

## **Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held October 19, 2017, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.**

### 1. Opening Remarks:

President Alexandra Simmons welcomed everyone to the October meeting. She thanked Gaye Beckwith for setting up the projector and arranging the slide show. The agenda was reviewed.

### 2. New Process for Reviewing General Meeting Minutes.

Recording Secretary, Janis Grant, suggested that since Minutes of all General Meetings are on the KFN web site it is sufficient for the President to simply ask members at the following General Meeting if there are any corrections or omissions. The Secretary will so note, post the revised Minutes to the web site and the President will declare them accepted.

### 3. Refreshments for Future Meetings.

A sheet was circulated for members to sign up for providing refreshments for meetings up to and including September 2018.

### 4. Member's Observations

- A man saw a Great Egret on the Camden East Golf Course on October 18.
- Richard Breault saw 7 Meadowlarks at Lemoine Point this week.
- On October 14, Jackie Bartnik observed 30 Turkey Vultures flying south near the Pittsburgh Library and Highway 15.
- Paul Mackenzie said that OFO Hawk Watch has seen spectacular numbers of Turkey Vultures migrating south through Ontario this fall. So far, 30,000 have been observed.
- Maureen Addis saw a Blue Headed Vireo on her property in early October.
- Anthony Kaduck was birding recently in the Amherst Island Owl Woods. The road is passable but still "pretty bad".
- Gaye Beckwith, who last month mentioned that the number of Black Legged Ticks he had observed were reduced, has changed his mind after removing over 50 ticks from his 3 cats.
- John Poland saw 100 Painted Lady Butterflies in Churchill Park 3 weeks ago. The Painted Lady population explosion was so great in Denver, Colorado, that it could be observed on radar.
- A man saw a large number of Wood Frogs on his lawn recently. He lives close to LaSalle Creek. Members speculated that, since they only migrate several 100 meters from the pools in which they are born, they must hibernate underground when the pools dry up.

- Jackie Bartnik saw an immature Bald Eagle and several frogs on the KFN Ramble October 17 on the Jones Creek Trails in Thousand Islands National Park.

#### 5. Nature Conservancy of Canada Wales Property, Napanee Plain.

The Napanee Plain northwest of Kingston is home to at least 19 species at risk. NCC has preserved several properties in the area. It now has an opportunity to expand the reserve by acquiring the adjacent Wales Property. Mark Stabb, NCC Program Director for Central Ontario East, gave a presentation thanking KFN for past donations. He described the Wales property as 78 acres which when added to other NCC properties on the Napanee Plain would bring the total protected area to 302 acres. Cost of the Wales Property is \$156,000. The property includes alvar, wetland and grassland. Among species to be protected are Eastern Loggerhead Shrike, Whip-poor-will & Eastern Meadowlark.

A motion was put forward following Mr. Stabb's presentation:

***Motion:***

Moved by Anthony Kaduck, seconded by Paul Mckenzie that:  
Kingston Field Naturalists donate \$5,000 from the Habitat Preservation Fund toward the acquisition of the Wales property.

***Carried***

#### 6. Upcoming Events

Please see the Newsletter for details concerning the following events:

- Ramble, November 7
- Field Trip, Nov. 19,
- New Process for Fall Roundup
- Hunting Season dates
- LC-KFLA Natural Heritage Strategy

The following event is not listed in the Newsletter:

Free Lichen Workshop October 23 – 26 at the Thousand Islands National Park Visitors Center led by Irwin Brodo. Call 613 923-5261 ext. 123

#### 7. Feature Presentation

Speaker Robert Alvo was introduced by Anthony Kaduck. He is the author of *Being a Bird in North America (BABINA)*. Mr. Alvo passed copies of the first volume of the book to members of the audience and described its features. He was thanked by Erwin Batalla who presented him with a copy of *Birds of the Kingston Region*. Copies of BABINA were sold following the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. There were 73 members in attendance.

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant, Recording Secretary  
(613) 548-3668