

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held March 17, 2016, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Remarks

Kurt welcomed everybody to the March meeting and wished us a happy St. Patrick's Day. He thanked Shirley French for providing refreshments before the meeting.

2. Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for February 17, 2016

The minutes are posted on the KFN website. Kurt asked for any corrections or additions. There were none.

Motion

Moved by Anne Robertson, seconded by Chris Hargreaves that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

3. Nominating Committee

Gaye Beckwith is Chair of the nominating committee with Polly Aiken and Peter Good as members. A new slate of officers will be introduced at the April AGM. Gaye asked those who would like to nominate a member or who would like to volunteer to let one of the committee members know. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the AGM.

4. Annual Dinner

Members were reminded that tickets are available for the annual dinner to be held May 19 at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. Tickets can be purchased from Polly Aiken or Janet Elliott.

5. KFLA Land Conservancy AGM

Paul Mackenzie reminded members that the KFLA (Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington) Land Conservancy AGM will be held at Ongwanada at 6:45 April 13. The Land Conservancy was established through the KFN when it was realized that land acquisition and management was more work than KFN could manage. Present KFN properties are well managed but offers of new donations are forwarded to KFLA. A number of KFN executive members also serve on the board of the KFLA Land Conservancy and KFN members have been strong supporters.

Paul thanked Kurt for assisting four students from Fleming College using his research on grassland birds. Those students will speak at the Land Conservancy AGM on the management of grassland habitat on one of our properties. Kurt will present his research at the March KFN meeting.

6. Nature Canada Campaign to Keep Cats Indoors

Kurt referred member to the Nature Canada website and their campaign to encourage people to keep cats indoors. Cats have a huge impact on bird populations. By confining them, owners can enhance bird survival and at the same time keep their pets safe.

7. Field Trips

Kurt provided a summary of upcoming Field Trips and Rambles, which are listed on the KFN Website.

8. White Pines Wind Tower Project

Chris Hargreaves provided an update on the Environmental Review Tribunal. The Tribunal has determined that the proposed project is a hazard to endangered Blandings Turtles and Little Brown Bats. This decision was appealed by the developer, who is proceeding to clear the site in advance of the appeal decision. White Pines has applied for a stop work order.

9. Member's Observations

-Mark Read gave an account of finding 8 Great White Fronted Geese in a flock of Canada Geese on Wolfe Island near the 5th line on March 10. The next day, many birders travelled to see the GWF Geese which were still there. While on Wolfe Island, Paul Mackenzie, Erwin Batalla and Dale Dilamarter examined a flock at Horne's ferry and found an unusual goose. Mark was called and identified it as a Bean Goose. This is a first record for this species in Ontario. Bean Geese are usually found in Europe.

-Ken Edwards remarked that there have been more Great White Fronted and Snow Geese seen this season than usual. The migration appears to be at least 2 weeks early.

- Ken Robinson saw a Peregrine Falcon at the entrance to the Thousand Island Bridge while birding with the North Leeds Birders on March 16.

-A man saw a European Sparrow on the Bruce Peninsula

-Janet and Bruce Elliott had a pair of pigeon wings drop in front of them out of a tree near Queens University. They could not see what had captured the pigeon.

-A man witnessed a Yellow Bellied Sapsucker on Feb 19. The bird stayed for 2 – 3 hours

-Erwin Batalla reported that the Peregrine Falcon is still being seen at Princess Towers and has been exhibiting courting behavior. Kurt asked if anybody has seen a reported nest on the east side of the building.

-Jackie Bartnik has seen Song Sparrows, Red Wing Blackbirds and a River Otter near her home on the Cataraqui River.

-Kurt received a request from a man who wants to film a documentary about foxes. He asks if anybody knows of a fox den where he could work. He will treat the foxes with respect.

10. Featured Speaker

Mike Burrell introduced speaker Stuart Mackenzie from Bird Studies Canada who presented an interesting talk on ***The Motus Wildlife Tracking System – A Hemispheric Monitoring Network for Migratory Animals.***

He was thanked by Mark Read who presented him with a copy of *Birds of the Kingston Region.*

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm. There were approximately 50 people in attendance.