

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held January 16, 2014, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Gaye welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no new members in attendance but some who haven't been for a while including 95 year old Ken Redsel.

An e-bird workshop was offered to about 15 members for an hour prior to the general meeting. E-Bird experts, including Mike Burrell, Mark Read, Kurt Hennige and Gaye Beckwith were there to present and help. E-bird workshops will continue to be offered prior to the general meeting at 6:30 pm for the next few months. Members are encouraged to attend on February 20.

KFN is making extra efforts to make sure all it's members are alerted to important or rare natural event in our area. An alert system for birds is available through eBird where members can choose to be alerted to rarities in our area. Details on how eBird members can access this function will be printed in the February newsletter. As well, we plan to alert members to other phenomena e.g. rare plants, mammals, butterflies etc. using our new Facebook account. Any member can post to KFN's Facebook account. This will alert KFN Facebook members to the rarity. Information on how to do it will also be included in the February Newsletter.

The KFN Facebook account now has 38 "likes" which means it can be accessed via Google. Members are encouraged to use it.

Thank you to Kathy Innes and Barbara Canton for supplying treats this evening. Barbara has invited members to help themselves to birding magazines, which belonged to her late father, Martin Edwards. . She has also offered cassette tapes of birds from other countries, some of which Martin recorded himself.

Acceptance of Minutes

Prior to reading the minutes, Janis Grant explained that this would be

the last time the minutes would be read aloud at the general meeting. In future, they will be posted on the website. A few copies will also be placed in the refreshment area for those who wish to read them prior to the meeting. This will save meeting time and make use of our website.

The minutes of the General Meeting held December 19, 2013 were read by Janis Grant. Moved by Mark Read, seconded by Bud Rowe that the minutes be accepted. **Carried**

Amherst Island Wind Turbines

Erwin Batalla announced that the Ontario Government has posted the Renewable Energy Approval Application by Windlectric Inc. for up to 37 industrial wind turbines on the Environmental Registry (EBR) for public comment. This is the last step before a final decision. Citizens have until March 8 to comment.

KFN is not supporting this project for 3 reasons:

- Habitat fragmentation due to the need for more roads
- Habitat destruction because roads must be widened thereby losing their hedgerows and land cleared for the actual structures
- Bird and bat mortality during operation of the turbines

KFN members are urged to take time to write the government on this issue.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee consisting of Janis Grant (chair), Chris Grooms and Peter Good are currently meeting to propose an executive committee for 2014 -15. Their recommendations will be presented at the April AGM. Members who are interested in getting involved with the executive or a committee should speak to a Nominating Committee member. Chris Grooms will place a page on the web site with work descriptions and duties for those who are interested. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others.

Great Backyard Bird Count

This annual event takes place February 14 – 17. Participants keep track of birds seen in their yards or a proscribed area and report on line. Members are encouraged to get involved in “citizen science”.

Bees and Trees Talk

A talk will be given by bee expert Susan Chan at St. Alban’s Hall, Odessa Thursday, January 23. KFN members are welcome.

Member’s Observations

- A male Red Winged Blackbird and Brown Creeper were seen at a private feeder.
- Chris Hargreaves, Erwin Batalla, Bill Evans and Kurt Hennige were on Wolfe Island today. 12 Snowy Owls were seen. The roads are good.
- Mark Read reported a Snowy Owl, 2 Tree Sparrows and a Northern Shrike on the Invista breakwall today.
- Mike Evans asked about a Great Grey Owl seen near Wellington this week. It was last seen yesterday.
- Elaine Davies reported seeing 32 Bohemian Waxwings at Hawkridge Farm shortly after Christmas. They were flushed by a Sharp Shinned Hawk
- Elaine Hormans, a neighbor of the Davies, has also reported a Great Grey Owl on her property near Morton.
- Cameron Smith saw 5 Trumpeter Swans and 13 Snow Geese near their property at the Lost Bay Nature Reserve, north of Gananoque. He reported that A to A has recently received a grant to create passageways across the 401 for snakes and turtles.
- A member reported that a Sharp Shinned Hawk took a Junco on the property of Maureen Sly in Portsmouth Village

Main Presentation

Chris Hargreaves introduced speaker Bill Evans who gave an interesting talk on:

The Impact of Wind Energy On Birds in the Kingston Area:Fact Versus Fiction

The meeting adjourned at 9:30. There were 69 members in attendance.

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant

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