

OFO's COVID-19 Response

Dear birders and OFO members,

In accordance with medical recommendations, the OFO Board has decided to cancel OFO field trips up to and including the Algonquin Park field trip on April 19. We will refund all registration fees, but please bear with us as we work through the refund process, which may take some time. We'll be assessing further cancellations as the COVID-19 situation unfolds.

We all need to do our bit to flatten the curve and prevent transmission of COVID-19 to our communities. Happily, we can all practice social distancing and safe hygiene while birding. Please be especially careful while viewing rarities which can attract crowds. Please stay at least six feet apart and keep your visits short to avoid the build-up of larger numbers of viewers.

Luckily for us, birding is a great activity during this time. Getting outside in nature is good for our mental health! For me, even something as simple as sitting in my backyard listening to the local House Finch, House Sparrows, cardinals, and migrating robins (yes, I live in downtown Toronto) reminds me that life goes on and this pandemic will pass.

Don't forget to record your sightings in eBird and pass on any news of rarities or interesting sightings to your fellow birders via Ontbirds and other channels. We wish you, your families and friends well during these difficult times. Please stay safe and healthy.

Good Birding,

Lynne