

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held February 20, 2014, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Gaye Beckwith welcomed everyone to the meeting on a snowy evening with rain in the forecast. Particular welcome was extended to new members.

The Great Backyard Bird Count was held last weekend. Approximately 12 people in attendance submitted statistics – some on eBird.

Members are reminded that the March Newsletter is the last one to be sent by mail. All future newsletters will be e-mailed. Those members who do not have a computer will still receive a mailed copy. This change will save KFN hundreds of dollars each year.

A KFN field trip is planned to Algonquin Park, May 2 – 4. Those who are interested should let Gaye Beckwith know either by telephone (613-376-3716) or e-mail (beckwithb@sympatico.ca). Gaye will make arrangements for the group to stay at the Gateway Motel but individuals are expected to make their own reservations. We will look for moose, deer and birds. 58 species of birds were seen on the last Algonquin Park field trip two years ago. We hope to be there before mosquito and black fly season.

eBird workshops are being offered to members prior to the General Meeting through March and April starting at 6:30 pm. 12 people attended this evening. The workshops are informal and designed to encourage everybody to start using eBird.

KFN's Facebook page is up and running. Polly Aitken reported that the site has now received 161 "likes".

Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for January 16, 2014

Recording Secretary, Janis Grant, referred members to the minutes of the January meeting which are posted on the KFN website. Some copies were distributed prior to the meeting. There were no corrections.

Moved by Chris Grooms, seconded by Mike Evans that the minutes be accepted.
Carried

Nominating Committee

Janis Grant reminded members that the Nominations Committee will present a proposed slate of officers to the April AGM. The committee is still looking for volunteers to serve on the following boards and committees:

- Junior Naturalists
- Bird Records
- Conservation Committee
- Education Committee
- Field Trips
- Nature Reserves

Amherst Island Wind Farm

Erwin Batalla advised members that KFN is officially opposing the Ontario Government's approval of an application by Windlectric Inc. to install and operate up to 37 wind turbines on Amherst Island. Comments will be received by MNR up until March 8 on EBR Registry # 012-0774. The bases of KFN's opposition are

- Habitat fragmentation due to new road construction
- Habitat loss
- Bat , bird and turtle mortality during construction and operation

Steve Manders commented that wind turbine projects could be stopped if the government would stop subsidizing them at taxpayer's expense, adding over \$5 billion to the provincial debt. Erwin encouraged him to make that comment as an individual using the EBR registry.

Members Observations

- David McMurray had a Northern Shrike visit his bird feeder 2 weeks ago. No birds have visited his feeder since.
- Lynn Bell saw a Northern Shrike at Queen and Clergy Street and a Peregrine Falcon at Princess Towers
- Steve Manders observed a Snowy Owl on the ice while crossing to Wolfe Island on the ferry. There were many ducks and geese in the ferry channel. Many water fowl are in open water on the Cataraqui River off the 401 and highway 15. There is no safe place to stop and observe these birds.
- Kevin Bleeks has observed a Bald Eagle in the same area
- John Allen has been feeding ducks in the Inner Harbour since January. Between 1/3 and 1/4 suffer from frozen feet and push themselves toward the food using their wings.
- Erwin Batalla has observed Mourning Doves with frozen feet
- Gaye Beckwith watched a Snowy Owl eat a Red Breasted Merganser on the ice but couldn't determine if it had caught the Merganser or was scavenging it. He observed 3 Snowy Owls on the ice while crossing to Wolfe Island. He also saw a fox trot up the main street in Yarker.

Main Presentation

Erwin Batalla introduced guest speaker, Mark Read, who gave an interesting talk and slide presentation on:

Nepal: A Land Of Highs And Lows

He was thanked by Kurt Hennige

The meeting adjourned at 9:30. There were 59 members in attendance.

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant
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