



Ottawa
**Field
Naturalists**



Club des
naturalistes
d'Ottawa

Wildlife Photography in Ottawa and Gatineau

D. Gordon E. Robertson

My Background



- Interested in nature from youth
- Initially photographed sports and filmed for research
- Retired and engaged in wildlife photography
- Joined FWG, then OFNC, and ODC
- Started giving wildlife tours and talks — added videography to enhance presentations

My Camera



- Hand held, rarely use tripod
- Natural lighting, occasionally use a flash
- Canon Powershot SX50 HS
 - wide-angle to 50x optical zoom (24–1200 mm)
 - close focussing to 0 cm (macro)
 - viewfinder (poor visually) and large LCD display with articulating screen (vari-angle)
 - HD video to 30 fps

OFNC's birding code of conduct. Applies to other wildlife.

- Always consider your impact on birds.
- Keep a good distance away and do not linger.
- If you note any signs of agitation from the bird, move away immediately.
- Do not announce the location of RARE breeding birds.
- Avoid flushing birds.
- Stay on established trails.
- Stay away from active nests.
- Do NOT collect specimens.

Some local wildlife locations

Gatineau
Park

Shirleys Bay
Crown Game
Preserve (open
to OFNC and
ODC members)

Petrie
Island Park

Britannia
Conservation
Area (Mud Lake)

Central Experimental
Farm & Fletcher
Wildlife Garden

Mer Bleue
Conservation
Area



Central Experimental Farm and vicinity

Agricultural Museum

Experimental Farm

Dow's Lake

Dominion Arboretum

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Vincent Massey Park

Hog's Back Park and falls



Arboretum (tree park)



Pine Grosbeak, male, eating seeds from crabapples



Fletcher Wildlife Garden off Prince of Wales opposite Agriculture Museum



Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Breeding birds



Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Migrating birds



Bohemian Waxwings, stop by to feed during winter migration.
Look for them around the fruit trees like crabapples.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Nest building or insect hunting



Note, call and drum are from a different Pileated Woodpecker. Downy and Hairy are always present.



Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Red Squirrel eating peanut



Grey and Red Squirrels present all year, check feeders and forests. Chipmunks and Groundhogs hibernate.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Backyard Garden



Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were a hit in summer, feeding on flowers such as Butterflybush, Phlox, and Dame's Rocket

Petrie Island Park

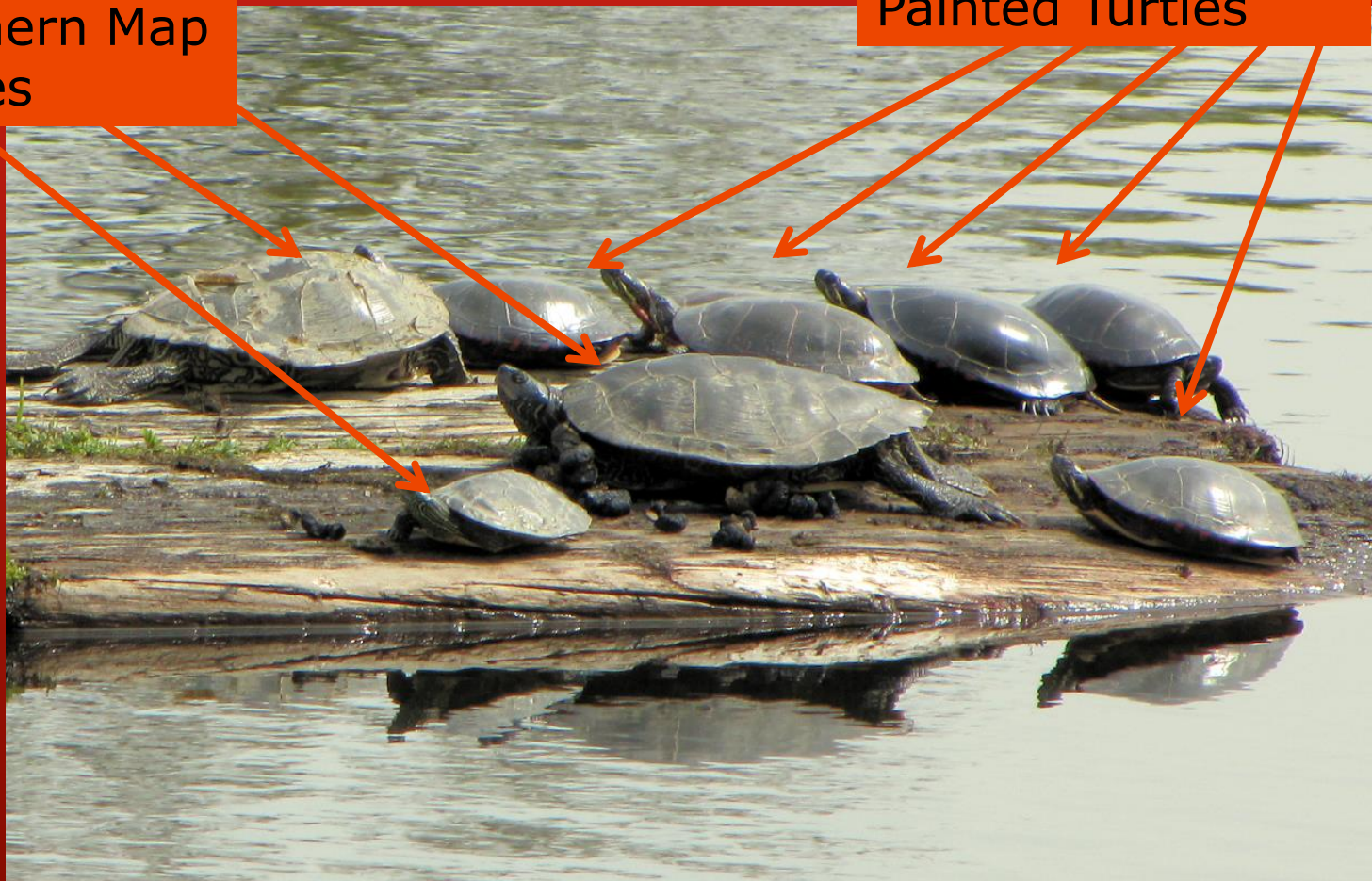


Includes 6 trails, 2 beaches for swimming, picnic tables. Excellent for mammals, turtles, birds, insects and wildflowers.

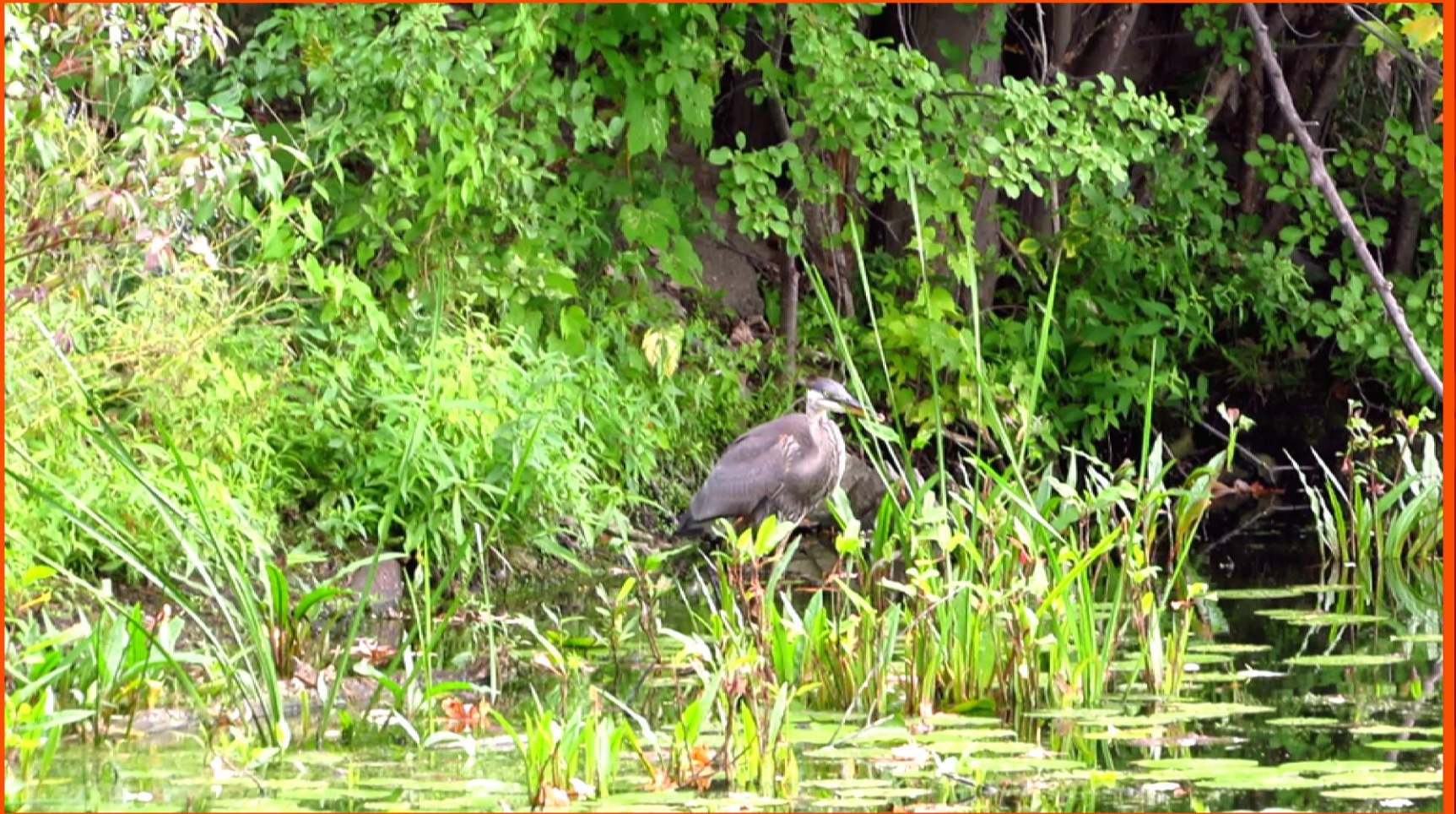
Petrie Island Park – Turtles

Northern Map
Turtles

Painted Turtles



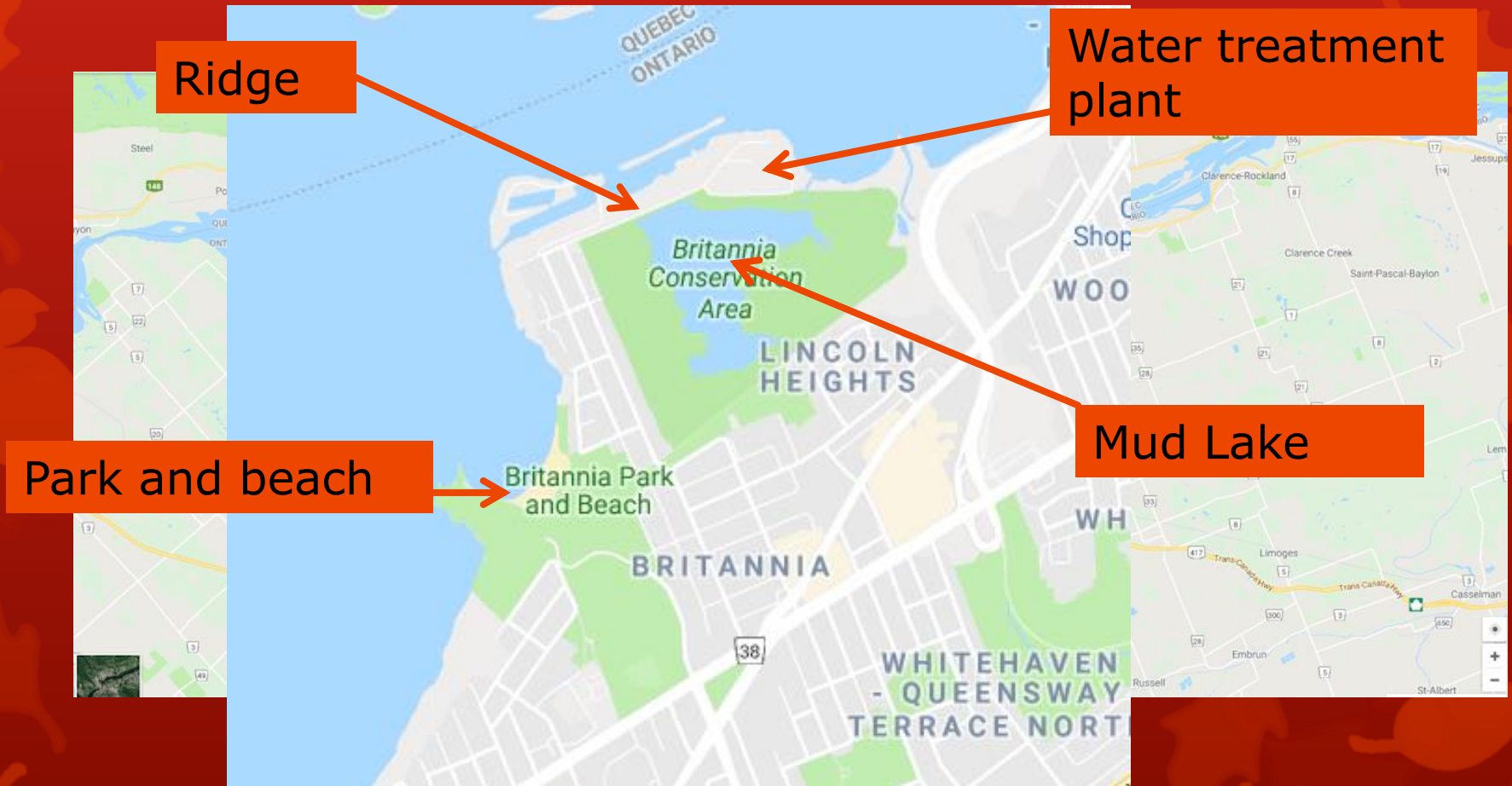
Great Blue Heron – eating a fish



What is this? A beaver?



Britannia Conservation Area, Park and Beach (Mud Lake)



Mud Lake – Snapping Turtles



Runner-up Prize at OFNC Awards Night 2019



Mud Lake – fauna



Black-crowned Night Heron



Muskrat



Painted & Blanding's



Wood Duck



Black-throated Green Warbler



Cottontail Rabbit

Mer Bleue Conservation Area, part of the Greenbelt – NCC

Prescott-Russell
Recreation Trail –
walking, biking,
horse riding

Dolman-Ridge Road
– walking, skiing,
snowshoeing

Dewberry Trail –
walking, skiing

P50/P51 –
walking and
ski trails

Bog Trail/P53 –
walking, skiing,
picnicking



Mer Bleue Conservation Area – Bog Trail



Mer Bleue Conservation Area – Bog Trail – carnivorous plants



Round-leaved
Sundew

Purple Pitcherplant



Common
Bladderwort

Three types of carnivorous plants.

Mer Bleue Conservation Area – Dewberry Trail



Great White Trillium

Red Trillium



Painted Trillium

Three types of trilliums on this trail. Used by skiers in winter.

Gatineau Park



Gatineau Park – Champlain Lookout



Gatineau Park – Cross-country trails and chalets



Barred Owl (Hoot Owl)



Gatineau Park – Pink Lake has rare three-spined stickleback fish



Gatineau Park – Beaver, in winter



Gatineau Park – butterflies



Great Spangled Fritillary



White Admiral



Compton Tortoiseshell



Red Admiral

Shirleys Bay Crown Game Preserve

Lac Deschênes
IBA

Innis Point Bird
Observatory
(bird banding)

South March
Highlands
Conservation
Forest

The "causeway"

boat launch and
picnic shelter

Hilda Road bird
feeders (winter)

Eagle's nest

Causeway restricted to OFNC members.
Ottawa Duck Club members may access whole area.

Shirleys Bay – way to causeway



Shirleys Bay – flora and fauna



Showy Lady's-slipper



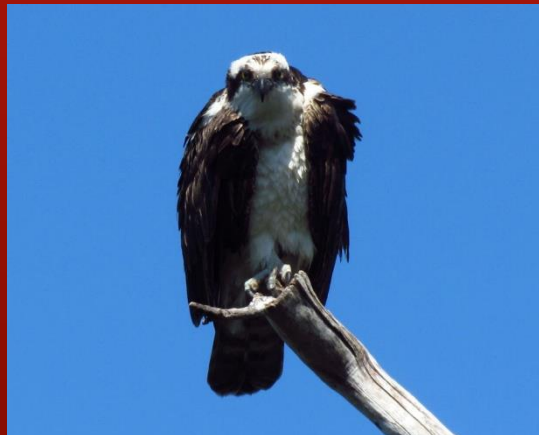
Wood Lily



Leopard Frog



Hooded Merganser



Osprey



Great Blue Heron & Great Egret

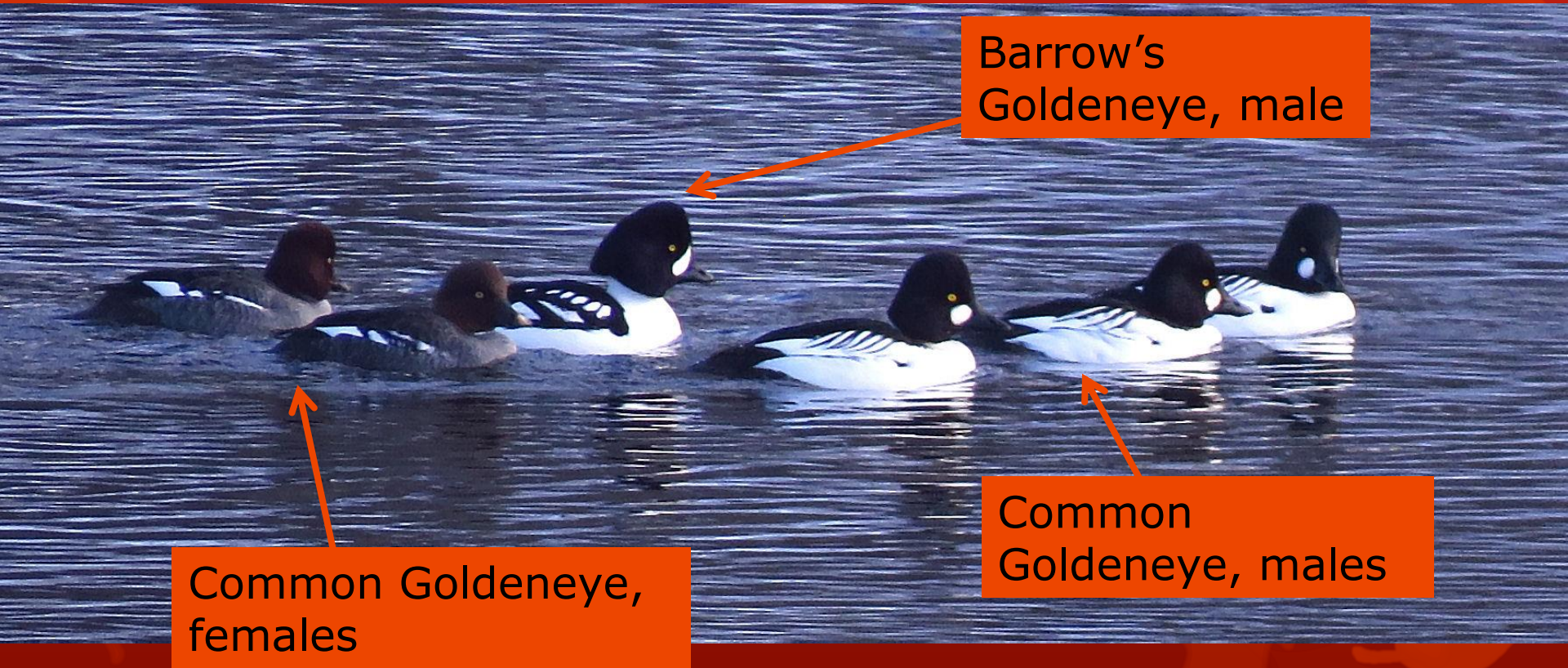
Concerns – Ticks & Lyme disease



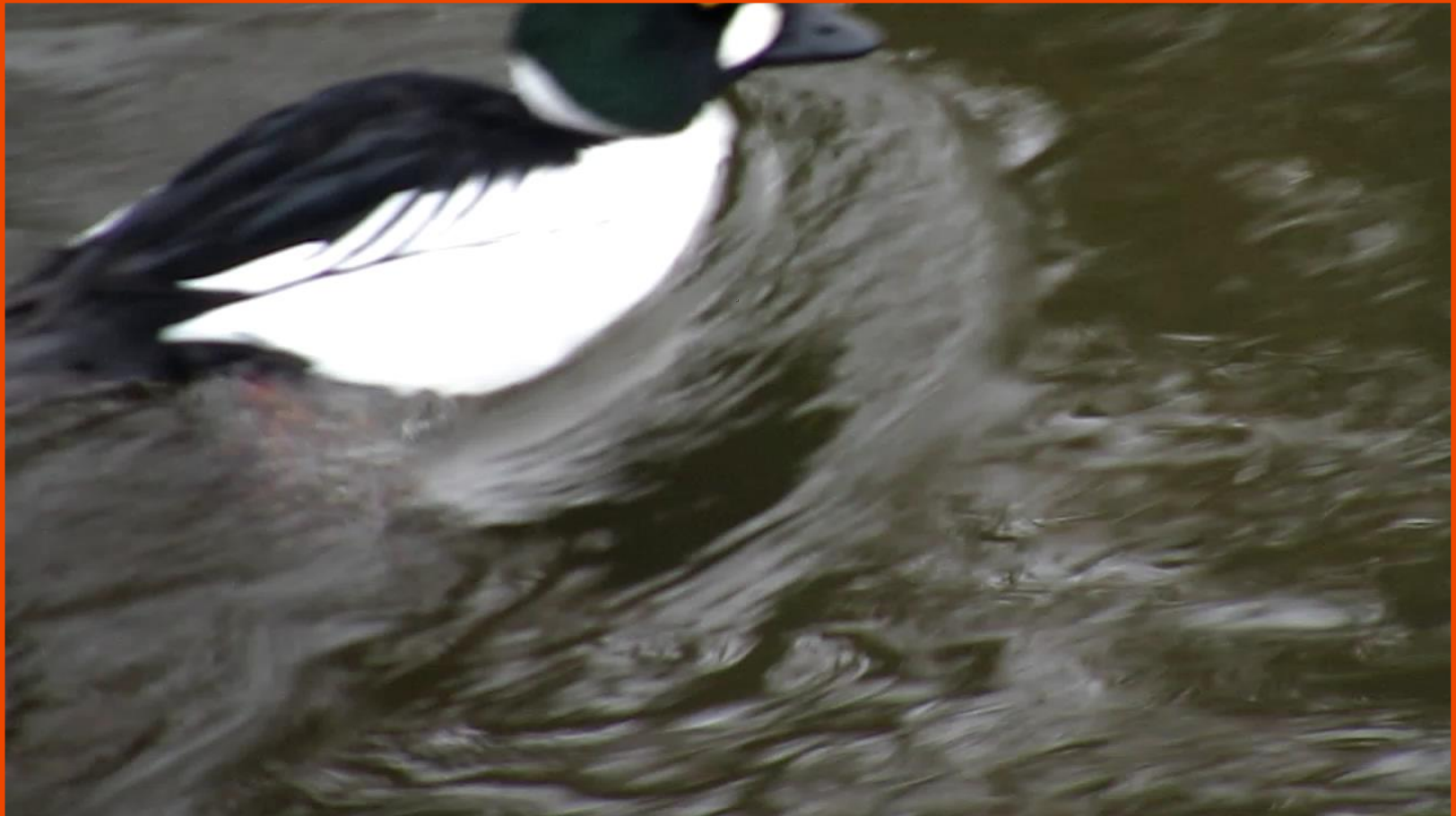
Concerns – Poison Ivy



Winter Sites – Adàwe Crossing over Rideau River



Winter Sites – Adawe Crossing over Rideau River



Winter Sites – Billings Bridge (1000 Mallards plus)



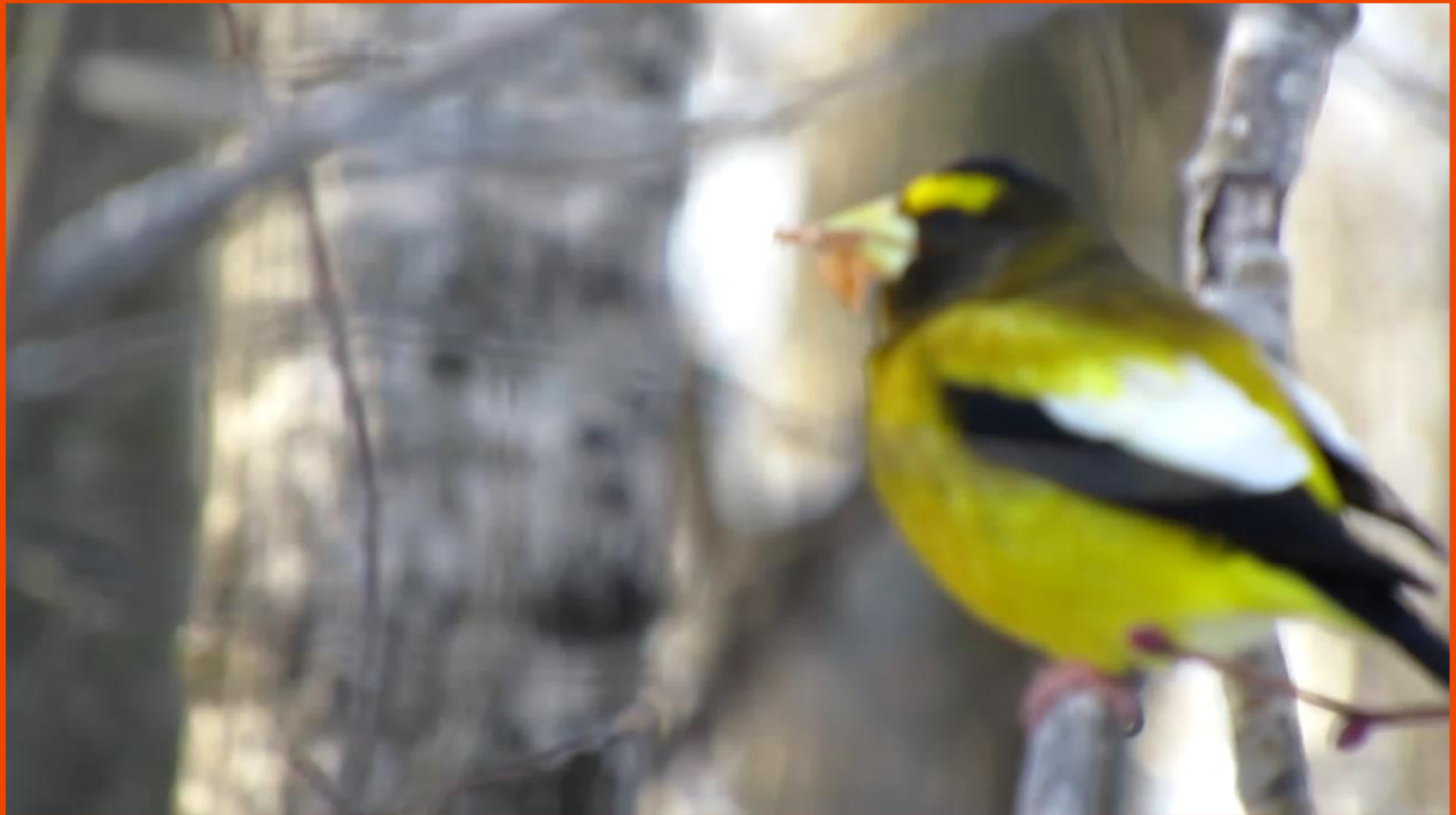
Winter Sites – Hilda Road feeders, Shirley's Bay



Winter Sites – Fletcher Wildlife Garden



Winter Sites – Dewberry Trail feeder, Mer Bleue



Clubs and Organizations

- Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (>150 years old!)
ofnc.ca
- Ottawa Duck Club (not a hunting club)
ottawaduckclub.com
- Friends of the Central Experimental Farm – flowers, trees
- Friends of Petrie Island
- Friends of Gatineau Park
- eBird – citizen science, birds
- iNaturalist – citizen science, all life

Questions?



Great Horned Owl at Fletcher Wildlife Garden