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Macnamara
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Promoting the appreciation, understanding, and preservation of nature in the Ottawa Valley since 1984

December 2025 Bulletin

🪿 DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING 🪿

Meeting the American Kestrel with John Reaume

Date: Wednesday December 3 @ 7 p.m.
Location: Arnprior Curling Club, 5 Galvin St., Arnprior
Who: Members of MFNC, non-members may attend and make a $5 donation to the club.

Description: For the past 6 years we have had the pleasure of watching a pair of American Kestrels nest and raise their young in a Kestrel/Screech Owl box mounted on our workshop and visible from our back porch. This photo essay will explore and review the life history of the Kestrel with intimate views of their nesting behaviour, thanks to an "in-the-box" camera as well as images captured from photo blinds. We will see the differing behaviours of the male and female parents as well as what the avian neighbours think of having a pair of nesting kestrels in their territories!

Speaker Bio: John has an eye for detail and has used it in his hobby of wildlife photography these past 37 years. He started off specializing in bird photography but his interests have broadened and now include the wonders from the world of macrophotography (dragonflies and spiders) to astrophotography (sun and moon to far off nebulas). His photos have graced the covers of a number of magazines and books including Ontario's second Breeding Bird Atlas. John lives in Grey County and is an active member of the Saugeen Field Naturalists. John is a practicing rural physician in the town of Mount Forest.

If you can't make it in person you can join us via Zoom by clicking this link: https://zoom.us/j/4908487254.

➡️ **We are always looking for help with the club. If you're willing to help, a little or a lot, from near or from far, we'd love to hear from you! Respond to this email letting us know how you'd like to help.**

✨ MEMBERS' NIGHT - JANUARY 7 ✨

Call for Presenters: Share Your Passion for Nature!

Are you passionate about nature and eager to share your knowledge with others?

We invite you to present a short, 5-minute talk at our next Members' Night happening on January 7, 2026! Whether it's interesting animal behavior, a fascinating plant species, a recent field experience, or a conservation issue close to your heart – your insights can inspire and educate fellow nature enthusiasts!

Presentations are brief and informal, designed to spark curiosity and conversation. No experience needed – just bring your enthusiasm and love for the natural world!

Interested? Respond to this email with your name and your topic. Hurry, because spots are limited!

Let's celebrate the wonders of nature together! 🌿🦋🌳

FUTURE MEETINGS

January 7 - Members' Night
February 4 - Michael's Quiz Night
March 4 - Dr. Paula Piilonen, Minerals
April 1 - Grant Dobson, Connaught Nursery

Monthly meetings are always on the first Wednesday of the month (except for July and August) at the Arnprior Curling Club.

🦆🦅 DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS 🦆🦅

It's Christmas Bird Count Season!

Pre-Christmas Bird Count

When: Monday, December 8, 2024, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Where: Usual meeting spot

Join Michael Runtz for a half-day outing to survey birds in the Arnprior and Pakenham area. Dress warmly and bring binoculars. Look out for an email from MFNC Field Trips for more information.

Pakenham-Arnprior Christmas Bird Count

When: Friday, December 26, 2024, all day
Where: Pakenham-Arnprior area

Charles Macnamara started the Arnprior CBC in 1913, and in 1925 Edna Ross initiated the Pakenham CBC. Today, those historic counts continue under the banner of the Pakenham-Arnprior CBC.

On Boxing Day, participants will cover an assigned part of the approximately 24km-diameter circle that is covered by the count. Feeder watchers in the count area are also welcome. Basic bird identification skills are required. A pot-luck dinner/compilation takes place afterwards (all details will be provided to registered participants). Please contact Michael Runtz (613-720-2503, or michaelwruntz@gmail.com) to register or for more information!

🌿MACNAMARA NATURE TRAIL UPDATES🌿

✅ The trail has been cleared of downed trees and branches by our fantastic group of volunteers!

⚠️ As usual, use caution while walking the trail as fallen leaves and snow can cover some hazards and make things slippery.

We hope you can get out and enjoy the trail! If you see anything interesting, don't forget to submit your sighting using the button below. 🦊

📸 SIGHTINGS 📸

If you'd like to submit a sighting, please click on the button below, it will bring you to a form where you can enter your sighting and include a photo.

Submit Sighting Here!

✅ Do you use iNaturalist? Any observation within 30km of Arnprior will automatically link to the club.
✅ Do you use eBird? Share any checklist completed within 30km of Arnprior with **mfncbirds** and we will automatically get your sightings!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Every membership counts! Memberships are due January 1.

✨As a member you have special access to presentations and field trips by experts in a wide range of natural history topics and for a great price! ✨

COST
Individual: $25
Family: $30

Renew your membership by clicking on the button below.

Renew Your Membership

Not sure if your membership is current? Check with Roger at memberships@mfnc.ca

Prefer to pay by cheque? Download this form, fill it out, and mail it in to Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club P.O. Box 391 Arnprior, ON K7S 3L9

✨ Welcome to New Members! ✨

- Anne G.
- Larisa W.
- Shaun P.
- Ben P.
- Jonathan P.
- Hannah P.
- Cheryl R.

Check out our website and social media pages!

Noteworthy Dates in December

- **December 4** - Wildlife Conservation Day
- **December 5** - World Soil Day

We would like to wish all of our members a very happy holiday season. We hope you are able to relax and recharge with your loved ones, and get outside to enjoy all that nature has to offer!

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