

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS
Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON
March 27th, 2017

1. Welcome: George Thomson, President

Please remember to sign in at back table: red clipboard for members, blue for non-members.

a) Treats this evening are provided by Kathy Felkar and Sharron Blaney.

b) Pamela Stagg: recently spoke with a Sable Island historian/scientist. This interesting interview will be aired Wednesday March 29 and Wednesday April 5 at 12:40 and 6:40 p.m. on 99.3 County FM radio.

c) Kathy Felkar: The Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, about 70 minutes' drive from Belleville, has been operating for 21 years. All are welcome to participate in the Spring Birding Festival May 13-22. From 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m. each day, knowledgeable volunteers will be conducting hikes to observe the many species of birds. From sunrise until about noon, banding of birds takes place, weather permitting. On May 21st there will be an opportunity for 12 people to join a bus tour of beautiful Prince Edward County birding areas; homemade snacks and a gourmet lunch are included at a cost of \$100 per person. Choose May 21st for your birdcount and the Gosling Foundation will contribute \$50 per species identified; prizes are also given for the most species identified. The Great Canadian Birdathon is held during the entire month of May. (For details on these events: <http://peptbo.ca/sbf-2017.php>)

Kathy and Mike are selling bird-friendly coffee this evening.

d) Dick Bird, Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust (hpelt.org)

Still awaiting a decision on the White Pines Wind Project. Science is in favour of no wind turbines so we are still hoping to win this battle.

e) Peter Fuller: All are welcome to participate in BIOBLITZ 2017 at the Miller Nature Reserve June 10/11 where specialist guides will help participants to record all the living species in a specific area. Open to the public. We will also be building bluebird nesting boxes. (for additional information, check <http://peptbo.ca/bioblitz-2017.php>)

f) George: a lovely scarf was found here after the last meeting. If it's yours, please let us know.

2. Financial: Doug Newfield, Treasurer

Bank balance is \$8453.16 but there is \$1300.00 in outstanding cheques to be deducted from that. Please note that Annual Dinner tickets are still available. **Deadline** for purchase is **April 10th**. (contact: cedarhaven@sympatico.ca)

3. Environmental/Ontario Nature/Marketing: Denice Wilkins

- \$300 from profits on sale of turtle ICUs (Turtle Incubation Care Units) was given to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre to help cover cost of special antibiotic to prevent infection of injured turtles.
- The Robert Argue Scholarship Award, through Quinte Waste Solutions, encouraging environmental activism and innovation, is available to one individual student. Deadline May 5, 2017. <http://quinterecycling.org/about/scholarships/>
- "I Brake for Turtles" car window stickers are available for sale. These help to raise awareness of the need to protect turtles.

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS
Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON
March 27th, 2017

- Ewa Bednarczuk, of Lower Trent Conservation Authority, is selling rain barrels as a fundraiser for that organisation. (details: <http://www.ltc.on.ca/events/se/>)
- Our annual dinner speaker in April is Robert Alvo, a conservation biologist and author of "Being a Bird in North America".
- Welcome to all newcomers. Please provide your email address if you wish to receive notifications of future events and speakers.

4. Outings: John Blaney

May 6th: a visit to Cliff Maclean's 168-acre farm bordering the Moira River, located south of Roslin, 15 minutes north of the 401 is planned. Hiking is challenging but doable (two eighty-year-old women have managed it) and includes a drumlin at the beginning and end of the hike. Start time 10 a.m. Bring lunch. Confirmation and details to follow. Let us know if you plan to come.

QFN needs some volunteer trip leaders. Ability to identify species of any kind is *not* required; familiarity with the trail and the ability to avoid getting lost, however, *is* required. There will be participants with knowledge of nature. Please let us know if you are willing to help.

5. Sightings

Sightings include: 3 meadowlarks, osprey, 1000 snow geese, 3 hooded mergansers, great blue heron, first pair of bluebirds, a killdeer, 127 wild turkeys plus a tom with harem of 13, a great gray owl, 13 hooded mergansers, a greater scaup, and a blonde grey squirrel. Also, seen by a relative in southern Ontario: a half-dozen young fawns, one of which was white with brown spots.

6. Speaker: Stuart Mackenzie, Manager of Motus Program and Long Point Bird Observatory, presenting the Motus Wildlife Tracking System. Introduced by Sharron Blaney: We are fortunate to have as our guest speaker this evening the very accomplished birder, Stuart Mackenzie, who has come all the way from Port Rowan on Lake Erie. Stu is involved with many birding organisations and is a Master of Big Day Birdathon. (see www.motus.org)

7. Refreshments: provided this evening by Kathy Felkar and Sharron Blaney. For a \$2 donation you may enjoy all the bird-friendly coffee and treats you wish. Proceeds go to PEPTBO.

8. Adjournment – George Thomson
Thank you all for coming.

Attendance: 68