

The

Orchid



Jan/Feb 2014

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in A



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Cover Photo

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Dec. 16, 2013, Smith 3rd Line

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Brown Thrasher, by Kristyn Foster, late December, 2013, Rochelle Court, Peterborough ON

COMING EVENTS

Friday
January 24

5:30 p.m.
McDonnell St.
Activity Cnt.

74th PFN Annual General Meeting

The special guest speaker is Rick Stankiewicz who will be giving an illustrated presentation on 'The Wonders Above Us' There are many atmospheric and astronomical wonders above you in the day and night sky, you just need to keep looking up to notice them and discover what it is you are looking at.

Come see the wonders that await you at this year's AGM of the PFN. Full details on page 6.
Book your tickets now.

Sunday
February 2nd

9:00 a.m. Ptbo
Zoo Parking Lot

Whose footprints are these? Winter tracking workshop

Following his fascinating talk to the club about tracking, last November, Don McLeod will lead an outing to look for tracks and signs in the snow.

Meet at Peterborough Zoo Parking lot at 9:00 a.m. from where we will car share to local sites of interest. The outing should last around 2 hours. Dress for the weather and bring a contribution for gas.

Wednesday
February 12

7:30 p.m. Ptbo
Library

Monthly Meeting—Richtersveldt National Park, South Africa

PFN Member Roger Jones, will be giving an illustrated presentation on his trip to Richtersveldt National Park in South Africa. Located in South Africa's northern Namaqualand, this arid area represents a harsh landscape where water is a great scarcity and only the hardiest of lifeforms survive. Despite this, the Richtersveldt is regarded as the only Arid Biodiversity Hotspot on Earth, with an astonishing variety of plant, bird and animal life (much of which is endemic).

Sunday
February 23

1:00 p.m. Ptbo
Zoo Parking Lot

Winter Birds Along the Otonabee

This half day outing—led by Martin Parker—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.

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.

COMING EVENTS CONTINUED

Sunday
March 2nd

6:45 a.m. Tim
Hortons
Lansdowne, in
Sobey's Plaza

Hooters of Amherst Island

Amherst Island, at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, west of Kingston, is known for its concentration of wintering owls. The owls and hawks are the top predators on the island and the hunters of the mice and voles in the grasslands of the island. The number and variety vary from year to year but normally one can find Snowy, Short-eared and Long-eared Owls. Depending on the northern flight, other species will be present. This is a joint outing with the Kingston Field Naturalists under the direction of Peter Good of Kingston. With Peter's local knowledge we will see the owls of this winter.

The spring migration will have commenced by this time.

Martin Parker will be leading the group from Peterborough to the ferry terminal for the passage to Amherst Island. We will be catching the 9:30 a.m. ferry to the island. Bring a packed lunch, clothes suitable for the weather, binoculars and camera.

Wednesday
March 12

7:30 p.m. Ptbo
Library

Ontario's IBA program: Critical Sites for Birds and Biodiversity

The Important Bird Areas Program is a global initiative to identify, monitor, and conserve the world's most important sites for birds and biodiversity. Using scientific criteria, nearly 600 Canadian sites have been designated. IBAs are found throughout the country. Ontario's 70 IBAs cover more than 23,000 km², largely along the coasts of the Great Lakes and Hudson and James Bays. Most sites regularly host large concentrations of birds, or significant numbers of species at risk.

Join Ontario's IBA Coordinator, Mike Burrell of Bird Studies Canada to find out more about these amazing sites and learn how you can help make a difference.

Sunday
March 23

8:00 a.m.
Country Style,
Old Keene Rd.
and Hwy #7

Waterfowl at Presqu'ile Provincial Park

Join us for a full-day birding trip to Presqu'ile, led by Jerry Ball. Thousands of ducks, geese and swans use this resting spot on their spring 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 Hwy #7. There is an entry fee for each vehicle entering the park. Contact Jerry for more in 705-745-3272.

Sunday
March 30

8:00 a.m.
Tim Hortons
Lansdowne, in
Sobey's Plaza

Birds of the Lakeshore

Tony Bigg will lead a day of birding along the shore of Lake Ontario. The initial destination is Cobourg harbor then westward to Port Hope, Bond Head, Oshawa Second Marsh and Whitby. We can expect a good variety of birds, including waterfowl, gulls, and early arriving land birds. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and telescope if you have one. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day of the outing.

Meet Tony at the Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza parking lot on Lansdowne St. W. where we will car pool. Contact Tony at 705-652-7541 for more information.

COMING EVENTS CONTINUED

****Thursday**
April 10

7:30 p.m. Ptbo
Public Library

Monthly Meeting—Koalas, Kangaroos and Kookaburras: adventures in the South East of Australia

Paul Elliott shares stories of wildlife encounters while exploring the Dandenong Ranges and the coast of Victoria and New South Wales during a trip to Australia in 2013. From walks among the world's tallest flowering plants and close-up encounters with colourful bird life to a heart-stopping moment in the shower, the native species of Australia never fail to impress.

****Note the change to Thursday night due to another booking at Library.**

Sunday Mornings
April 6 to May 25

Spring Wildlife
Walks

8:00 a.m. Ptbo
Zoo Parking Lot

Spring Wildlife Walks

Our popular Spring wildlife walks will commence on Sunday April 6th and continue until May 25th, unless otherwise advertised. Most walks will start at 8:00 am and we will normally carpool 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.

PEN JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

(ages 5-12)

Sunday
January 26
1:30 p.m.
Camp Kawartha
(Clear Lake,
Lakefield)

Cross-country Skiing at Camp Kawartha (Lakefield)

An opportunity for the young naturalist to enjoy the snows of this winter. Bring your skis if you have them. The Camp has most sizes for skis and boots for those who need them so all juniors can participate in this activity. Dress for the weather conditions on the day of the outing and be ready to hit the trails. We will look for tracks in the snow and winter birds.

Meet at the main Camp Kawartha site on 1010 Birchview Road, off Highway 28 north of Lakefield.

Sunday
February 23
1:30 p.m.
Camp Kawartha
Environment Cnt
(Trent U)

Helping Our Bees – Building Bee Houses at Env Cnt. (Trent U)

Under the direction of Susan Chan of Farms at Work the juniors will be making houses for solitary bees. These bees are critical in pollinating wild flowers and food plants. The solitary bees nest in hollow tubes or stems. You will be using the stems off Phragmites or Common Reed to build the houses. The extra houses will be sold as a fundraiser for the Peterborough Rotary Spelling Bee.

Meet at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre off Pioneer Road on Trent University campus.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Friday to Sunday
April 11, 12, 13

Peterborough Garden Show

Come welcome spring at one of Ontario's biggest garden shows. The annual Peterborough Garden Show, held at the Evinrude Centre, is sponsored by the Peterborough Horticultural Society and area Master Gardeners. The 3 day event hosts many garden-related vendors, exhibitors, daily speakers, informative workshops, displays, arrangements and advice. Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and local beautification projects.

For more details check out www.peterboroughgardens.ca.

PFN Trip to Niagara Falls and Area

by Tony Bigg

On December 1, 2013 a group of just six participants made the trip down to Niagara with the primary aim of seeing the many gulls on the river and looking for certain other rarities that had recently been reported.

We left Peterborough at 6 a.m. picking up a few common birds in the half-light, Rock Pigeon, European Starling, Ring-billed Gull, the first of about fifty Red-tailed Hawks we were to see, American Crow, Mourning Dove, and Mallard. Making a brief TH stop in Burlington we then birded along Eastport Rd finding Great Black-backed Gull, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Mute Swan, Trumpeter Swan, Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, Herring Gull, and Greater Scaup. At the lift bridge at the entry into Hamilton Bay the faithful Peregrine Falcon showed itself on the cables between the two towers. Along to Redhill Creek we added American Goldfinch, Snow Bunting, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Common Merganser, Green-winged Teal, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron and American Robin. On advice from another birder we quickly doubled back to the Tollgate Ponds where we had a difficult view of a Snowy Owl.

From there we headed straight down to Fort Erie. We could not find any of the rarities that had been seen in the near past – Lark Sparrow, Elegant Tern and Common Tern, despite a large number of other birders also looking. However whilst there we did add Carolina Wren, North-

ern Cardinal, Pied-billed Grebe, Bonaparte's Gull, Horned Grebe, American Black Duck, Downy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, Blue Jay, and Black-capped Chickadee.

Driving north along the Niagara River to Chippewa we found Tundra Swans, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and Northern Flicker.

At the Control Dam above the Falls we added Gadwall, American Tree Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. In the Dufferin Islands area close above the Falls White-breasted Nuthatch, American Wigeon, Tufted Titmouse were added plus two of the rarities we were looking for – the Purple Sandpiper (well hidden on its usual rock perch near the stranded barge) and the Red Phalarope (seen by most but not all of our group). A quick drop-off and shuttle to and fro allowed all of the group to see the two Black-legged Kittiwakes flying about in the mist at the foot of the Falls.

At our next stop at the Adam Beck Hydroelectric Power Station we had our first challenge with gull identification finding Iceland Gulls, and Glaucous Gulls among the many Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls.

Between the Queenston Dock area and the Niagara river outlet we added American Kestrel, Red-necked Grebe, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Mockingbird, and White-winged Scoter.

Finally in fading light we stopped off at Fifty Rd in Grimsby to find Surf Scoter, Redhead, and Cooper's Hawk.

The total gull species at eight was comparatively low. However a good total of 67 species were recorded for the day.

Annual General Meeting: The Wonders Above Us

Friday, January 24, 2014

5:30 p.m.

**577 McDonnell Street
McDonnell Street Activity Centre**

Join us for the PFN's Annual General Meeting, Friday, January 24, 2014 at the McDonnell Street Activity Centre (577 McDonnell Street). 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.

- Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- Supper starts at 6:00 p.m.
- Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Raffle at 7:30 p.m.
- Guest Speaker beginning at 8:00 p.m.
- Tickets are \$36.00.

You need to have reserved your tickets by now, but if you haven't, call Don & Emily Pettypiece right now at 750-1145, and you might get lucky!

AGM Keynote Speaker:

Rick Stankiewicz

"The Wonders Above Us"

There are many atmospheric and astronomical wonders above you in the day and night sky, you just need to keep looking up to notice them and discover what it is you are looking at. Come see the wonders that await you at this years AGM of the PFN.



Sunburst, Rick Stankiewicz



Rainbow, Rick Stankiewicz

PFN Directors Listing

President	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
Vice-President	Gina Varrin	gina.varrin@gmail.com	761-7787
Secretary	Sean Smith	seansmith64@hotmail.com	874-5426
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@bell.net	750-1145
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung@persona.ca	292-5444
Program (indoor)	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	pauelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Newsletter Editor	Chris, Martin, Lynn	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
FON Rep	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641
Special Projects	Kelly Boadway	kjboadway@gmail.com	775-0756
Special Project	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599

Other PFN Volunteers

Bird Feeders	Sean Smith & Don Finigan	745-4750
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailouts	TBD	
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	292-6185
Local Planning Committees	Jim Cashmore	



Brown Thrasher, Kristyn Foster

Western Kingbird in Peterborough County

Dave Milsom

Just before dusk on Monday, August 26th, a Western Kingbird caught insects in the air after flying out from birch trees just behind my deck at 1093 Scollard Drive, Peterborough. This continued for about 10 minutes until the bird flew into the woods, presumably to roost for the night. Photos were taken *through my telescope*.



Western Kingbird, by Dave Milsom

Next day several birders arrived to see the bird but it never reappeared or was relocated.

Our Heritage of Birds – Peterborough County in the
The Orchid, Volume 60, Number 1, Jan/Feb 2014

Kawarthas by Doug Sadler, 1983. (Orchid Press, Peterborough Field Naturalists) designates the Western Kingbird as hypothetical and accidental in the County. Sadler states that “There are only two sight records of this species in the County : July 29 and Aug. 26, 1965, Chemong Lake (Yorke et al.).



Western Kingbird, by Dave Milsom

Ontario Field Ornithologists Peterborough Birding Trip Report

Twenty-five birders, both Ontario Field Ornithologists and PFN members attended the January 1st OFO outing around Peterborough area. Only 29 species were recorded. The cold weather had sent many species to find food at bird feeders.

On the Otonabee River between Trent University and Lakefield and the Lakefield waterfront we saw Mallards, Common Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe and American Coot.

At Petroglyphs Provincial Park, workings of Black-backed Woodpeckers were observed but no birds could be found. Sightings included Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Also seen on the outing were 2 Ruffed Grouse, 2 flocks of Wild Turkeys, 2 Snow Bunting flocks, Pileated Woodpecker, Cooper's Hawk, and several White-breasted Nuthatches.

Notice to Members: Nominations for Directors

The affairs of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are managed by 12 members who comprise the Board of Directors. The Nomination Committee annually prepares a slate of Directors for approval at the Annual General Meeting. It is anticipated there will be several vacancies on the Board which the Nominations Committee has to fill. The normal term of a Director is three years.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or would like to suggest a member who may be interested please advise the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Kelly Boadway at kjboadway@gmail.com or 705-775-0756.

Share your passion for wildlife with New Canadians!

The New Canadians Centre LINC program (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) helps anyone over the age of 18 and is new to Peterborough acquire fluency in English. As part of the program the tutors invite guest speakers so that the students can listen and talk with a variety of people using English.

Last year I was invited to talk to two groups of students about bats. I have since been contacted to ask whether any other PFN members would like to talk to the groups about wildlife. Apparently they really enjoyed my talk and have requested more on wildlife. It is a great opportunity to share your passion with a small multi-cultural class.

The LINC Program is hosted by Fleming College at their Bonaccord St. Campus in Peterborough. There are two classes, one for beginners and one more advanced. Classes are during the day.

If you think you may be able to help please get in contact with Tamara Hoogerdyk, the Settlement Services Coordinator at the New Canadians Centre Peterborough.

tamara@nccpeterborough.ca

(705) 743-0882 ext 224



American Crow

June Hitchcox, courtesy of the Apsley Voice

Our Crows are amazing birds – intelligent; wary; resourceful; can learn to mimic human and other sounds. They can distinguish a man holding a gun from one holding a stick and after a brief time can recognize the man himself. They have a built-in sense of direction, allowing them to get to where they want to go.



They have developed a communication system to alert other Crows of danger and to tell them where new food can be found. When a group is feeding, probably on the ground because they prefer that, a few Crows remain in the surrounding trees as sentinels.

Because the young do not breed before the age of 2 or longer, these young attach themselves to a pair of breeding Crows - mostly their parents - to help feed their new young, defend their territory and other chores. In the process, they learn a lot of useful things for their futures when they will have families of their own and they tend to continue associating with their families all through their lives. You might say that it is like going to school!

Although some Crows stay for the winter, the ones that migrated south will begin to appear in March and some will start building nests at that time.

Crows are 17" to 21" long; all black with a purplish sheen if the sun is shining; stocky; can move their eyes without moving their head; rather a long, all-purpose bill to deal with their varied diet; fan-shaped tail (Ravens are wedge-shaped); sexes look similar. They strut around on the ground, hopping only when in a hurry. They spring into the air to fly, (seldom gliding as Ravens do), nearly always flapping their wings.

Crows eat nearly everything: seeds, insects, fruit, earthworms, carrion, garbage - their favourites being cracked corn and sunflower seed. One farmer killed off all his Crows then watched as corn borers devastated his corn crop and made it a failure that year. Although they have what we consider bad habits, the farmer is grateful for the huge quantities eaten be Crows of cutworms, grasshoppers, corn borers and other insects injurious to their crops.

In non-breeding seasons, Crows travel long distances from all angles, by the 1,000's to nightly roosting spots. If one sees a perching Owl or Hawk, "Mobbing" occurs – diving and cawing until the bird moves off. You might hear this racket sometime and investigate – it is interesting to see

62nd Peterborough Christmas Bird Count

by Tony Bigg

Christmas Bird Counts are run annually between December 14th and January 3rd. The area is within a circle of 15 miles diameter. The count area here is centered at the junction of Chemong Rd and Sunset Blvd. The count was started by the American Audubon Society 112 years ago and now covers many countries within North and South America, and Asia. Within Canada we report results to Bird Studies Canada.

The count was held on Sunday, December 15, 2013. The weather was mostly cloudy with some brief periods of sun late in the day. The temperature varied between -15 and -10 deg. C. Thirty five participants took part. A total of 51 species (10 year average 54) and 10,179 individuals (10 year average 10413) were counted. We had a record number of individuals of several birds. Of particular interest was the first record of a Red-necked Grebe (previous count period only), and the sightings of a Snowy Owl and a Short-eared Owl. Also notable was the count of only 39 House Sparrows, by far the lowest number ever recorded on the count.

Record highs and ties (old record):

- Red-necked Grebe 1 (0)
- Long-tailed Duck 3 (1)
- Bald Eagle 3 (1)

- Cooper's Hawk 10 (6)
- Snowy Owl 1 (1)
- Short-eared Owl 1 (1)
- Belted Kingfisher 3 (1)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker 8 (7)
- Pileated Woodpecker 14 (14)
- Common Raven 10 (5)
- Dark-eyed Junco 370 (309)
- Red-winged Blackbird 453(5426)

Other birds seen were:

Canada Goose 314, Mallard 826, Lesser Scaup (CP), Common Goldeneye 211, Bufflehead 1, Hooded Merganser 3, Common Merganser 7, Sharp-shinned Hawk (CP), Red-tailed Hawk 32, American Kestrel 1, Merlin 2, Ruffed Grouse 3, Wild Turkey 147, Ring-billed Gull 13, Herring Gull 9, Glaucous Gull (CP), Rock Pigeon 1141, Mourning Dove 858, Eastern Screech Owl 2, Great Horned Owl 6, Downy Woodpecker 68, Hairy Woodpecker 61, Northern Flicker 3, Northern Shrike 7, Blue Jay 281, American Crow 568, Black-backed Chickadee 1500, Red-breasted Nuthatch 4, White-breasted Nuthatch 55, Brown Creeper 8, Golden-crowned Kinglet 8, American Robin 222, Cedar Waxwing 258, European Starling 729, Northern Cardinal 83, American Tree Sparrow 413, Song Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 3, Snow Bunting 1392, Red-winged Blackbird 1, House Finch 61, Pine Siskin 151, American Goldfinch 327, House Sparrow 39.

For table of above data, go online and visit:

<http://peterboroughnature.org/nature-studies/christmas-bird-counts/results-2013>



Snowy owl, as originally shot and composed by Enid Mallory, December 2013. (Recognize this? CG flipped it horizontally for the cover photo. Great shot, Enid!)



Cedar Waxwing Lakefield1 (on CBC), 15 Dec 2013 by Dave Milsom



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the March 2014 issue:
February 15th.

Send submissions to **Chris Gooderham** or **Martin Parker** via email: **webmaster@peterboroughnature.org**, or snail mail: **PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7**

Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

Serving all Ontario

by JB Jabon

2013 was a busy and challenging year at the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, situated just behind the Super-centre at Lansdowne Place, which has been home to the KTTC since 2010. In recent years turtle rescues in Ontario have grown exponentially due, in large part, to the centres extensive educational programme targeting schools, cottage association and the like. If there is a downside to all this it is that the old facility became crowded and unsustainable. This necessitated a search for suitable new premises taking many months but eventually towards the end summer, “bingo”, we linked up with a motivated and supportive landlord here in Peterborough and started planning a move to Chemong Road/3Rd Line (at the lights just north of the Hyundai dealer). This new location will not only accommodate more turtles, but include space to offer educational experiences on site. This being said, a new name to encompass all of the organizations initiatives was voted in at the last AGM; the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre.

Moving hundreds of turtles was expected to be challenging and indeed it was. Logistics alone presented all sorts of unforeseen issues. For a start, injured turtles require a nurturing environment with regular feeding and cleaning in warm and peaceful surrounds. This was becoming more of an issue in the existing centre due to the crowded space, but had to be maintained while the new facility was renovated to become “turtle friendly”. With limited tanks and each adult having its own, this demanded quite a juggling act requiring temporary digs for each individual adult, transport of the allotted tank, reinstallation to include plumbing and finally relocation of the occupant. Now that turtles occupied two facilities there was a demand for volunteer services in both locations. That said, most of the turtles have been relocated and at the time of writing it is expected the move will be final by the middle of January 2014.

Some interesting facts from the past season are that admits in 2013 were 370 up from 229 in 2012. Incubated eggs produced around 500 hatchlings in 2013 up some 25% from 2012. The incubation success rate has climbed

above 60% and continues to improve. Currently there are approximately 100 adult and 600 “babies” under care. Active turtle care volunteers, who gave of their time each week, numbered 33 while the unique, Ontario wide Turtle Taxi group, who transport injured turtles back and forth from all corners of the province, climbed to 115. This selfless group cover their own travel costs as well as donating their time.

Finally! Did you know? Because less than 1% of turtle hatchlings survive adulthood, it can take 200 eggs up to 25 years to replace one nesting female killed by a car. Each turtle saved really does have a positive impact on the entire population.

Note: Future updates will provide interesting information regarding the new centre and discuss relative objectives. In the meantime our turtles are in need of help to refurbish the hospital and are looking specifically for stainless steel tables, surgery lamps and a dental drill to outfit the new surgery. If you know of any, or would like to help us find these items, please contact us at info@kawarthaturtle.org

(visit their website: <http://kawarthaturtle.org>)



Russ Enslow and PFN member JB Jaboor plumbing a turtle tank at the new KTTC on Chemong Road

From the Archives – Annual Meetings of the Past

Annual Meeting Announcements for past issues of “*The Orchid*”

From December 1963 issue. Vol. 8, No. 11

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PETERBOROUGH NATURE CLUB

Jan. 10, 1964, at the Empress Hotel, 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$2.25 each

Editor Note: no speaker given in the Orchid but was Don Baldwin of the Royal Ontario Museum who gave a presentation on the Ontario Nest Records Scheme.

From January 1974 issue. Vol. 19, No. 1

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Miss Diana Motor Hotel on January 25, 1974 at 6 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Donald Gunn. Many members will remember, with delight, his excellent presentation on wild life photography last spring. Dinner tickets are \$4.50 for adults, \$3.00 for children. Please try to attend; we have an excellent record of good food, first class speakers, interesting exhibits and warm companionship.

From December 1983 issue, Vol. 29. No. 9

January 20 – Friday – Annual Meeting – At the Empress Hotel. Social Hour and Bar. Admission \$12.00. (Last year we subsidized the cost, this year we cannot afford to).

Speaker – Gerry Bennett – naturalists and humourist, author of *Wild Birdwatcher I Have Known*, publisher and editor of *Bird Finding in Canada*. Don't miss this evening of nature, human and otherwise, dished up with wit and merriment.

From January, 1994 issue, Vol. 40, No. 1

Jan. 21 – Annual General Meeting – 5:30 Punch Bar; 6:30 Dinner – St. Paul's Presbyterian Church – corner of Murray and Water St.

HOW MANY DEER ARE TOO MANY?

Join Mike Bradstreet, Executive Director of the Long Point Bird Observatory (now Bird Studies Canada) for a fascinating look at the evidence in favour of the Long Point deer cull, where deer populations date demonstrated why the cull was necessary and how the deer immediately reacted, how depleted Long Point's breeding bird communities are in comparison to those on the adjacent mainland, and how Long Point's vegetation has recovered in the three years since the cull.

NEEDED!

Donations for the BUCKET DRAW at the Annual General Meeting.

The Peterborough Field Naturalist Club (PFN) has traditionally held a bucket draw at the Annual General Meeting. In order to have a successful raffle, a variety of items are welcomed and needed!

Proceeds from this draw are used for various projects throughout the year. For instance, the PFN fills the bird feeders at the Ecology Park throughout the winter. Proceeds from the draw contribute to the cost of the feed.

Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekend

March 15-16 2014
10am to 4pm

Presqu'ile will be hosting their 38th waterfowl viewing weekend, where nature enthusiasts can come and appreciate one of the great natural 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 the viewing weekend, volunteers with scopes are situated at key areas to help visitors find and ID the different species. The Nature Centre and Lighthouse Centre, featuring “ducky” displays and children’s activities are open 10am to 4pm. The Friends of Presqu'ile will also be there with a BBQ starting at 11am, and the Gift Store will be open.

There is a park admission fee of \$10.00/vehicle.

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 Nature Centre, I would be more than happy to hear from you.

For more information on the event or on volunteering please contact David Bree at 613 475-4324 ext. 225 or david.bree@ontario.ca



Photo of donated print for silent auction, by artist Kelly Dodge



Black-backed Woodpecker, entrance to Petroglyph PP, 2 Jan 2014 by Luck Berg

THE ORCHID DIARY

Compiled by Tony Bigg. 705-652-7541. tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

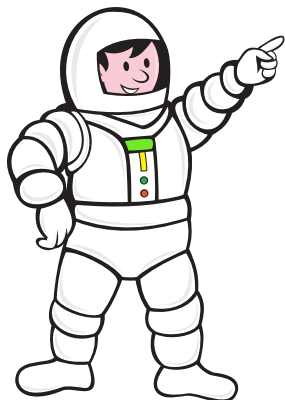
for November 29 to December 31, 2013

A cold month with average temperatures well below normal. Even so the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC) found an average number of species. The widely reported influx of Snowy Owls throughout Ontario was seen in our county with reports from at least five sites. Other interesting owl sightings were the probable Great Gray Owl in the Selwyn CA at the end of November, and a Short-eared Owl on the CBC.

- Nov 29 After an absence of several months, a single **Red-bellied Woodpecker** has returned to Paul Money's feeder in Ida. He comes to the feeder about every three days.
- Nov 30 Anne Corke had a **Northern Shrike** visit her yard on Cathcart Crescent in Cavan-Monaghan Township. Chris Risley reports a **Great Black-backed Gull** on the Rogers Cove beach by Little Lake (e-birds). Another **Red-bellied Woodpecker** has returned for the winter to the feeder of Janet Johnstone and Doug Latham on Cameron Line. While walking in the Selwyn CA Maris Lubbock spotted a large **grey owl**. It was perched on a tree branch out in the open and flew slowly to another tree as they approached. It was large and grey with no ear tufts. He is quite sure it was a **Great Gray Owl**.
- Dec 01 Jim and Suzanne Fulton saw a late **Great Blue Heron** flying over Cumberland Avenue in the north end of Peterborough.
- Dec 02 A flock of about 40 **Cedar Waxwings** were seen by Tony Bigg near the bridge in Lakefield. He also found a female **Red-breasted Merganser** by the beach in Lakefield Park. In the south of the county Jerry Ball saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.
- Dec 03 Jerry Ball found a late **Double-crested Cormorant** on Rice Lake, and a **Ruffed Grouse** on Frenchman's Creek Rd. Two **Brown Creepers** and a **Belted Kingfisher** were seen by Tony Bigg by the marsh in Lakefield Park.
- Dec 04 Two **Opossums** were at Mary-Lou Murphy's place in Ennismore. Luke Berg heard four **Great Horned Owls** calling in the Trent Wildlief Area near the main car park. This morning at Gannon Narrows, Jim Watt watched a **Bald Eagle** attempting to get one of the **Canada Geese** in the open water. The eagle was trying to get the geese to fly but they stayed put and he finally left them.
- Dec 05 A **White-throated Sparrow** has been a constant presence (every day/all day) on Dave Beaucage's patio at Curve Lake since its arrival a week ago. The **nuthatch** and **chickadees** don't seem to bother it. It hit the window on Saturday but was only stunned only for about 10 minutes. His wife watched over it until it recovered. A **Redhead** was seen by Jerry Ball on Little Lake. He also saw a **Northern Shrike** on Moncrief Line.
- Dec 06 Chris Risley found a female **Long-tailed Duck** on Little Lake (e-birds). A late **Great Blue Heron** was seen by Tony Bigg in a wet area on Nicholson Rd south of 3rd Line in South Monaghan.

- Dec 08 Tony Bigg saw the female **Red-breasted Merganser**, still in Lakefield, together with a **Pileated Woodpecker** and several **Golden-crowned Kinglets**.
- Dec 09 Nan Campbell reports today that at about 10 a.m. one day last week, a “white owl” (a **Snowy Owl**) on the Hawkins property by the side of the road (Hawkins Road/6th Line) at Hamilton's Bay, Stony Lake. She was able to get a photograph.
- Dec 10 Wasyl Bakowsky saw a **Snowy Owl** this afternoon, both on the way home for lunch, and on the way back to work. It was in the field opposite the Subaru dealership on Chemong Road.
- Dec 11 An **American Coot** was seen by Tony Bigg, swimming along the shore of the island just off the Lakefield Beach (opposite the arena) on the west side this morning. He also saw a late female **Bufflehead** and a female **Lesser Scaup** in the same area. At noon Dave Milsom found a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** feeding on fermentig apples on a tree behind house 2137 at the east end of Smith 6th Line.
- Dec 12 Twenty American **Robins** and a **Cooper's Hawk** were seen by Dave Milsom on Smith 6th Line. On the River Otonabee he saw **Common Mergansers** and one **American Black Duck**, and in his yard on Scollard Drive he had two **White-throated Sparrows** and a **Song Sparrow**. A **Purple Finch** was at Tony Bigg's feeder in Lakefield. Luke Berg found the female Lesser Scaup about 200m below Lock 26.
- Dec 13 Dave Milsom reported a **Northern Shrike** on Television Rd south of Parhill Rd. On Little Lake he found the female **Long-tailed Duck**, and near the marina there were eighteen **Common Goldeneyes**.
- Dec 14 The **Snowy Owl** on Chemong Rd was seen again by Luke Berg. He had to turn west on the 3rd Line of Smith to see it. Randy Smith found a **Northern Shrike** near the junction of Fairbairn Rd and the 3rd Line of Smith.
- Dec 15 The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count was held - see report on page 10. The main highlights were our first CBC **Red-necked Grebe** (Drew Monkman et al), the **Snowy Owl** (Scottt Gibson) and a **Short-eared Owl** (Luke Berg et al).
- Dec 16 The **Snowy Owl** was seen by Walter Wehtje at noon perched atop the tallest hydrotower near the 3rd Line of Smith just west of Chemong Rd. An unusual leucistic **Northern Short-tailed Shrew** was trapped by Paul J. Costello on his porch at his home on Cty Rd 4.
- Dec 17 Dave Milsom reports a sighting of a **Snowy Owl** and an **American Kestrel** at the Peterborough Airport. Also at the airport, Jerry Ball saw the **American Kestrel** but added an adult **Bald Eagle**. In the early morning Luke Berg saw a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** flying south along the Otonabee River just north of Lock 25. Today, at the west end of Boshing Narrows on the north shore of Stony Lake, two **Bald Eagles** were seen by Rob Welsh. There was one adult and one immature. They were feeding on a Deer carcass (wolf kill). Don Sutherland saw a **Snowy Owl** this morning (~0800h) on the Rotary Greenway Trail north of Trent. It was in a dead elm, 300-400m east of the trail, on the hilltop in the open fields – opposite south entrance to Promise Rock Trail. .
- Dec 19 A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported (e-birds) by Daniel Williams on Little Lake.

- Dec 21 A **Chipping Sparrow** and a **Song Sparrow** were at Scott McKinlay's black oil sunflower feeder in Cavan. Laurie McLaughlin-Maveal saw a **Bald Eagle** today south of Young's Point lock. It was finding food in the ice. A first winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported (e-birds) by Don Sutherland on Little Lake.
- Dec 22 A female **Bufflehead** was reported (e-birds) by Don Sutherland on the Otonabee River between Lock 25 and Lakefield.
- Dec 23 Sabine Overink had a **Ruffed Grouse** in his ice-encrusted tree eating small apples late this afternoon at his home on Cty Rd 6, Douro-Dummer.
- Dec 25 Mike Gillespie had a **four woodpecker christmas gift** at his feeder - Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.
- Dec 26 A **Porcupine** visited Mike Gillespie's feeder at the south end of David Fife Line.
- Dec 27 The feeder in Sue Paradisis's yard has been extremely busy after the storm. Four male and one female **Northern Cardinals** have joined her usual pair. She has almost constant activity all day long with fourteen different species including a **Northern Flicker** yesterday, and a **Cooper's Hawk** on Christmas day. Peter Beales had a juvenile **Northern Shrike** in his backyard in town at Lock 19 this afternoon. Interestingly he also spotted one just west of the Tanney cabin on the Kawartha Nordic ski trails at Haultain on Dec 26th.
- Dec 28 The **Snowy Owl** on Chemong Rd was seen again, this time by Tara Harrington.
- Dec 29 The **American Coot** was refound by Tony Bigg behind the Beer Store in Lakefield. At the end of Stenner Rd north of Lakefield, on Lake Katchewanooka, Martin Parker saw about a hundred **Common Mergansers**, one adult **Bald Eagle**, three **Red-tailed Hawks**, and one **Rough-legged Hawk**.
- Dec 30 Driving from Lakefield to Peterborough this morning Tony Bigg found the **American Coot** still in the same place behind the Beer Store in Lakefield, **Common Goldeneyes**, **Common Mergansers**, **Hooded Mergansers**, below Lakefield, and a **Red-necked Grebe** at the Trent campus just north of the foot bridge. A **Great Black-backed Gull** was on Little Lake. Martin Parker and Dave Milsom gained access to the Peterborough Landfill Site (Bensfort Rd) and counted about 200 gulls, including four **Glaucous Gulls**, six **Great Black-backed Gulls**, one **Thayer's Gull**, and the rest being **Herring Gulls**.



Hey Sky Watchers!

We're looking forward to seeing you at the AGM, with Keynote presentation by Rick Stankiewicz, Astronomer / Photographer. Call Don and Emily 705-750-1145 by Friday, January 17th, 2014. Be sure to indicate your main menu preference—A for meat, B for vegetarian.

Check the menu online here:
<http://peterboroughnature.org/agm-2014/>



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:	Email(s):
		<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please	

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: _____