VPM *et al.*), and a single was in Kingston's Inner Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (MDR). Other records came from the US side of the circle with the last sighting being a single at Perch River WMA on 14<sup>th</sup> Apr (RiB).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** A bumper crop of 24 records; most from Amherst Island, with Wolfe Island also hosting a few birds. Other locations include Crosby, Harrowsmith, Stella, French Creek WMA, NY, and Ashland Flats WMA, NY.

**Red-throated Loon:** A single bird at Henderson, NY on 21<sup>st</sup> May is the only record (JSB, GrL, AnS).

**Common Loon:** The first bird of the season was seen at the Howe Island Ferry on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (EDB).

**Horned Grebe:** The first bird of the year was seen at Prince Edward Point on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr (JcG, VPM, MDR). A high count of 32 was noted on the south shore of Amherst Island on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (KJH).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Just 6 spring records, with 5 of those coming from Prince Edward Point – the first on 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr (JCG, VPM, MDR). The other (and last) record was from Henderson, NY on 21<sup>st</sup> May (JSB, GrL, AnS).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The first returning birds (17) were seen in Kingston on 17<sup>th</sup> Mar (CJG).

**American Bittern:** A bird at Sydenham on 1<sup>st</sup> April (BGB) was earlier than normal (av. arrival 11<sup>th</sup> Apr).

**Least Bittern:** A good year with 10 records. The first of the year was heard near Westport on 18<sup>th</sup> May (PJB). Two males were seen/heard at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 20<sup>th</sup> May (MDR).

**Great Egret:** Plenty of records now coming in for this increasing species but the first was noted at Marshlands CA, Kingston on 21<sup>st</sup> Apr (JRB).

**Turkey Vulture:** Although arrival dates are becoming earlier on an annual basis, the first of the year near Pittsburgh on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar was particularly keen (JET).

**Osprey:** The first arrival was seen just north of Kingston on Hwy 15 on 25<sup>th</sup> Mar (MDR).

**Golden Eagle:** Three records; an immature on Wolfe Island on 13<sup>th</sup> Mar (MDR); another immature near Westport on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr (PJB); and an

adult on Chaffey's Lock Road on 28<sup>th</sup> Apr (CTH).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Another good year for this species with the majority of records coming from the islands. A spectacular count of 49 birds was tallied on Amherst Island on 14<sup>th</sup> Mar (PRM). The last bird of the year was seen on the island on 6<sup>th</sup> May (VPM).

**Sandhill Crane:** An impressive 51 records this spring from a variety of locations mainly on the Shield (many observers). A high count of 9 birds was noted on flooded fields near Lansdowne on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr (JoH).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Just two records: 2 birds were at Kaiser Cross Road on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr (TLH); and 1 was at Camden Lake on 25<sup>th</sup> May (NLB).

**American Golden Plover:** A single bird was seen at Kaiser Cross Road, Prince Edward County, on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr (TLH). This is the earliest record on file for the Kingston area.

**Upland Sandpiper:** A number of sightings from across the area with the first near Elginburg on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr (DGDR) and a high count of 5 at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 21<sup>st</sup> May (KJH).

**Whimbrel:** A single bird was seen at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 21<sup>st</sup> May (VPM).

**Red Knot:** Just a single record of 23 birds at Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island on 21<sup>st</sup> May (KJH).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Just 4 spring records this year, all of the same 4 birds at Kaiser Cross Roads, Prince Edward County; first seen on 24<sup>th</sup> April (JoB, MJP, CMY) and last seen on 30<sup>th</sup> April (MDR).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** There was a small influx of this species across southern Ontario this year. Fifteen birds dropped in to Kaiser Cross Road on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (RKB). Ten

birds were still present the next day (CMY).

**American Woodcock:** The first bird of the year was heard on the early date of 6<sup>th</sup> Mar at CFB, Kingston (CPR).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** All records came from Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, where this species breeds, with the first record (4) noted on 5<sup>th</sup> May (JRB).

**Little Gull:** A good season with 15 records received. The first was of 4 birds at Kaiser Cross Road on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (MDR), where a high of 22 was seen on 30<sup>th</sup> Apr (MDR). The last sighting was of 6 on Amherst Island on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (KJH).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Three records: 1 adult from the Wolfe Island ferry on 12<sup>th</sup> Mar (CJG, GaU); another adult on the ice at Amherst Island on the same date (CaB); and an immature on Wolfe Island on 1<sup>st</sup> May (MDR).

**Glaucous Gull:** A single late bird was near the Lennox and Addition Power Station on 29<sup>th</sup> Apr (VPM).

**Black Tern:** The first bird of the spring was seen at perch River WMA, NY on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (JSB).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Just 2 records; one near Lansdowne on 20<sup>th</sup> Mar (JoH) and the other from McIntyre on 30<sup>th</sup> Mar (KJH).

**Snowy Owl:** This species persisted in good numbers throughout Mar and into April. A high count of 36 was made on Amherst Island on 14<sup>th</sup> March (PRM). The last bird was seen on Wolfe Island on 1<sup>st</sup> May (MDR).

**Long-eared Owl:** Just three records, all from the Owl Woods, Amherst Island, where 1 was seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar (JRB), 1 on 18<sup>th</sup> Mar (DaS), and 3 on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (BLB).

**Short-eared Owl:** Just 6 records this spring, all but one from either

Amherst or Wolfe Islands. The other record was of a single at Kaiser Cross Road on 16<sup>th</sup> Apr (TLH).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Just one record of a single bird in the Owl Woods, Amherst Island, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar (JRB).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Three distinct sightings this spring, the first of which came from Prince Edward Point on 12<sup>th</sup> May (RKB). The second record was from Frontenac Provincial Park where a single bird was seen on 16<sup>th</sup> May (DDe) and a copulating pair on 18<sup>th</sup> May (MaG). The final bird was again at Prince Edward Point where it was seen by numerous observers on 21<sup>st</sup> May (KFN).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The first returning spring migrant was seen at Invista, Kingston on 27<sup>th</sup> Mar (WTD).

**Peregrine Falcon:** The majority of sightings came from Kingston, where the resident pair failed to breed. A few reports came in from other locations as far away as Prince Edward Point and the Thousand Islands Bridge.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The 9<sup>th</sup> May sighting at Prince Edward Point (RKB) was exceptionally early and is likely the earliest Ontario sighting of 2016.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Just 3 records this spring compared to 13 last year. The first was of a bird at Prince Edward Point on 23<sup>rd</sup> May (DaB), the second at Marshlands CA, Kingston on 26<sup>th</sup> May (JRB), and the last at Millen Bay, NY on 29<sup>th</sup> May (DMi).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The first bird arrived at Napanee Plain IBA on 20<sup>th</sup> Apr (BLB). All further sightings have also come from this known breeding location.

**Northern Shrike:** The last bird of the season was seen at Napanee Plain IBA on 1<sup>st</sup> Apr (BLB).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The first of the year was seen at Charleston Lake Provincial Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> May (CPR).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The vast majority of the 30 records came from Prince Edward Point where the first of the season was seen on 10<sup>th</sup> May (DaB).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Three records were received from 3 locations, all in Jefferson County, NY. Birds were seen at Millen Bay, 5<sup>th</sup> Mar (DMi), Wellesley Island SP on 26<sup>th</sup> Mar (DMi), and Sackets Harbour on 10<sup>th</sup> Apr (AdB).

**Carolina Wren:** A poor season with only one bird seen at Cartwright's Point, Kingston, on 8<sup>th</sup> May (VPM).

**Grey-cheeked Thrush:** Just 4 records: 1, near Murvale, 18<sup>th</sup> May (RKFE); 2, Big Sandy Bay CA, Wolfe Island, 21<sup>st</sup> May (MDR); 1, Prince Edward Point, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> May (RKFE *et al.*); and 1, Big Sandy Bay CA, Wolfe Island, 25<sup>th</sup> May (TAN).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Five separate records: 1, Amherst Island, 15<sup>th</sup> Mar (RKFE); 1, Prince Edward Point, 15<sup>th</sup> May (RKFE); 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> May (TAN); 1, Prince Edward Point, 27<sup>th</sup> May (MaM); and 1, Perch River WMA, 28<sup>th</sup> May (JaC).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** As last year, this species was not easy to pin down, but a high count of 400 at Prince Edward Point on 17<sup>th</sup> Apr is noteworthy (BGD). The last sighting was of a single bird near Elginburg on the late date of 5<sup>th</sup> May (EDB). This extends the previous late date of 27<sup>th</sup> Apr 1996 by 8 days.

**Lapland Longspur:** The last record of the season was of a single

bird on Wolfe Island on 4<sup>th</sup> Apr (BGB).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** All records (12) came from the known location of Canoe Lake Road. All were single observations other than that of 2 birds seen on 1<sup>st</sup> May (KJH).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Much more common and widespread than the Blue-winged Warbler with 51 reports compared to just 12. The first was seen at Chaffey's Lock Road on 7<sup>th</sup> May (JoC). Three reports of hybrids were received.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The first bird of the season was seen at Prince Edward Point on 12<sup>th</sup> May (RKB). Other records include the now regular location of Fishing Lake Road where 2 were seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (MDR).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first of the season was seen at Lemoine Point CA, Kingston on 8<sup>th</sup> May (SJC). Just 5 more records of this elusive species were received.

**Mourning Warbler:** There were 7 records this spring, the first of which was at Marshlands CA, Kingston on 16<sup>th</sup> May (BGB, JoK).

**Cerulean Warbler:** Several records this season, with the first at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, Kingston on 9<sup>th</sup> May (TAN). A high count of 13 was made at the known breeding location of Frontenac Provincial Park on 23<sup>rd</sup> May (DeD, AID).

**Prairie Warbler:** Just 4 records but that of 10 birds at Chaumont Barrens Preserve, NY, 22<sup>nd</sup> May is significant (WaF). Other records came from St. Lawrence, NY on 18<sup>th</sup> May (LiR), Brownville, NY on 19<sup>th</sup> May (RiB), and Frontenac Provincial Park on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (CHB).

**Canada Warbler:** The first birds of the season (2) were seen at Prince Edward Point on 13<sup>th</sup> May (VPM).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Three single records, all from the known breeding location of Perch River WMA, NY. The first record was on 14<sup>th</sup> May (WaF), the second on 20<sup>th</sup> May (AdB), and the third on 29<sup>th</sup> May (CoN).

**American Tree Sparrow:** The last bird of the winter was seen at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe Island on 1<sup>st</sup> May (MDR).

**Clay-coloured Sparrow:** The first bird of the year was seen on Marshall Forty Foot, Amherst Island on 9<sup>th</sup> May (JET). A high of 3 was noted on 7<sup>th</sup> Line, Wolfe Island, on 21<sup>st</sup> May (MDR).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Just four records this spring; 1 at Prince Edward Point, 19<sup>th</sup> Apr (JRB); 1, Martin Edwards Reserve, Amherst Island, 17<sup>th</sup> May (RKFE); and 1, Sydenham 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May (KFN).

**Summer Tanager:** A first summer male was present at Prince Edward Point on 21<sup>st</sup> May (MDR *et al.*).

**Rusty Blackbird:** A pretty good year for observations of this declining species with a high count of 200 on Long Swamp Road, Bellrock on 8<sup>th</sup> May (MDR).

**Orchard Oriole:** Another good season with 45 records of this species. Most reports came from Prince Edward Point with many also from Lemoine Point CA, a few from Amherst Island and other scattered locations. The first record came from Lemoine Point CA on 8<sup>th</sup> May (SLC).

**Common Redpoll:** The last bird of this year's poor winter season was seen near Crosby on 12<sup>th</sup> Apr (SLD, CTH).

**Other species observed during the reporting period:** Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn

Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Grey Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Observers:** Isabel Apkarian (IsA), Bonnie L. Bailey (BLB), James R. Barber (JRB), Erwin D. Batalla (EDB), Gaye Beckwith (BGB), Caroline Biel (CaB), North Leeds Birders (NLB), Peter J. Blancher (PJB), John Blaney (JoB), R. Kyle

Blaney (RKB), Adam Bleau (AdB), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger (JSB), Carolyn H. Bonta (CHB), David Bree (DaB), Richard Brouse (RiB), James Carrey (JaC), Steve J. Coates (SJC), Jan Collins (JaC), John Cooper (JoC), Joël J. Coutu (JJC), Stephanie L. Davison (SLD), Allan Dennis (AID), William T. Depew (WTD), Dan Derbyshire (DDe), Dale Dilamarter (DaD), Derrek Dunnett (DeD), Brian & Gloria Durrell (BGD), R. Ken F. Edwards (RKFE), Wayne Fiddler (WaF), Marcel Gahbauer (MaG), Chris J. Grooms (CJG), John Haig (JoH), Chris T. Heffernan (CTH), Kurt J. Hennige (KJH), Tyler L. Hoar (TLH), Andrew E. Keaveney

(AEK), John King (JoK), Greg Lawrence (GrL), V. Paul Mackenzie (VPM), Paul R. Martin (PRM), Mark Mattina (MaM), Daniel Miller (DMi), Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN), Cody Nichols (CoN), Todd A. Norris (TAN), Henrique Pacheco (HeP), Mark J. Patry (MJP), Darren G. D. Rayner (DGDR), Mark D. Read (MDR), Chris P. Robinson (CPR), Linnea Rowse (LiR), Jon P. Ruddy (JPR), Dan Simpson (DaS), Antony Shrimpton (AnS), Alexandra Simmons (AIS), James E. Thompson (JET), Gary Ure (GaU), Justin White (JuW), Cecile & Morris Yarrow (CMY).

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## BUD ROWE WINS ONTARIO NATURE CONSERVATION AWARD

### *Chris Hargreaves*

The KFN Executive is delighted to announce that our nomination of Bud Rowe for Ontario Nature's W.E. SAUNDERS NATURAL HISTORY AWARD was successful.



**Photo: Paul Mackenzie**

Bud moved to Kingston in 1996, and quickly became very

involved with the Kingston Field Naturalists, including serving as President for 2002 – 2004. He was also a co-founder of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (LC-KFLA), which was incorporated in 2004; and then served as an Officer on the Land Conservancy Board, and as Treasurer, from 2004 until he moved away to British Columbia at the end of 2015.

The W. E. SAUNDERS Natural History Award is presented annually by Ontario Nature to an individual or group which has achieved a significant goal related to an aspect of natural history or natural science research, such as demonstrating local leadership, saving a natural area, generating conservation funds, or raising public awareness of natural history. During his years in Kingston, Bud did all of these!

After joining the Kingston Field Naturalists in 1996, Bud served as Vice-President of the KFN from 2000-2002; President 2002-2004; and Past President 2004-2006.

While he was President of the KFN, Bud worked with the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority to purchase property on Amherst Island that later became part of the world famous Owl Woods Nature Reserve.

Bud also worked with Cameron Smith to establish the Lost Bay Nature Reserve, which is owned by Ontario Nature, and overseen by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. When originally

established in 2000, the property was 44 hectares of wetlands and mature forest at the edge of Gananoque Lake. In 2009 and 2011, a total of 154 hectares were added to the reserve. In August 2014, Bud approached the KFN to contribute to an additional purchase of land. Thanks to his promotion of this fund raising campaign, the club contributed an additional \$5,000 towards this further enlargement of the Lost Bay Nature Reserve, which now encompasses 238 hectares in the Frontenac Axis.

During this time, Bud was also a Co-Founder of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington in 2004. He served as treasurer of the LC-KFLA, and was a major force in the development of the organization, which now owns six properties that protect a total of 134.3 hectares:

- Meyer Woods (2005) 75.3 ha
- Arthur Nature Reserve (2009) 16.2 ha
- Snake Island (2011) 0.2 ha
- Salmon Island (2011) 0.1 ha
- Depot Creek Nature Reserve (2012) 30.0 ha
- Lee Nature Reserve (2014) 12.5 ha

The LC-KFLA also holds conservation easements on two additional properties, by which another 85 hectares are protected.

Bud performed many roles for the LC-KFLA in addition to his role as Treasurer. - Some of these were very practical, as he assisted with property maintenance, and joined monitoring teams to the properties, cleaning out wood duck boxes and putting up signage. Other roles were administrative: these ranged from collecting the mail twice a week, to helping update the Articles of Continuance in accordance with changes in legislation.

Many members will know Bud as an outstanding birder, who regularly led KFN field trips. In addition to his work with the KFN and LC-KFLA, Bud was very ready to help other environmental groups, such as the Friends of Presqu'ile Provincial Park, for which he volunteered as a guide on their waterfowl weekends. He was also active in public education, and gave talks on owls to various local societies.



**Photo: Janet Elliot**

Since Bud Rowe is now living on Vancouver Island, the W.E. Saunders Natural History Award was received on his behalf by Kurt Hennige, our KFN Past President and Ontario Nature representative, at the Ontario Nature 2016 Annual General Meeting in Owen Sound. The actual award is a framed photograph of a Boreal Owl. The photograph was apparently taken in the Amherst Island Owl Woods, which is a nice coincidence, given all the work that Bud did to help protect the Owl Woods.



**Photo: Kurt Hennige**



## Teen Night Hike

*Zoe Coulter*

On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, five Teen Naturalists – Michael, Ronan, Damon, Zoe, and Aidan – met with Paul Mackenzie and Anne Robertson at the usual Tim Hortons. To start off the evening, we drove to Unity Road, where there is a beautiful marsh. We saw quite a few birds there, including a Baltimore Oriole and a Belted Kingfisher. We also spotted a muskrat in the water. After a little while, we drove on to Gould Lake Road, where we waited for a woodcock to do its mating ritual. While waiting, we identified spring peepers as the main species of frog we could hear, and Anne told us about the relationship between Prickly Ash and Giant Swallowtail Butterflies and tent caterpillars and cuckoos. Once it was dark enough, we

heard two woodcocks “zeep”ing, and we watched one of them do its mating fly-over until it became too dark to see it. We then drove to Frontenac Park, where we noticed that the moon was in its first quarter and Paul played some owl-call recordings. Just as the recording of a Great Horned Owl finished, a Barred Owl flew right over us and landed in a tree nearby! It stayed there for a few moments, watching us watch it, and then flew off. After that, Zoe, Aidan, and their dad left because they were close to home, and everyone else went back to Tom Hortons to write in their field notebooks. Overall, it was a very nice night, warm with just enough wind to keep away the bugs.

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## Bird Nerd Bonus

*James Barber*



1. What is the name of this species?
2. Why is this species rarely seen (but often heard)?
3. What are 2 ways to differentiate this species from Nighthawk?
4. What is the name for this species' 'whiskers'?

1. Eastern Whip-poor-will 2. Nocturnal, but with distinctive 'whip-poor-will' call 3. Nighthawk has white throat and wing patches and forked tail 4. Rictal bristles