

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held December 19, 2013, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Gaye allowed time for the slide show to rotate through one cycle to ensure that it was seen before welcoming everybody to the meeting. Four new members were in attendance.

During the November meeting a clipboard was circulated asking for volunteers to supply refreshments. It didn't get all way around the room. Volunteers are still needed for March, September and October, 2014. The clipboard was re-circulated.

Bird Trax is a new feature on the KFN website. It was installed by Mark Read and Chris Grooms and shows the latest sightings posted on e-Bird in the Kingston area.

A KFN Facebook page is now under development by Polly Aiken. Members who have a Facebook account can access it at "Kingston Field Naturalists". We plan to get information to members quickly via this account. Polly informed us that if 25 people use it, it can be accessed via Google.

An E-Bird Workshop will be held January 16 at 6:30 pm immediately before the general meeting. Members who would like to learn how to use E-Bird are encouraged to attend.

Gaye mentioned that Janis Grant had found a Thick Billed Murre in Kingston Harbour on December 3. This is the 3rd record of its occurrence in Ontario. Many people saw and photographed it. Gaye was involved in a television presentation about it on CKWS.

Acceptance of Minutes

Janis Grant read the minutes of the General Meeting held November 21. There was one correction. Moved by Anne Robertson, seconded by Paul MacKenzie that the minutes be accepted. Carried

Member's Observations

Carolyn Bonta saw a Yellow Spotted Salamander in the snow at Frontenac Park on Sunday. She also saw a Snowy Owl yesterday on the Penitentiary Lands (Frontenac Institution).

Anne Robertson reported seeing 3 otters and a Bald Eagle at the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary on the weekend.

Gaye Beckwith saw a Bald Eagle on Sydenham Lake also on the weekend

George Clark saw a Coyote on St. Lawrence Avenue in Kingston.

A total of 94 species were counted on December 15 during the Kingston Christmas Bird Count. This is 10 lower than we have averaged in the past and is attributed to the very cold, snowy weather.

Ken Robinson reported seeing 2 Yellow-Rumped Warblers, a Kingfisher and 6 & 7 Bluebirds during the CBC.

Alex English reported seeing 4 or 5 otters jumping and screaming on top of a beaver lodge while a beaver swam in the water approximately 3 weeks ago.

Jay McMahon had an 8 pt. buck eating out of his bird feeder. He has also seen a leucistic House Finch which was pink rather than white.

Presentations

The following members presented slides and videos:

Barry Hanna

Vern Quinsey

Bruce Elliott

Lynn Bell

Paul MacKenzie

Alex English

Janis Grant

Mel Ball

Kurt Hennige

James Barber

Steve Manders

The presentations were followed by refreshments provided by club members.