

**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held 7:30 p.m
December 20, 2018, Ongwanada.**

1. Opening Remarks

President, Anthony Kaduck opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. The mystery bird was identified as a Savannah Sparrow.

2. Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for November 14, 2018

The minutes are posted on the KFN website. There were no corrections or additions.

3. Member's Observations

- Jacqueline Bartnik saw a Bald Eagle fly over highway 15, cross the marsh and disappear over Belle Island this week.
- Marlene Rothenbury saw a Snowy Owl in Ottawa between Kanata and Richmond Road.
- Kevin Bleeks saw a Cooper's Hawk and a flock of Cedar Waxwings on Gore Road yesterday. On Sunday, while participating in the Kingston Christmas Bird count, he found a Greater White Fronted Goose at RMC. It has been seen by many others and is reported to still be there.
- Barb O'Neil saw a flock of Evening Grosbeaks in Gananoque last week.
- Peter Good saw a huge flock of Cedar Waxwings on a crab apple tree on his property. They quickly stripped the tree bare of fruit while he searched without luck for a Bohemian Waxwing among them.
- Gaye Beckwith reported seeing 5 Pine Grosbeaks in Worthington Park during the Kingston Christmas Bird count.
- Anthony Kaduck reported seeing Pine Grosbeaks in Bath. He has learned that these birds are attracted to the seeds inside the crab apples.
- Kevin Bleeks reported seeing 100 Common Redpolls during the Delta Christmas Bird Count on Wednesday.

4. Old Business

Anthony announced that the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has finalized its acquisition of the Camden East Alvar and purchase of the Hudgins-Rose property. Kingston Field Naturalists contributed \$2,000 toward stewardship of the Camden East Alvar and \$5,000 for the purchase of the Hudgins-Rose property.

5. New Business

- a) Proposed hunting of Double Crested Cormorants. A notice was sent to the KFN membership informing them that the Ontario government was requesting comments on this proposed legislation. KFN is opposed to the legislation because:
 - The cormorant population is "stable or declining"
 - Cormorants do not eat game fish, Diet mostly consists of invasive species (round goby and alewife)
 - Shooting of birds at nesting grounds will almost certainly have a negative impact on other species that nest at the same sites (Herring Gull, Common and Caspian Terns, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron etc.)
 - What happens to the carcasses?
- b) Removal of Independent Environmental Commissioner. KFN does not support this action of the Ontario government. Ontario Nature has sent a letter to the Premier objecting to this weakening of environmental oversight. KFN has signed the letter.

- c) Land Conservancy of Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (LC-KFLA) Request for Funds. The LC-KFLA will address the general meeting in January about a proposed land purchase and a vote will be held at that time.
- d) 2019 Bioblitz Site. Anthony announced that the Bioblitz will take place on the Lennox and Addington Generating Station property on Bath Road.

6. Upcoming Events

- a) Please see the Newsletter for scheduled Field Trips and Rambles.
- b) A plant identification workshop will take place in Michigan. For more information, please contact President Anthony Kaduck.
- c) A graduate student is conducting a Wild Turkey census using information posted to e-bird and i-Naturalist. Everyone is encouraged to post their Wild Turkey sightings.
- d) A new Breeding Bird Atlas for southern Quebec was published recently. It is available for purchase at a special price. Those interested should give their e-mail addresses to Anthony.

7. Christmas Bird Counts

Please see the Newsletter for scheduled Christmas Bird Counts.

8. Member's Presentations

The following KFN members presented their photographs:

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| -Anthony Kaduck | Birds of Rainy River |
| -Gaye Beckwith | Birds of Scottish outer islands |
| -Verne Quincy | Favourite photos of 2018 |
| -Gary Hillaby | Moose and other Algonquin Park wildlife |
| -Shirley French | Trailcam videos taken at the Bioblitz |
| -Amanda Tracy | Plants from the Napanee Plain Alvar |
| -Janis Grant | Wild life in the Okavanga Delta, Botswana |
| -Lynn Bell | Local wildlife (photographs presented by Gaye Beckwith) |
| -David McMurray | Plants from the Napanee Plain Alvar and other locations |
| -Rose Marie Burke | Favourite photos from 2018 |
| -Diane Croteau | Favourite 2018 bird photos |
| -Richard Breault | Message from Mexican Birding Guide who remembered Martin Edwards |
| -Bruce Elliott | Geology and Astronomy from the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary |
| -Barb O'Neil | Nature photos from the Gananoque area |
| -Janet Elliott | Summer photos from the Mitchell Creek area |
| - Bud Rowe | Western birds (photographs presented by Erwin Batalla) |

-John Allen will present his photos to the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. and was followed by a feast of Christmas treats. There were 58 members in attendance.

9. **Next Meeting.** Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 pm, Ongwanada