

# The Orchid

December 2015  
Volume 61, No. 9

[peterboroughnature.org](http://peterboroughnature.org)

## Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly, Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms

---



Red Phalarope, Presqu'île Provincial Park, November 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

INSIDE:      Join the Peterborough and/or Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Counts  
                 Watch for 'The Messenger'  
                 Deck the Trees at the Ecology Park  
                 Kawartha Land Trust's 'Thanks.Giving' Event  
                 Go Birding on New Year's Day!

## In this Issue:

Coming Events .....	3
Junior Naturalists .....	4
Other Events of Interest .....	4
PFN Directors Listing .....	5
Peterborough and Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Counts .....	6
Other Christmas Bird Counts in Region .....	6
If A Tree Could Speak .....	7
New Memorandum of Understanding .....	8
'Nature in the Kawarthas' Report To Members .....	9
Watch for 'The Messenger' .....	9
Volunteer Corner .....	10
Natural Playscapes Review and Photos .....	10
Request for Items for the AGM Bucket Draw .....	11
From the Archives .....	11
Orchid Diary .....	12
PFN Membership Application .....	14



Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Peterborough Ecology Park,  
November 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Submitted by Martin Parker

## Welcome New Members!

Amanda Bennett

Lyn Jackson

Joan Michaels

Ronnie Fuentes & Annie Scherz



'We watched this Great Blue Heron fishing in Jackson Creek from the rail trail, just east of Atkinson Road. The heron was swallowing a fish when I first spotted it. We watched for a while, when it suddenly took off and landed about 2 metres away and immediately caught another small fish.'

~ Submitted by Sue Paradis,  
November 23rd

## Coming Events

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tim Horton's at Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</b></p> <p>This day trip will be a birding outing to the Niagara River, a designated Important Birding Area due to the variety and number of gulls which utilize the river in the late fall. More species can be observed in a day than anywhere else in the world. There will be thousands of gulls consisting of ten or more species. Besides the gulls there will be other waterbirds, and southern specialties such as Tufted Titmouse. The leaders for this outing will be Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>The trip will start from Peterborough with a secondary gathering location at the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston. If you are planning to meet the group at Queenston please advise Martin (705-745-4750) in advance.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and telescope if you have one. A camera may be handy as well. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the Niagara River area for the day of this excursion. This outing will end in the Niagara Region in the late afternoon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Members' Slide Show Night</b></p> <p>The members' slide show at our December meeting is an annual PFN tradition! Show fellow PFN members your photos of a recent trip. Display those great nature moments or wildlife encounters that you've recently experienced. This is your night to "show and tell"! Don't delay...contact Jim Young at <a href="mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com">jbyoung559@gmail.com</a> or phone 705-760-9397 to add your name to the list. Sharing your photos and your narrative makes for an interesting and educational evening for all.</p> <p>Sharing some Christmas baking is also part of the December PFN tradition, so please don't feel shy about bringing a goodie or two.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center;">all day</p>	<p><b>64<sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count – A Christmas Tradition</b></p> <p>The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 64<sup>th</sup> year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. Plan to participate in this Christmas tradition! It is an excellent way to learn more about our wintering birds. An unexpected species or two will highlight the day.</p> <p>Notify Martin Parker as soon as possible if you would like to participate, as pre-registration is required. Martin can be reached by phone at 705-745-4750 or by e-mail <a href="mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca">mparker19@cogeco.ca</a>.</p>



## Coming Events continued

<p>Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016</p> <p style="text-align: right;">all day</p> <p>North Parking Lot Riverview Park &amp; Zoo, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>New Year's Day Birding with the OFO</b></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 are owls, hawks, ducks, Bohemian Waxwings and winter finches. The species mix will depend on the southern influx of winter birds this winter. It is a great way to start your birding year!</p> <p>Meet at the Parking Lot of the Riverview Park and Zoo on Water Street North at 8:30 a.m. The trip will be until 4:00 p.m. at the latest. Bring good hiking boots, warm clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day, binoculars, and a packed lunch. Restaurants in the area being visited are closed on the day of the outing.</p>
<p>Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016</p> <p>Evening begins at 5:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Naval Association</p>	<p><b>PFN Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b></p> <p>Our AGM is scheduled on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Peterborough Naval Association. Arnold Zageris is the keynote speaker whose featured talk is "On the Labrador". Arnold is a world-renowned nature photographer. He has made sixteen expeditions to Northern Labrador since 1984 (occasionally alone), to document, through his words and photographs "...the harsh and stunning beauty of the Labrador landscape, and the strength of the people who reside within its perimeters".</p> <p>The AGM is an opportunity to review some business from this past year, nominate a new Board of Directors, enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, take home treasures from the Bucket Draw, and through the artistic talents of our speaker, Arnold Zageris, take a trip to Labrador!</p> <p>Tickets are just \$35 per person, and can be reserved by contacting Jim Young at: jbyoung559@gmail.com or 705-760-9397.</p>

## PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

The PFN Juniors are invited to the 'Christmas Bird Count for Kids' event, to be held on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am. We will meet in the parking lot at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (2505 Pioneer Road, Peterborough) and may branch out into multiple teams from there. PFN birders will be joining us to assist in the identification of the birds we see and hear.

After birding we will head into the Environment Centre for hot chocolate and a look at some other Citizen Science projects that may capture your interest. Bring a friend and a set of binoculars! To join the email list for updates (in case of inclement weather) and event reminders, please contact Lara Griffin at 705-749-3639.

## Other Events of Interest

<p>Friday December 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p>4:00 to 7:00 pm</p> <p>293 George Street, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Grand Opening of B!KE's New Location</b></p> <p>Join B!KE (The Peterborough Community Cycling Hub) in celebrating their arrival in a new space, 293 George Street. Mulled apple cider, cookies, and good cheer. Christmas ornament making stations. Help us feel at home with your company!</p>
---	---

## Other Events of Interest cont'd

<p>Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup></p> <p>1:00 to 3:00 pm</p> <p>Ecology Park, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Holiday Tree Decorating at the Ecology Park</b></p> <p>Individuals and families are welcome to join us as we make natural, edible garlands to decorate some trees at the park for the holidays. Families can also take home some handmade bird-friendly holiday decorations using pinecones, birdseed, suet and peanut butter. PFN members will be present to talk about the species of birds that overwinter in our region, food sources relied on by overwintering birds, and some tips for winter birdfeeding.</p> <p>A donation of \$5 is suggested to cover materials for your holiday decorations.</p>
<p>Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup></p> <p>7:00 to 9:00 pm</p> <p>Canadian Canoe Museum, 910 Monaghan Road, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Kawartha Land Trust Invites You to 'Thanks.Giving'</b></p> <p>Celebrate donors and dedicated volunteers. Meet our staff, board of directors and committee members. Learn and share stories about this year's accomplishments and more. Help us launch our annual holiday giving drive. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres available.</p> <p>Please R.S.V.P. by December 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information and inquiries, please contact the Kawartha Land Trust at 705-743-5599, email <a href="mailto:info@kawarthalandtrust.org">info@kawarthalandtrust.org</a>, or visit their website at <a href="http://www.kawarthalandtrust.org">www.kawarthalandtrust.org</a>.</p>

### Orchid Submissions Wanted!

Submission deadline for the January/February issue is **Monday, December 28th.**

Send submissions to Marla Williams via email: [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)

or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



**Membership Renewals:** PFN memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> each year but Orchid deliveries will continue until March. After August new memberships are valid until the end of the following year. A tax receipt is issued for memberships and donations.

PFN Officers and Directors				Other Volunteers		
President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor & Don Finigan	745-4750
Vice President, Fisheries Council	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587	Orchid Diary	Martin Parker	745-4750
Secretary, Archives	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Orchid Mailout	Mary Thomas	
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145	Orchid Editor	Marla Williams	874-5653
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung559@gmail.com	760-9397	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin	749-3639
Program (indoor), Stewardship Council, Fisheries Council	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Miller Creek Management Area	Jim Cashmore & Jim Young	
Program (indoor)	Marie Duchesneau	Duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Municipal Planning Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker, Ted Vale	
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501			
Special Projects	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Post Office Box 1532		
Webmaster, Jane's Walks	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081	Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7		
Ontario Nature Representative	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	info@peterboroughnature.org		

## **Peterborough Christmas Bird Count**

**Sunday, December 20th – all day; pre-registration required**

Planning and organization are well underway for the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count. The count area has been divided into 10 different areas, with a party of birders being assigned to cover each area. Each party is led by an experienced birder who has participated in a number of Christmas Bird Counts. A typical count day starts just after dawn and lasts until the end of the day. Each field group will have their own strategy for finding birds. Some groups will have participants walking the trails within the Count circle. Others will drive their area and check on the known feeders and other locations which have been productive in the past. Some of the key locations are the Bensfort Landfill Site for gulls and possibly an eagle, the open waters stretches along the Otonabee River for ducks and other water birds, and woodlands of the Cavan Swamp area. At the end of the day all the participants will gather for supper and socializing. The final results will be compiled at this time.

Last year there were 46 participants and collectively they observed 56 species of birds, both record highs! A total of 11,927 individual birds were tallied. Last year a Gray Catbird was recorded on count day for the first time ever. It is anticipated there will be some surprises and memorable observations again this year!

If you have not registered to participate in this year's Peterborough Christmas Bird Count contact Martin Parker (count compiler) at 705-745-4750 or [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca) as soon as possible. Be part of this exciting event!

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count**

**Tuesday, December 29th, 2015 – all day; pre-registration required**

This annual count occurs 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 Canadian Shield part of the county. Annually such species as 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. This count is an all-day activity.

If you are interested in participating in the Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count please contact the count compiler, Colin Jones, in advance so that he can ensure all the parties have similar numbers of participants. Colin can be reached at [colin.jones@ontario.ca](mailto:colin.jones@ontario.ca) or by phoning 705-750-7998 or 705-755-2166 (work).

## **Other Christmas Bird Counts in the Peterborough Area**

**Submitted by Martin Parker**

The Peterborough and Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) are just two of the counts held over the Christmas period in this part of the province. PFN members may also be interested in bird counts in areas that are a bit further afield. Other counts in the area include:

Port Hope/Cobourg CBC – Saturday, December 19

Compiler – Roger Frost – 905-885-9615 or [ekpf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekpf@eagle.ca)

Sturgeon Lake CBC – Sunday, December 20

Compiler – Chris Ellingwood – [cellingwood@sympatico.ca](mailto:cellingwood@sympatico.ca)

Presqu'île/Brighton CBC – Sunday, December 20

Maureen Riggs - 613-475-3604 or [mriggs@sympatico.ca](mailto:mriggs@sympatico.ca)

Fenelon Falls CBC – Monday, December 28

Compiler – Dan Bone – 705-763-0997 or [dan.bone13@gmail.com](mailto:dan.bone13@gmail.com)

Rice Lake Plains CBC – Friday, January 1, 2016

Compiler – Roger Frost – 905-885-9615 or [ekpf@eagle.ca](mailto:ekpf@eagle.ca)



PFN member JB Jaboor filling bird feeders at the Ecology Park, November 2015

## If A Tree Could Speak

Poem and photo submitted by Murray Palmer

I'm a windswept white pine, standing alone in this field.  
 As I grew up uncrowded, my wild elegance was revealed.  
 How fortunate for me I'm not growing in a plantation –  
 There's no dancing in the rain or any form of recreation.  
 On the ground you see I've lost a few parts of limbs;  
 There's no accounting for the wisdom of Nature's whims.  
 In eastern North America, my kind are the tallest trees around;  
 With poplar and birch as neighbours, we colonize open ground.  
 We might live four hundred years, and reach two hundred feet.  
 Whereas short-lived colonists die out early, we're really tough to beat.  
 So say generations of woodpeckers, herons and birds of prey,  
 Who, from our heights, warn off rivals, nest and feed in their own way.  
 We of the ancient conifer clan form cones with naked seeds,  
 But Mother Nature has endowed us well to satisfy our needs.  
 Our thick, mature bark shields us from the heat of sub-canopy fire,  
 A welcome reducer of competition, and nutrient supplier.  
 So how did it come to pass that I'm so isolated?  
 I'm surrounded by cold, bare ground where winds blow unabated.  
 Far from my coniferous community, I only hope to interbreed;  
 How will my wind-blown pollen reach young cones to form seed?  
 Scarcely a small bird dares to cross from the distant woods to me.  
 I need insect-eaters to forage here, and help keep me pest-free.  
 I'd love to feel their gentle grasp, and strike up conversation.  
 I'd tell them about the past and our once great pine nation.  
 I should be standing out on a point of a rocky northern lake –  
 Against a sunset-coloured sky, what a stunning silhouette I'd make!  
 Did the farmer spare my life because he likes my graceful look?  
 Someday I hope to speak to you from the pages of a book.  
 Who'd have thought you'd be communicating with me, a simple tree?  
 Fellow creatures of this Earth, feel the bonds between you and me.

Murray Palmer, 2013

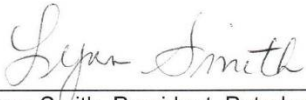



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Shelter Valley,  
 November 4<sup>th</sup>



## A New Memorandum of Understanding Between the PFN and KLT

A copy of the memorandum is reproduced here, and it represents an excellent opportunity for both the PFN and the KLT. Please contact one of the PFN Board Members if you have any questions.

<b>MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING</b>  between Peterborough Field Naturalists ("PFN") and Kawartha Land Trust ("KLT")	
WHEREAS the PFN's mission is to know, appreciate and conserve nature in all its forms, and PFN is celebrating its 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015;	
AND WHEREAS the Kawartha Land Trust's mission is caring for the natural places entrusted to us and helping others protect the land they love in the Kawarthas;	
AND WHEREAS PFN and KLT wish to collaborate toward their mutual goals;	
THEREFORE, for their mutual benefit, PFN and KLT agree to the following:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. KLT will, by arrangement, make its properties available to the PFN for field trips and research in order to foster enhanced knowledge, appreciation and stewardship;</li> <li>2. PFN will plan to conduct some field trips to KLT properties each year in order to assist with ecological inventories, public appreciation, and stewardship activities;</li> <li>3. KLT and PFN will share communications and event announcements through newsletters, social media, websites and the like, wherever feasible;</li> <li>4. KLT may share information with PFN about land securement and stewardship projects, and PFN may provide assistance to KLT with such projects;</li> <li>5. PFN and KLT will share information regarding planned activities, wildlife observations, and opportunities for further collaboration.</li> </ol>	
 _____ Lynn Smith, President, Peterborough Field Naturalists	Date: <u>Sept. 15, 2015</u>
 _____ Mike Hendren, Executive Director, Kawartha Land Trust	Date: <u>Sept 15, 2015</u>



A hearty thank you to JB Jaboor (pictured on page 6) and Don Finigan (pictured left) for their hard work and dedication, ensuring that the Ecology Park bird feeders are well-stocked through the winter!



## **'Nature in the Kawarthas' Report to Members**

### **Submitted by Martin Parker**

On December 7, 2011, after years of effort, the Peterborough Field Naturalists launched their new publication 'Nature in the Kawarthas'. This book is a wealth of information about the birds, mammals, insects, flowers, reptiles and amphibians that inhabit this special area (Peterborough and the Kawarthas). The book was published by Dundurn Press with the PFN receiving a royalty for all copies sold by the publisher. The PFN also received 500 copies of the books for sale or distribution as the PFN determined. These books have been sold to members and at shows attended by the PFN.

The total cost to the PFN of having the book published was \$19,343.08, which included a contribution to the publisher, costs for map preparation, other administrative costs, and a Good and Services Tax. The total revenue to the end of October was \$18,752.37. The revenue includes sales to members and others by the club, donations towards the publishing, and royalties received from Dundurn Press. The rebate the club received on the HST paid is not included in the revenue total as it is part of the annual HST rebate received from the Federal Government. The financial records estimate the value of this rebate as being approximately \$1,200.

A total of 1,226 print copies and 8 e-book versions have been sold by Dundurn Press. This included the initial 500 copies received by the PFN. The PFN continues to receive a royalty payment from the publisher annually. The club has about 40 copies of the book in stock to sell to members and at shows.

Financially the book is a success for the PFN and will continue to generate revenue for the club!

The book also fulfills the PFN mission statement, which is to 'Know \* Appreciate \* Conserve Nature in All its Forms'.

Congratulations to the many volunteers who made this project possible!

### **Nature in the Kawarthas – An Ideal Christmas Gift**

Looking for a Christmas gift with a local focus? Then consider sending a friend or relative a copy of 'Nature in the Kawarthas'. An informative introduction to the rich natural history of this area, copies of the book can be purchased at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PFN or directly from Martin Parker at (705) 745-4750. Cost per book is \$30 (note that the store price is \$32.99 plus HST).

The PFN also has the following books available:

Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas by Doug Sadler -- \$10.00

The Mammals of Peterborough County by Geoff Carpentier -- \$5.00

### **Watch for 'The Messenger'**

#### **Submitted by Kim Zippel**

The Peterborough Field Naturalists are co-sponsoring a feature length documentary film (93 minutes) entitled 'The Messenger' at the ReFrame Film Festival. 'The Messenger' will be screened on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at Showplace Theatre on George Street in Peterborough. A panel discussion will take place following the film.

From the website: <http://songbirdsos.com/about/> "The Messenger is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it means to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. Humans once believed that birds could carry messages, their presence was meaningful. They have helped predict the change of seasons, the coming of storms and the rise of toxins in the food chain. Once again they have something to tell us, and the message is not a comfortable one."

continued next page...

## Tickets

Passes to the ReFrame Festival will be available at the following venues beginning December 1st: GreenUp (378 Aylmer Street North), Hi Ho Silver (392 George Street North), and the Trent Central Student Association (Trent University, Symons Campus, West Bank Drive next to the Bata Library).

More information will soon be available on the festival's website at: <http://reframefilmfestival.ca/>.

## PFN Volunteer Corner

### Search of Historic Bird Count Records

The initial Christmas Bird Counts in the Peterborough area were not always part of the count system coordinated by the National Audubon Society. The first Peterborough CBC which appears in the National Audubon Society database was the count held on December 28th, 1963.

The first Peterborough CBCs were being conducted as early as 1953 according to newsletters contained in the PFN Archives. In this period it appears the results for many Canadian Counts were published in the journal 'Canadian Field Naturalist' published by the Ottawa Field Naturalists.

The library at Trent University has a collection of Canadian Field Naturalist journals. A volunteer to review these issues of the Canadian Field Naturalists to find references to the Peterborough Christmas Bird Counts will be greatly appreciated! The information collected will be added to the database for counts in the Peterborough area.

If you are interested in completing this helpful task please contact Martin Parker at (705) 745-4750 or email [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca).



## Natural Playscapes at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre

Submitted by Lynn Smith

Camp Kawartha Environment Centre celebrated the opening of its latest new feature: Natural Playscapes. What a concept and what fun!

Natural Playscapes is an outdoor adventure of natural materials (wood, water, soil, logs, vegetation, etc.) set up in a manner for kids to enjoy, play, explore and to connect with nature. Unstructured, self-directed play and nature discovery is encouraged.

Check out the pictures on the next page. Many kids with smiles on their faces were busily exploring all the nooks and crannies that each element of the Playscapes had to offer. At 6 months old, my grandson may not be quite ready for it, but it won't be long! Congratulations to the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre!



## Request for Items for AGM Bucket Draw

An important tradition of the Annual General Meeting of the PFN (being held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>) is the Bucket Draw. A large number of items will be available to be won by participants at this meeting. Past items have included a great selection of books, as well as bird seed, artwork, pottery, home baking and preserves, and other miscellaneous items. Participants purchase a ticket which they place in a cup beside the item they wish to win. After dinner one ticket will be drawn from each cup, and the ticket holder is entitled to that item. It usually generates some laughs and members go home with treasures.

This year's Bucket Draw coordinators are Rene Gareau (rene.gareau@sympatico.ca) and Kathy Parker (mparker19@cogeco.ca). If you have an item to generously donate to the Bucket Draw please notify Rene or Kathy so they can be prepared.

The proceeds from the Bucket Draw support the special projects of the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

## From the Archives – 1953 Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Martin Parker

### Instructions to Groups

#### Assemble:

265 Park Street North, Peterborough, Ontario at 8:30 am, December 25, 1953

#### Observation Area:

Group Leader will be given a detailed map of the specific area to be covered by your group. Observations made during the trip to & from your "starting point" should also be recorded. Arrange to be at the "starting point" ready to commence the survey by 9 a.m.

#### Field Sheet or Checklist:

Group Leaders will be supplied with field data sheets listing the birds observed in the previous Bird Census – add new species as required. Complete as much of the information at the top of the Field Sheet as possible before you start the survey. This includes date, time, general weather conditions, temp, etc.

#### Observation Areas:

1. Jackson Park – Lily Lake Area
2. Chemong Park Area
3. Otonabee River –Nassau Area
4. Burnham Woods – Rifle Range Area
5. Stewart Hall – Otonabee Area
6. Warsaw Road – Heronry Area
7. Crawford's Grove South Area

#### Martin's notes:

The above is part of the 'Instruction for Participants' in the 1953 count. The complete instructions are in this year's count manuals. Note that it makes reference to a previous census. There is no information on this census in the PFN Archives. Check out the Volunteer Corner on page 10 if you want to search for this and other early count records!

The 1953 instructions had participants commencing their field work at 9 am. On this year's count some of the participants will be in the field before dawn trying to hear and detect owls. The 1953 count also ended prior to 3:30 pm when the groups gathered to compile the final results.



## The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in the Peterborough Region.

Information is compiled from e-bird, the Drew Monkman Sightings website, PTBO Sightings, and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca) or phone (705) 745-4750.

Mid-Sept	Robert & Karen Fisher spotted a very large <b>Snapping Turtle</b> in Lily Lake at the outflow from Jackson Creek. It was approximately 2 feet in diameter.
31 Oct	Iain Rayner found a <b>Cackling Goose</b> on the Yankee Line pond, west of the north end of the causeway across Chemong Lake. A <b>Black Scoter</b> was found on Oct 1st off Sandy Point on the north end of Pigeon Lake by Ian Rayner, Scott Gibson, Chris Risley & Erica Nol. Observations were made until late November by different observers. Up to 3 individuals present.
November	Enid Mallory reported that the <b>River Otters</b> are active on Lily Lake this month. She noted this is a good time to see them. Another good sighting opportunity is just as the ice is starting to leave the lake. Al Sippel found a decomposing mammal in his flowerbed and identified it as a <b>Long tailed Weasel</b> (after consulting an old mammology text book) in the area of Fleming College. Ben Taylor and Mary Beth Aspinall separately reported observing some sunning <b>Painted Turtles</b> in the first week of the month along the Otonabee River south of the city.
Nov 1	Donald Sutherland had <b>Northern Goshawk</b> and <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon. Jeff Stewart had an <b>Eastern Towhee</b> in Millbrook. Marti Olivieri photographed a <b>Barred Owl</b> in Jackson Park.
Nov 3	Susan Paradisis reported a <b>Snow Goose</b> was present in the flock of <b>Canada Geese</b> south of the Lift Lock. Dave Milsom found a <b>House Wren</b> and <b>Common Yellowthroat</b> behind Scollard Drive, a late date for both species.
Nov 4	Chris Gooderham encountered a swarm of <b>Midges</b> (insects) while biking during the warm spell.
Nov 5	Susan Paradisis had a <b>Cooper's Hawk</b> at her residence in the City.
Nov 7	Jason and E. Straka had a <b>Chipping Sparrow</b> in the Lakefield Marsh and a <b>White-crowned Sparrow</b> at Lakefield Lagoon. A <b>Common Grackle</b> by Ian Sturdee.
Nov. 8	Susan Paradisis had an <b>Eastern Garter Snake</b> and <b>Green Frog</b> along the trail into the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site north of Buckhorn. <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in Millbrook by Jeff Stewart and along Lang-Hastings Trail by Ian Rayner.
Nov 9	Chris Gooderham had a <b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b> patrolling his neighbourhood.
Nov 10	Marie Duchesneau reported that the asters in her yard have gone to seed and look rough. She was planning to remove them; however, a large flock of <b>American Goldfinches</b> found them and are feeding actively. Enough are landing on the stems that they are bending them to the ground. The asters are now staying each year for the birds! Don Finigan reported that the PFN-operated feeders at Ecology Park were stocked with 50 pounds of seed today. The winter feeding season has started. He also had a <b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b> at his residence in the City.
Nov 11	<b>Ruddy Duck</b> was spotted by Luke Berg in the Blind Channel, Pigeon Lake.
Nov 12	Two <b>Cackling Geese</b> on the millpond at Norwood on Nov 12 by Ben Taylor. A male <b>Redhead</b> was in a flock of Mallards on Little Lake by Martin Parker and seen until November 26 by many different observers. A <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in the Bensfort Road area.
Nov 13	David Swales had a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> visit his feeders in his yard on Westbrook Drive in the city. Jeff Stewart had a <b>Wood Duck</b> in Millbrook.
Nov 14	A Snowy Owl was spotted by Karen Millage and her husband at 10:00 am, sitting in a tree alongside their road (about 10 minutes northwest of Young's Point). After about 5 minutes the owl flew back into the woods about 30 feet and landed again.



Nov 15	<b>Eastern Chipmunk</b> still active feeding on scattered seed in the yard of Kathy Parker. Three <b>Common Grackles</b> at Loggerhead Marsh by Paul Frost. Latest report of a <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> on south shore of Stoney Lake. Cheryl Lewis had two <b>Evening Grosbeaks</b> visiting her feeder on Oakwood Crescent for about 15 minutes. Matthew Tobey & Martin Parker found a freshly road-killed <b>Eastern Chipmunk</b> on the Elim Lodge Road north of Gannon's Narrows. Sue Paradisis had <b>Forsythia</b> (domestic shrub) in blossom in the west end of the city. This is a spring flowering shrub – climate change effect locally.
Nov. 16	Sue Paradisis found a <b>Coyote</b> print on the path of the Mississagua Trail north of Buckhorn. Martin Parker found a <b>Cackling Goose</b> on Little Lake and it was seen by many observers until November 26. Dave Milsom had <b>Wood Duck</b> in area of Scollard Drive. Jerry Ball had a small flock of <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> at the end of Duncan Line on Rice Lake. He also had 2 <b>Clouded Sulphur</b> on Duncan Line and 1 <b>Clouded Sulphur</b> butterfly on Scriven Line.
Nov. 17	Sue Paradisis had a <b>Belted Kingfisher</b> on the river crossing of the rail trail in Omemee. King Baker & Martin Parker observed blooming <b>Witch-Hazel</b> in full blossom in Ecology Park. This is the latest blooming shrub of the year.
Nov 18	Jerry Ball had a <b>Belted Kingfisher</b> on the Otonabee River between Locks 23 and 24.
Nov 20	Sue Paradisis had a <b>Pine Warbler</b> visit the feeders in her yard in the City. Only stayed for a brief period. A <b>Northern Shoveler</b> was still present on the Lakefield Lagoon by Daniel Williams.
Nov 21	Donald Sutherland had 1 <b>Snow Goose</b> fly-by at the northern end of Pigeon Lake along with two late <b>American Wigeons</b> at Kawartha Hideaway on Pigeon Lake. Scott Darling had a male <b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b> near Mount Pleasant. Paul Frost found a <b>Marsh Wren</b> at Loggerhead Marsh.
Nov 21	Peterborough birder Luke Berg spotted his <b>300<sup>th</sup> species of the year</b> in Ontario – a <b>Cave Swallow</b> in Mississauga. A feat which involved travel to many different parts of the province.
Nov 22	Matthew Tobey had small flock of <b>Cedar Waxwings</b> in the Fleming College area.
Nov 23	Sue Paradisis watched a <b>Great Blue Heron</b> fishing in Jackson Creek along the Rail Trail west of Atchison Dive. The heron was swallowing a fish and then flew a short distance up the creek, landed, broke the ice and then proceeded to catch and consume a small fish. It then left the water and stood on the ice. A very handy 'ice fisher'. The submitted photo shows it standing on ice and fishing in the open fishing hole. Miranda Pilon had a <b>Common Grackle</b> on McDonnell Street.
Nov 24	Jerry Ball and Dave Milsom had a flock of 10 <b>Evening Grosbeaks</b> and 30 <b>Pine Siskin</b> at a feeder on the west end of Northey Bay Road, as well as other flocks of <b>Pine Siskins</b> at other locations. They observed 2 <b>Long-tailed Ducks</b> on the river below Lakefield, 2 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> on Pigeon Lake, 3 <b>River Otters</b> on Pigeon Lake, and 1 <b>American Mink</b> at Sandy Beach (north shore of Stoney Lake).
Nov 25	Kathy Parker counted a total of 12 <b>Northern Cardinals</b> in the yard and neighbours' yards. Maximum number of males at once was 2 and females/subadults was 10. Dave Milsom had 2 <b>Wood Ducks</b> , 4 <b>Northern Shovelers</b> and 3 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> on the stormwater pond on Scollard Drive.
Nov 28	Carrie Sadowski saw and heard a flock of approximately 75 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> flying high, just south of (and towards) Lakefield. They were very noisy making their distinctive call!



# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

[www.peterboroughnature.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_