

The Quinte Naturalist

The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is affiliated with Ontario Nature, a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research.

AUGUST



Birders know late summer as shorebird migration season. Like me, many are intimidated trying to identify the similar-looking species. Start with the easier species. During breeding season spotted sandpipers are easy to identify (see inset). They lose those spots in the fall but they still teeter as they walk and show two fieldmarks which are distinctive, the white spur where the white of the breast extends into the “shoulder” and the white line above the eye. See page 4 for another common shorebird migrant. Photos by Kyle Blaney.

CLUB NEWS



Photo by John Blaney

In the evening on August 12 your executive met at the Frink Centre to discuss plans for the QFN in these difficult times. Thankfully the area around the classrooms was fairly mosquito-free. The setting seemed appropriate for a club like ours and allowed easy social distancing. Seated around the table from the left are Denice (Publicity/Environmental), Elizabeth (Corresponding Secretary), George (President), Nancy (Membership), John (Outings), Mike (Treasurer), Sharron (Social). Sharron also volunteered to serve as recording secretary for this meeting as the position is currently vacant (hint). Picture me in the empty chair as newsletter editor.

OUTINGS

We had a long discussion about how to offer outings with the necessary precautions in place. Elizabeth had consulted with the HPE Health Unit regarding outdoor meetings. The advice is to follow the general guidelines of physical distancing, staying home if ill or having symptoms, answering standard questions prior to the outing, no sharing of food, completing a list of attendees with phone numbers for contact tracing if necessary.

Unfortunately there are some rules which we must follow on outings in the current situation.

1. Participants must be members of QFN. For insurance reasons only members can attend outings. If you are unsure or your membership status please contact our membership secretary Nancy Stevenson nlsriver@gmail.com or 613-779-9407.
2. Participants must register ahead of time as numbers will be limited.
3. Participants must sign a waiver indicating that they understand the guidelines and intend to follow them.

John Lowry has already sent an email to members announcing an outing to Trenton's Hanna Park on Wed., Sept. 9. Please check his email message for details. John's email got quick responses from several members. Numbers are limited to 15 so please contact him quickly if you are interested.



Rick Beaudon visited the Frink Centre very early on July 13 and was rewarded with a good view of this great horned owl on a wood duck box in the marsh.

(Outings continued) John also mentioned some other possibilities for fall outings including Hell Holes, Frink Centre, Eagle's Nest in Bancroft with side trips to Churcher's Woods and Egan Chutes Provincial Park, McGeachie Conservation Area in the Steenburg Lake area, The Gut Conservation Area south of Coe Hill.



While walking on the Bayshore Trail John Lowry noticed this colourful orange hawkweed which he photographed and posted on iNaturalist.

MEETINGS

Like so many organizations QFN will not be scheduling meetings during the current Covid pandemic. It is unclear whether the feared second wave will occur so it is not possible to plan for speakers. The executive did discuss the possibility of holding online meetings but decided against them.

Your executive will be corresponding with members through Facebook, email and newsletter. Watch for frequent news about Quinte nature. Of course don't forget to check Terry Sprague's website and subscribe to his email weekly updates. <http://naturestuff.net/site/>



Closely related to Killdeer, Semipalmated plovers are smaller with a single rather than a double neck band. During migration they are often seen on area beaches and mud flats. Andrea Kingsley photographed this bird at North Beach PP on August 5 for iNaturalist.

FINANCES

Mike reported that the most recent statement from the bank dated June 30 showed a balance of \$9142.57. There are several factors accounting for this healthy balance. We have no current expenses related to hall rental or speakers. Potential projects to undertake or support are on hold.

Mike will also investigate the possibility of setting up e-transfer so that members can pay for their memberships in that way.

CORRESPONDENCE

Elizabeth circulated a newspaper article announcing that Kelly Wallace, founder of Think Turtle Conservation Initiative, has been awarded Ontario Nature's Richards Education Award. Thanks to Denice for putting so much effort into nominating Kelly. See Denice's news release on page 7.

We received a letter of thanks from Sandy Pines for our donation of turtle ICUs. Special thanks to Denice for delivering them.



I enjoy the subtleties created by shades of brown and black in some birds. An American bittern at the Frink Centre (by Cecile and Morris Yarrow) and a chipping sparrow at Loon Lake Resort near Madoc (by Glenda Jones) illustrate the point. Both photos found in eBird.

MEMBERSHIP

Nancy reported that we have 90 paid members made up of 53 singles and 16 family memberships. It's important to have a large membership because it adds weight to our communications with other organizations and government at all levels and helps us to fulfill our mandate to promote public education.



Dr. Julianne Peterson posted this picture of a snapping turtle laying eggs on June 17 near the shores of the Bay of Quinte. Such pictures on iNaturalist are very important because they document both the presence of a species and its behaviour. We know that this female is at least 17 to 19 years old as that is when they begin to breed. In the water snapping turtles can be curious and may even seem friendly. They earn their name on land where they strike if they feel threatened because they are unable to withdraw into their shell.

Bancroft Resident Honoured as Environmental Hero!!

by Denice Wilkins

Ontario Nature, a leading environmental organization, announced the recipients of their annual Conservation Awards last week. The awards honour those who do exceptional work to protect wild species and wild spaces in Ontario. Among this year's 10 inspirational winners was Bancroft resident, Kelly Wallace. Kelly was awarded the Richards Education Award for her extraordinary tireless work towards the education and protection of Ontario's 8 turtle species at risk, including the founding of the Think Turtle Conservation Initiative.



Photo by Denice Wilkins

Over the years Kelly has touched thousands of people of all ages with her message to treasure and protect our declining turtle populations. If you have seen the bright green “Watch 4 Turtles” signs displayed on posts along highway 62 and elsewhere, you know a small portion of her work. She has presented “Turtles Talks” at venues around Ontario, set up educational displays every weekend at community events, organized



Jason King took this picture of a northern map turtle in August 2012 but the species is regularly seen on the Belleville waterfront and local waterways. It can be identified by the ragged appearance of the edge of the carapace which also has many lines said to resemble the contour lines on a topographic map.

awareness campaigns like the annual Bancroft Turtle Festival, “Seniors Saving Turtles” and “Turtles Rock!” Her fundraising efforts have raised thousands of dollars for the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre for injured turtle treatment and recovery as well as for The Land Between’s program to implement

mitigation measures to save turtles from being killed on roads in our local area. This is all in addition to her endless summer days when she is on call to help protect turtle nests from predators and human disturbance.

Kelly is very humble about the unbelievable amount of volunteer time and effort she dedicates to educate and inspire people about the need to protect turtles. She is delighted with the recognition from Ontario Nature but insists, “I do it to help turtles, their habitat and other wildlife by association, not for personal gain”. She thinks of receiving acknowledgement for her work as another way to further her educational and turtle protection goals. It is very important to her “to inspire others to help turtles, especially the younger generation, so we know our efforts will carry on and the turtles and their habitat will be left in good hands.” , thinkturtle@yahoo.com, 647-606-9537

Denice Joins Board of Ontario Nature

The Quinte Field Naturalists came to be way back in 1949 and for as long as anyone can remember, (Terry Sprague took out a membership in 1966!) we have been under the umbrella of Ontario Nature, originally the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Ontario Nature (ON) is our voice in the province dedicated to protecting wild species and wild spaces. This Fall, I accepted a position on the ON board as Regional Director for Ontario East. I'm very proud to be associated with an organization carrying out the important work I am so passionate about.

My husband and I are such passionate believers in the work of Ontario Nature that we have put them in our Will.

The greater the number of people ON represents, the greater a force for Nature they, we, become! **One person** can and does make a difference. **One idea**, supported by many people can make a BIG difference!

There is a saying in government that change doesn't come from Ottawa, it comes to Ottawa – for good and for bad. We all need to be active and engaged to bring about the changes we want to see, to protect the Nature we love.



Dr. Erica Nol Honoured



The Ontario Field Ornithologists have announced that at their next convention in 2021 they will honour Erica Nol with the Distinguished Ornithologist Award. Dr. Nol spoke to QFN in March 2019 about the impacts of humans on birds in the settled landscapes of southern Ontario.

The announcement noted that ... “during her impressive career Erica has established long-term studies of shorebirds in the Arctic and forest birds in southern Canada.” She has authored or co-authored over 100 articles and book chapters and contributed shorebird species accounts to *The Birds of North America* and the breeding bird atlases of both Ontario and Virginia. In addition she has mentored 62 graduate students in ornithology. This is truly an impressive career.

QFN has played a minor role in Dr. Nol’s research as we contributed to the purchase of a device to track a whimbrel from its breeding grounds in the arctic to its winter home in South America.



This whimbrel appeared at Rondeau Provincial Park on Lake Erie last May. It’s not “our” whimbrel but it could be its twin. Photo by Blake Mann in iNaturalist.

No Public Access to Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory for the Fall Season

Adapted from an earlier news release by PEPtBO

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) stays closed to visitors during fall banding. After the pandemic forced the cancellation of all spring banding activity, PEPtBO began its migratory bird banding and monitoring program on August 15.

PEPtBO President Julie White welcomed the resumption of activity at Point Traverse.

“Given uncertainties and concerns around COVID-19, PEPtBO now has taken the decision to close the Observatory to visitors for the duration of migration monitoring. Access to the Observatory’s trails and facilities will remain off-limits to the public.

“We haven’t taken this step lightly. We do so recognizing we need to put the safety of our staff and volunteers first as we meet our obligations as a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.”

Given how many nature-lovers look forward to visiting the Observatory during this period of high activity when thousands of birds come through the South Shore IBA in the County on their way to warmer climates, PEPtBO is exploring ways in which virtual visitors can be kept up-to-date on species seen and banded at Point Traverse.

To find out how the closure of the Observatory to the public affects any events which had been scheduled to take place at or around the Observatory, contact the event organizers directly.

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

**A Night to Remember!
'Fly' with PEptBO to
Churchill, Manitoba AND to Kazakhstan!**

**The PEptBO Annual Fall Fundraiser moves to
the Mustang Drive-in and Online**

*an exclusive presentation from
uber birder Bruce Di Labio: "Churchill Manitoba—Point Pelee of the North,"
followed at the Mustang by
the award-winning documentary, "The Eagle Huntress."*

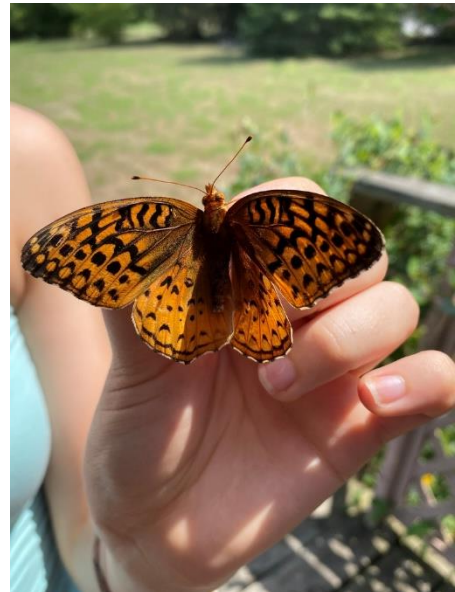
For more information and to reserve a place at these events follow this link:

<https://peptbo.ca/>

Trails and beaches, except for the banding station trails, remain open in the
National Wildlife Area..



***Two lepidoptera
from PEC in
iNaturalist. Painted
Lichen Moth (left by
Mila OO7, July22,
2020). Great
Spangled Fritillery
(right by Marc
Johnson, Aug. 1,
2020)***





PEPTBO Coffee

Peptbo Coffee is available at The Green Root at Rossmore and Kathy Felkar is more than willing to meet up with anyone to sell them some coffee! Kathy can do e-transfer, cash or cheque. The coffee is \$18 this year due to ongoing strife in Nicaragua but it is one of the few fundraisers they can continue doing during these uncertain times. kfelkar@xplornet.ca or 613-476-9757.

The Quinte Field Naturalists Association, an affiliate of Ontario Nature, is a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research. It was founded in 1949 and incorporated in 1990 and encompasses the counties of Hastings and Prince Edward. The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is legally entitled to hold real estate and accept benefits.

Quinte Field Naturalists meet on the fourth Monday of every month from September to March (except December), 7:00 pm, Sills Auditorium, Bridge Street United Church, 60 Bridge Street East, Belleville. In April we hold our annual dinner at an alternate time and location.

New members and guests are always welcome.

Bring a friend.

President George Thomson 613-478-3205	Past President Wendy Turner	Vice-President
Recording Secretary	Corresponding Secretary Elizabeth Churcher 613-478-3205	
Treasurer Mike Shaw 613-967-1055	Publicity/Environmental Officer Denice Wilkins 613-478-5070	Membership Nancy Stevenson 613-779-9407
Newsletter John Blaney 613-962-9337	Outings John Lowry 613-962-5232	Social Convener Sharron Blaney 613-962-9337

Next Newsletter Deadline – September 15, 2020