

Lazuli Bunting in Ottawa

Location and Directions

- The bird is visiting feeders located in the backyard of Denise and James Smith at 1265 Fellows Rd. in the Pinecrest Creek area. Viewing is only possible from the NCC property located behind the houses, and is not possible from Fellows Road, or inside the home of either Denise or her neighbour. To access the NCC pathway, from Parkway Dr. walk a mere 30 meters east along the south side of Iris Street, then head south along the western, wooded NCC pathway running parallel to the Bus Transitway. From this point, you'll walk approx 250 meters south, to just before the final house just beside the school grounds; the feeder set up stands out like a sore thumb so it would be very hard to miss. Denise's neighbour to the N (one house to your right) was previously fine with having birders stake out the NCC property behind his house, but has recently shown frustration toward visitors. The possible workaround here is that birders could station slightly south of Denise's yard, right near the schoolyard fenceline, and stand behind or beside the large trees there. However, this means that they'll have to pass the feeders to get stationed for their stakeout.

Nearby parking recommendations

- Parkway Drive (only Parkway Drive S, not N; N is now off limits), Cheshire Road, Gateway Road and/or Adirondack Drive. It is not recommended that you attempt to park along Iris Street during the winter (might actually not be able to, by By-Law, as well).

Considerations

- A quick note/reminder to access the area **ONLY** from Iris Street and not from the schoolyard grounds adjacent to Denise's property. Anyone accessing from anywhere other than Iris Street will be flushing all the birds from her feeders, as she's the corner lot. Worse still, I just heard the word that some birders accessed the area from the OC Transpo Transitway. A hefty fine awaits transgressors, and OC Transpo security will ramp up their presence in the general area if others decide to follow suit. The Pinecrest Creek corridor is an extremely busy transit thru-way, so please be advised that walking along the side of the transitway is not a good idea for many reasons. All easily avoidable. Please just simply follow the previously-described instructions for viewing the bird. Thank you.

Lazuli Bunting sighting times

- All sightings have been quite brief in duration, with the bird flying off (not necessarily flushed by any means) shortly after being spotted. Lately, the bird has been seen perched in nearby trees, vs. being seen foraging at the feeders.

Tuesday, January 29: 8:40 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:25 PM

Wednesday, January 30: 8:20 AM, 9:55 AM, 10:55 AM, 11:15 AM