

The Orchid

December 2014
Volume 60, No.9

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly, Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Cattle Egret, Larmer Line, November 16 ~ Submitted by Martin Parker

INSIDE:

Update From Ontario Nature
74th Annual General Meeting

Join the Christmas Bird Counts!
Cattle Egret near Millbrook



Evening Grosbeaks ~ Submitted by Luke Berg

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Debbie Jenkins

Coming Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday December 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 am</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobeys/Canadian Tire Plaza, Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough</p>	<p>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</p> <p>This day trip will be to the Niagara River, the gathering place for the world's greatest concentration of gulls. Each fall thousands of gulls representing up to twelve species gather to feed along the river. This concentration also attracts bird watchers from across the continent. On this outing we will visit the best locations along the river to look for the birds reported this fall. Beside the gulls there will be a variety of waterfowl and other late departing migrants. The leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza at 7:00 a.m. to carpool for the trip to the Niagara River. The secondary meeting location will be the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston. If you are planning to meet the group at that location please phone Martin (705-745-4750) in advance.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and clothes forecast for the weather forecast for the Niagara Region. If you have a telescope and/or camera bring it as well. The trip will end in the Niagara area in the late afternoon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday December 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Members' Slide Night</p> <p>The December members' slideshow is an annual PFN tradition. Have some photos from a trip, a natural event, or a wildlife encounter that you'd like to "show and tell"? Contact Lynn Smith at smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 14</p>	<p>Peterborough Christmas Bird Count</p> <p>Anyone can help with this long-standing annual winter bird census. Newcomers to the area, and newcomers to birding, are welcome to participate. They will be partnered with more experienced local birders. More eyes result in more birds seen!</p> <p>The count is an all-day affair, starting at daylight, or preferably earlier if you wish to add owls to the day's list, and finishing in time to make the compilation. The compilation of species seen will be made at the Ashburnham Ale House on Hunter Street, East City, at 5:00 pm.</p> <p>Participants should let Tony Bigg know as soon as possible if they are available for this count. Contact Tony at tanddbigg@sympatico.ca or phone 705-652-7541.</p>

Coming Events continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday December 27</p>	<p>29th Annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count</p> <p>This annual count is in the northern section of Peterborough County, extending northwards from Stony Lake to the Apsley area, and primarily east of Highway 28. It samples the winter bird life in the shield part of the county. Annually such species as a Bald Eagle and Black-backed Woodpeckers are located. The count covers an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometres. The count circle is covered by a number of field parties who visit various sites looking for birds. The count is an all-day activity.</p> <p>If you are interested in participating in this count please contact the count compiler, Colin Jones, in advance so that he can ensure all parties have similar numbers of participants.</p> <p>Please contact Colin Jones by email at colin.jones@ontario.ca, or by telephone at 705-652-5004 and/or 705-755-2166.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday January 1, 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:30 am</p> <p>North Parking Lot, Peterborough Zoo</p>	<p>New Year's Day Birding – Thursday, January 1, 2015</p> <p>PFN member and Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) trips coordinator Dave Milsom extends an invitation to join the annual OFO outing in the Peterborough area in search of winter birds. Species being sought include owls, hawks, ducks, Bohemian Waxwings and winter finches. A great way to start your birding year!</p> <p>Meet at the north parking lot of the Peterborough Zoo on Water Street at 8:30 a.m. The trip will be until 4:00 pm at the latest. Bring good hiking boots, warm clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day, binoculars, and a packed lunch. Restaurants in area being visited are closed on the day of the outing.</p>



White-winged
Crossbill, Male

~ Submitted
by Luke Berg

Coming Events continued

PFN Annual General Meeting

Friday,
January 23, 2015

5:30 pm

McDonnell Street
Activity Centre
577 McDonnell Street,
Peterborough

Join us for the PFN's Annual General Meeting on Friday, January 23, 2015 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 by Dave Ireland, Managing Director of the Royal Ontario Museum Biodiversity.

- Doors open at 5:30 pm
- Supper starts at 6:00 pm
- Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Silent Auction and Bucket Draw at 7:30 pm
- Guest Speaker at 8:00 pm

Reserve your tickets now! Phone Don Pettypiece at 750-1145, or reserve at the upcoming PFN monthly meeting.

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

PFN Juniors are invited to attend our next Junior Naturalists event on Saturday, December 13 from 9:00 am to noon, at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre on Pioneer Road. The morning will start with birding walks to support the annual Christmas Bird Count for the area by hosting a CBC4Kids. This activity will be led by Matthew Tobey and Luke Berg, with the assistance of Martin Parker. After that we'll warm up with some hot chocolate and cookies and make a Christmas craft to take home. See you there!



Snowshoe Hare
Sundridge, June 2006

~ Courtesy of Steve O'Donnell

PFN Officers and Directors

President	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
Vice President	Gina Varrin	gina.varrin@gmail.com	761-7787
Secretary	Kelly Boadway	kjboadway@gmail.com	775-0756
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung559@gmail.com	760-9397
Program (indoor)	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
Fisheries Council	Kim Zippel	kzippel@cogeco.ca	740-0587
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
FON Rep	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641
Special Projects	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599

Other Volunteers

Ecology Park Feeders	Sean Smith & Don Finigan	745-4750
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Mary Thomas	
Orchid Editor	Marla Williams	874-5653
Jr. Naturalists		
Miller Creek Management Area	Jim Cashmore & Jim Young	
Ad-hoc on Lily Lake Planning	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker	
Local Planning Committees	Jim Cashmore	



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Submission deadline for the January issue is **Monday, December 29th**

Send submissions to Marla Williams via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org
or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7

Cattle Egret Near Millbrook

Article and photos submitted by Martin Parker

On November 15 Drew Monkman posted on the mail service "ptbosightings" that a Cattle Egret was present at 840 Larmer Line near Millbrook. This sighting was reported to Drew Monkman by Alan Bigelow who owns and farms the property. Bigelow reported that the bird had been present for about a week and had associated with his cattle. Drew Monkman was unable to locate the bird on the afternoon of November 15.

On the morning of November 16 Matthew Tobey, Luke Berg and Martin Parker attended the site to look for the individual. They were unable to locate it while scanning from the road. We noticed the farmer was working in the yard so approached him for more details. Alan Bigelow led us around the farm and visited the sites where he had been regularly observing the Cattle Egret. After a period of time the individual flew out from a grove of conifer trees near the residence. The bird flew towards the field containing cattle. It flew into a fence and then landed beside a pile of hay bales.

The Cattle Egret was easily approached and photographs were taken. Shortly after being relocated Drew Monkman and Kim Clark arrived to see the bird.

After a short discussion it was decided to approach the bird, try to capture it and take it to a rehabilitation facility.

The bird was docile and not behaving like a wild bird. Luke and Matthew approached the bird and were able to capture it with ease. There was no evidence of fat on the individual and it was very docile.



Matthew Tobey and Luke Berg pointing to the Cattle Egret (small and white, huddled at base of hay bale on far left)



Upon returning to Peterborough Jill Budgell, Luke's mother, had made arrangements for the bird to be accepted by the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee. Sandy Pines has experience in the rehabilitation of Cattle Egrets. The bird was driven to Napanee that afternoon.

Unfortunately the individual was in such a state of malnutrition that it did not respond to the rehabilitation and died during the night. The specimen has been deposited at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Northward post-breeding season dispersal of Cattle Egrets is common in this species, similar to other egrets and herons. There was another individual in the Whitby area at the same time.

According to "Our Heritage of Birds", by Doug Sadler, 1983, Peterborough Field Naturalists, this species had been recorded three times: June 24 and 25, 1972 near Bailieboro (4 birds), June 18 to 23, 1973 in Smith Township at Otonabee River (1 bird) and November 18 to 27, 1979 in north end of Smith Township (1 bird). The only record on e-bird is the 1979 sighting. There may be other records contained within the Orchid Diary.

Notice to PFN 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, to be held on Friday January 23, 2015.

There are at least two vacancies on the Board which the Nominations Committee has to fill. The normal term of a Director is three years.

If you are interesting 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 phone Kelly at (705)775-0756.

PFN's Publication 'Nature in the Kawarthas' An Ideal Christmas Gift

Are you looking for the ideal Christmas gift for a relative or friend? How about a gift that focuses on the landforms, plants and animals of Peterborough and the Kawarthas Region? The Peterborough Field Naturalists has an ideal fit - the excellent PFN publication titled 'Nature in the Kawarthas'. The cost of the book for members is \$30 per copy and can be picked up at the December 10th members' monthly meeting. You can also contact Martin Parker at (705)745-4750.

Also for sale are copies of the 1987 PFN publication 'The Mammals of Peterborough County' by Geoff Carpentier. This is the only comprehensive summary of the status of the mammals of the county, and costs just \$10. 'Birds of the Cottage Country' by William C. Mansell is a storybook account of the author's observations throughout cottage country, and sells for only \$10 per copy.

Proceeds from the sales of these books support the various programmes of the PFN.

Ontario Nature Fall Regional Meeting

Submitted by Ted Vale

I attended the November 8th, 2014 Ontario Nature fall regional meeting on behalf of the PFN. The meeting brings together representatives from 33 local clubs and from Ontario Nature to share information on projects, activities, and the natural environment.

Local clubs, like ours, have the opportunity to report on their activities via Club Reports.

The Kawartha Lakes Field Naturalists is completing a project to identify all of the flora in the City of Kawartha Lakes. The project has identified a total of 2000 species, 100 of which were not previously known in the area. The Club is also involved in advocacy concerning a proposed mega-quarry in the Dewdney Mountain area.

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The Toronto Field Naturalists is cataloguing its collection of photos and slides, (12,000 altogether), and will digitize 400 of the best ones.

Many other clubs reported on projects to enhance the natural environment and advocacy to protect from degradation.

Rouge National Urban Park:

Friends of the Rouge National Park gave a major presentation on the current difficulties around the development of this new Park. There is a bill before parliament to create an urban national park in the Rouge River watershed. By agreement with the province, an existing provincial park would be incorporated into the new park.

There is substantial concern with the parameters of the proposed park legislation, to the extent that the Ontario government is not prepared to proceed with the agreement until key concerns are addressed.

Friends of the Park has identified four key issues:

- The draft legislation does not commit to meeting or exceeding existing provincial ecological standards for the park.
- The draft legislation does not prioritize the ecological integrity of the area in the objectives for the park.
- The proposed park boundaries do not establish a green corridor from Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine even though there are sufficient federally-owned lands in the area to do so.
- The proposed boundaries exclude 48 square kilometres of existing provincial park and greenbelt lands.

The Friends of the Rouge National Park website has more information on the issues and how to express concerns to the federal government.

Ontario Nature Youth Council and Youth Summit:

Sarah Hedges from Ontario Nature reported on the Ontario Nature Youth Council and the 2014 Youth Summit. The Youth Council has 50 members gathered from across Ontario. Their major activity this year has been a project to publicize the dangers facing pollinator insects, in particular from pesticides. They have mailed out postcards, written to politicians, created a poster, and are making two videos which will be released shortly.

The 2014 Youth Summit was held this September at Geneva Park, Orillia. Ninety-one youth ages 13 - 22 from 45 communities across Ontario attended. The aim of this summit is to develop concern for the environment and leadership abilities in youth. Activities and workshops included bee box building, nature hikes, wildflower gardening and a pollinator and pesticide debate. Many clubs, including our own, sponsored a youth to attend.

More information about youth activities is available on the Ontario Nature website.

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From the Archives – Christmas Bird Count in 1953

Submitted by Martin Parker

The following is from the Nature Notes Volume II, Number 1, of the Peterborough Nature Club. The newsletter was renamed 'The Orchid' in February 1956.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS – MOST SUCCESSFUL YET!

The annual Christmas Census of birds in the Peterborough area was carried out on Saturday, December 26, 1953 (Boxing Day) with about twenty observers taking part.

The observers were divided into 5 groups each of which proceed to a previously selected area within a radius of 7 ½ miles of the city. Each party made a thorough survey of the areas assigned to them under the leadership of a group leader.

The census started at 8:45 am and a total of 164 hours was spent in the field. Distances covered totalled 70 miles: 52 by car; 18 on foot.

There were 21 species of birds recorded (as against 18 species last year) and a total of 1025 individual birds were counted (688 last year).

Of special interest was the recording of one Song Sparrow and a Killdeer ... it is very unusual to have these species present so late in the winter!

For full information on the result of our Bird Census see the 'Official Report' which is enclosed with this newsletter. (Ed. note: the results are not in the Club's Archives).

Reports received of the Census results in south-western Ontario give such highlights as robins and bluebirds! Perhaps spring is on the way.

Species seen in Port Hope on the same weekend included Pine Siskins, Snow Buntings, Purple Finch, Cooper's Hawk, and mergansers – none of these were recorded on the Peterborough area.

Current Situation

According to Tony Bigg, the current compiler of the Peterborough Christmas Bird Counts, the Peterborough Count in the last ten years has averaged 54 species and 10,413 individuals.

Killdeer has been recorded on the Peterborough Count only once, on the 1953 count. In the past ten counts Song Sparrows have been recorded 4 times with an average of 2 individuals.

Friendly Reminder: Membership Renewals

Memberships for 2014 will expire this December 31st. Note that memberships issued after September 1st, 2014 will be valid until the end of 2015.

You can renew at the December monthly meeting, at the January Annual General Meeting, or by mailing the membership application form found on the back page of the Orchid newsletter.

Do you have a membership question? Please phone Jim Young at 705-760-9397, or email Jim at jbyoung559@gmail.com.

Summary of Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast for 2014–2015 Submitted by June Hitchcox, Courtesy of the *Apsley Voice*

Thought you would be interested in Ron Pittaway's annual article concerning winter birds we may see and where. A widespread group reports to Ron about the state of the crops – heavy, average, poor – which birds need for winter food. Birds must go where food is in good supply so that they may generate the heat and energy necessary to survive cold winter months. If there is not enough food where they have spent the summer, they must fly around until they find better places.

Here is what Ron predicts:

North Ontario: White-winged Crossbills need cone crops, and the boreal forest has only isolated, widely-separated, heavy patches of hemlock and spruce cones; best around James Bay. Southern Ontario has spruce cones so some White-winged Crossbills will visit. Red Crossbills will be where red and/or white pines have locally good crops.

Central Ontario: Pine Grosbeaks will be present for the good crops of mountain-ash berries, sunflower seeds in bird feeders, European mountain ash in domestic gardens, and ornamental crabapples.



Red Crossbill, Female
~ Submitted by Luke Berg

Southern Ontario: There will be more than the usual number of Common Redpolls, mixed in with Hoary Redpolls, in weedy fields. Some Pine Siskins will make use of the spruce cone crops as well as nyger seed in birdfeeders.

A small number of Evening Grosbeaks will be seen, feeding on kernels inside cherry pits and other fruit, and seeds of box elder, maple and ash trees. Evening Grosbeaks will also consume black-oil sunflower seeds in feeders. Good thing they have strong bills! Poor crops in the north will entice Purple Finches south to feed on sunflower seeds. One bird can consume 360 seeds in one half-hour and go on to eating other seeds when finished!



Pine Siskin ~ Submitted by Luke Berg

Ron included other birds for your interest.

Most Bohemian Waxwings will stay in the boreal forest; many Blue Jays will go farther south after enjoying acorns, beechnuts and hazelnuts along the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Red-breasted Nuthatches will fly farther south.

Tony Bigg (Peterborough) saw White-winged Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskins, Purple Finch and Red-breasted Nuthatch, among others, all on November 1st. Now we can get out our bird books and become familiar with these species so that we will recognize them when we see them!

Request for Items for AGM Bucket Draw

The January 2015 Annual General Meeting is in the planning stages right now, and one tradition that the Peterborough Field Naturalist Club (PFN) has maintained over the years is the Bucket Draw! In order to have a successful raffle, a variety of items is welcomed, needed and will be much appreciated!

Proceeds from this draw are used for various PFN projects throughout the year.

74th Annual General Meeting: The Beginning of Our 75th Year

Friday January 23, 2015 5:30 pm

**McDonnell Street Activity Centre
577 McDonnell Street, Peterborough**

Join us for the PFN's Annual General Meeting on Friday, January 23, 2015 at the McDonnell Street Activity Centre. 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 pm
- Dinner starts at 6:00 pm
- Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Silent Auction and Bucket Draw at 7:30 pm
- Guest Speaker at 8:00 pm

Reserve your tickets now! Phone Don Pettypiece at 750-1145, or speak with Don at the next PFN monthly meeting. Ticket price soon to be announced.

AGM Keynote Speaker: Dave Ireland, Royal Ontario Museum

"The World's Largest BioBlitz Initiative, and Telling Our Stories Effectively"



Dave Ireland, Managing Director of ROM Biodiversity will join us and share four stories that together form a single powerful message: public engagement in science and science communication are dramatically changing the frame on conservation biology. More than ever scientists depend on the public for support, advocacy and action. Our scientists need our help to tell their stories. Dave will describe successful programmes that the ROM is using to help re-frame the conversation.





Late Autumn Edition – Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative

Submitted by Becky Lyon, Outreach Coordinator

The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative (RLPJI) has been working together for 10 years on habitat conservation in Canada's easternmost prairie. The initiative is a multi-partner conservation and stewardship project of 10 partners: Alderville Black Oak Savanna, Ganaraska Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary, Lower Trent Conservation, Northumberland County, Northumberland Land Trust, Ontario Parks, Tallgrass Ontario, and the Willow Beach Field Naturalists. Their work is exemplified in their conservation and restoration projects, research, environmental education and outreach, and protection of the threatened tallgrass prairies and savannas ecosystems. Please see Figure 1 to view the general vicinity of these ecological communities in the Rice Lake Plains Tallgrass Prairie.

From our partners:

The Alderville Black Oak Savanna (ABOS) represents the largest and most significant remnant of this rare ecological community in the Rice Lake Plains. To benefit species at-risk on the Rice Lake Plains, for ABOS there is an integration of ecological knowledge, geography, habitat improvement work, and social and cultural understandings.

<http://www.alderillesavanna.ca/>

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), a private land conservation organization, focuses on land securement and long-term stewardship as direct protection of among the most significant ecological communities in North America. The Oct. 8th trail opening at Hazel Bird Nature Reserve was celebrated by RLPJI partners and community members. The nature reserve hosts a rich mix of forest, savannah, and grasslands that provides crucial habitat for grassland birds such as whip-poor-will, and for reptiles, including threatened eastern hog-nosed snake (NCC 2012).

<http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/>

Tallgrass Ontario coordinates work and resources by groups that wish to undertake conservation programs that would implement the Recovery Plan for Grassland Communities. The Recovery Plan (conserving and restoring this rare ecological community) lists hundreds of tallgrass and savanna species, many of which are identified as threatened, endangered or extirpated.

<http://www.tallgrassontario.org/>

Black oak savannas are globally imperiled and have a G2 (very rare) ranking order; provincially they are ranked as S1 (critically imperiled). Therefore, both tallgrass prairie and black oak savanna communities are considered to be among the most significant ecological communities in North America and in fact globally rare, some say even more so than the rainforests. As a result, many of the floral and faunal

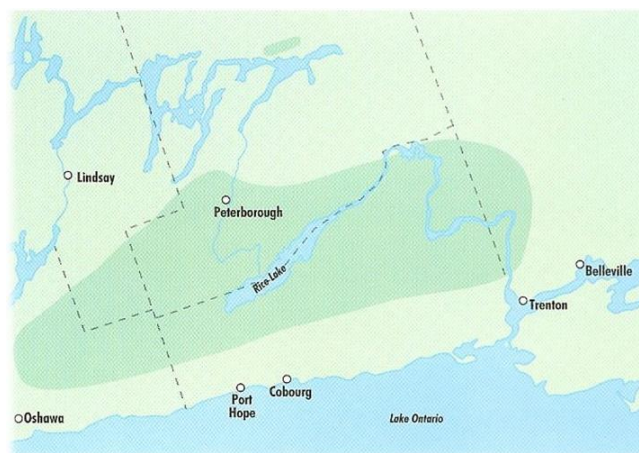


Figure 1: General Vicinity of Rice Lake Plains Tallgrass Prairie
From: A Landowner's Guide for Restoring Central Ontario's Rice Lake Plains Tallgrass Prairie

species which depend on these communities for their survival are considered rare or endangered (RLPJI 2014).

<http://www.ricelakeplains.ca/>

The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative is a wonderful example of inter-agency partnerships working to maintain a sustainable community. Thanks to all partners, volunteers and staff for all of their great work!

Upcoming 2015 Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative Happenings:

January 1, 2015 - Northumberland Christmas Bird Count: These counts are held continent wide with all data collected by coordinators for Bird Studies Canada in Canada and the Audubon Society.

Location and Time: Alderville Black Oak Savanna

Please contact Roger Frost to volunteer: ekrf@eagle.ca

January 25, 2015 - Experimenting with Native Plants Workshop, featuring Amanda Newell with Element Ecological (www.elementecological.com)

Explore examples and methods of introducing or increasing native plants - from grasses and flowers to shrubs - in your outdoor spaces for diversity, conservation, aesthetics, and wildlife.

Location and Time: Alderville Black Oak Savanna, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Contact: Please call 905-352-1008 to register

February 21, 2015 - Owl Prowl: Beginning with a presentation, afterwards to set out to the field to call owls. Please bring a flashlight/headlamp, hiking shoes and dress for the weather.

Location and Time: Alderville Black Oak Savanna, 7:30 pm

Contact: Please call 905-352-1008 to register

Purple Finch
~ Submitted by Luke Berg





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

ORCHID DIARY - October 31 to November 27, 2014

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the finding of a Townsend's Solitaire, possibly a new species for the county. A close runner-up is the occurrence of a very early Snowy Owl just north of Lakefield. Also unusual was the number of Brant reports. Brant were seen by the Bridgenorth causeway, at Burleigh Falls, and on Little Lake.

-
- Oct 22 A late report. A **Fisher** was photographed with a night vision trail camera, by Heather Watson, near Lynch's Rock Road.
- Oct 31 Tony Bigg watched an adult female **White-winged Crossbill** feeding a juvenile on his nyger feeder in Lakefield. A **Black-backed Woodpecker** was seen by Kevin Young near Trent University.
- Nov 01 The lingering **Brant** was reported by Bill Snowden at the west end of the Chemong causeway. Three **Northern Pintail** were seen by David Wood at the south end of Chemong Lake. Tony Bigg's feeders provided more finches with a male **Evening Grosbeak**, many **American Goldfinches**, a few **Pine Siskins**, and a female/juvenile **Purple Finch** joining the juvenile **White-winged Crossbill**.
- Nov 02 At the west end of Cork Line on Pigeon Lake, Don Sutherland found three **White-winged Scoters**, five **Long-tailed Ducks**, three **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. He also saw a juvenile **Dunlin**, two **Redheads**, and three **Ring-necked Ducks** at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. On Carveth Drive near Millbrook, Jeff Stewart watched a sub-adult **Golden Eagle** fly overhead. Near Cordova Lake Ian Sturdee saw a **Winter Wren**. A **Northern Shrike** was seen by Don Sutherland, flying over Clonsilla Road.
- Nov 03 Colin Jones was whistling the **Northern Saw-whet Owl** "toot" note while walking to the end of Golf Course Road (south of Stony Lake) to check his mail. Shortly thereafter a bird responded from the woods across the road with the "sciew" call. He then whistled what is called the "winter vocalization" on the Cornell website (http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/northern_saw-whet_owl/sounds). Immediately following this, the bird (which was now much closer) made the "male alarm call". He went inside to get his family. When they came back outside, the bird was "tooting". They found the perched bird with the aid of a headlamp.
- Nov 04 A **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen by Jerry Ball over the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
- Nov 05 Glynis Smerhy reported a **Great Blue Heron** flying over her and landing on a paved section of the Parkway Trail behind Walmart. An **American Pipit** was reported by Michael Light on the Rotary Trail north of Trent University. Also seen flying over the trail, by Don Sutherland, were a dozen **Snow Buntings**.
- Nov 06 On Carmel Line in the southwest of the county, Luke Berg observed a Horned Lark and a large flock of blackbirds including about a hundred **Rusty Blackbirds** and fifty **Brown-headed Cowbirds**. Chris Risley observed the **Peregrine Falcon** sitting on the northwest corner of the MNR building.
- Nov 07 Another **Brant** was seen by Martin Parker and Jerry Ball, feeding on the grass at the boat ramp at the lock at Burleigh Falls. Near Cordova Lake Ian Sturdee saw a **Barred Owl** holding a mouse. In the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons Dawn Morris-Strain saw five **White-winged Scoters** swimming with **Buffleheads** and **Lesser Scaup**. An **Eastern Towhee** was at the feeders of Ralph and Mathilde Colley in Peterborough.

- Nov 08 In Little Lake, Kathryn Walpole saw two **Northern Shovellers** swimming with other ducks.
- Nov 09 In East City Shannon Montgomery saw two **Pine Grosbeaks** on the trail just north of Hunter Street.
- Nov 11 A flock of nine **Tundra Swans** was seen by Luke Berg flying over the entrance to Lakefield College School in Lakefield. From the west end of Cork Line, on Pigeon Lake, Don Sutherland observed four **Trumpeter Swans** flying over, an **American Wigeon**, three **Long-tailed Ducks**, two **Red-throated Loons**, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, a **Horned Grebe**, and a **Red-necked Grebe**. From her home on Terraview Heights in the north of Peterborough Vera Miller saw two late **Killdeer**. Colin Jones had thirty-five **Snow Buntings** at his home on Golf Course Road south of Stony Lake.
- Nov 12 Towards the west end of Northey's Bay Road, Martin Parker and Jerry Ball found seven **Evening Grosbeaks** at a feeder. They also saw a Rough-legged Hawk on Boundary Road in Ennismore.
- Nov 13 Mike Gillespie had two **Eastern Bluebirds** at his feeder at the south end of David Fife Line. Sue Hill watched a **Coyote** wandering down Maple Crescent in the west end of Peterborough. It was a particularly attractive animal with a very furry mane. The Coyote investigated several backyards but didn't seem concerned by her presence.
- Nov 14 On Hulls Road, off County Road 6, Iain Rayner found a late **Hermit Thrush**.
- Nov 15 Alan Bigelow, who farms on Larmer Line reports that a **Cattle Egret** has been showing with his cattle for the last week. A female **Wood Duck** was seen at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Martin Parker. He also saw a **Snow Goose** flying over with a flock of Canada Geese. This bird had been seen by Carol Horner on the Otonabee River.
- Nov 16 The **Cattle Egret** seen yesterday was found stressed and in bad shape. It was caught and taken to a rehabilitation centre in Napanee. Unfortunately it was later reported that it did not survive.
- Nov 17 A **Northern Goshawk** was seen flying over the Trent Campus by Walter Wehtje.
- Nov 18 A **Snowy Owl** was photographed by Carol Florence out of the window of her home on Englewood Lane just north of Lakefield (Note: Snowy Owls are showing up in other areas of Ontario at this time). Bill Snowden reports that he still has a juvenile **White-crowned Sparrow** coming to his feeder in Ennismore. A **Brant** was seen by Ken Rumble on Little Lake.
- Nov 19 The **Brant** was reported by Rick Stronks to still be at Burleigh Falls. Toni Sinclair watched a **Tundra Swan** fly north, then east, over Buckhorn Lake, probably looking for open water. Later she saw another 21 swans flying over.
- Nov 21 A very late first year **Baltimore Oriole** was seen and photographed by Carol Horner at her finch feeder. A **Peregrine Falcon** was seen by Iain Rayner chasing Rock Doves above the junction of London and Water Streets. Tony Bigg reports three **Common Redpolls** on his feeders along with many **American Goldfinches** and about a dozen **Pine Siskins**.
- Nov 22 The **Carolina Wren** continues to forage below Luke Berg's feeders near George and Parkhill Streets. At Auburn Reach Park on Water Street, Don Sutherland found a late **Double-crested Cormorant**. He also saw a late **Great Blue Heron** flying over the Trent Campus. On London Street, Shannon Montgomery saw twenty-four **Cedar Waxwings**. On Little Lake Luke Berg saw and photographed an **Iceland Gull** (Kumlien's) and three **Lesser Black-Backed Gulls**.
- Nov 23 A rare **Townsend's Solitaire**, from the west of the continent, was found by Iain Rayner on Hannah Road south of Bailieboro. This may be a new bird for Peterborough County. An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen by Iain Rayner on Little Lake. A **Great Horned Owl** was seen by Michael Oliveira on Crowley Line north of Base Line. A **Northern Flicker** was seen by JB Jaboor in his backyard near Campbelltown.
- Nov 24 A **Northern Shrike** was recorded by Luke Berg and Jerry Ball on the Keene Road (County Road 35) north of Base Line.

Nov 26 A dozen **Sandhill Cranes** flew over JB Jaboor's house on Hazel Crescent near Campbelltown. At Auburn Reach Park on Water Street, Don Sutherland re-found his **Double-crested Cormorant**. This was also seen by Luke Berg.



Above:
Brant Goose, Burleigh Falls, November 7
~ Submitted by Kim Zippel

Right:
Snowy Owl, north of Lakefield, November 18
~Submitted by Carol Florence





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: _____