

The Orchid

March 2015
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Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms

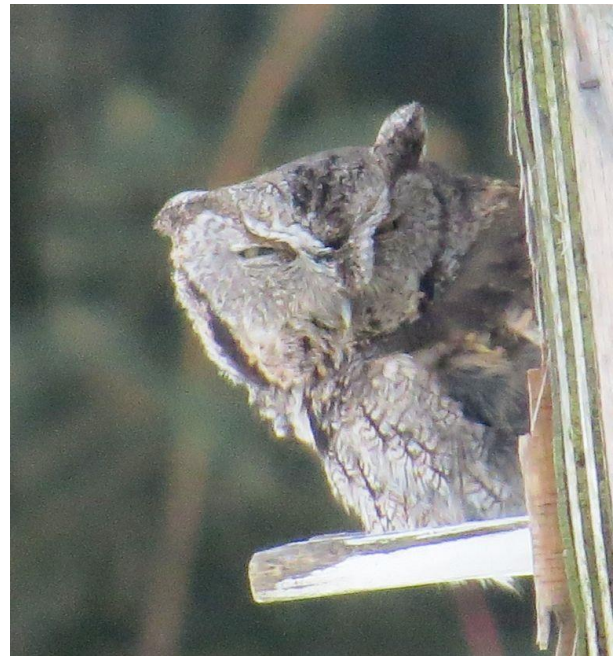


Coyote, Rice Lake, January 13, 2015 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

INSIDE: Special Opportunity: E-Bird Workshop
Northern Shrike Strike
Open House at Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre
Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program
Raptor Rescue in Keene
Plans Unveiled for PFN's 75th Anniversary Celebration

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Eastern Screech Owl, Millbrook, Winter 2014
~ Submitted by Rob Marten

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Laura Wensink
Vern Bastable and Sarah Ford
Marilyn Freeman
Don Evans
Janice Keil
Al Sippel
Margo Tant
Kathy Pimmett
Tianna Burke

* NOTICE TO MEMBERS: This is the last issue of the Orchid for those who have not renewed their PFN membership *

Coming Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Date(s) TBD in March</p>	<p>Wildlife Tracks and Signs</p> <p>Are you interested in observing wildlife tracks and sign near Peterborough? Don McLeod will lead one or more outings during the month of March which will focus on tracks and other wildlife signs. These outings will be scheduled when conditions permit, with details on place and time being announced later by email.</p> <p>Anyone interested in attending should send an email to Don McLeod <donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com> so he can set up an email distribution list. When tracking conditions look good, Don will send an email to everyone on that list with details on when and where to meet.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, March 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Ontario's Spiders</p> <p>Tom Mason, retired curator of invertebrates at the Toronto Zoo, will present a talk about the spiders of this province. Tom is one of Ontario's leading authorities on spiders, and is helping to document the species and their distribution within the province.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday, March 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environment Centre (Camp Kawartha) Pioneer Road</p>	<p>What is E-Bird? – A Special PFN Workshop</p> <p>Participants will be introduced to E-bird, learn how to assess the data base and how to add one's own observations. You will create your own account and join a new birding community. Bring your own laptop or tablet if you want.</p> <p>Register online. Check out the full description and the registration address in this issue of The Orchid.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, March 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Country Style at Hwy #7 & Old Keene Road</p>	<p>Birding Trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park</p> <p>Join us for a full-day birding trip to Presqu'île, 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 8:00 am 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 info at 705-745-3272.</p>

Coming Events continued

<p>Sunday, March 29</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Tim Horton's (Sobey's Plaza) on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Birding Trip to the Shore of Lake Ontario</p> <p>Tony Bigg will lead a day of birding along the shore of Lake Ontario. The initial destination is Cobourg harbour, 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.</p>
<p>Sundays, April 5 to May 31</p> <p>8:00 to 11:00 am</p> <p>North Parking Lot, Peterborough Zoo, Water Street</p>	<p>Spring Wildlife Walks</p> <p>Our popular Spring wildlife walks will commence on Sunday, April 5th and continue until May 31st. Unless otherwise advertised walks will start at 8:00 am and we will carpool from the north 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.</p> <p>5th April – Jerry Ball 12th April – Walter Wehtje 19th April – Martin Parker 26th April – Drew Monkman</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 8</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Ecology and Evolution of Typha Hybrids</p> <p>Sara Pieper, PhD candidate at Trent University, will be presenting her talk on the role of hybridization as a driver for invasion in the hybrid cattail <i>Typha x glauca</i>. Her project is being supervised by Dr. Joanna Freeland and Dr. Marcel Dorken, Department of Biology.</p>
<p>Saturday, April 18</p> <p>7:30 to 9:30 pm</p> <p>Tim Horton's (Sobey's Plaza) Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles!</p> <p>The dusk air of the spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle. Join Martin Parker for a 2-hour outing listening to and distinguishing between the different species of calling frogs and toads of our region, and listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock.</p> <p>We will meet at the Tim Horton's and then travel to walk part of Hooton Line through the Cavan Swamp. Please bring a flashlight.</p>
<p>Wednesdays, May 13 and June 10</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meetings</p> <p>Speakers to be announced. Mark your calendars!</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Sunday, March 22nd starting at 2:00 pm at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (2505 Pioneer Road, Peterborough).

The PFN Juniors are invited to come out and meet a Harris' Hawk, with a special presentation by falconer Jeff Wiltshire. For details about this event or to join the PFN Junior Naturalists email list, contact Lara Griffin at 705-749-3639. We hope to see you there!

Other Events of Interest

Presqu'ile Waterfowl Viewing Weekend

Saturday, March 14 and
Sunday, March 15

10:00 am to 4:00 pm each
day

Presqu'ile Provincial Park,
Brighton

Presqu'ile will be hosting their 39th 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.

Sunday, March 22

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

1434 Chemong Road,
Selwyn

Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre Open House

Mark the date on your calendar for the 2nd Annual KTTC Open House. Tours of the facility, glimpses of the turtles in care, and a day of fun!



Coyote and
Mouse,
Lily Lake,
December 13,
2014

~ Submitted
by
Enid Mallory

Other Events of Interest continued

<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meetings</p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street North. Doors open at 7:00 pm for socializing and a 7:30 pm start. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener. Annual membership is \$20 individual, \$25 family. Visit www.peterboroughgardens.ca</p> <p>Upcoming Speakers & Events:</p> <p>March 25 - Mary Jane Pilgrim's topic "Plant Talk: Fifty Shades of Green"</p> <p>April 2,3,4 - Peterborough Garden Show, Evinrude Centre - www.peterboroughgardenshow.com</p> <p>April 22 - Cathy Dueck's topic is "Butterflies"</p> <p>May 27 - John Stratham of John's Gardens in Uxbridge will be talking about "Perennial Grasses"</p> <p>June 24 - Cauleen Viscoff's topic is "What a Plant Knows"</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 31</p> <p>Doors open at 6:15 pm for refreshments Lecture at 7:15 pm</p> <p>Market Hall 140 Charlotte Street, Peterborough</p>	<p>Kawartha Land Trust and Trent University Invite You to Their New Lecture Series</p> <p>The first talk will be given by Dr. Lisa Nisbet, Assistant Professor at Trent University in the Psychology Department. Dr. Nisbet focuses her research on nature relatedness, which encompasses the importance of having access to natural spaces. She examines the effects of access to nature on health, well-being and environmentally-sustainable behaviour.</p> <p>Doors open at 6:15 pm for refreshments provided by local catering companies, cash bar and information tables hosted by local environmental organizations. Lecture begins at 7:15 pm. Event is FREE; however, donations are welcomed!</p>
<p>Thursday, April 2 to Saturday, April 4</p> <p>Evinrude Centre, Monaghan Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>Peterborough Garden Show</p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society, and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners invite you to the 2015 Peterborough Garden Show. The show hosts 150 vendors and exhibitors who are landscapers, gardeners, growers, teachers and designers, along with many not-for-profit organizations. Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and beautification projects.</p> <p>NOTE: This is Easter weekend. The show operates on Thursday from 5:00 to 9:00 pm, Friday from 10:00 to 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00 pm. The show will not be open on Sunday this year.</p> <p>For more information visit www.peterboroughgardenshow.com.</p>

Other Events of Interest continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna</p>	<p>Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Meeting</p> <p>The hosts for this special meeting are the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, who will highlight some of their many projects and programs.</p> <p>Turn to page 14 for more information about this unique event.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, April 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am to 12:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meet at main entrance to Jackson Park, Peterborough Monaghan Road at Parkhill Road</p>	<p>17th Annual Earth Day Jackson Creek Clean Up</p> <p>Join us for the 17th Annual Earth Day Jackson Creek Clean Up, hosted by ORCA and the Otonabee Conservation Foundation in partnership with Swish Maintenance, Tim Hortons and community supporters.</p> <p>Volunteers will help clean up Jackson Park and the Trans Canada Trail to celebrate Earth Month, and to help make every day Earth Day! Bags and gloves will be provided. This is a family friendly event and will be held rain or shine.</p> <p>Since 1999, over 1500 people have participated in the Jackson Creek Clean Up and removed nearly 40 tonnes of litter from Jackson Park and the Trans Canada Trail. Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Check out www.earthday.ca or www.otonabee.com for more events.</p> <p>For more information please contact Meredith Carter, Manager, Environmental and Technical Services, Otonabee Conservation (mcarter@otonabee.com 705-745-5791, ext. 223).</p>



Glaucous Gull, Adult,
Peterborough Landfill,
February 1, 2015

~ Submitted by
Dave Milsom

Other Events of Interest continued

<p>GreenUP Ecology Park Ashburnham Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>2015 GreenUP Ecology Park Programs and Events</p> <p>May 9th 10:00 – 4:00 Ecology Park compost sales ONLY May 17th 12:00 – 4:00 Ecology Park Annual Spring Plant Sale May 23 11:00 – 12:00 Spring Backyard Compost Workshop</p> <p>June 13th 1:00 – 2:30 Stay Calm But Watch Your Ash (Emerald Ash Borer information session) June 20th 1:00 - 3:00 Pollinator Garden workshop</p> <p>August 20th 6:00 – 8:30 Ecology Park Family Night & Lantern Festival August 22nd 10:00 - 1:30 Monarch Workshop</p> <p>Sept 13th 1:30 – 4:00 Ecology Park Tea Party & Pie Fundraiser Sept 19th 12:00 – 2:00 Monarch Release Celebration</p> <p>October 18th Autumn Little Tree Sale October 29th Last day at Ecology Park</p> <p>* Workshop information is found on the GreenUp website www.greenup.on.ca ('Ecology Park/Workshops and Events'), or email workshops @ greenup.on.ca.</p> <p>* Ecology Park plant catalogue and prices are also online; see 'Ecology Park/Garden Market'.</p> <p>Bulk Sales & Costs: \$2 / bucket leaf compost \$3 / bucket cedar mulch \$7 straw bale</p> <p>Bring your own buckets and only available during garden market hours. May 17th to October 29th; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 to 4:00 pm.</p>
<p>Saturday, May 9 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Markham Civic Centre 101 Town Centre Blvd. Markham (Highway 7 at Warden)</p>	<p>North American Native Plant Society Annual Sale</p> <p>The North American Native Plant Society is a volunteer-based, registered charitable organization dedicated to the study, conservation, cultivation and restoration of native plants. The Society is hosting its annual sale of wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges as well as trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Our sale showcases hundreds of native species and introduces thousands of native plants into gardens. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.</p> <p>Member online ordering: The plant list is available at www.nanps.org. Pickup will be at the Markham venue only, on May 9th.</p>

PFN Officers and Directors

President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599
Vice President, Fisheries Council	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587
Secretary, Archives	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung559@gmail.com	760-9397
Program (indoor), Stewardship Council, Fisheries Council	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688
Program (indoor)	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560
Webmaster, Jane's Walks	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Ontario Nature Representative	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641

Other Volunteers

Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor & Don Finigan	745-4750
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Mary Thomas	
Orchid Editor	Marla Williams	874-5653
Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin	749-3639
Miller Creek Management Area	Jim Cashmore & Jim Young	
Municipal Planning Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker, Ted Vale	



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Submission deadline for the April issue is **Friday, March 20th**.

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

Many Thanks to ALL OF YOU! Submitted by Lynn Smith

Our Bucket Draw & Silent Auction at the 2015 AGM was a big success, thanks to YOU, the many people who kindly donated items **and** to the many people who enthusiastically 'went shopping' at the tables.

Our wonderful donators included:

For the Silent Auction:

Royal Ontario Museum – 1 year free membership, books

Kelly Dodge - the prints "Passion," and "Shine."

Ron Egan – original artwork "Rana in the Sculpture Garden"

Beth McKinlay – an original wire tree "For the Love of Trees"

A package of 3 items:

Avant Garden Shop - wild finch seed

Rick Beaver - umbrella

Kim Zippel - bird feeder

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For the Bucket Draw Table:

Kelly Boadway	Cheryl Brady	Marie Duchesneau & John Fautley
Renee Gareau	Griffin's Greenhouses	Anne & David Heuft
Enid & Gord Mallory	Don McLeod	Janine McLeod
Dave Milsom	Drew Monkman	Martin Parker
Lynn Smith	Sean Smith	Mary Timms

Again, thank you!

What is E-Bird? – A Special PFN Workshop

E-bird is a new way of maintaining one's bird records and sharing them with birding and science community on-line. E-bird originated with the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University and in Canada is coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. One enters their sighting into a central data base. One can also explore the data base to find out what birds are being found locally or at another location in the world.

This special workshop will be an introduction to using E-bird. Under the guidance of Matthew Tobey and Martin Parker, participants will be introduced to E-bird, learn how to assess the data base and how to add one's own observations. You will create your own account and join a new birding community. Bring your own laptop or tablet if you want.

This unique workshop will commence at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 20 at the Environment Centre (Camp Kawartha) off Pioneer Road, Trent University Campus. To register please visit:
<http://peterboroughnature.org/2015/02/e-bird-workshop-march-20/>

Winter Birds along the Otonabee Submitted by Ted Vale

A small but intrepid group led by Martin Parker braved the snow and cold on February 22nd to check out birds on the Otonabee River. There are not many open spots left but new waterfowl are starting to show up, driven off the now-frozen Great Lakes.

Next to Trent University we saw 8 Common Goldeneye, 1 Red-necked Grebe, and 1 American Crow. Further up, between Lock 25 and Lakefield, there were 1 Mallard, 1 Long-tail Duck, 30 Common Goldeneye, 2 Common Merganser, and a Bald Eagle perched in a cedar tree.

After a much-needed coffee break in Lakefield, we headed down to Millennium Park behind the No Frills store in Peterborough. There we found 2 American Black Ducks, 150 Mallards, 2 Common Mergansers, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, and 2 Herring Gulls.

Martin's commentary was very informative!

Congratulations PFN! 'Environmental Excellence Award – Stewardship' Presented to Peterborough Field Naturalists!

The following is the statement issued by Peterborough Mayor and Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) Director, Daryl Bennett:

"The Environmental Excellence Stewardship Award recognizes a community or organized group that has successfully undertaken projects and programs that contribute to a healthier watershed.

For 75 years, the Peterborough Field Naturalists, have exemplified excellence in stewardship. The club provides a variety of educational outings for members; the annual Christmas Bird Count – which has been an annual program since 1952; the annual butterfly count – undertaken over the past 17 years; members have provided input to city and rural environmental and planning issues; and, continue to be actively involved in a partnership with Otonabee Conservation for the ongoing care of the Miller Creek Wildlife Area.

Accepting the Environmental Excellence Award for Stewardship on behalf of the 240 members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists is Martin Parker, President."



L to R: Mayor Daryl Bennett, Martin Parker, ORCA Vice-Chair Sherry Senis, ORCA Chair Andy Mitchell, PFN Directors Ted Vale, Paul Elliott, Kim Zippel and Phil Shaw

New: Ontario Master Naturalist Program Submitted by Erin McGauley

Lakehead University Orillia Campus and Ontario Nature are offering a new community program to become certified as a master naturalist. The deadline to register is Friday, April 3rd. If interested, and for more information visit http://www.ontarionature.org/act/master_naturalist.php.

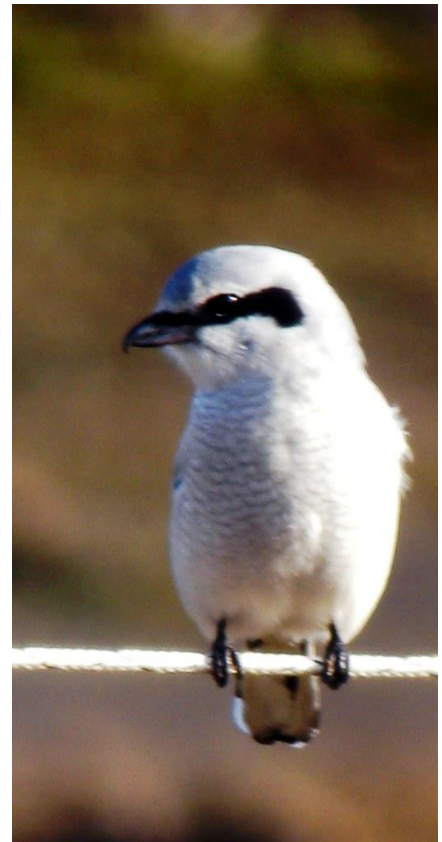
Northern Shrike Strike

Submitted by JB Jaboor

Mid-morning on Monday, February 23rd I was alerted by a thud on my second floor bedroom window. Dashing across the room I expecting to discover a seriously injured bird lying in the snow only to see, below me, a Northern Shrike hovering about two feet off the ground. Suddenly, probably spooked by me, the shrike flew 30 feet into a nearby tree and proceeded to hop, in agitated fashion, from one branch to another leaving no doubt that it had surprisingly survived the impact quite well. Then, almost as suddenly, it dived off the tree back toward the house and once again commenced hovering just below my vantage point. Leaning forward for a better view, I was just in time to see it drop to the snow, pick up and fly off with what appeared to be a, still alive but obviously disoriented, American Tree Sparrow.

It was all over in a minute or less but it left me wondering if the shrike had purposefully chased the sparrow into the window and I am inclined to think it so. Furthermore I was amazed with the strength displayed by the aggressor as is it flew with comparative ease carrying its prey, which had to be at least half its own size, up and over a four foot fence and 150 metres across our lawn into a thicket.

Certainly gives me pause for thought as I stand in the comfort of my kitchen, hot chocolate in hand, gazing out across a winter wonderland that appears, at least on the surface, so quiet, peaceful and calm.



Northern Shrike, Peterborough,
December 19, 2012
~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Call for Volunteers! Peterborough Garden Show at the Evinrude Centre

Submitted by Lynn Smith

The Peterborough Horticultural Society, and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners invite you to the 2015 Peterborough Garden Show. The show hosts 150 vendors and exhibitors who are landscapers, gardeners, growers, teachers and designers, along with many not-for-profit organizations. Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and beautification projects. NOTE: This is Easter weekend, so the show runs Thursday, April 2nd from 5:00 to 9:00 pm, Good Friday, April 3rd from 10:00 to 5:00 pm and Saturday, April 4th from 10:00 to 4:00 pm. The show will **not** be open on Sunday this year.

www.peterboroughgardenshow.com

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will have a booth and a display at the Garden Show. **We are looking for volunteers** who are kindly willing to cover a 3 or 4 hour shift at the PFN booth. Two members are needed per shift. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with folks who are interested in our Club activities. Bonus: There is always time to tour the many vendors and exhibitors at the show!

Please contact Lynn Smith if you would like to be involved: smithfam@nexicom.net and 705-944-5599.
Thank you for your consideration!

Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre Update

Submitted by: Lindsay Maxim, General Manager

We had a very busy season at KTTC, experiencing an increase in both the number of injured/sick turtles admitted, and turtles hatched from eggs incubated at KTTC. We admitted 377 turtles to the hospital, and hatched over 800 eggs.

Turtles came from locations province-wide. We continually network with other wildlife centres and veterinary clinics to provide advanced treatment, surgery, or consultations when needed. We hope to share our expertise across the province, so that even more turtles can be helped. This year we worked with 7 of the 8 species, which included painted turtles, snapping turtles, Blanding's turtles, northern map turtles, eastern musk turtles, spiny soft-shelled turtles and wood turtles.

Once again, our success would not be possible without the dedicated team of volunteers who help us achieve our goals. We also had the pleasure of hosting placement students from various universities, colleges, high schools, and even, international placement organizations. Not all worked directly with the turtles, but still help us grow as an organization. Areas of focus included education programs, marketing, fundraising, and field work/scientific reports. A big thank you to all!

We welcome you to visit us for an open house on March 22nd, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, where we will come out of hibernation to offer tours, a peek at the turtles in our care, and a day of fun - all before the busy season begins!

I hope you are staying warm and your sightings are a-plenty.



KTTC photos from left to right:

1. Eggs hatched at KTTC: Painted turtles
2. KTTC volunteer JB Jaboor helps staff to track released Blanding's turtles using radio telemetry

Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Meeting Submitted by Ted Vale

The Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Meeting will take place at Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna, on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

The hosts for this special meeting are the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, who will highlight some of their many projects and programs.

This is a wonderful opportunity for members to visit and learn more about Canada's easternmost prairie—and one of the most endangered plant communities in Ontario. Located south of Rice Lake, on the eastern edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine, Alderville First Nation's Black Oak Savanna/Tallgrass Prairie is the largest single remaining parcel of its kind in east central Ontario. Scientists refer to the Alderville Black Oak Savanna as "the Jewel".

The afternoon hike will visit Peter's Wood Provincial Nature Reserve. This special area represents the sole-surviving Oak Ridges Moraine "old growth" forest in Ontario. A 0.8 km trail passes through an open field and circles the maple-beech forest. You will not want to miss this opportunity! Visit http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/member_groups/regional_meetings.php for more information.

News from Bird Studies Canada

1) Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz

Rusty Blackbirds have endured severe population declines. In 2014, the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group and its partners launched a three-year Spring Migration Blitz <http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/> that challenges birders to scour the landscape for Rusty Blackbirds during this species' northward migration. Year 1 was hugely successful, with 4750 birders submitting 13,400 checklists containing Rusty Blackbird observations.

You can help us maintain this momentum – be part of Year 2! Watch for Rusty Blackbirds passing through your area in late March and April. Please submit your sightings to eBird Canada <http://ebird.org/content/canada/> using the observation type "Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz." All Rusty Blackbird sightings are welcome, but whenever possible, please include the Areas of Interest for 2015 <http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migration-blitz/2015-areas-of-interest/> in your birding outings.

2) Tune In to The Nature of Things on March 19!

The new documentary 'SongbirdSOS', narrated by David Suzuki, features research on key threats causing migratory songbird declines in North America. Canadian scientists Dr. Christy Morrissey (University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Erin Bayne (University of Alberta), and Dr. Bridget Stutchbury (York University, author of *Silence of the Songbirds*) are among the experts who share insights about the stunning variety of human-made perils birds face – and what people can do to protect birds and the health of the planet.

SongbirdSOS will air on CBC's "The Nature of Things" on Thursday, March 19: www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/songbirdsos. Bird Studies Canada is the proud Canadian Outreach Partner for this film, in collaboration with SongbirdSOS Productions and Films a Cinq. Visit the SongbirdSOS website to learn more about the film, the outreach campaign, and The Messenger, an extraordinary feature documentary that will be ready for release across Canada this spring: <http://songbirdsos.com/>.

My Life Is A Hoot

Submitted by Murray Palmer

Good evening, I'm *Bubo virginianus*, the Great-horned Owl.
 Tiger of the air, they call me, but I'm a much maligned fowl.
 Nocturnal twin of the Red-tailed Hawk, I will pursue
 Rabbits, hares, rats, mice, squirrels, skunks and house cats, too.
 I like to work the upland meadow or field - forest edges,
 Then hide myself from hawks and crows in dense trees and hedges.
 People seldom see me about, but I populate their dreams;
 They conceive strange notions when they hear my hoots and screams.
 Some think I inhabit the deepest, dark corners of the forest,
 Inhabited by spirits that haunt the richest and the poorest.
 Hoo, ho-hoo, hoo, hoo, my calls resonate nightly,
 More often, and from higher perches, when the moon shines brightly.
 Some think my call sounds like, "You still up? Me, too".
 Our medley of calls from hoots to squawks will surely startle you.
 In February my calling presents my mate with a tempting sight -
 My bulging, white bib is a beacon reflecting moonlight.
 My bigger half will mate with me; then we'll find a suitable nest site.
 She'll lay about two white eggs, and for thirty-some days sit tight.
 I don't call as frequently now as our family life will soon begin.
 You may only notice us at the nest by our ear-tufted heads within.
 Of North American birds, we're one of the earliest to nest.
 Hunting for her and our chicks now leaves me little time to rest.
 If you intrude into our domain, you may see my yellow-eyed stare,
 And I might launch an aerial attack of which you must beware.

Murray Palmer, 2015

Seeking Jane's Walk Leaders

Submitted by Chris Gooderham

The PFN has participated in Jane's Walk for six years now. Jane's Walk is an international movement to celebrate the life of Jane Jacobs and her contributions to walkable cities. Jane's Walks are free, locally organized walking tours, in which people get together to explore, talk about and celebrate their neighbourhoods. With partners like the MNRF, Trent University, ORCA, PACAC, Peterborough Green-Up, and local neighbourhood gurus, each year a few keen PFN club members have collaborated to produce and lead walks around the city.

Not all talk on walks is good. Sometimes we discuss difficult and challenging issues related to the conservation of natural and cultural diversity in the City. But indeed all walks are great opportunities for leaders to share their knowledge, and for participants to learn about some great neighbourhood perspectives in Peterborough.

We are seeking keen walk leaders to join the Jane's Walk planning committee. We meet two or three times throughout March and April at the Olde Stone. If you are interested, you would be developing and sharing ideas to produce and lead a 1.5 hour walk somewhere in Peterborough. Typically, most walks have more than one leader.

The Orchid, Volume 61, Number 2, March 2015

With your ideas and dynamic public speaking abilities, you would also be welcome to co-lead a walk during the Jane's Walk weekend. Or, if you would simply like to contribute ideas for walks around the city, we are open to your input.

Jane's Walk this year is on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Please contact Chris Gooderham, Jane's Walk Peterborough City Organizer, at chrisgooderham@mac.com by March 23rd to help out. Happy walking!

March! Spring Migration

Submitted by June Hitchcox, *Courtesy of the Apsley Voice*

This past winter was an odd one weather-wise: unusually warm at times then so windy and cold. One would think that the birds would be pondering whether to stay or use all their energy to migrate. Short daylight hours mean to them to migrate south longer hours tell them to migrate north. Some species migrate at night, flying up to 1/2 mile high. Those in the day time, sometimes as high as 2 miles, going full speed. Some species soar on up-drafts then dive forward to save energy. Hawks utilize this method; the most and concentrations of migration of hawks occur at sites with extensive updrafts.

Those species that spend the winter far, far south and nest in our north are the ones which usually start to migrate last. They have a long way to go but will travel many hundreds of kilometres in one night's flight. Once they decide to migrate north it is a rapid dash to the breeding grounds so the best territories can be claimed.

Some birds that you may see in March include:

Early March – American Crow, Saw-whet Owls, Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds.

Mid March – Northern Harrier; Red-shouldered Hawk; American Kestrel; Eastern Bluebird; Killdeer; Brown Creeper; Song Sparrow; Eastern Meadowlark; Common Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird.

Late March – watch for soaring Turkey Vultures taking advantage of any updrafts to keep them going to save their energy, Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock (a wonderful courtship site down Jack Lake Road), Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Tree Swallows, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Flicker.

If you have old and new bird books you will notice names have changed. It is frustrating to try to find a bird that now goes by another name. Whistling & Bewick's Swans are now Tundra Swans; Sparrow Hawk is now American Kestrel; Pigeon Hawk is now Merlin; most Flickers are now Northern Flicker; Canada Jay or Whiskey Jay became Gray Jay; Short-bill Marsh Wren is now Sedge Wren and Long-billed Marsh Wren is Marsh Wren (these two names better reflect the habitats they prefer); Audubon and Myrtle Warbler are combined as Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Slate-coloured and Oregon Junco are now both Dark-eyed Junco.

So get your bird books out and study what is coming. Also perhaps make note of the name changes in your bird books.

Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program
Submitted by Erin McGauley

Do you live on an urban watercourse within the City of Peterborough - or know someone who does? Please help us to promote the Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program by taking part in or telling your friends and family about this unique opportunity.

Details below:



Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Project

Shoreline Assessment

Arrange for an expert shoreline advisor to visit your property and suggest ways to maintain or improve the health of your shoreline free of charge!

 **OTONABEE**
 CONSERVATION

www.otonabee.com

As part of the **Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Project**, Otonabee Conservation is offering Shoreline Assessments that are free, voluntary and confidential.

Benefits of Participation:

- Protect your shoreline
- Enhance landscaping
- Reduce erosion
- Improve water quality
- Up to \$50 towards plants or rain barrels

Book your Shoreline Assessment by phoning 705-745-5791, extension 200, or email otonabeeca@otonabee.com.

From the Archives – A Bit of Research by Rhea Bringeman Submitted by Martin Parker

From The Orchid, Volume 37, No. 6, September 1991:

In early Spring, while standing on the porch enjoying the sunshine, I saw a Honey Bee looking for flowers - a thankless task in early March.

I had a bunch of Snowdrops in the house. Thought it would be fun to see what it did. When I brought them out, the Honey Bee was still there. That was one happy bee. It got inside one flower and with happy buzzing filled his pouches.

I thought, this is my chance to see if they do what the books say. It took off and I watched which direction it went and checked the time. Sure enough, the bee or a bee was back in just over twelve minutes and brought a friend. They gave those flowers a real going over and soon there were two more. From the direction they went I knew where they were going. It was the only apiary in the area.

Allows a bit of time for the little dance and approximate distance as the crow flies those bees must have been travelling about 20 miles per hour.

Editorial Comment by Martin Parker:

This short note from the September 1991 issue of The Orchid documents an observation of an activity in nature. It is an example of the observations we make daily; observations that provide the observer with an insight into our natural world. Observations are an important aspect of our motto 'To Know, To Appreciate, and To Conserve Nature In All Its Forms'.

Celebrating "Roughly" a Decade of Conservation and Camaraderie on the Rice Lake Plains! Submitted by Becky Lyon, Outreach Coordinator, RLPJI

Written by Mark Stabb, Central Ontario Program Director, Nature Conservancy of Canada



Imagine you are married and a special anniversary arrives. Now imagine both partners are so busy that you forget to celebrate it! Well, it is safe to say that the partners in the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative (RLPJI) must be a busy lot, because we missed celebrating our big 10th anniversary! And we missed it by a country mile.

It was October 14th, 2003 at the Grafton Inn that conservation partners gathered to launch an ambitious ecological restoration project. The lofty goal: to restore a lost landscape – the tallgrass prairies and oak savannas of Northumberland County's Rice Lake Plains.

Signing the first agreement were staff from Northumberland County, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Ontario Parks, Lower Trent Conservation, Ganaraska Conservation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). NCC led the new partnership, which was fired up and inspired by the support of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation. In 2002, NCC had purchased the 811 acre (328 hectare) Burnley-Carmel properties, home to globally-rare black oak savanna habitats. This was our first big step into tallgrass and savanna conservation in the Rice Lake Plains. From the beginning, however, it was clear that a landscape-scale approach was needed to bring meaningful ecological change to the region.

The Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative was born!

The Orchid, Volume 61, Number 2, March 2015

We have collaborated on the full gamut of conservation activities ever since. In 2006, NCC took its first crack at prescribed burns, so necessary for the ecological health of prairies and savannas. Unfortunately site conditions did not allow us to proceed with the burns that spring. This was a setback (*and it would not be our last*), but it had a silver lining. We had clearly communicated to local people that we would not burn if conditions were not right and safe. And we followed through with this promise. But we burned the next year in 2007! Now many RLPJI partners use this valuable tool on a regular basis, with great results.

So much of our work, including the use of fire, has been inspired by the pioneering projects of the Alderville First Nation at their Black Oak Savanna site. Driven by a great vision and intensive hands-on efforts, the restored Alderville Black Oak Savanna is a marvellous ecological gem. Rick Beaver was behind much of the early restoration work at Alderville, and he was there to address the original RLPJI partners at the inaugural event in 2003.

Alderville First Nation joined the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative in 2007. Since then the partnership has welcomed a number of local volunteer groups, including Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary, Willow Beach Field Naturalists, Northumberland Land Trust and Tallgrass Ontario. There have been many milestones, including the first *Savanna Sentinel* newsletter (2004), the first Annual Prairie Day (2008), Northumberland County's forest plan, which designated many tallgrass and savanna sites for special protection (2009), and the 2009 opening of the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Ecology Centre (*in a former sports bar – check the floor for the blue lines!*).

Our website ricelakeplains.ca, with Savvy the Savannah Sparrow on the masthead, was launched in 2010, and we introduced ourselves on Facebook in 2013.

There have been joint fund-raising proposals, with partners regularly raising funds for one another (that is worth repeating – the Rice Lake Plains partners regularly raise funds for one another). Our recent grant from Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation is a typical example of how collaborating has come through for us. Funding sources have come and gone over the years, but our partnership, projects and programs live on.

Habitat protection lies at the heart of our partnership and since 2003 we have collectively protected more than 2,500 acres (976 hectares) of significant natural areas in the Rice Lake Plains! And we have welcomed thousands of people (including many members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists) to these lands to explore and be inspired by their natural wonders and scenic beauty.

There have been personal milestones as well, including volunteers turning to interns turning to paid staff, short-term contractors making long-term impacts on projects, as well as marriages, children and retirements. There has been great friendship, fellowship and camaraderie.

There is so much that we have achieved together. But in terms of tallgrass habitat much of the Rice Lake Plains still remains a "diamond in the rough." There is so much more to do, and it is a pleasure and source of great pride to observe that our momentum has not stopped.

It has been more than 11 years since we started up the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative. But let's call it "roughly" a decade, so we can call this an anniversary year! Here's to another "roughly" ten years of conservation and collaboration!

It's never too late to celebrate.

Raptor Rescue

Submitted by JB Jaboor

During the first week of December 2014, while in Peterborough assisting my son-in-law with a dry walling project, my wife, Beverly, called from our home near Rice Lake. She was quite anxious about a large bird of prey that appeared to be injured and trapped on the ice in our half full winterized pool.

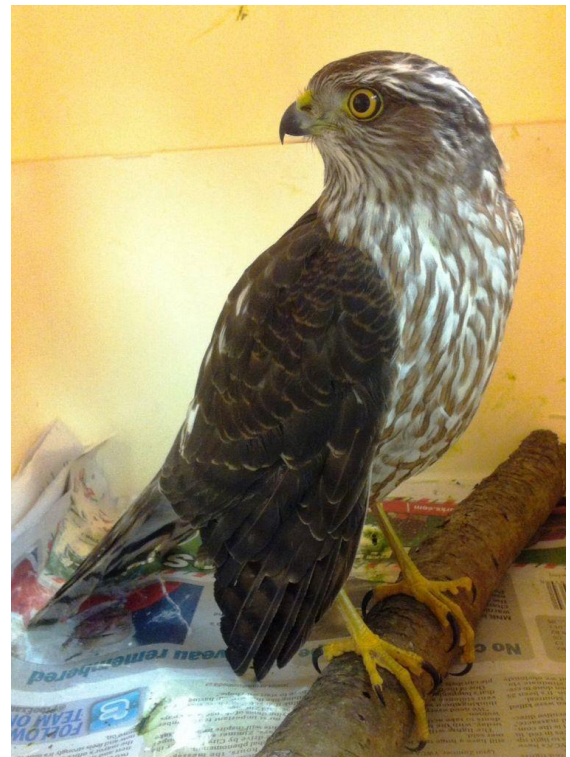
Kris, my son-in-law and a Peterborough veterinarian, headed off home to see if we could determine the extent of any injury and formulate an appropriate plan of action. On arrival it was immediately obvious that while the animal could flap its wings it was not able to gain altitude sufficient to escape the confines of even the three foot of pool wall trapping it. A quick discussion and search for tools had us capture the terrified creature with a large pool net. Kris, with gloved hands, made a cursory examination and determined no obvious external wounds and it was placed in a large plastic cat carrier. Any attempt I made to look into the cage had the frightened bird throwing itself at the bars in a fierce and brave attempt at defensive. We quickly draped the box with a towel which straight away settled it and reduced further risk of injury.



After conferring with Dr. Sue Carstairs, a friend and wildlife expert with the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, and sharing X-rays it was established that the animal had no broken bones. Sue's twenty years experience dealing with like animals suggested that it was probably nothing more than bruising but that this alone could result in a recovery period of weeks or even months. For this reason, if no other, it was decided that the best place, for what was now believed to be a young Sharp-shinned Hawk, was rehab at the Toronto Wildlife Centre in Downsview. They kindly agreed to take it in.

A few days later and starting to feed again, this beautiful but decidedly unhappy raptor was taken to Toronto by Beverly and handed over to the experts at TWC who confirmed that it was indeed a young Sharp-shinned rather than a Coopers Hawk.

Speaking with the TWC in mid-February we were delighted to hear that Sharpie is now recovering to the point that it is flying in an outdoor enclosure. It is suspected that an old injury may be the cause of a persistent drooped wing but it does not seem inhibiting. However, due to its high-strung nature some damage has occurred to the primaries which will delay release until the completion of the next moult.



Come Celebrate!

You are Invited to the 75th Anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

DATE: Monday May 18, 2015 (Victoria Day)

A preliminary agenda has been developed and the fine-tuning details will be revealed soon.

Three hikes are planned:

7:00 – 9:00 am	Miller Creek Management Area for the 'early birds.'
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Burnham Provincial Park with a focus on spring flowers and other flora
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Camp Kawartha Trails with a focus on butterflies and exploring the geology of area

Family activities are planned:

10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Lakefield Marsh for pond-dipping with nets, fun in the wetland
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Camp Kawartha for some entertaining games and activities.

Social Hour at Camp Kawartha:

4:00 – 5:00 pm

- Displays from a variety of organizations
- Appetizers
- Wine and beer

Presentations:

5:00 – 5:30 pm

- Introductions & elected officials

BBQ Hamburgers & Sausages: (a donation is appreciated)

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Further Presentation:

7:00 pm

This is your day! All ages are welcome. Choose any or all of the planned events. It's a day to enjoy with friends and family. Come celebrate 75 years of the Peterborough Field Naturalists!



Left:
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Right:
Northern Cardinal

Lyndeshores, Whitby,
February 10, 2015

~ Submitted by
Dave Milsom





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

ORCHID DIARY - January 1 to February 21, 2015

A relatively quiet period but with increased finch activity, notably Common and Hoary Redpolls. Jack Lake Road provided rare sightings of Gray Jays and Black-backed Woodpecker. Several Golden Eagles were sighted in the southeast of the county. Towards the end of the month, with the freeze-up of the Great Lakes, waterfowl such as Red-necked Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, and Long-tailed Duck, started to move into the open water on the Otonabee River

Barred Owl sightings continued with reports by:

April Anderson, Quackenbush PP on Cty Rd 44, Jan 1

Hanging out at the MNR at George and Charlotte Sts. Outside the front entrance to the building! It was reported by Ernie Basciano, Carl Welbourn and Tim Corner and later covered by "Peterborough This Week", Jan 17

Colin Jones, Jack Lake Rd south of Apsley, Jan 24

Joe Knauer, Kawartha Nordic Ski Club, Haultain, Feb 4

Branda McIsaac on Baltic Drive, Feb 7

Jeff Keller on Ackison Rd at Lily Lake Rd, Feb 7

Brenda Ibey, Television Rd, Feb 8

Patty MacDonald, unknown area, Feb 7/8

Joan Reilly Major, unknown area, Feb 7/8

Sue Paradisis, Tudor Crescent, Ashburnham, Feb 11

Jacob Rodenburg, Camp Kawartha, Feb 12

Michael Gillespie, unknown area, Feb 19

Tony Bigg, his garden on Cty Rd 29 north of Lakefield, Feb 21 & 22

-
- Jan 01 Dave Milsom, assisted by Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey, led the annual Ontario Field Ornithologist (OFO) outing to find some great winter birds. Twenty-two birders braved the cold, snow and wind to record a total of 29 species on their annual outing. Their best sightings were a **Hoary Redpoll** with a large flock of **Common Redpolls** at a feeder on Library Road, off Northey's Bay Road, near Petroglyphs Provincial Park. Nearby two more redpoll flocks were seen, as well as a flock of over thirty **Evening Grosbeaks**. Other finds included forty-five **Wild Turkeys**, two **Bald Eagles**, a 1st-year **Iceland Gull**, **Greater Black-backed Gull**, **Snowy Owl** (at Little Lake in Peterborough), both nuthatches, and several **Common Ravens**. Don Sutherland heard a **Pine Grosbeak** flying over near the entrance to the Petroglyphs PP.
- Jan 02 The **Gray Jay** reported recently during the Petroglyphs CBC on Jack Lake Rd was seen again today by Martyn Obbard. A **Northern Shrike** was seen by Don Sutherland by Cty Rd 19 between Hilliard St and Chemong Rd. Warren Dunlop watched a **Great Blue Heron** flying over near Lock 19 in Peterborough.
- Jan 03 Tim Dyson observed a 1st year **Golden Eagle** soaring and flapping as it flew southwest over Church Rd north of Havelock. On Catchacoma Lake at the west end of Fire Route 216 Roberta Oswald found a **Northern Goshawk** sitting in a tree near her feeder.
- Jan 04 Carl Welbourn saw the **Snowy Owl** sitting on the Little Lake fountain box for the whole day. It is the same medium-sized, heavily speckled bird seen there on January 1.

- Jan 06 Don Sutherland saw the continuing **Hoary Redpoll** on the unnamed road opposite Library Rd off Northey's Bay Rd.
- Jan 08 A **Short-tailed Shrew** was photographed by Martin Parker as it kept popping out of a couple of holes in the snow and grabbing black oil seeds from below his feeder.
- Jan 09 Andrew Lipscombe saw a **Snowy Owl** flying as it went from lightstand to lightstand at the new soccer fields on the Fleming campus.
- Jan 10 A male **Bufflehead** was seen by Brian Bailey swimming with Common Goldeneyes in the Otonabee River by Millenium Park in Peterborough. Walter Wehtje watched a male **Red-breasted Merganser** in the Otonabee River between Lock 25 and Lakefield. A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was reported by Iain Rayner on Jack Lake Rd.
- Jan 11 A **Great Horned Owl** flew in front of Don Sutherland on Cty Rd 2 east of Villiers. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were seen by Erica Nol, Walter Wehtje, and Chris Risley on Northey's Bay Rd. They also saw a male **Lesser Scaup** in Young's Point. An **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen and photographed by Ian Rayner on the 4th Line of South Monaghan just east of Smithson Rd.
- Jan 14 A **Northern Mockingbird** was reported to be coming to the house of Laurie Wuis on Trentview Drive near the McFarlane St bridge over the Trent Canal. It has been coming to the house since early fall. A **Gadwall** was seen by Walter Wehtje, Erica Nol and Chris Risley in the Otonabee River at the Monaghan Rd boat ramp.
- Jan 15 A **Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull hybrid (Nelson's Gull)** was photographed by Warren Dunlop on Little Lake.
- Jan 16 A **Snowy Owl** was seen by Daniel Williams on the ice of Little Lake near the fireworks dock.
- Jan 17 An **Eastern Screech-Owl** was heard calling by Erin McGauley in Jackson's Park by the Parkhill Rd bridge.
- Jan 18 A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was seen by Chris Risley and Erica Nol on Dillon Rd, west of Drummond Line. Matthew Tobey had a **Rusty Blackbird** and a **Purple Finch** in his backyard on Fortye Dr.
- Jan 20 Tim Dyson had his fourth **Golden Eagle** sighting this month. This one was a nice 2nd or 3rd year sub-adult. That makes at least three different ones in the past twenty days – one sub-adult, and two different 1st winter birds.
- Jan 22 Two highly sought after species were found at the Jack Lake Road Bog, south of Apsley by Don Sutherland - a **Gray Jay** and a **Black-backed Woodpecker**.
- Jan 23 A **Merlin** was seen by Walter Wehtje flying in front of his car on Monaghan Rd near Charlotte Rd. A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen by Dave Milsom from his house on Scollard Dr. in the north of Peterborough.
- Jan 24 For the past five years, **Gray Jays** have been coming regularly to a feeder at house number 2167 on Cty Rd 507, about 3 km north of Flynn's Corners. Until recently there were three birds; however, now there are only two. At the Bensfort Road Landfill Luke Berg saw a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, three **Glaucous Gulls**, sixteen **Great Black-backed Gulls**, and an two Kumlien's **Iceland Gulls**. Luke also found four **Song Sparrows**, three hundred **Common Redpolls**, and five **Hoary Redpolls** on Hannah Rd just east of Cty Rd 28.
- Jan 25 Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg found a **Peregrine Falcon** sitting atop a brick chimney on the north side of Crawford Drive in the south of Peterborough. Iain Rayner found four **Eastern Bluebirds** on Asphodel 4th Line hanging out together in Sumac, next to a house with feeders. He also saw a female/immature **Red-breasted Merganser** on Rice Lake at the base of Humphries Line.
- Jan 27 David LeGros found five **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in the Otonabee Gravel Pits CA off the south end of Crowley Line. Two male **Buffleheads** were seen by Janet Kelly and Warren Dunlop off Millenium Park in downtown Peterborough.

- Jan 29 A **Winter Wren** was found by Don Sutherland by the Rotary Trail just north of the Trent campus. A flock of sixteen **Cedar Waxwings** was nearby. The **Carolina Wren** was still visiting Luke Berg's backyard.
- Feb 01 JB Jaboor spotted a **Ruffed Grouse** in his garden feeding on the berries in a High-bush Cranberry. Dave Milsom saw a flock of ten **Bohemian Waxwings** in trees behind his house on Scollard Drive. A **Bohemian Waxwing** was photographed by Luke Berg with a flock of **Cedar Waxwings** on River Rd just west of Hastings. Luke also saw a **Rough-legged Hawk** on Indian River Line. The **Peregrine Falcon** was seen in downtown Peterborough by Warren Dunlop and Janet Kelly. A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was seen by Dan Chronowic by Lock 19 in Peterborough. Don Sutherland saw a **Northern Harrier** on Scriven Rd north of Cty Rd 2.
- Feb 02 Robert and Joan DiFruscia saw a **Long-tailed Weasel** (in the white 'Ermine' winter coat) run across the wood piles at the back of his house on Heritage Line just south of the Trans Canada Trail. At around 3 PM, Sue Paradisis was driving on Hwy 28 to Northey's Bay Road. Just after the big bend after Young's Point, an immature **Snowy Owl** flew across the highway and off across a field. Shortly after and just before Northey's Bay Road she almost hit an immature **Bald Eagle**. It swooped down over the highway in front of her then banked and headed for her windshield. It was so close she could clearly see its black head and eyes and beak. It pulled up and over the van just in time! Very exciting. Birding at her home in Ashburnham this winter has been very dull due to frequent and lengthy visits by a **Cooper's Hawk**.
- Feb 03 On the 4th Line of Asphodel Dave Milsom refound the continuing two **Eastern Bluebirds**.
- Feb 04 A **Song Sparrow** was found by Chris Risley in bushes by the railway bridge by the Millenium Park in Peterborough.
- Feb 05 A flock of **Bohemian Waxwings** was found by Jerry Ball on the 5th Line of Smith between Cty Rd 29 and Centre Line of Smith.
- Feb 07 Erica Nol watched at least two family groups of **Trumpeter Swans**, one with four young, the other with two, below Brown's Bridge over the Crowe River on Cty Rd 48 north of Havelock. A **Red-necked Grebe** was seen by Luke Berg on the Otonabee River midway between Lock 25 and Lakefield.
- Feb 11 A **Northern Shrike** was seen by Matthew Tobey on Sir Sandford Fleming Drive at the Parkway.
- Feb 14 Bill Snowden reports that a **White-throated Sparrow** continues to visit his feeders on Gail Park Dr, Ennismore. A **Winter Wren** was found by Linda Parsons on Fallis Line, Millbrook.
- Feb 16 Two Pine Siskins visited the feeders of Michael Oldham on Plati Avenue, Peterborough. A flock of 88 **Snow Buntings** with 2 **Horned Larks** was found by Iain Rayner on Drummond Line just north of Cty Rd 2. Four Evening Grosbeaks were seen by Matthew Tobey on Northeys Bay Rd.
- Feb 17 A **Ruffed Grouse** was seen by Doug McRae at Cty Rd 2 and 5th Line of Asphodel.
- Feb 18 Nima Taghaboni photographed her fourth **Snowy Owl** of the winter on Cty Rd 4. on Little Lake. Warren Dunlop counted 214 **Herring Gulls**, 7 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 2 **Glaucous Gulls** and 1 **Iceland Gull**. On Cty Rd 29 south of Lakefield, Dave Milsom, Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey stopped to look at a **Great Horned Owl**, and then saw a **Peregrine Falcon** fly by on the opposite side of the road. Martin & Matthew also had a **Merlin** fly in front of their car on Clonsilla Avenue at Goodfellow Rd.
- Feb 19 A **Hoary Redpoll** joined the many Common Redpolls at Tony Bigg's feeders in Lakefield.
- Feb 20 A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen by Luke Berg on the Otonabee River between Lakefield and Lock 25.

Feb 21 As Tony Bigg was preparing his breakfast a **Cooper's Hawk** scattered the **Common Redpolls** around his feeders, missing all of them. Five minutes later he looked out again and watched a **Barred Owl** on the ground tearing apart an **Eastern Cottontail**. Martin Parker reported a pair of **Red-breasted Mergansers** by Millenium Park in Peterborough. Martyn Obbard photographed a **Hoary Redpoll** with the **Common Redpolls** at his feeders on Sumcot Drive in GCH Twp. At Wallace Point Rd & Bensfort Rd, Iain Rayner found a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. A **Northern Shrike** was seen by Don Sutherland on Cameron Line south of Hwy 7. Don also saw a **Bufflehead**, five **Red-breasted Mergansers**, and a **Long-tailed Duck** from River Rd 2km west of Hastings. He also counted 21 **Trumpeter Swans** and a female **Hooded Merganser** at Brown's Bridge on Cty Rd 48 over the Crowe River.



Glaucous Gull and Starlings, Bensfort Road Landfill, February 1, 2015 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom



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

<input type="radio"/> Under 20	<input type="radio"/> 20-29	<input type="radio"/> 30-39	<input type="radio"/> 40-49	<input type="radio"/> 50-59	<input type="radio"/> 60-69	<input type="radio"/> 70-79	<input type="radio"/> 80< over
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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: _____