

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held December 18, 2014, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Kurt Hennige welcomed everyone to the December meeting. He thanked Anne Robertson for organizing Christmas treats for members following the meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for November 20, 2014

Recording Secretary, Janis Grant, referred members to the minutes of the November meeting, which are posted on the KFN website. There were no corrections

Motion

Moved by Gaye Beckwith, seconded by Janet Elliott that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

Announcements

- Ken Robinson has Ontario Nature Christmas Cards available for sale.
- Turtles Kingston: Larry McCurdy announced that Kingston Field Naturalists has participated in a successful citizen's coalition to raise \$30,000 for Turtles Kingston through our Canada Helps website. The money will be used to reduce turtle road kill along Bath Road. \$21,000 was raised through Canada Helps and the rest through corporate donors. The funds will be matched by City Council and used to build fencing to prevent turtles from accessing roadways as well as preparing suitable nesting sites within the Cataraqui Marsh. The money was presented to City Council by Susan Irving and Steven Lougheed at Tuesday's Council meeting. An article appeared in the Whig Standard on December 17. KFN has now taken down the turtle project on our Canada Helps website. Turtles Kingston welcomes the assistance of any KFN members who have expertise in turtle behavior. Please contact Larry or Susan Irving.

Kurt thanked Larry who did all the work for KFN on this project.

- Kurt reminded members that there will be Christmas Bird Counts in Napanee, Prince Edward County, Gananoque (new this year) and Amherst Island. Dates and leaders are posted on the KFN website.

Members Observations

Erwin Batalla announced that 45 Snowy Owls were observed on Wolfe Island on Wednesday, December 10.

Kurt Hennige announced that 104 species of birds were found during the Kingston Christmas Bird Count held December 14.

Mark Read said the rarest bird found during the Kingston CBC was a Black-backed Woodpecker found at Little Cataraqui Creek . Other rarities included an Eastern Meadowlark on Wolfe Island, Sandhill Cranes and 5 Carolina Wrens.

Mark also announced that members should get their sightings to him before the end of the year. The 2014 bird sightings report will be posted in 1st quarter 2015 edition of the Blue Bill.

Gaye Beckwith reported that the first record of a Snowy Owl on Howe Island occurred when Ken Robinson spotted it on a KFN field trip December 7.

Claire Muller reported that a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at a feeder in Marysville as part of the Kingston Christmas Bird Count

Membership Night

The following KFN members presented slide shows:

Lynn Bell
Vern Quinsey
Jackie Bartnik
Bruce Elliott,
Mike Burrell
James Barber
Rose-Marie Burke
Steve Manders

Kurt thanked Erwin Batalla for organizing the slide show and Gaye Beckwith for running the projector.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm. There were approximately 57 members in attendance.