



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

"Know ♦ Appreciate ♦ Conserve Nature In All Its Forms"

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Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of the month in the downstairs auditorium of the Peterborough Public Library at 345 Aylmer Street N.

COMING EVENTS

<p>Sunday March 11th 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: "Waterfowl at Presqu'ile Provincial Park" A full-day birding trip to Presqu'ile, led by Jerry Ball. Thousands of ducks, geese and swans use this resting spot on their migrations north. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and a spotting scope, if you have one. We will meet at the Country Style at the junction of Old Keene Road and Highway 7. There is an entry fee for each vehicle entering the park. Contact Jerry Ball (705-745-3272) for more information.</p>
<p>Wednesday March 14th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Ecology and Conservation in Tropical Mexico" Ken Towle will provide us with an introduction to the ecosystems and wildlife of tropical Mexico, including a discussion of traditional uses, conservation concerns such as tourism, and some of the conservation and restoration work that has been underway.</p>
<p>Sunday March 25th 6:45 a.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: "Owl Woods on Amherst Island" We are invited to join members of Kingston Field Naturalists on a visit to Owl Woods on Amherst Island. This spot is renowned for the variety of over-wintering bird species, especially owls. Meet Martin Parker at the Canadian Tire/Sobey's parking lot on Landsdowne St. West to car pool from Peterborough leaving at 6.45am. for this whole day trip. We will take the 9.30am ferry to the island. Bring a packed lunch and binoculars.</p>
<p>Sunday April 1st 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: "Birds of the Lakeshore" Tony Bigg will lead a day of birding along the shore of Lake Ontario, from Cobourg towards Ajax. We can expect a good variety of birds, probably including some winter rarities seldom seen in Peterborough. Bring a lunch and binoculars and meet by Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's parking lot on Landsdowne St.W. from where we will car pool. Call Tony at 705-652-7541 for more information.</p>

COMING EVENTS continued

<p>Sundays April 8th to May 20th</p>	<p>Spring Wildlife Walks Our popular Spring wildlife walks will commence of Sunday April 8th and continue until May 20th, unless otherwise advertised. Most walks will start at 8am and we will normally car pool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases the leaders will confirm the destination on the day. More details will be in April's Orchid and on the website.</p>
<p>Wednesday April 11th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Arctic Tern Nesting in the High Arctic" Speaker: Kelly Boadway</p>
<p>Saturday April 14th 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: "An Evening of Frog Song" Join Martin Parker in this evening outing to listen to the spring chorus of frogs. The chorus will be dominated by Spring Peepers. We will also be listening for Chorus Frogs, Northern Leopard Frogs, and Wood Frogs. The outing will start from the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo, Water Street North, at 8:00 p.m. The main destination will be the Miller Creek Conservation Area. This outing will last for a couple of hours.</p>
<p>Saturday April 21st 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: "The Sky Dance of the Timber-Doodle" A spring tradition of many naturalists is to venture out at dusk to listen to the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-Doodle. This bird has an elaborate courtship display which consists of a distinctive call made while on the ground, followed by the spiral flight into the sky and then a fluttering flight back to the ground. With leader, Martin Parker, we will travel to the Trent University Nature Sanctuary to watch this spring display. Meet in the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo on Water Street North at 8:00 p.m. This outing will conclude by 10:00 p.m. Bring a Flashlight</p>

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

Create a Bird or Bat House!

When: Sunday, March 25th, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (located at Trent University on Pioneer Road)

Come out to our next JFN gathering where we will build bird or bat houses (depending on materials). Come ready to hammer, saw and create a home for an animal!...Neil



Other Events of Interest

March 11 th	<p>Peterborough's Annual Seed Exchange: Seedy Sunday takes place on Sunday March 11th at George Street United Church from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Come out to buy or trade seeds and get inspired for Spring!</p>
March 17-18	<p>Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekend – March 17-18/2012, 10am to 4pm Presqu'ile will once again be hosting a waterfowl viewing weekend, where nature enthusiasts can come and appreciate one of the great spectacles on earth – the return of migrating waterfowl to their staging areas along the lower Great Lakes. Presqu'ile is well situated to experience this phenomenon with close viewing and a good variety of species. Seeing 20 different species of waterfowl in a day is not unusual and 25+ species are usually tallied during the season. During viewing weekend, volunteers with scopes are situated at key areas to help visitors find and ID the different species.</p> <p>The Lighthouse Centre is the focal point for your visit. Ducky displays and children's activities are showcased and the Friends are there with hot drinks and snacks, and a BBQ from 11am onwards. The Friends' Gift Store is also open 10am to 4pm. A Bushnell representative will be on hand to answer your questions and show you the latest in optical equipment.</p> <p>If you want to come learn about ducks this is a great opportunity. If you are interested in coming out and helping with duck ID or in the Visitor Centre with the children's activities I would be more than happy to hear from you. For more information on the event or on volunteering please contact David or Lisa at 613 475-4324 ext 225 or david.bree@ontario.ca.</p>
March 24 th	<p>Ontario Woodlot Association's 19th Annual General meeting & Woodlot Conference: "Our Forests – Caring for our Forest". Event will be held at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Registration is required and payment must be received prior to March 12 (\$30 for non-members). Presentations topics include: forest birds, at risk turtles, beech bark disease, and invasive species. Call Rhonda at 1-888-791-1103 x221 for more information.</p>
March 28 th	<p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society will meet on March 28th, 7:30 pm at the Mark Street United Church, 90 Hunter St. East. Guest speaker, Joyce Higgs, will be talking about "Square Foot Gardening".</p>
Peterborough Garden Show April 5 th to 7 th Evinrude Centre 911 Monaghan Road	<p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society, Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners, and Northumberland Master Gardeners invite you to the 2012 Peterborough Garden Show. The 2011 show was a great success with nearly 8000 visitors and 175 booths of vendors and exhibitors all with gardening-related products and services spread over two arenas. Prestigious garden lecturers and demonstrations. Also a children's garden. Proceeds of the show are used for scholarships and beautification projects.</p> <p>The Show takes place on Easter weekend. Thursday, April 5th, 5 pm - 9 pm, Friday, April 6th 10 am - 6 pm, Saturday, April 7th 10 am - 4 pm. Admission is \$6 per day (children 14 & under free when accompanied by an adult.) Free coat check. There will be free parking and shuttle bus service every 15 minutes Friday and Saturday to and from the Kinsmen Centre, Sherbrooke St. W. and Clonsilla Ave. For more information visit www.peterboroughgardens.ca</p>

Lots of Birding Activity

- by June Hitchcox, courtesy of *The Apsley Voice* (www.apsleyvoice.com)

An unusually mild winter - as I write this in early February, the grass is turning green! Our son, Michael, has been watching, all winter, masses of Robins in the trees behind Sheridan College in Oakville. They leave their nightly roosting spots to find enough food during the day which will be turned into fat in order to survive the cold nights. In March, around Apsley, among the species you can expect to see are more Crows, Horned Larks as well as Red-winged Blackbirds, Tree Swallows, Phoebes (singing their name), Bluebirds, Song Sparrows, Meadowlarks and Robins (make a wish on the first one you see). These birds will be singing to attract a mate and to establish territory. A particularly lovely song is the "Hi Sweetie" of the Chickadees. Already nesting are Gray Jays, Ravens, Great Horned Owls. With this mild winter, other species such as Pine Siskins and Crossbills may be on their nests. If you do find a Crossbill nest in the Apsley area, make history and let us know about it! Water birds, as they return, fly north from open lakes. If that lake is still frozen, they return and try another day. It is an interesting activity that we watched on Jack Lake. It is a good time to identify the birds and their songs as each returns. You will be able to separate and enjoy them as the season progresses.

New Members

*Karen Shearer and
Graham Henry*

Welcome!



*White-winged Dove, Vagrant to North Bay,
February 20, 2012. Photo by Tony Bigg.*

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the PFN's annual bucket draw!

We had a large number of items donated this year and we thank everyone who participated by donating an item, soliciting a donation or by participating in the draws. Many of the donations were 'anonymous'. Donors who we do know include: Kelly Dodge, Ian Heale, Sean Smith, Jeanne Brown, John McFeeters, Bill Snowden, Jocelyn Bottomley, Ken Towle, Martin Parker, Kathy Parker, Lynn Smith, Cavan Chiropractic, and Emily Pettypiece. Thank you for your generosity!

"The Big Year" Movie on DVD and Blue-Ray

-by Martin and Kathy Parker

The 'Big Year' by Mark Obmascik (2004, Free Press) is a tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession. The book deals with the quest of three different birders, Sandy Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller, in 1998 to set a new record for the number of bird species observed by one person in a year in North America north of Mexico. In birding terms this called a "Big Year". They all wanted to surpass the previous record. They did not know the others were trying to do the same task until well into the year. They criss-crossed the continent to find as many species as possible.

This year their adventures became the subject matter for the film 'The Big Year' by Fox 2000 Pictures. The caption for the film states it is a comic dream team. The three birders are played by Jack Black, Steve Martin and Owen Wilson.

We had the opportunity to view the film when it came to the theatre. As birders who have been known to take off with children in tow to find a rare bird, this movie brought back many memories. As we watched the film we saw many of the traits of our birding friends and even ourselves. The visuals were impressive in the film and all the birds were identified correctly. The scene where the actors visited the dump at Brownsville, Texas to find Mexican Crows, brought back memories. We have visited that dump several times as this is the only reliable location in the US to find this crow. There are many other places visited in the film which are must do destinations for birders.

The movie depicts several boat trips off Oregon to look for seabirds. The boat captain changed her last name Auklet to reflect the birds she was leading tours to find. There is a boat captain in San Diego who operates boat tours to see shearwaters and other seabirds. She changed her last name to Shearwater.

This film is now available on DVD and Blue-ray. We highly recommend that members with an interest in birding and those who can not understand the addictive nature of birding and the need to find new species should find this film a delight. We purchased a copy and are looking forward to renewing the 1998 birding year for Komito, Levantin and Miller again.



Pine Martin, Algonquin Provincial Park, February 20, 2012. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Band-tailed Pigeon, Vagrant to Bracebridge, February 5, 2012. Photo by Tony Bigg.

“Nature in the Kawarthas” Praised in Reviews

Nature of the Kawarthas, published by Dundurn Press, is the latest publication of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. This book was released in early December and has received praise in two newspapers.

In the Lindsay Post in late January Linda Kent, the chief librarian at the City of Kawartha Lakes Public Library, stated "If you've ever wondered about the birds and mammals that frequent your bird feeder but never had the inclination to wade through extensive field guides, then Nature in the Kawarthas is the book for you."

Kent further states "Lavishly illustrated with wonderful colour photographs, the book can be appreciated by young and old alike and would be a useful addition to any naturalist's book collection."

In the EMC Carlton Place/Almonte on January 12, 2012, Brian Turner states 'Each of the 30 chapters is accompanied by gallery-quality photos and presents an easy to follow guide leading readers along woodland trails or beside freshwater ponds teeming with life in almost every conceivable shape and size. Reading Nature in the Kawarthas will whet the appetite of any budding naturalist and it also serves as a great trip planner with helpful maps and a detailed listing of nature reserves, public parks and trails, along with conservation areas and canoe routes.'

Links to both of these reviews of Nature in the Kawarthas are provided on the club's web site www.peterboroughnature.org.

Titles bookstore on George Street, which hosted the launch party, states this PFN publication was its best seller in December.

Copies can be purchased by club members at the regular indoor meetings at a special price of \$30.00 including taxes. It is also available at book stores in the region at the regular price of \$32.99 plus taxes. Make sure you have one in your nature library.

Naming a Lichen in Memory of Henry Kock

-based on articles published in the Guelph Mercury (GuelphMercury.com)

Bill Snowden remembers Henry Kock speaking to the PFN a while ago. Henry passed away on December 25, 2005, however his name will now be forever remembered on a new species of lichen.

Henry was a prominent horticulturalist working for 20 years at the University of Guelph Arboretum. He helped launch the Hillside festival and the Guelph Organic Conference. He also launched the Elm Recovery Project and travelled across Ontario to collect elm seedlings he used to repopulate the species after it was devastated by Dutch elm disease in the 1970s. His book "*Growing Trees from Seed: A practical guide to growing native trees, vines and shrubs*" is popular among arborists and tree enthusiasts.

In Henry's memory, his widow, Anne Hansen recently purchased the naming rights to a Canadian lichen species through an environmental fundraising event in British Columbia. The species will be known as *Bryoria Kockiana*. Many are suggesting that the species' common name should be "Henry's Beard" in memory of the long beard that Henry sported proudly.

Peterborough Birder Tops 300 Bird Species

-by Martin Parker

Observing 300 species of birds in one calendar year in Ontario has not been accomplished by many birders. In order to accomplish this feat one has to be prepared to travel to find the rarities which are occurring during the year. Last year Peterborough Field Naturalists' member and trip leader Jerry Ball managed to see 301 species in the southern part of the province.

Jerry's birding year for 2011 commenced on January 1, 2011 with the first bird of the year being a Ring-billed Gull followed by a Canada Goose, Rock Pigeon and others for a total of 42 species on New Year's Day. On March 9 his total surpassed 100 species while birding at Frenchman's Bay with Tony Bigg. Species 99 was a King Eider, species 100 was an American Wigeon, with 101 being a Ross's Goose.

In May Jerry spent time at Point Pelee National Park and area, the migration hot spot for Ontario. An Orchard Oriole was species 198, followed by Red-eyed Vireo, Blackpoll Warbler (#200), and Yellow-throated Warbler (#201). After his time at Point Pelee Jerry arrived back in Peterborough with a year's list of 263 species.

As the summer progressed he slowly added species of birds. On October 25 he travelled to the Ottawa Region to see a Razorbill (#289) on the Ottawa River and a Red Phalarope (#290) at the Casselman lagoon east of Ottawa. Later he saw another Razorbill at the mouth of the Niagara River and another Red Phalarope on the Lindsay lagoon. With only 10 species to see to reach 300 species Jerry decided this was the year to attempt to reach this milestone. As November progressed new species were found.

On November 26th Jerry observed a Snowy Owl at the Whitby Harbour for species 297. On the Peterborough Field Naturalists outing to the Niagara River on December 4 he added Black-legged Kittiwake for species #298 and Pomarine Jaeger for species #299. One more to go.

Species 300 was a Rufous Hummingbird visiting a hummingbird feeder at Eganville. Then in late December a Smew showed up in Whitby Harbour. Jerry and Ann Anthony made the trip to the harbour and Jerry observed his 301st species of the year.

Jerry accomplished this feat without travelling to the James Bay coast, Northern Ontario, and the Lake-of-the-Woods region. He only went as far north as southern Algonquin Park. He had a memorable birding year. Congratulations to Jerry.

On January 1, 2012 another birding year started and Jerry was in the field looking for birds.



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the March issue: Friday, March 23rd, 2012

Please send all submissions to: Rebecca Zeran, PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7 or via e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca

Greenbelt Wetlands Report Now Available

-by Lisa Richardson, Ontario Nature, Nature Network News, February 15, 2012

The collaborative report, "Protecting Greenbelt Wetlands: How Effective is Policy?" is now available on the Ontario Nature website. Written in partnership with Ecojustice, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Earthroots, it examines the strengths and weaknesses of the 3 provincial land-use plans in effect across the Greenbelt - the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan - and their intersection with other laws and policies that affect wetland protection. To download a copy of the report, visit www.ontarionature.org/discover/resources/publications.php

Last Chance to Purchase the 2012 Endangered Reptiles & Amphibians of Canada Calendars!

-by Laura Robson, Ontario Nature, Nature Network News, February 15, 2012

If you are a reptile and amphibian enthusiast, you won't want to miss out on the 2012 Endangered Reptile & Amphibians of Canada calendar! This calendar was a big seller before Christmas, but we still have a few copies left. Each month features a full-page photograph of one of Canada's at risk herptile species, all of which have been donated by Canadian biologists. They also display the featured species' habitat, identification characteristics, life stages, conservation status, and interesting behaviours. The calendars are selling for \$10 each. To place an order, please contact Laura Robson at laurar@ontarionature.org.

The American Kestrel Partnership Needs Your Help

-by Denice Wilkins, Quinte Field Naturalists, Nature Network News, February 15, 2012

The American Kestrel Partnership needs your help with collecting data on American kestrel populations in Ontario. The partnership, an international research network focused on compiling information about North America's kestrel populations and creating conservation plans for kestrel habitat, is asking all concerned citizens to assist their efforts by installing and monitoring kestrel nest boxes in their communities. The data you collect will be used by the American Kestrel Partnership to support large-scale conservation strategies for kestrel habitat and populations across the continent. For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.peregrinefund.org/american-kestrel.

Ontario SwiftWatch Offers Free Community Workshops

-from Bird Studies Canada Latest News e-newsletter, 24 February 2012

Bird Studies Canada's Ontario SwiftWatch program plans to host four SwiftWatch monitoring workshops in Ontario this spring. Ontario SwiftWatch is a volunteer-based program through which community groups and individuals find and track nesting locations, count numbers of birds, and act as urban stewards. Many community, government, and non-government partners participate in this program throughout the province. For more information visit www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/chsw/

Ontario SwiftWatch is looking for dedicated individuals or groups willing to take the lead and coordinate Chimney Swift monitoring within their own communities. Bird Studies Canada will provide a free Ontario SwiftWatch workshop and continued support throughout subsequent seasons, including assistance with materials, protocols, and data entry.

If you are interested in establishing a SwiftWatch monitoring program in your community, contact Kathy Jones (volunteer@birdscanada.org) for more information on volunteer SwiftWatch Regional Coordinator positions and on the SwiftWatch training workshop program.

Assistance for this project was provided by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

President's address to the Annual General Meeting held 21 January 2012

-by John Bottomley

As I noted last year to achieve our aims we rely on the efforts of our members and the direction provided by the Board of Directors. To be successful we need an active Board and a strong and committed membership.

I am pleased to let you know that the current membership list is over a hundred and twenty. This means that close to 200 people are reached either via Canada Post or increasingly online with each edition of the *Orchid*. This is a significant group who are involved in one way or another. I think we have stabilised our numbers and hope to grow these in the near future. Thanks go to Don Pettypiece for all his efforts over several years as Membership Secretary.

Thanks are also due to all current and past members of the Board for all the work they have put in over the last few years. Their work and that of the membership has allowed us to achieve a good deal. So thanks to Jim Young our treasurer, Emily Pettypiece our Secretary, Rebecca Zeran, Gina Varrin, Chris Gooderham, Lyn Smith, Paul Elliott, Martin Parker, Sean Smith and Neil Fortin.

We rely on our membership to keep up to date our knowledge of the local environment and how it is changing. Through the efforts of individual members and from field trips the club has access to a great deal of information that can be used to ensure local planning and development is well informed. I have had the opportunity to be a member of the Peterborough County Stewardship Council over the past two years and made a good deal of use of this information on a number of occasions.

A number of people deserve thanks for helping us disseminate this information. Tony Bigg produces 'Orchid Diary' each month.

Cumulatively these observations are a rich source of what is going on locally. As always club member Drew Monkman should be recognised for his tireless promotion of environmental understanding in the local media. Mention should also be made of those club members who 'filled in' for Drew over the summer when he was re-writing his book. I think that collectively Paul Elliott, Kathy and Martin Parker, and myself raised the profile of the club through our efforts.

Special thanks must go to Rebecca Zeran for the *Orchid*, which has never been better, and to Chris Gooderham for almost single-handedly creating our new and much improved website (www.peterboroughnature.org).

Club outings and monthly meetings are another important way we collect and disseminate information and knowledge. The organization of these were in the capable hands of Paul Elliott and Gina Varrin. Many thanks. Thanks also to all those who ran field trips, Jerry Ball, Tony Bigg, Martin Parker, Mike McMurtry, Drew Monkman, Craig Brant and others. Others of you are, believe me, up to it. Give it a try, you might like it.

Thanks also to Lynn Smith who has been our Ontario Nature Network representative, to Gina Varrin who was our liaison with the KTTC, to Neil Fortin who organise JFN events and acted as the leader for many. Sean Smith and Don Finigan have been filling the bird feeders at Ecology Park this winter. Thanks guys. Anne Elliott has been our publicity lady - thank you Anne. Jim Cashmore has been sterling in organising small groups of us to keep the paths at Miller Creek CA free of grass over the past several summers. Thanks to his efforts we may well develop a closer working relationship with ORCA,

Special thanks to Kelly Dodge for donating one of her marvellous prints for the silent auction. Last, but not least, thanks to all members who donated articles for the bucket draws at tonight's meeting.

On a personal level I would like to thank my wife Jocelyn who has had the pleasure of both Board

and book meetings at our house over the past few years. She has never complained and has, as many here will attest, provided wonderful cookies and other goodies on numerous occasions.

A last thank you to Herman and his crew who once again have done us well. Thank you all.

We will continue to work closely with local clubs with which we have a number of common interests and list in the Orchid activities run by these groups, which will be of interest to our members. We also work with a number of provincial governmental and non-governmental agencies towards meeting our objectives.

The club was involved in a number of activities over the past year that helped us achieve our goals. The list is long but one activity was in many ways dominant. This was the publication of THE BOOK! This came out in December in time for the Christmas market and has sold very well. I would like to thank Anne and Dave Heuft of Titles Bookstore for hosting a very successful launch in early December. We anticipate it continuing to sell well as cottagers arrive to open up their properties in the spring. There is excitement in the air at places such as Lockside Trading who want to host an event later in the spring. Many people deserve credit for the time and effort put into the book's creation. It was, believe me, a lot of work. One person however deserves an immense amount of gratitude and that is Gordon Berry. He was indefatigable in his pursuit of authors and others as he laboured to produce what is truly a lovely book. So a show of appreciation for Gordon please. If you have not yet acquired a copy do so. It's well worth having.

Financially the Club is in good shape. We have sold enough copies of the new book to allow us to make the final payment to Dundurn Press. From now on all we need to do is sit tight and

collect the royalties! Not maybe in the manner of Stephen King but they will add up!

As some of you know I will be standing down as President following this meeting. This is my fourth AGM as President and it is time to hand over to someone new. I will not hold things up any more by reflecting at length on what has been achieved by the Club over this period. I am confident however that the Club is in good hands, doing good work and that in 2012 and onwards we will continue to meet our objectives, which are, as so eloquently stated in our Constitution,

- (1) To acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history;
- (2) To protect and preserve wildlife; and
- (3) To stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation.

On a personal level I am still going to be involved in the Club. Several years ago Rhea Bringeman handed over all the old club records that were in her possession. At the current time these fill more than half a dozen large boxes in my basement or attic. Over the next year I will be working with the Peterborough Museum and Archives to ensure that these records are beaten into shape and preserved in the best possible way. Some will no doubt end up at the Archives, some we will keep and some will no doubt be discarded. We don't need to keep pieces of paper to an unnamed president that an unnamed individual will not be able to attend the meeting on an undated Wednesday. Such material exists! It IS important however to get things in order as the 75th anniversary of the Club's foundation which will soon be upon us. Perhaps that's an opportunity for another publication. Who knows?

With that thank you and goodnight.

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Have you renewed your membership yet for 2012? If not, please note that this will be the last issue of the Orchid that you will receive.



The **ORCHID DIARY** for **Nov 28, 2011 - Feb 22, 2012**

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

The period covered was noteworthy for the sightings of two winter warblers, a CBC find of a Yellow-rumped Warbler on December 14, and an Ovenbird on December 26. This followed numerous warbler winter sightings elsewhere in the province. Also noteworthy were the numerous sightings of the more unusual gulls on Little Lake and elsewhere.

- Nov 28 A **Belted Kingfisher**, **Common Goldeneyes**, and **Buffleheads** were noted by Tony Bigg at the Lakefield Marsh. He also saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** near the Lakefield College School.
- Dec 02 At the end of Scriven Rd on Rice Lake Jerry Ball counted about 250 **Common Mergansers**. He also had a **Northern Harrier** further north on Scriven Line
- Dec 03 Tony Bigg saw a second winter **Glaucous Gull** sitting among **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls** on the dock by the Trent Rowing Club on River Road. Jerry Ball visited the Jack Lake area and found one adult **Bald Eagle**, eight **Hooded Mergansers**, 103 **Common Mergansers**, and a few **Common Ravens**.
- Dec 04 Maureen and Scotty Smith watched a late **Osprey** dive and catch fish in the Indian River behind their house in Warsaw.
- Dec 07 Maureen Smith reports that the **Osprey** is still on the river behind her house. Drew Monkman counted seventy-five **Bufflehead** on the Lakefield sewage lagoons. He also had a small flock of **Brown Creepers** on the trent to Lakefield rail trail, also noting several Common Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers on the Otonabee River. In downtown Peterborough Jerry Ball saw a few **White-winged Crossbills** in a Spruce tree and a **Northern Shrike** on Cty 19.
- Dec 08 One male **Common Merganser** and a pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were seen by Drew Monkman on Little Lake on the east side of the cemetery.
- Dec 10 Two **Cackling Geese** were seen by Don Sutherland, in with nearly 450 **Canada Geese** on Little Lake.
- Dec 11 Drew Monkman saw a **Northern Shrike** today along the Trans-Canada Trail between Lily Lake and Ackison Road.
- Dec 12 A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was seen drifting down the river beside Little Lake in Peterborough at midday. Tony Bigg saw a **Long-tailed Duck** swimming at the north end of Lakefield Marsh. A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen by Jerry Ball by the Baxter Creek Golf Club on Cty Rd 28
- Dec 13 A **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen by Sean Smith on Little Lake opposite the old Mark St. wharf. Jerry Ball saw a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and a **Northern Shrike** on River Road north of Trent University.
- Dec 14 Peterborough Christmas Bird Count - see previous 'Orchid'.
- Dec 15 Several flocks of **American Robins**, totalling at least 40 birds, were seen by Drew Monkman at the Trent Nature Area on the east side of University Rd.
- Dec 16 Two **White-throated Sparrows** were seen by Sean Smith off the end of Whitefield Dr., Peterborough, in willows by the creek. Gene de St Croix reports a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** visiting his house northwest of Hastings.
- Dec 18 Checking the Lakefield sewage lagoons, Tim Haan found two male and one female **Northern Shovelers**. Mike Gillespie reports that for the third day in a row he has five male **Eastern Bluebirds** hanging around his orchard south of County Rd. 2 on David Fife Line.
- Dec 19 The **Oregon** subspecies of the **Dark-eyed Junco** was seen by Don & Emily Pettypiece (and Jerry Ball) at their feeders on Parkview Drive in Peterborough. The **Chipping Sparrow** found on the CBC was still coming to the same feeders.
- Dec 22 A **Northern Harrier** and an **American Kestrel** were both seen by Jerry Ball on Scriven Rd.
- Dec 26 Sue Prentice and Andrew Jobes photographed an **Ovenbird** in the cedars at the north end of the pond in Jackson's Park.
- Dec 30 Mike and Pauline Gillespie had an **Eastern Towhee** at their feeder at the south end of David Fife Line.
- Jan 01 The OFO trip to the north of Peterborough, led by Dave Milsom, covered the area from Lakefield to the Petroglyphs PP. The highlights of their trip were five **Bald Eagles** including three adults in the Lakefield area, **Ruffed Grouse**, **Snow Buntings**, **Evening Grosbeaks** **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **White- & Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **Common Merganser**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Goldeneyes**, **American Black Ducks**, **Cedar Waxwings**.

- Jan 02 Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count - see previous 'Orchid'. Brian and Lynda Neck Saw a **Northern Flicker** on their property in the north of Bridgenorth. On Brown Line east of Springville Sherry Hambly saw a **Northern Shrike** feeding in the grass. She also photographed an **American Kestrel** sitting on a telephone line by Cty Rd 28 in the south of the county. Nan Campbell reports that a pair of **Bald Eagles** may be preparing to nest on an island in Hamilton Bay in Stony Lake (on the south shore just east of McCrackens Landing). The bird was seen with a twig in its beak as it sat on its nest.
- Jan 03 A **Green-winged Teal** was found by Tore Buchanan mixed in with a large flock of Mallards on the Otonabee River between Cameron and Park Sts.
- Jan 04 A **Northern Flicker** was seen by Gary Berg from the Pencier trail of the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary, flying across the canal. Scoping Little Lake in downtown Peterborough Dave Milsom found an adult, a 1st winter and a 2nd winter **Glaucous Gull**, two adult **Iceland (Kumlein's) Gulls**, and a 1st winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** among the many **Ring-billed Gulls** and **Herring Gulls**. On the west side of the south end of the Bridgenorth Trail Tony Bigg saw a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** in the company of four Hairy Woodpeckers and one Downy Woodpecker. He also found a **Swamp Sparrow** on Preston Rd midway between Mt Pleasant Rd and Hooton Drive. Tore Buchanan saw a **Belted Kingfisher** on the west bank of the Otonabee River sighted from the east bank at Armour and Dafoe Sts.
- Jan 05 Following yesterday's gull sightings, Don Sutherland found two adult **Great Black-backed Gulls**, one adult and one 1st winter **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, one adult, two 1st winter and two 2nd winter **Glaucous Gulls**, two adult and five 1st winter **Iceland Gulls**. Don also checked the **Mallards** at Cameron Rd on the Otonabee River and found an **American Black Duck x Mallard** hybrid and a pair of **Hooded Mergansers**. On Mervin Line he called out a male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** and saw a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in the tops of the Silver Maples. Finally he found a 2nd year male **Red-winged Blackbird** coming to a feeder on Drummond Line just south of the Old Norwood Rd. Valerie Wyatt and her husband Paul Grant found a **White-winged Scoter** with a group of twelve **Common Goldeneyes** visible from the east side of the bridge at Gannon Narrows. A Common Loon was also visible further to the southeast.
- Jan 06 Again **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** (1), **Glaucous Gulls** (5), **Iceland Gulls** (3), and **Great Black-backed Gulls** (2) were variously reported by **Sean Smith** and Mike Burrell on Little Lake. Sean also saw a **Northern Goshawk** near Beavermead Park, a **Merlin** at Armour Rd and Francis Stewart St, and at his feeder he had eight **House Finches** and a singing **Northern Cardinal**. Mike had an additional **Glaucous Gull** and an **Iceland Gull** near the Rowing Club by Trent University. Don Sutherland reported that the **White-winged Scoter** was still present at Gannon Narrows. He also saw a **Northern Flicker** on the 12th Line of Smith just east of Selwyn, and on the same line, a flock of two hundred **Snow Buntings** near Elnor Farms. Finally on the Otonabee River at Auburn Reach Park Don watched **Herring Gulls** harassing two female **Red-breasted Mergansers**.
- Jan 07 More gulls were seen by Tony Bigg on the ice west of the Bensfort Bridge on Cty Rd 2. With the approximately one hundred gulls, mostly **Herring Gulls** and **Ring-billed Gulls**, were **Glaucous Gulls**, **Iceland Gulls**, and **Great Black-backed Gulls**. He also saw two **American Kestrels** sitting on Hydro lines just east of Bailieboro.
- Jan 08 Keith Linton and daughter found a female **Pileated Woodpecker** on River Road north of Trent University. Bill Crins reported that the **White-winged Scoter** and the **Common Loon** were still present at Gannon Narrows. Three **Bald Eagles** were seen by Nan Campbell, sitting on the ice in Hamilton Bay in Stony Lake.
- Jan 09 On Orange Corners Rd south of Hwy 7 Jerry Ball saw a **Belted Kingfisher**
- Jan 10 On the ice on Little Lake, Drew Monkman was able to find three adult and one immature **Great Black-backed Gulls**, one adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, four immature **Glaucous Gulls**, and one adult and four immature **Iceland Gulls**. There were also about fifty **Common Goldeneyes** present on the lake. He also heard that the **Bald Eagles** on Lake Katchewanooka, who successfully raised one eaglet last year, are again adding material to their nest. Brendan Boyd saw a **Cooper's Hawk** chasing pigeons at George and London streets in Peterborough. On Scriven Rd Jerry Ball had a **Northern Shrike**.
- Jan 11 Brendan Boyd had a **Northern Shrike** at David Fife Line and River Road and another at David Fife Line and County Road 2.
- Jan 12 Abby MacNaughton saw a **Belted Kingfisher** on David Fife Line where it crosses the Indian River.
- Jan 14 Mike Gillespie has an **Eastern Towhee** coming regularly to his feeder on David Fife Line south of Cty Rd 2. There are also a pair of **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** in the area. Brendan Boyd reports a male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** coming to his feeder on River Road along the Indian River since about mid-November.
- Jan 21 Bruce Kidd heard a **Great Horned Owl** calling at his farm on Cty Rd 8 east of Duoro.
- Jan 22 A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen by Rick Stankiewicz on the west side of Hwy 115, on the south side of Cavan Creek.

- Jan 24 A **White-throated Sparrow** turned up in Scott McKinlay's yard in Cavan, and his **Black-capped Chickadees** were singing their spring song.
- Jan 29 Sherry Hambly saw a **Northern Shrike** sitting on top of a tree on the east side of Achison Rd halfway between the rail trail and Parkhill Rd. She also saw a flock of ten **Wild Turkeys** in a field south of Lynch's Rock Rd east of Lakefield.
- Jan 30 Luke Berg and Jennifer Budgell saw about twenty **Bohemian Waxwings** and an unidentified small wren (probably Winter) whilst walking in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was photographed by Jim Orr near Beavermead Park (see http://www.theweathernetwork.com/your_weather/details/620/5565539/2/caon0536/plpcities/1920/).
- Feb 02 On Little Lake Dave Milsom saw a **Horned Grebe**, a **Common Merganser** and many **Common Goldeneyes**. He also saw an immature **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, an immature **Great Black-backed Gull**, and one adult **Iceland Gull**.
- Feb 03 Colin Jones reports a flock of about fifty **Cedar Waxwings** in his yard and later a flock of about seventy-five **Bohemian Waxwings** in his neighbours yard.
- Feb 04 A dead **Northern Water Shrew** and a live **Merlin** were photographed by Sherry Hambly on Hooten Road, at Cavan Swamp. Sharon Simpkins saw the two **Trumpeter Swans** that summered near Hiawatha (Kent's Bay) fly north up the Otonabee River. Janet Johnstone and Doug Latham had a pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** at their nest boxes on Cameron Line. They were dumbfounded! But there they were...going from box to box. In the past, the earliest they've seen them is March 25th. They have also been watching a young **River Otter** in the little trout stream farther down their road, along the Cameron to Blezard rail trail heading west.
- Feb 06 Mike Burrell counted the gulls on Little Lake - 600 mostly adult **Herring Gulls**, 20 adult **Ring-billed Gulls**, two adult and 2 1st winter **Iceland Gulls**, one 1st winter **Glaucous Gull**, and two 1st winter **Great Black-backed Gulls**.
- Feb 08 Sue Paradisis spotted a **Belted Kingfisher** in a tree beside the Otonabee River just south of Lakefield.
- Feb 09 Sue Paradisis was watching an **American Robin** feeding in her Crab Apple tree when a **Northern Flicker** flew in and started eating the fruit as well. The robin and the area **Northern Cardinal** are now becoming vocal.
- Feb 10 An **Iceland Gull** was seen by Jerry Ball near Lock 23 on the Otonabee River. Jerry also watched a pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** climbing upside down and feeding on wild grapes on Cty Rd 2.
- Feb 16 Another **Belted Kingfisher** was reported by Sean Smith between Lock 25 and Lakefield. Brendan Boyd had forty-six **Cedar Waxwings** on Heritage Line.
- Feb 17 Mike Burrell did another count of the gulls on Little Lake - 950 **Herring Gulls** (mostly adults), four adult **Ring-billed Gulls**, one adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, one adult and four 1st winter **Iceland Gulls**, two 1st winter and one 2nd winter **Glaucous Gulls**, and two adult and two 1st winter **Great Black-backed Gulls**. Drew Monkman heard his first calling **Mourning Dove** for the year.
- Feb 19 Three male and four female **Northern Pintails** were seen by Martin Parker on the Otonabee River north of the Lakefield arena. He also counted thirty **Common Goldeneyes** between Lock 24 and Lakefield. Brendan Boyd reports there are two **Northern Shrikes** wintering on David Fife Line. One at River Road and another less than a kilometre from Highway 7. He also had another one about 2 km west of Clarina on County Road 6 today.
- Feb 22 Tony Bigg reported a flock of about forty **Bohemian Waxwings** in his neighbour's yard on Cty Rd 29 just north of Lakefield.

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PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

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Name (s):			Home Tel:		
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Address:		Receive Orchid by:	<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please	Email(s):	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 2. Single Student \$15 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10

4. Family (couple or family with children*) \$30

*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

<input type="radio"/> Birds	<input type="radio"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="radio"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)
<input type="radio"/> Astronomy	<input type="radio"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="radio"/> Geology <input type="radio"/> Field Trips
<input type="radio"/> Hiking	<input type="radio"/> Conservation	<input type="radio"/> Other (specify)

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following areas _____ and would be prepared to

- lead an outdoor session
 give a presentation
 prepare an article for The Orchid

I am interested in the following:

- Joining the PFN Executive
 Sitting on research or conservation committees
 Working on field projects
 Helping with refreshments at meetings
 Please have a member of the executive call me

AGE GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

Under 20
 20-29
 30-39
 40-49
 50-59
 60-69
 70-79
 80 < over

DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) accepting this application, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever release and discharge the PFN, their officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from my participation in PFN activities, whether by reason of negligence of the PFN or its representatives, or otherwise. I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required for field trips or other activities in which I participate, and accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation. As a member of the PFN and/or as a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years of age, I have read and understood the above, and accept its term on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____