



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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

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72nd PFN Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday, January 25, 2013, Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club, 577 McDonnell St.

Speaker: Mark Peck, Royal Ontario Museum

To reserve your tickets, call Don & Emily Pettypiece at 750-1145, or purchase them on-line from www.peterboroughnature.org

See page 4 for more details.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

2012 Memberships expired on Dec 31st. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, you can do so at the January 25th AGM or you can use the membership form on the last page to mail your renewal in.

Once again Kelly Dodge has provided us with some of her beautiful prints for the AGM silent auction!



In this Issue:

Coming Events ... page 2

Junior Field Naturalists ... page 3

PFN Annual General Meeting... page 4

Results of 61st Peterborough CBC by Tony Bigg... page 5

Results of 27th Petroglyphs CBC by Colin D. Jones ... pages 6-7

PFN Bird Feeders at Ecology Park by Sean D. Smith ... page 8

Trumpeter Swan Wintering Site Needs Help by June Hitchcox ... page 9

From the Archives: Annual Bird Census Reports 1956/57 ... page 10

PFN Director Listing ... page 10

Orchid Diary ... pages 11-13

Member Photos ... page 13

Membership Form ... page 14

Welcome New Members!

*Jennie Versteeg
John Stanford*

Coming Events

Friday January 25 th	73nd PFN Annual General Meeting For details see details page 4.
Wednesday February 13 th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	PFN Monthly Meeting: “Nature’s Year” Join local author and Examiner columnist Drew Monkman for a "trip through the year" highlighting the main events happening in nature each month in the Kawarthas. Drew will also highlight species at risk, a few newcomers to our area and some of the potential impacts of climate change.
Saturday February 23 rd 1:00 p.m. Ptbo Zoo parking lot	Winter Birds Along the Otonabee Beginners and families welcome! Discover signs of spring like waterfowl mating displays. Otters, mink and red fox are also possible. This half day outing, led by Sean Smith, will focus on the waterfowl which overwinter on the open waters of the Otonabee River and Little Lake during the winter months. The variety and number of birds depends on the amount of open water and ice. The outing will also visit the bird feeding stations operated by the Peterborough Field Naturalists at Beavermead Park. Meet in the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo, Water Street North at 1:00 p.m. Dress according to the weather forecast for the day of the outing. Bring your binoculars. This outing is part of the Heritage Week activities coordinated by the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee.
Wednesday March 13 th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	PFN Monthly Meeting: “Snake Morphology & Ecology” Ontario is a relatively benign wilderness for herpetologists. Our lone venomous snake, the Massasauga Rattlesnake, is docile and shy with small fangs that don’t really stand a chance against a sneaker and long pants. Costa Rica’s Atlantic Lowland Wet Rainforest is a completely different story. Research scientists have to watch for venomous snakes in 3 dimensional space when working, reading, resting, or making a trip to the loo! Josh Feltham will give us a multi-media presentation about the trials and tribulations of an ophiophile and his quest to learn more about snakes in the Costa Rican rainforest. You’ll learn about ecology, evolution, and natural history of snakes and begin to understand the vital role venomous snakes play in the health and welfare of humans.
Wednesday April 10 th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	PFN Monthly Meeting: “A Journey to the Hawaiiin Islands” Hawaii is famous for its lush forests and active volcanos. These islands first started forming around 4 million years ago, resulting in an incredibly diverse and specialized avifauna, including the Hawaiian Honeycreepers. More recently the Hawaiian endemics are facing pressures from a variety of introduced species. Join Kristen Martyn as she explores three Hawaiian Islands, Kauai, Hawaii (The Big Island) and Oahu, outlining their unique landscape, geology, birds and wildlife. This presentation is packed full of photos from her most recent trip to Hawaii, and is a must hear for anyone wanting to explore these amazing islands and their famous endemics.

Junior Field Naturalists

Cross-Country Skiing @ Camp Kawartha (main site outside Lakefield)

When: Sunday, January 27th, 1:30 p.m.

Bring skis if have them but most sizes can be supplied at the camp unless you need very small ones. Come dress warm and ready to hit the trails - if no snow we will hit them anyway! See you then...Neil



Snow-Shoeing & Animal Tracking @ Camp Kawartha (main site outside Lakefield)

When: Sunday, February 24th, 1:30 p.m.

Come out for some snowshoeing and animal tracking along with hot chocolate in the woods! Equipment will be supplied. Bring warm clothes and boots. Keep fingers crossed for snow! ...Neil

Looking for a unique Christmas Gift which represents our area and will last?

The Peterborough Field Naturalists book '**Nature in the Kawartha**' is an ideal choice!

At the next two meetings copies of Nature in the Kawarthas will be available for purchase at a special cost of \$30.

If you can not attend a meeting contact Martin Parker at 705 -745 -4750 to order your copy (s) and arrange for pick-up or delivery.

NATURE IN THE KAWARTHAS



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Join us for the 72nd PFN Annual General Meeting!

Keep up to date on club business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for fabulous prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation. To reserve your tickets, call Don & Emily Pettypiece at 750-1145, or purchase them at the December meeting.

Date: Friday, January 25th, 2013

Time: Doors open at 5:30 p.m., supper starts at 6:00, meeting at 7:00, raffle at 7:30 and speaker beginning at 8:00pm.

Location: Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club, 577 McDonnell St.; food by Sous Casa Catering

Tickets: Tickets can be reserved by calling Don & Emily Pettypiece at 705-750-1145 or go to the PFN website (www.peterboroughnature.org) to purchase your tickets on-line.

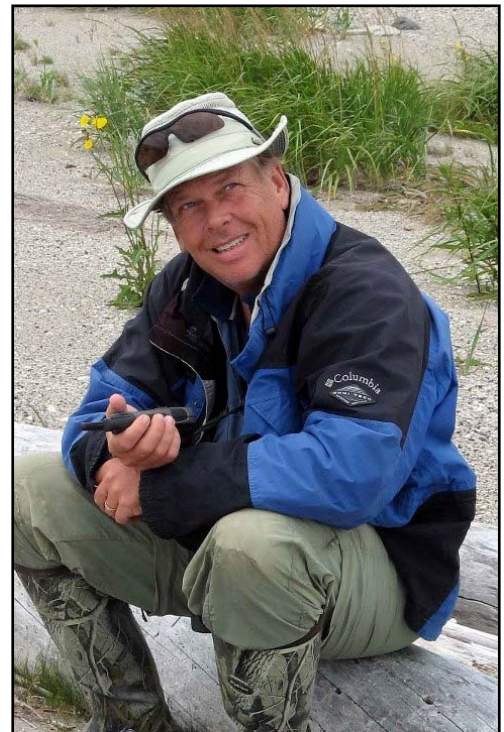
Speaker: Mark Peck, Royal Ontario Museum

Presentation: “Tied Up In Knots!”

Since 2009, the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada have been conducting shore-bird surveys along the west coast of James Bay in northern Ontario. Although the program has focused considerable effort on endangered Red Knots, the teams of volunteers, students and biologists, many from Peterborough, have also taken the opportunity to track other species in the area. Learn about the results of the shorebird surveys and better understand the strange world of life in a wilderness field camp.



Red Knot on mudflats of James Bay. Photo by Doug McRae .



Please bring any donations for our annual bucket draw to the meeting! The success of the draw depends on your generosity!

The 61st Peterborough Christmas Bird Count

-compiled by Tony Bigg

The 61st Peterborough Christmas Bird Count took place on Sunday December 16th. On a dull wet day 37 participants found a total of 58 species, the same total as last year and four below our record. Of particular note was one new species – a Ruby-crowned Kinglet found by Michael Oldham, and rarities such as the Northern Hawk Owl found by Jerry Ball, and three Yellow-rumped Warblers also found by Michael Oldham. The record highs for the three waterfowl, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck and Common Merganser were mostly the result of large reaches of open water in Chemong Lake, normally frozen.

Species	Record	Total	Species	Record	Total
Great Blue Heron	4	1	Blue Jay	469	125 (lowest for 15 yrs)
Canada Goose	2244	1166	American Crow	691	214
American Black Duck	30	3	Common Raven	5	1
Mallard	1124	1264*	Black-capped Chickadee	1759	1951*
Ring-necked Duck	1	3*	Red-breasted Nuthatch	66	30
Common Goldeneye	292	104	White-breasted Nuthatch	95	102*
Bufflehead	5		Brown Creeper	21	6
Hooded Merganser	9	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	47	2
Common Merganser	71	255*	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1
Northern Harrier	6	1	American Robin	750	9 (lowest for 16 yrs)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	1	Bohemian Waxwing	2180	97
Cooper's Hawk	6	5	Cedar Waxwing	737	30
Red-tailed Hawk	62	19**	Common Starling	3400	786
Rough-legged Hawk	5	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	3*
American Kestrel	14	1	Northern Cardinal	120	107 (highest for 20 yrs)
Merlin	3	2	American Tree Sparrow	589	415
Peregrine	1	0	Song Sparrow	27	2
Ruffed Grouse	82	2	White-throated Sparrow	11	7
Wild Turkey	225	287*	Dark-eyed Junco	366	426*
Ring-billed Gull	306	237	Pine Grosbeak	196	32
Herring Gull	1302	312	House Finch	1197	107
Iceland Gull	2	1	Common Redpoll	1736	539 (highest for 20 yrs)
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Hoary Redpoll	3	
Greater Black-backed Gull	32	3	Pine Siskin	750	
Rock Pigeon	1538	1152	American Goldfinch	941	522
Mourning Dove	1329	470	House Sparrow	2209	97
Eastern Screech Owl	2	3*			
Great Horned Owl	40	2	Total Birds	15015	11199
Northern Hawk Owl	3	1	No. of Species	62	58
Barred Owl	2	2 (tied high)	No. of Participants		35
Belted Kingfisher	3	1			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	2	Black x Mallard Hybrid	18	1
Downy Woodpecker	119	55	Gull Sp.		132
Hairy Woodpecker	84	35	Woodpecker Sp.		1
Northern Flicker	5	1	Finch Sp.		50
Pileated Woodpecker	14	5			
Northern Shrike	29	3			

*Record High **Half of the last ten year average

Results of the 27th Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count

-by Colin D. Jones

The 27th Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 22, 2012. The temperature was around -5 degrees Celsius for most of the day but there were strong winds all day (including early in the morning) and periods of light snow at times. Most species were sparse this year due to a lack of natural foods but there is little doubt that the strong winds also contributed to the low numbers.

The count circle (including the 6 areas) can be viewed at the following link: <http://goo.gl/maps/LmG0B>

Participants: 30

Total species: 39 (second highest, average is 34) – open water on most large lakes contributed to higher diversity

Total individuals: 1989 (average 2465)

Birds/party hour: 21 (average 32)

Notable Misses:

- BARRED OWL: recorded every year since 1995/96 with a 10-year average of 2.5.
- GRAY JAY: missed for the third year in a row. Although single birds have been recorded in both Petroglyphs Provincial Park and the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails earlier this winter/fall, no family groups have been noted for several years. Prior to 2010, the average count was 5 and they were recorded every year with the exception of 1990.

The full results are listed in the table below.

SPECIES	TOTAL	RECORD HIGH	10-YR AVERAGE	COMMENTS
Bufflehead	4	4	0.4	New species for count
Common Goldeneye	17	17	1.8	4th year recorded; New Record High
Hooded Merganser	16	17	1.6	3rd year recorded
Common Merganser	97	97	15.7	4th year recorded; New Record High
Ruffed Grouse	20	77	24.4	Below Average
Wild Turkey	65	65	20.5	New Record High
Common Loon	1	1	0.1	2nd year recorded; Tied Record High
Bald Eagle	10	14	6	
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	0.1	3rd year recorded; Tied Record High
Northern Goshawk	1	2	0.4	
Red-tailed Hawk	3	8	1.9	
Golden Eagle	1	3	0.2	
Herring Gull	4	5	0.7	Near Record High
Rock Pigeon	74	89	63.6	
Mourning Dove	5	93	19	Well Below 10-year Ave
Downy Woodpecker	12	54	19.6	Near Record Low (10)
Hairy Woodpecker	15	90	36.4	Near Record Low (10)
Pileated Woodpecker	5	26	11.4	Below 10-year Ave
Blue Jay	38	653	254.2	Well Below 10 year Ave
American Crow	8	20	5.9	
Common Raven	119	187	106.8	
Black-capped Chickadee	645	1571	846.8	Below 10-year Ave

Red-breasted Nuthatch	49	526	103.4	Below 10-year Ave
White-breasted Nuthatch	45	119	65.6	
Brown Creeper	5	64	11.1	Below 10-year Ave
Winter Wren	1	1	0.2	3rd year recorded
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21	120	19.8	
European Starling	35	114	27.4	
Snow Bunting	9	300	12.4	
American Tree Sparrow	23	218	17.6	
Dark-eyed Junco	5	168	3.2	
Pine Grosbeak	39	113	21.9	
Red Crossbill	7	85	10.8	
White-winged Crossbill	7	445	18	
Common Redpoll	366	420	172.3	Near Record High
Hoary Redpoll	2	4	1.1	
Pine Siskin	4	548	39.2	
American Goldfinch	134	714	169.4	
Evening Grosbeak	24	668	43.9	
Unidentified species				
Eagle Species	1			
Hawk Species	1			
Woodpecker Species	2			
Finch Species	48			
Total individuals	1989	3915	2231.4	
Total species	39	41	33	
Effort Data				
Total observers	30			
Party hours on foot	58			
Party hours by car	36.5			
Party hours total	94.5			
Birds/party hour	21			
Distance (km) on foot	85			
Distance (km) by car	509			
Distance (km) total	594			
Party hours owling	1.5			
Distance (km) owling	22			

Thanks to all of the participants!

Area A: Martin Parker, Kathy Parker, Matthew Toby, Dave Milsom, King Baker

Area B: Chris Risley, Scott Gibson, Glenn Desy, Cathy Darevic

Area C: Jerry Ball, Bruce Kidd

Area D: Tony Bigg, Gary Berg, Luke Berg, Meredith Clark, Janice Melendez, John Stirrat, Jon Boxall, Ed Poropat

Area E: Colin Jones, Klara Jones, Gordon Lewer, Sonia, Dan Chronowic, Scott McKinely, Anne Anthony, Sue Malan

Area F: Don Sutherland, Martyn Obbard, Tanya Taylor

PFN Bird Feeders at Ecology Park

-by Sean D. Smith

The Peterborough Field Naturalists have been stocking seed during winter at Ecology Park off Ashburnham Ave. and adjacent to Beavermead Park for more than 20 years. You probably know this beautiful place and the lovely native gardens and the plant sales that occur here, mostly due to a crack force of volunteer gardeners, but there many reasons to visit this urban oasis at any season. A variety of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables can be found growing and for purchase. Paved and accessible trails lead around Beavermead, the city campground and farther on to beaches at both Rogers and Beavermead Parks.

The workings of intrepid beaver can be seen on several trees lining the rills nearby and sometimes partial attempts at dams have been made. Red Fox, muskrat and (rare) mink can be seen in the area, often in daylight and when there is considerable human activity. A variety of butterflies and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are attracted to many of these flowering plants. There are also plenty of birds, through at least the warmer seasons. Winter is quiet, but the three main bird feeders, easily found in Ecology Park, are well stocked by Field Naturalist volunteers. Some of the winter residents here include the usual chickadees, nuthatches, Mourning Doves and goldfinches. Dark-eyed Juncos, American Tree Sparrows, and House Finches have recently enlivened the feeders. This is a great spot to learn how to identify common birds and take photographs. During spring and fall migrations Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Chipping, White-throated, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows can occasionally be seen at the feeders, especially during bad weather. In December a Barred Owl was seen a few times near feeders, likely looking for small mammals attracted to spilled seed.

After checking the feeders, scanning Little Lake/Otonabee River in winter, early spring or in late fall can always yield birds of interest. Fall of 2012 brought sightings of Canvasbacks, Northern Shovelers and Long-tailed Ducks and a very late immature Red-necked Grebe was seen within the Christmas count period. Soon after Christmas, at least in recent years, rare gulls such as Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous can be found sitting on ice edges. Spring, depending on remaining ice on lakes farther north, can be very active for waterfowl on Little Lake with 'staging' flocks of all three merganser species, Wood and Ring-necked Ducks, scaup and goldeneye, and occasional Common Loons, Horned and Red-necked Grebes. For the last couple of winters PFN members Don Finigan and Sean Smith have been keeping the feeders full and building up the clientele. In the past this was also one of the many volunteer tasks that Bob Quinn, George Maynard and Del Burke and several others put their hearts and souls into on behalf of the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

In the afternoon of February 23, there will be a field trip along the Otonabee River that will include Ecology Park and these very active bird feeders. Come out and join us!



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the March issue: Saturday, February 23rd, 2013

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**](mailto:rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca)

Wintering Site for 200+ Trumpeter Swans at Risk due to Proposed Harbour Development. They Need Your Help.

-by June Hitchcox, courtesy of the Apsley voice

By 1886, there were no more Trumpeter Swans in Ontario. In 1982, a dedicated group of volunteers reintroduced them to Ontario & now there are 800 + with about 200 of them overwintering off LaSalle Park, Burlington in a small bay within Hamilton Bay on Lake Ontario. You will recognize a Trumpeter Swan by its completely black bill, by being the largest of all North American Waterfowl & especially by its loud, trumpeting call. The LaSalle site is perfect for them – the water no deeper than 4 feet, allowing them to stretch their long necks to the bottom for aquatic plants/insects; wave-action that prevents the water from freezing; a beach that allows them the required time they need to rest. Since 1993, the Marina there has removed the 130 docks every Sept./Oct. just as these Swans start to arrive; the docks are re installed in Mar./Apr. just as the Swans leave for their many nesting grounds in Ontario – perfect timing – a prime example of people/wildlife living together. However, new plans are afoot, to build a permanent wave-break across the entire section of that bay where the Swans winter& to install permanent, year-round docks with 340 slips. Because of lack of wave-action, the water will freeze over - no food for the Swans. Having permanent docks for 340 boats will push the Swans into a very confined space with early/late-season boaters making it dangerous & noisy for the Swans. More traffic on the beach will disrupt their need for sufficient daytime rest. There are other spots for new Marinas that would leave this precious spot just as is. You may think that this has nothing to do with you: think again. If these delightful Swans are put at risk of surviving the winter at LaSalle, you won't see & enjoy them there or nesting by lakes near you in the summer – that covers ever-increasing spots all over Ontario. If you would like to have your voice heard, please contact Bev Kingdon (bev.ki@sympatico.ca) or write to Rick Goldring, Mayor, City Hall; PO 5013, Burlington, ON, L7R 3Z6 /



Trumpeter Swan. Photo by Carol Croke.

From the Archives: Annual Bird Census Reports- Christmas 1956/1957

-Editor: Frank R. Pammett

BANCROFT AREA: *Sun. December 23, 1956 by Earl Stark, Toronto*

Ruffed Grouse 2; Richardson's Owl (now called Boreal Owl) 1; Blue Jay 19; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 18; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 3; Starling 18; American Goldfinch 14; American Tree Sparrow 8. (14 species, 94 individuals).

PORT HOPE – COBOURG AREA: *Sun. December 23, 1856. Willow Beach Field Naturalists*

Greater Scaup 5; Mallard 27; Old Squaw (now Long-tailed Duck) 68; Common Goldeneye 153; Bufflehead 14; Amer. Merganser (now Common Merganser) 12; Hooded Merganser 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Herring Gull 774; Gt. Black-backed Gull 11; Ring-billed Gull 5; Gt. Blue Heron 2; White-winged Scoter 1; Cooper's Hawk 1; Sparrow Hawk (now American Kestrel) 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1, Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker (now Black-backed Woodpecker) 3; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 15; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 9; American Crow 8; Bronze Grackle (now Common Grackle) 2, American Goldfinch 2, Northern Shrike 3; Northern Cardinal 4; Blue Jay 33; Mourning Dove 13; Starling 587; Cedar Waxwing 6; (Eastern) Meadowlark 6; (Dark-eyed) Junco 103; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; Black-capped Chickadee 42; Pine Siskin 50; House Sparrow 127; American Tree Sparrow 104; Song Sparrow 13. (40 species, 2233 individuals) T. McDonald, compiler

PETERBOROUGH AREAS: *Sat. Dec. 29, 1956. Peterborough Nature Club*

Amer. Merganser 8; Northern Goshawk 1; Sparrow Hawk (now American Kestrel) 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 28; Great Horned Owl 1; Richardson's Owl (now Boreal Owl) 1; Rock Dove 51; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker (now Black-backed Woodpecker) 4; Blue Jay 63; White-winged Crossbill 36; Northern Shrike 2; Black-capped Chickadee 116; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; European Starling 93; House Sparrow 250; American Goldfinch 9; American Tree Sparrow 96; Snow Bunting 51. (22 species, 836 individuals) F.R. Pammett, compiler.

The above three Annual Bird Census reports represents a coverage of approximately 100 miles from the shore of Lake Ontario north almost to Algonquin Park. The absence of most of the winter finches is particularly worthy of note and is possibly due to an abundant food supply in the northern sections of the province.

PFN Officers and Directors

President	Martin Parker	Mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
Past-President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
Vice President, Program (indoor)	Gina Varrin	gina.varrin@gmail.com	761-7787
Secretary	Emily Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@bell.net	750-1145
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@bell.net	750-1145
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung@persona.ca	292-5444
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
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FON Rep	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599
Special Publications	Kelly Boadway	kjboadway@gmail.com	775-0756
Member at Large	Sean Smith	Seansmith64@hotmail.com	874-5426

Other Volunteers

Bird Feeders	Sean Smith & Don Finigan	
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	292-6185





The **ORCHID DIARY** for **Nov 30 2012 - Jan 6, 2013**

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

The finch/waxwing winter continues throughout this period with many reports of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls. The number of Pine Siskins dropped dramatically. Bohemian Waxwings continue in good numbers. Late leaving species include Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Gadwall. A Tufted Titmouse was very rare but has been seen in winter before. The Northern Hawk Owl found on the Peterborough CBC was another excellent sighting.

- Oct 26 A delayed report from Penny Pierce was of a **Tufted Titmouse** visiting her feeder for about a week starting on this date. Penny lives on Cy Rd 20 between Young's Point and Selwyn. She provided excellent photos of the bird.
- Nov 19 Another delayed report was the sighting in downtown Peterborough of a **Western Kingbird** by Devin Turner. It was in the 'No Frills' parking lot on George St. The details have been discussed by experts who are inclined to accept the observation. To quote Don Sutherland - 'Interestingly, there were a number of reports of Western Kingbird in the northeast that day or at least around the same period.' Another new bird for the county.
- Nov 30 Sue Paradis reports that, in addition to three to four dozen **Bohemian Waxwings** visiting her crab apple tree, she has had a **Northern Flicker** coming to her suet balls on Tudor Crescent in Ashburnham. Michael Gillespie also had a dozen **Bohemian Waxwings** coming to a crab-apple tree in his yard on David Fife Line.
- Dec 03 A **Snow Goose** was seen by Luke Berg, circling over the railroad tracks on the 6th Line of Asphodel, between Hwy 7 and Division Rd. He also saw an **American Woodcock** on the Pencier Trail in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. A very good sighting for this time of the year anywhere in Ontario, and the latest by far in Peterborough County. Sean Smith five flocks of **Bohemian Waxwings** totalling at least 750 birds along the east Rotary trail south of Trent University. He also saw a **Northern Shoveler** on Little Lake.
- Dec 04 Simon Dodsworth photographed a flock of 333 **Bohemian Waxwings** (counted from the photo) on Bolivar St just west of downtown Peterborough.
- Dec 05 Jane Philpott had a male and a female **Pine Grosbeak** under her feeder at Buckhorn Lake - Kawartha Hideaway, feeding on the sunflower seeds. Another six or seven **Pine Grosbeaks** were seen by Sean Smith in pines along the east Rotary trail south of Trent University. A **Bonaparte's Gull** was found by Luke Berg below the rapids south of the bridge in Lakefield. On Long Lake Rd Jerry Ball had an adult **Bald Eagle**, on Jack Lake Rd he had a **Pine Grosbeak**, and at the junction of Church Rd and Cty Rd 44 north of Havelock he had some **Common Redpolls**.
- Dec 06 Marion Kafka saw an almost entirely white **Long-tailed Weasel** just outside her patio door, adjacent to the playground at Highland Heights School.
- Dec 07 Four **Pine Grosbeaks** were seen by Tony Bigg, feeding with a flock of about fifty **Bohemian Waxwings**, on a crab-apple tree on Beavis Blvd (off Cty Rd 18, Smith 8th Line) in the north end of Bridgenorth. Another flock of **Bohemian Waxwings** were not far away at the junction of Cty Rd 18 and Holden Rd. A **Cooper's Hawk**, likely female, was seen by Sean Smith, along the east Rotary trail south of Trent University. South of Peterborough Jerry Ball saw about 20 **Hooded Mergansers** and 300 **Common Mergansers** at the south end of Wood Duck Rd on Rice Lake. He also had an **American Kestrel** on Cty Rd 2, and a **Great Blue Heron** on the ice at Hope Mill. North of Peterborough he had an adult **Bald Eagle** on Lake Katchewanooka seen from Young's Point Rd. In Bridgenorth he found a flock of **Pine Grosbeaks** on Ward St.
- Dec 08 Luke Berg watched a **Great Blue Heron** flying across the Baxter Creek Golf Course, off Hwy 28. Tony Bigg saw a **Northern Shrike** near the junction of Base Line and Nelson Rd.
- Dec 09 Walking the rail trail between Blezard and Cameron Line, Tony Bigg had a large flock of about 300 **Common Redpolls** fly in and land near him. Also at his feeder in Lakefield a small flock of a dozen **Pine Siskins** came to feed after an absence of about three weeks. On the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails, Colin Jones, Marianne Clark and Klara Jones noted several small flocks of **Red Crossbills** (4-8 birds each), a single **White-winged Crossbill** flying over and calling, one small flock of **Common Redpolls** flying over and calling, and a single **Gray Jay** in a hemlock dominated forest. Walter Wehhtje, Chris Risley and Greg Rand found a **Northern Shrike** at the intersection of Keene Rd and Hwy 7, just east of the Burnham Restaurant.

- Dec 11 On the east side of Little Lake Sean Smith saw a drake **Ring-necked Duck**.
- Dec 13 Sean Smith had about 40 **Common Redpolls** around his house on Armour Rd just north of TASSS.
- Dec 14 Hilary Dickson found a **Great Black-backed Gull** on the Otonabee River in downtown Peterborough by Millenium Park. Michael Gillespie saw a **Fisher** on his property at the south end of David Fife Line.
- Dec 16 The 61st Peterborough Christmas Bird Count was held. This is reported in full elsewhere in the Orchid. The two main highlights were the finding of the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** for the count, by Mike Oldham (behind the Lions Club on Burnham Rd) and the **Northern Hawk Owl** by Jerry Ball (on Meadowview Rd west fo Hwy 7). David Woolverton saw a **Snowy Owl** sitting on dock on the east side of Lake Katchewanooka. The property is on Moodie Drive. Jim Watts neighbour at Gannon's Narrows got a picture of a **Virginia Opossum** last night on his trail camera
- Dec 17 Dave Milsom refound the **Northern Hawk Owl**. He, and Tony Bigg, also saw a Peregrine Falcon, on Meadowview Rd. Luke Berg Saw an **American Kestrel** on Lily Lake Rd opposite the solar panels, two **Common Ravens** on Chemong Rd near the Lindsay turn-off, and another farther east near Miller's Creek.
- Dec 18 A **Red-necked Grebe** (first winter plumage) was found by Sean Smith on Little Lake. Four **Buffleheads** were seen by Luke Berg on the Otonabee River in Lakefield, and a pair of **Gadwalls** was seen by Travis Cameron in the south pond of the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. The latter is just outside the CBC circle and would have been a new bird (count period only) for the CBC and is by far the latest record for the year in Peterborough County. Dave Milsom found a **Barred Owl** on the 7th Line of Smith, sitting on top of a pole staring at him, and also fifteen **Pine Grosbeaks** feeding on Crab-apples on Ward St. in Bridgenorth (same ones, same tree seen on the CBC?).
- Dec 19 The **Northern Hawk Owl** was seen by Ken Sunderland in the same area near Meadowview Rd west of Hwy 7. He saw a Northern Harrier 'buzzing' the bird. Dave Milsom added **Pine Grosbeaks**, **Northern Shrike**, and a **Great Horned Owl** to his list of birds on the 7th Line of Smith. Luke Berg saw a **Cooper's Hawk** flying over the Otonabee River at Inverlea Park and about 75 **Bohemian Waxwings** at the corner of Parkhill Rd and Water St.
- Dec 20 Janet Johnstone & Doug Latham had a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at their feeder on Cameron Line.
- Dec 21 A small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** visited Bruce Kidd's Feeder at his farm east of Douro.
- Dec 22 The 27th Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count was held. This is reported in full elsewhere in the Orchid. Four **Buffleheads** on Jack Lake were new for the count.
- Dec 24 A **Barred Owl** was seen by Sean Smith near the feeders in the Ecology Park (Beavermead Park). Nearby in Little Lake he saw eleven **Common Mergansers**, seven **Common Goldeneye**, one **Ring-necked Duck**, and one **Bufflehead**. Sue Paradisis had a **Northern Flicker** visit her feeder in Ashburnham. A **Cooper's Hawk** visited her area twice during the day.
- Dec 25 Drew Monkman had the pleasure of watching two dozen **Common Redpolls** at our feeders. There was also a single **White-throated Sparrow** in a flock of a dozen **Dark-eyed Juncos**.
- Dec 27 Jim Watt had the pleasure of watching a spectacular display of eagle behaviour at Gannon's Narrows. An adult **Bald Eagle** flew into a pine tree in front of their property at Gannon Narrows. It was not sitting comfortably in the tree and we could not see if it had anything in its talons. It then flew about 100 yards out onto the ice and began devouring a bird. Feathers were flying everywhere. Then, along came a second adult **Bald Eagle** but there was no way the first one was sharing. We watched the picnic on the ice for about 15 minutes. Fantastic.
- Dec 28 Jim Watt saw a **Coyote** crossing the ice at Gannon's Narrows about noon. He stopped by the green channel marker and headed back – good move as the current is pretty good from there to the red marker on the south side so the ice would be very thin at best. A **Barred Owl** has been in the neighbourhood of Shawn and Kaylee Mowry's home since at least early December and frequents a spruce tree in their backyard. They believe he is feasting on the local rabbit, squirrel and possibly stray cat population. Their backyard borders Olympus Park, specifically the forested area in the north end of Peterborough. They have found evidence of his feedings in their backyard and the vicinity of the park.
- Dec 29 Jim Watt's wildlife saga continues with him watching a **Bald Eagle** trying to take a fish from a **River Otter** in front of his neighbour's house.
- Dec 31 Drew Monkman had a flock of about 16 **Pine Grosbeaks** in the spruce trees in his yard. Micheal Gillespie had four woodpecker species at his feeder today at the south end of David Fife Line, **Pileated**, **Hairy**, **Downy**, and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**.
- Jan 01 Twelve **Bohemian Waxwings** visited Sue Paradisis' crab-apple tree, and she had six **American Tree Sparrows** coming regularly to her feeder.

- Jan 02 Visiting Little Lake Sean Smith noted that there was at least one adult **Glaucous Gull**, and one **Lesser Black-backed Gull** present. The latter gull had a very dark head as compared to nearby **Herring Gulls**. On the same day Scott McKinlay saw three adult **Glaucous Gulls** and one 1st or 2nd year Glaucous Gull as well as the **Lesser-black-backed Gull**.
- Jan 04 On Young's Point Rd Jerry Ball saw a **Common Raven**, and on Cty Rd 6 he saw a small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** opposite the Wildfire Golf Course.
- Jan 05 A **Northern Mockingbird** was found by Ken Sunderland in East City where Edgewater Blvd faces the marina.



Harris' Sparrow near Bobcaygeon, December 31, 2012. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Beaver near Fenelon Falls, December 31, 2012. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Northern Hawk Owl (picture above & below), found on the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count this year. December 17, 2012. Photos by Robert Millar.





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

CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:	
		Work Tel:	
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: _____