

QUINTE FIELD NATURALISTS

Bridge Street United Church, Belleville, ON

September 25, 2017

1. Welcome: George Thomson, President

- a) Welcome to the first meeting of our 2017/2018 season.
- b) A new Membership Co-ordinator will be needed, as Karina, who has done an admirable job, will be vacating the position as of January 2018. This entails looking after membership lists and tracking dues payable and received. Please let us know if you are interested in this post.
- c) Thanks to Sharron Blaney for providing treats this evening. Please donate \$2.00 for bird-friendly coffee and goodies.

2. Peter Fuller – Announcements from Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory

Greetings from PEPTBO. For information, please note our poster at the coffee table after the meeting. There will be a field trip/guided walk at the harbour of our facility on Saturday, October 7th and Monday, October 9th from 9-11 a.m. An owl banding demonstration will take place October 7th from 8-9:30 p.m. General banding will go on through the month of October, mornings are best for visits. The excellent speaker at our annual fall dinner will be Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, Canada Research Chair in Ecology and Conservation Biology at York University. She was also involved with the film, “The Messenger”. For details on these events please refer to the poster or our website www.peptbo.ca

3. Kathy Felkar

Dr. Bridget Stutchbury is my hero because she stresses the importance of bird-friendly coffee and the need to change how we live and eat. The price of our coffee has risen to \$17 a pound; this is actually a bargain when compared to others at over \$20 for ¾ of a pound. To purchase this coffee please see me after the meeting.

4. Sharron Blaney, Social Convener

We need two volunteers per meeting to provide lunch/treats: cheese and crackers, fruit, goodies, or other finger food. If you wish to volunteer, please sign the list being passed around this evening. Provide your name and e-mail address and I will send you a reminder before the meeting. Thank you.

5. Financial Report – Doug Newfield, Treasurer

Bank balance stands at \$6576.62

6. Outings – John Blaney

George thanked John for the new section of the newsletter describing short walks in the area. John asked for a volunteer to take over the position of Outings Co-ordinator; John will be glad to provide assistance during the transition.

Hike coming up on Saturday October 7th, 1-4 p.m. at Sheffield Conservation Area guided by Ted Pordham who is very familiar with the trail.

Information may be found in the September newsletter or at the following websites:

http://quinteconservation.ca/site/images/stories/conservation_areas/docs/sheffield.pdf and

<https://ontarioconservationareas.ca/component/mtree/conservation-authorities-of-ontario/quinte/sheffield-conservation-area?Itemid=>

Ted explained that the trail is rugged and rigorous, involving some climbs over uneven terrain. The fantastic lookouts and scenery make it worthwhile. Wear long pants, hiking boots, bring water and a snack. Meet at Lowe’s at noon for car-pooling or at Sheffield at 1 p.m. The location is 10-11 kms south of Kaladar, just west of Hwy #41. Watch carefully for signage. A reminder email will be sent.

Contact John Blaney at sharronjohnblaney@gmail.com if you plan to go. If you would rather not tackle the hike, John and others may be exploring the area near the parking lot.

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7. Environmental/Marketing – Denice Wilkins

Thanks for coming out this evening. Many new folks here tonight - you are welcome to join. Please provide e-mail address if you wish to receive newsletter and notification of events, and let us know how you heard about QFN. Buying a QFN membership now will carry you through until January of 2019. We need help in distributing brochures to public places to spread the word about QFN. Please let us know if you are able to do this.

Our October speaker, David Bree, will feature “Moths in Your Backyard”, more beautiful and interesting than you may have imagined.

Our Bird-Saver project undertaken by volunteers at the Quinte Conservation Office is complete. Thanks to all who participated. This involved the application of dots and “zen window curtains” on the windows of this facility to prevent birds seeing reflections of nature and flying into the glass, often fatally. These applications have a 90-95% success rate. We may be doing some windows at the H.R. Frink Centre as well. Please Google “FLAP” (Fatal Light Awareness Program) www.flap.org for more information.

George thanked Denice for the tremendous amount of work she has done over the past year.

8. Sightings

- Piece of cream-coloured fungus with tentacles that looked like coral
- Although this is usually peak migration period, it's just not happening because of the heat; a wave of cooler weather might bring larger numbers
- A thrilling sighting of 200 night-hawks flying over Moira Lake
- Monarch butterflies have been sighted in many locations – a good sign; swamp milkweed plantings helping with this. Also painted ladies, viceroys and more.
- Sharp-shinned hawks
- Water snake bothered by puppy bit its nose
- Two hummingbird moths seen north of Marmora last year
- Blue jays heard imitating hawks

9. Speaker – Tom Wheatley

Introduced by Sharron Blaney: From Foxboro, our very own QFN member and excellent birder – currently the top e-birder in Hastings County with a count of 200 species. Tom has travelled and “bird-watched” extensively - while trekking in Nepal, for example, he identified 500 species. This evening he presents “Around the Orient in 80 Birds”.

Thanked by Denice Wilkins: Thanks for a wonderful presentation taking us to places and species we would never otherwise see. Your observations on palm oil encourage and inspire us to make a difference by helping to eliminate it.

10. Refreshments - \$2.00 donation for bird-friendly coffee.

11. Adjournment – George Thomson

Attendance: 75