

# ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB MINUTES

## Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr., OMAH.

1. Denis Paccagnella welcomed the group to the first monthly meeting of the New Year. There were 11 visitors, some of whom are planning to join the club.
2. Sightings
  - Fern Splichal reported on the annual Christmas bird count. She will be reporting to Audubon, but there were 9 teams, 44 people, 56 species, 5,244 birds. There were new highs of red and white breasted nuthatches and northern cardinals. The new species were: Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Shoveler, and Turkey Vulture. See the appended Species List for 2018.
  - A Snowy Owl has been seen hanging out for 2 weeks on Queen Street, between Front and West; someone reported seeing 24 blue jays, 40 Evening Grosbeaks, 32 Mourning Doves, and 81 Wild Turkeys; 24 House Finches; 2 Common Redpolls; Washago sighting – Wood Duck, Barred Owls, Snowy owls, Woodpeckers++ and Bald Eagle; another sighting of Bald Eagle; an otter at the Ron Reid Conservation Area.
3. Denis moved the acceptance of the Minutes of the meeting of Nov. 7, Seconded by Marilyn Clark, Carried.
4. There was no correspondence.
5. Reports:
  - Treasurer. Donald Macdonald reported that the Club's Charitable Return had been assessed as submitted. He also reported that the Club will be solvent at least until the next membership annual rollover in August.
  - Ontario Nature. Sue Deadman reported on the concerns on the political front – see attached; also, as the Reptile & Amphibian Atlas App has been hacked, users are asked to reset their passwords; the Ontario Nature AGM will be in Hamilton from May 31 – June 2 at Mohawk College, to be held in conjunction with the Hamilton Field Naturalists' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On January 8 the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition has an event planned re Bill 66 at the Midhurst Community Centre (this will be posted on our Facebook Page).
  - Program. Marilyn Clark reported that the next meeting of the Orillia Naturalists will be Feb. 6, when Dr. Tom Edge will present on Assessing Water Quality using DNA Sequencing. On Saturday, Feb. 23, Leanore Wiancko will lead an exploration on snowshoes to the East Coulson Swamp Nature Reserve. On March 6, there will be a new meeting format – Quiz Night – members will be assigned to teams, to test their knowledge of flora.
  - Archives – Kevin reminds us to send him interesting photos.
  - Conservation – Pat Woodford reported that she has recently written to Premier Ford regarding the cancellation of the Environmental Commissioner Office, and she will soon write to the Premier regarding Bill 66. Also there was a questionnaire sent to a neighbouring MPP which Pat will re-word for our location and send to Ms. Dunlop (local MPP).
  - Social – Warren reported that he had banana bread, muffins (made with left over cranberry sauce!) and other delights for the break.
  - Publicity – nil to report.
  - Membership – as of yesterday, there are 31 families, and 26 individuals.
6. New Business – none

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 – to recommence with the speaker.
8. Dr. Phil Careless presented on parasitic invertebrates. He was introduced by Tanya Clark, and thanked by Ann-Marie Kungl.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists Club.

Att. (2)

## Species list for 2018

species	Total	High		
✓ Greater White-fronted Goose	1		Brown Creeper	6 6>18
Canada Goose	531	801>01	Northern Cardinal	47 47>18
Trumpeter Swan	8	48>08	American Robin	1 184>98
American Black Duck	12	68> 98	European Starling	248 2006>98
Mallard	480	1200> 98	Bohemian Waxwing	1 2158>99
✓ Shoveler <i>northern</i>	1		Snow Bunting	175 2200>92
Bufflehead	3	86 > 01	American Tree Sparrow	16 228>88
Common Goldeneye	245	907>98	Dark-eyed Junco - Slate	56 104>02
Common Merganser	35	1850>87	White-crowned Sparrow	1 1>85
Ruffed Grouse	2	30> 88	White-throated Sparrow	2 9>83
Wild Turkey	86	466>04	Song Sparrow	2 2>18
Great Blue Heron	3	7>06	Pine Grosbeak	4 241>85
Turkey Vulture	1		House Finch	9 300>91
Cooper's Hawk	1	3>02	Evening Grosbeak	36 489>87
Bald Eagle	2	3>01	Common Redpoll	3 1411>97
Red-tailed Hawk	8	30> 94	Pine Siskin	1 236>05
Ring-billed Gull	2	221>01	American Goldfinch	108 559>96
Herring Gull	870	1652>86	House Sparrow	87 472>87
Iceland Gull	2	3>04		
Glaucous Gull	7	30> 85		
Great Black-backed gull	26	118>01		
Rock Pigeon	594	750>99		
Mourning Dove	344	694>99		
Snowy Owl	1	1>01		
Barred Owl	5	2>05		
Belted Kingfisher	2	3>88		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	10>18		
Downy Woodpecker	50	53>99		
Hairy Woodpecker	40	50>88		
Pileated Woodpecker	4	10>99		
American Kestrel	1	9>88		
Northern Shrike	3	13>94		
Blue Jay	190	397>88		
American Crow	44	741>99		
Black-capped Chickadee	710	990>88		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	25	25>18		
White-breasted Nuthatch	95	95>18		

TOTAL SPECIES

55

TOTAL BIRDS

5244

+ 1 RAVEN

c.w.

Group 9  
(Bob & SHARON'S)

= Reptile & Amphibian Atlas App - hacked  
- users asked to reset password

- Gov't of Ontario announced plans <sup>in Nov</sup> to eliminate  
the office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ont.

- Back in court in Nov. to stop the ~~the~~ after the federal  
gov't and the pesticide companies appealed an  
earlier ruling that favoured ON.

This was in regard to the unlawful registration  
of Clothianidin & Thiamethoxam

No decision as yet

- Bill The Introduction of Bill 66, ~~to~~ by the  
Gov't of Ontario to facilitate development across  
Ont. If passed, this legislation would trump  
critical environmental protections for land, water  
& wildlife

- AGM - Hamilton May 31 - June 2  
Mohawk College  
Hamilton F. N. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.