

# Agenda

## TWO-EYED SEEING SHARING BIRD KNOWLEDGE SYMPOSIUM



 **January 22, 2025**       **Science North, Sudbury, ON**

 **9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Dinner & mingling to 7:30 pm**

✱ **8:30 – 9:00 – Arrival & Sign In** (Coffee/tea/refreshments available)

✱ **9:00 – 9:30 – Opening and Welcome**

✱ **Opening (TBD)**

✱ **Welcome by Larry McDermott and Russ Weeber**

*Larry McDermott*, Executive Director, Plenty Canada is Algonquin from Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation. Larry is currently a member of numerous organizations including the International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity, Ontario Biodiversity Council, and the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network. *Russ Weeber*, Environment and Climate Change Canada is the Co-Chair of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Indigenous Engagement Committee.

✱ **9:30 – 11:00 – Let's talk about Birds**

**Discussions moderated by Sharon Kimberley**

In this session you will have the opportunity to connect with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in relation to shared concerns about birds and nature. You are invited to share your knowledge and insights with whatever bird-related topics are most relevant and important to you. Suggested topics could include:

- How are birds relevant to Indigenous cultures, livelihood and life?
- What are you seeing with respect to changing bird populations?
- Do you have ongoing or planned bird monitoring programs and how are they going?
- Would you like to implement community and/or monitoring programs? What resources would you need?
- What kind of bird information do you think is needed, and why?

In the spirit of Two-Eyed Seeing, each discussion group will include Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants. Groups will assign a note taker and will be invited to share a summary of their discussion with the larger group.

*Sharon Kimberley* is the Indigenous Community Liaison with Plenty Canada. Sharon has been working on the Two-Eyed Seeing to Share Knowledge of Ontario's Breeding Birds project with First Nations and Indigenous organizations in Northern Ontario for the past two years.

✱ **11:00 – 11:15 – Break**

## ✱ 11:15 – 12:30 – Sharing Back Knowledge

### Discussions moderated by Sharon Kimberley

Representatives from each table will share back what was discussed. All participants will be encouraged to share feedback and thoughts. Expected outcomes of this activity are to create a forum of ideas, successes, challenges and concerns using Two-Eyed Seeing to better understand and manage bird populations. Notes will be collected, summarized and shared back to all participants.

## ✱ 12:30 – 1:30 – Lunch (Catered by Hiawatha's Restaurant & Marina)

## ✱ 1:30 – 2:15 – What is the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas and how can it be of service to you?

### Presented by Mike Burrell and Kaelyn Bumelis

Learn how the Atlas is bringing people together to collect data and report on the current state of distribution and abundance of Ontario's birds. A live demonstration will show how Atlas data can be extracted and mapped. Building on the morning's information sharing session, the presenters will lead discussion to hear suggestions on how Atlas information might be made to be useful to you and your community.

*Mike Burrell*, Environment and Climate Change Canada is the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator, member of the Birds Species Specialist Subcommittee for COSEWIC, and co-author of Best Places to Bird in Ontario. *Kaelyn Bumelis*, Birds Canada, is the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project Manager.

## ✱ 2:15 – 2:30 – Break

## ✱ 2:30 – 4:30 – Sharing Indigenous Knowledge

The Anishinaabe Aki project team (Joe Pitawanakwat, Andrés Jiménez Monge and Junaid Shahzad Khan) will outline the Anishinaabe Aki project, including the challenges and rewards of identifying bird names in Anishinaabemowin. Using the Anishinaabe Aki project as an example, the project team will lead discussion about how/what/whether to include Indigenous knowledge in the Atlas or other Western science projects. The expected outcome of this session will be to have a greater understanding of the benefits, issues and concerns with sharing Indigenous Knowledge.

*Joseph Pitawanakwat*, Founder & Director of Creators Garden, is the Leader of the Anishinaabe Aki project. *Andrés Jiménez Monge* is a biologist with the Anishinaabe Aki project and author of best-selling online course The Beginners Guide to Birdwatching: Finding Birds and Happiness. *Junaid Shahzad Khan* is an ecologist with the Anishinaabe Aki project.

## ✱ 4:30 – 5:00 – Sharing Circle and Closing

## ✱ 5:30 – 7:30 – Dinner (Catered by Hiawatha's Restaurant & Marina)