

# QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS

Bridge Street United Church, Belleville

Meeting Minutes, March 28, 2016

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1. Welcome: George Thomson, Pres.

George welcomed new members and guests and thanked them for coming.

George noted that QFN is missing Katharine Mills, a beloved QFN member since 1954, who passed away recently; a memorial service will occur in May or June, date to be announced. We are thinking of her tonight. Ontario Nature magazine's spring issue is right on target with good articles on the spring black bear hunt, woodland caribou and endangered species. (Website: [www.onnaturemagazine.com](http://www.onnaturemagazine.com))

George clarified that treats are provided free after the meeting; the suggested \$2.00 donation covers the cost of bird-friendly coffee supplied by Kathy Felkar and Mike Burge.

Please note Annual Dinner tickets are available, **only until April 11<sup>th</sup>**, at \$28 per person  
Dinner at 6 pm, Monday, April 25, 2016 at St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton

2. Kathy Felkar, PEPtBO Introduced by George Thomson

Thanked everyone for supporting PEPtBO by buying bird-friendly coffee. (several varieties here for sale tonight and at most meetings) PEPtBO is the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, a non-profit, self-funding (through donations and memberships), volunteer-based charitable organization. Kathy reports that birding is actually more popular than golf! The Spring Birding Festival runs from May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. The May 15 "Bird 'Til You Drop" outing will feature whip-poor-wills, chimney swifts and saw-whet owls. Banding will take place from April 13 to the end of May, six hours per day, starting at dawn. (For details on events see [www.peptbo.ca](http://www.peptbo.ca))

3. Financial Report: Doug Newfield, Treasurer

Current Bank Balance of \$6,237.97.

4. Environmental/Ontario Nature/Marketing: Denice Wilkins

Welcomed everyone. Denice has set up examples of projects for viewing: protection for turtle eggs hatching, and window treatments to deter birds from contact/injury. She described the speaker for the QFN Annual Dinner, Steve Burrows, as a birder "extraordinaire", who will relate how he determined to write the Birder Murder Mystery novels as a way to attract interest in birding. It will be a great dinner with delicious chicken and vegetarian dishes and the \$28 cost helps support QFN – hope to see you there! Turtles soon will be out and about: bumper stickers, "I Brake for Turtles", are available for \$5.00. A shovel can be used to help lift turtles across the road – keep one in the car. George points out that more people are stopping to help. Ensure traffic safety first. Bernadette reports that the Toronto Zoo has information on safely moving turtles, <http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/turtleresources.asp?opx=6>

5. Sightings

A few of the many sightings reported were: Tony - peregrine falcon chasing pigeons; Bernadette – cedar waxwing at Presqu'ile; Susan – woodcocks and spring peeper; John – sandhill crane, and mergansers - 8 males and 4 females vying for the wood duck nesting box (which he recommends installing if you live on the water); Elizabeth – pair of hooded mergansers; George – 4 turkey vultures on roof of their old shed, one swooped inside as the others hung down trying to peer in; and Denice – two pairs of kestrels. Bernadette notes that Ontario Nature offers the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas app for reporting sightings.

(<http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/species/app.php>)

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6. Our own George Thomson and Elizabeth Churcher, who regularly submit articles to the Tweed News, will offer a presentation at the Tweed Library, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
  7. Correspondence: Elizabeth Churcher  
At the request of Cheryl Anderson, Elizabeth has written a letter requesting that land clearing cease at the White Pines Wind Turbine Project located on the southern shore of Prince Edward County, while the appeal is ongoing. Please direct your letters of support to [cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca](mailto:cherylanderson23@sympatico.ca) ; she will forward them to the appropriate official.
  8. Speaker: Allie Anderson, Avian Biologist. Introduced by Elizabeth Churcher.  
Allie, with a master's degree from Boise State University and currently a PhD student in Environment and Life Sciences at Trent University, has extensively studied, and loves, the "feisty, determined and beautiful" American Kestrel, the smallest falcon. Allie shared with us her fascinating research into their declining populations, habits and habitats, and migration patterns. Allie suggests ways to help:  
American Kestrel Partnership <https://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/>  
Christmas Bird Count, CBC, <http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cbc/> ; and [www.ebird.ca](http://www.ebird.ca)  
Breeding Bird Surveys, BBS, <http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/bbs/>  
Donate to university or non-profit research  
Allie may be contacted at [aande763@gmail.com](mailto:aande763@gmail.com) if you have further questions.
- Thanked by George Thomson: George thanked Allie for such an informative and interesting presentation and remarked that her evident passion for the kestrels, and seeing young people in field biology trying to conserve what's left, give him hope for the future.
9. Refreshments: Thanks to Kathy Felkar, Lori and Doug Newfield
  10. Adjournment: George Thomson, President

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Addendum re Item #2: During the summer months when there are no QFN meetings, coffee is available for sale at Prince Edward Point. Also, if you have questions re PEPTBO events you may reach Kathy at 613-476-9757.

Addendum re Outings: from John Blaney. "**Sunday, April 17 – Meet in the parking lot of the Quinte Conservation office at 7:30.** We'll be listening, walking and driving so wear boots and bring a light."

Addendum re attendance tonight: 75

Addendum re Errors: Please let me know if you find any!