



## NEWSLETTER

### SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

SLSN is an incorporated not-for-profit Member of Ontario Nature.

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([www.slsnc.ca](http://www.slsnc.ca))

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Research Partner with The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe ([www.zephyrsociety.ca](http://www.zephyrsociety.ca))

Member: Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Member: Ontario Greenbelt Alliance

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**Note: Please renew your membership to receive future Newsletters**

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## Sutton Christmas Bird Count December 28th

This year the official Sutton Count has opportunity of a few more Feeder Watchers. If you want to participate and are in the actual Count area (inquire to find out), please contact us to confirm your registration and details. If you have already contacted us thank you, and good bird watching on December 28th. The weather is changing this December to a more seasonal winter with frequent snow, a sign perhaps for northern winter birds to visit more. Yet, open rivers and much of the Lake remain open and southern moving species are still lingering for the count at this point. There should be great birding by the 28!

Paul and Debra Harpley

Phone 905-722-8021 (leave a message) or preferably via e-mail at

[paul@harpley.ca](mailto:paul@harpley.ca).

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# Outing Reports

## Wednesday October 30: SLSN Lake Simcoe Birding Report

The Annual Autumn waterfowl roundup, and lake migrants surveying outing. We also searched for lingering shorebirds, ducks, and uncommon gulls etc. At this time waterfowl are moving through South Lake Simcoe. This year with the forecast seasonally warm temperatures, a projected late migration, timing later in October should caught key migrants. Migration through our area can happen quickly for many species, so be prepared for rarities.

Black-capped chickadee	1	Starlings	50 plus
Common Loon	1	Boneparte gull	160 (est.Total)
Greater Yellowlegs Sandpiper	1	Black-capped Chickadee	7
Morning Dove			
D.C. Commorant	15		
Herring Gull	2		
Ring-billed gull	3		
Mallard Duck	29		
Common Raven	1		
Crow	8		
Canada Goose	50		

A feeding frenzy on minnows of 125 Boneparte's gulls at Jackson's Point was a highlight. Later I saw hundreds of Ring-billed gulls away from the Lake on wet farm fields foraging, I can report the observation of a Barred owl flying across a concession road between forest patches 2019-10-29 at 5:30 p.m. in north E. Gwillimbury 1 km. east of the North Union Community Centre. Also, of note, a reliable report of an adult Bald eagle on Smith Blvd. a kilometer east of Egypt 2019-11-01 at 2:30 p.m. is an early migrant record for us here in South Lake Simcoe.

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**Supplementary Birding Report submitted by SLSN member Irving Himel**

**Subject:** American Avocet, and other species.

Today Freda and I set out and managed to see the following along lake smile's south shore and the Holland Sewage Lagoon. We were met there by others.



AVOCET, AMERICAN in Ontario, Irving Himel



AVOCET, AMERICAN in Ontario, Irving Himel



AVOCET, AMERICAN in Ontario, Irving Himel

At the lagoon we got good looks and bad photos of 6 Avocet who were enjoying the delights of our recently decommissioned sewage lagoon there were some Mallards, Gadwall and a few Ring-billed gulls, but not much else We then poured Ravenshoe Rd and Bruce st with not much to talk about Morning dove, Crow. Gulls and a ride along the shore in south Keswick we saw Common Loon Bufflehead Scaup L or G? ruddy Ducks Canada Geese and at my cottage Cardinal Chickadee D. E. Junco Downy woodpecker Bonaparte gulls in a feeding frenzy by the hundreds

Blue Jay

Report data: Irving Himel



John Baxter SLSN member, took this shot of Tundra Swans at 1239h, November 20, 2019, Cooks Bay, off Rayners Rd. There were two groups of swans, swimming near but separate, each with 7 swans. Each grouping had a white (adult), and six grey (juvenile?).



Dec. 20, 2019

**LPAT designates Maple Lake Estates' wetlands and woodlands as "Environmental Protection Area"**

In a decision issued yesterday, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) has amended the Town of Georgina's Official Plan by designating the Maple Lake Estates' (MLE) wetlands and woodlands as an "Environmental Protection Area."

The new Environmental Protection Area designation applies to 92% of the 200 hectare MLE property, which is located in the North Gwillimbury Forest. The LPAT decision was made as a result of the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance's (NGFA) successful appeal of the Town of Georgina Official Plan, which had designated these ecologically sensitive lands as "Urban Residential."

The NGFA's appeal was opposed by the DG Group (owner of the MLE lands), the Town of Georgina and the Region of York.

The Town of Georgina is now legally obliged pursuant to Section 26(9) of the Planning Act to amend its MLE Zoning Bylaw to bring it into conformity with the Official Plan's new Environmental Protection Area designation. That means it must create a new MLE Zoning Bylaw that prohibits development on MLE's wetlands and woodlands.



In addition, the Town must now immediately pass an Interim Control Bylaw to prevent the DG Group from building a residential subdivision on the MLE's ecologically sensitive lands and allow the Town time to amend the Zoning Bylaw.

Please contact [Mayor Quirk](#) and [members of Council](#) and ask them to pass an Interim Control Bylaw now.

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Thanks to our lawyer, Leo Longo, our planning expert, Tony Usher, our board members, Jim Keenan, Erin Kemp, Mary Lovett, Dan Merrill, Mike Sanderson, Sandra Villiers and Linda Wells, and our [generous financial supporters](#) who made this victory possible.

[To read the LPAT's decision please click here.](#)

[Please share this message.](#)

Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

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**SLSN members Sheila Maxwell and Hugh Sibbald brought to the attention of members on the October 30<sup>th</sup> Lake Simcoe birding outing participants, a deplorable activity killing millions of birds in some Mediterranean counties. The petition information is below.**

2019-10-31

**[Change.org](#)**

## **Ban night time olive harvesting: it is killing millions of birds**



**Elli Rivers started this petition.**

Every year, millions of songbirds are brutally killed by suction olive harvesters as they rest at night in olive trees. In many regions, this industrialised slaughter takes place because harvesters have switched to nighttime harvesting simply to improve the flavour of the olives. This can not be allowed to continue.

The birds are dazzled by the intense lighting on the machinery and become unable to effectively escape from the path of the harvesters. If they do manage to fly away in time, they will often land in the next row of trees only to suffer the same fate as another harvester follows.

Scientists have confirmed that we are in the sixth mass extinction event, with the loss of an unprecedented number of species as a result of human activity. Many bird species are suffering



from huge declines, and this appalling practice must be urgently reviewed before the next winter harvesting season.

The petition will be delivered to European Commission representatives from the four main olive growing countries - Portugal, Spain, Greece and Italy - as well as the UK as this is where the petition originated. These representative sit on the Ornis Committee, and are responsible for ensuring the Birds Directive is followed in member states.

Sign Petition:<http://chnq.it/LwBjNWJzQ>

## Meetings and Outings

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**Meetings:** All Meetings start at 4:00 p.m. at the York Region Police Building Meeting Room (Baseline Road between McCowan and Civic Centre Road) unless noted otherwise. No July or August and January Meetings. Members events (insurance compliance).

York Regional Police, 3 District Community Meeting Room  
3527 Baseline Road, Georgina.



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**NOTE: Consistent with YRP recent procedures in place regarding meeting use of their Community Meeting Room (CMR), attendees of SLSN meetings must be current members of SLSN in good standing, and may be asked to provide further information, as requested.**

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