

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Great Horned Owl at the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary Feb. 14. Photo by Basil Conlin

Inside: Presentations at the AGM
 Junior PFN Environmental Excellence Award
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 Winter/Spring Birding and Wildlife Tracking Opportunities
 Participate in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

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Great Horned Owl in cedar over Thompson Creek
~Submitted by Dave Milsom



Northern Mockingbird at Corbitt's Dam in Port
Hope Jan 23. ~Submitted by Dave Milsom



Northern Flicker at Village Crescent Jan 19.
~Submitted by Rene Gareau





Martin Parker and Jerry Ball took this picture of Redhead
ducks at Presqu'île Provincial Park on Feb 26. They saw
two large rafts of about 1000 individuals each!

Welcome new PFN members!

Maya Ellis (junior)
Stephanie Melles & Trevor Middel
& junior Nolan Middel
Julie Simard & juniors Anna Savoy & Gabrielle Savoy
Mitchell Damaia & Nolan Damaia (juniors)
Jennifer & Duncan Routledge & junior Liam Routledge
Danica Jarvis & junior Abner Jarvis
Verity Barrett
Leora Berman
Basil Conlin
Brett Parsons

PFN Coming Events

<p>Dates, times and locations TBD</p>	<p>Wildlife Tracking Outings</p> <p>If weather conditions permit, there may be a few more outings in March focusing on tracks and other wildlife signs. These outings are led by PFN member and expert tracker Don McLeod. The place and time will be announced by e-mail shortly before each outing.</p> <p>Anyone interested in attending should send an e-mail to Don McLeod at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com so he can add you to an e-mail distribution list. If you signed up for last year's outings, you will automatically receive an e-mail.</p> <p>Accessibility: moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">Eastern cottontail rabbit tracks. Photo by Don McLeod.</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 8 7:30 PM Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Rd Peterborough ON</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: All About Amphibians</p> <p>Peter B. Mills is a naturalist and an artist. He has recently written and illustrated "Metamorphosis", a guide book to Ontario's amphibians at all stages of development. Peter will bring us a deeper level of understanding of the larval life of frogs, toads, and salamanders, which is the critical developmental first half of their lives.</p>
<p>Sunday, March 19 8:00 AM Meet at Country Style at Old Keene Rd and Hwy 7</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 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: 705-745-3272</p>
<p>Saturday, April 1 7:00 AM Meet at north parking lot, Riverview Park & Zoo, 1230 Water St.</p>	<p>Quest for Canada's New National Bird</p> <p>The Gray Jay has recently won the vote to be Canada's "national bird". This special outing will be an all-day trip to Ontario's oldest Provincial Park – Algonquin. The focus of the trip will be to look for Gray Jays (aka Canada Jays) and other characteristic Algonquin species such as Spruce Grouse. We will also keep an eye out for early spring migrants. Leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>This trip has an early departure in order to maximize the time spent in the park. A stop will be made in Bancroft on the way to the park. A visit to the Park's Visitor Centre will be included.</p>

	<p>Dress according to the weather forecast for the day of the outing and bring winter footwear. Bring your binoculars, camera, and a packed lunch.</p> <p>Accessibility – Easy to moderate depending on the depth of the remaining winter snow.</p> <p>Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday by seeing Canada's new National Bird!</p> 
<p>Saturday April 8</p> <p>9:30 AM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Rd Peterborough ON</p>	<p>Ontario Nature General Meeting</p> <p>PFN is hosting the Ontario Nature Regional Meeting. YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND! The guest speaker will be Ellen Schwartzel, Ontario Deputy Environmental Commissioner. She will be discussing the Environmental Bill of Rights and how citizens can have their say in government decisions that affect the environment.</p> <p>The PFN is just one of more than 150 local community conservation groups across Ontario that is affiliated with Ontario Nature. Together we all form the Nature Network. Ontario Nature provides leadership in bringing our voice and concerns to the province. Twice a year, the conservation groups meet to share ideas, voice their challenges and learn what programs and initiatives Ontario Nature is involved in.</p> <p>If interested in attending, please contact Lynn Smith at smithfam@nexicom.net. Please bring a lunch and mug.</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 12</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker TBA</p>
<p>Saturday, April 15</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's on Lansdowne St. 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 two-hour outing to listen to and distinguish 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 in the parking lot at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West at 7:30 PM and then travel to Hooton Line through the Cavan Swamp. We will walk a section of this closed roadway. Please bring a flashlight.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy, walking along a closed roadway.</p>

<p>Wednesday, April 26</p> <p>Meet at 6 PM in the parking lot of the Riverview Park & Zoo.</p>	<p>Night of Salamanders and Frogs</p> <p>This is an annual PFN evening trip to look for migrating salamanders and egg masses in their breeding pools. This inventory event will be at the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Land Trust (KLT). The event will commence with the checking of pools for egg masses of Spotted and Blue-spotted Salamanders. We will then record the frog species calling and check the roadways for migrating salamanders. Dusk-calling birds will also be recorded. The trip will be led by Martin Parker.</p> <p>After meeting at the zoo at 6 PM, we will travel to the Ingleton-Wells property on the northwestern shore of Stoney Lake. Wear clothes suitable for the weather and water-proof footwear. Bring a head lamp or flashlight, and an evening snack or packed supper. It is anticipated the trip will return to Peterborough around 11 PM.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate with walking around a woodland pond and a return in the dark.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 10</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Jackson Creek Old-Growth Forest</p> <p>This month's guest speaker is Mike Henry, the lead researcher and forest ecologist behind the recent study "Jackson Creek Old-Growth Forest" by Ancient Forest Exploration and Research. (http://www.ancientforest.org/publications/)</p> <p>Mike will help us rediscover Jackson Creek as our very own 4.5 hectare urban old-growth forest, with trees reaching 250 years old, pre-dating the original settlement of the Town of Scott's Plains, which is now Peterborough.</p>
<p>Sundays, Apr 2 to May 28</p> <p>8 to 11 AM</p>	<p>Spring Wildlife Walks</p> <p>Our regular Spring wildlife walks will commence on Sunday April 2nd and continue until May 28th. Unless otherwise advertised, walks will start at 8 AM and we will carpool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases, the leaders will confirm the destination on the day.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to Moderate.</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 14</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Ontario's Bats: Biology, Ecology and Conservations Issues</p> <p>Guest speaker: Lesley Hale, Divisional Integration Coordinator, Ministry of Natural Resources</p> <p>Ontario's eight species of bats play a critical role in the province's ecosystems as nocturnal insectivores. They are considered one of our most valuable species groups for agricultural pest control. The recent spread of white-nose syndrome has caused concern for the future of many bats species in Ontario, making bat monitoring and conservation more important than ever.</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)	
<p>Sunday, March 19</p> <p>1:45 to 4 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Bird House Workshop</p> <p>The PFN Junior Naturalists will be helping neighbourhood birds get ready for spring in March by building Black-capped Chickadee nest boxes. We will also have a craft table for kids who finish early. Please sign up for one of the three start time options offered online and we will hold a kit for your family. Registration and membership is required for this event, as the supply of kits is limited. We would like to thank Merrett Home Hardware Building Centre for donating all of the wood for the bird house kits. We really appreciate your kind and generous support of our nature education programming! A special thank you also goes out to PFN members Brian Wales and Ted Vale who kindly volunteered their time to prepare the kits!</p>
<p>Saturday, April 8</p> <p>1 to 3 PM</p> <p>Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre</p>	<p>Tour of Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre</p> <p>Junior Naturalists are also invited to book spaces in our special tour of the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre that is scheduled for April 8th. Full details are provided in the listings of junior events on the PFN website.</p>

Other Events of Interest	
<p>First Friday of each month</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Guest Services Building, Riverview Park & Zoo</p>	<p>Peterborough Astronomical Association Monthly Meeting</p> <p>For more information on their monthly meetings, please visit www.peterboroughastronomy.com.</p> <p>March 3: Solar Astronomy by Brian Colville</p> <p>April 7: The confusing world of sky maps & star charts by Ken Sunderland & Paul Ward</p> <p>May 5: Topic to be announced by Randy Attwood</p> <p>May 27: Astronomy Day - Public Viewing and Activities – Details, times TBA- Static Displays and Solar Viewing at the Riverview Park and Zoo</p> <p>Dusk to 11 PM - Observing at the top of Armour Hill</p>
<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting</p> <p>Join us at 6:30 PM for socializing. The meeting begins at 7 PM. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, and \$2 guest. All are welcome - and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit www.peterboroughhort.com.</p> <p>March 23 - Anna Mizyn, Owner of Anna's Perennials: "Cactus & Succulents"</p> <p>April 26 - James & Audrey Potts, Owners of Palliser Downs: "Growing Berries Haskap and Other Small Fruit"</p> <p>May 24 - Sean James of Fern Ridge Gardens: "Garden Trends for 2017"</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>Friday April 7th through to Sunday April 9th</p> <p>Evinrude Centre, Peterborough</p>	<p>Peterborough Garden Show 2017</p> <p>Come welcome spring at one of Ontario's largest garden shows! The annual Peterborough Garden Show is sponsored by the Peterborough Horticultural Society and area Master Gardeners. The 3-day event hosts many garden-related vendors, exhibitors, daily speakers, informative workshops, displays, arrangements and advice. Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and local beautification projects. For more details check out www.peterboroughgardenshow.com.</p>
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President's Message – Supporting Harper Park

I was greatly honoured when the Board selected me to be the President of the PFN for 2017. I plan to use the Orchid to keep members informed of the Board's activities over the coming year.



The PFN was one of many groups which expressed concern about locating the proposed casino next to Harper Park, for fear of the impact it would have on the Park's environment and ecosystems. Our key concerns include disturbing the Park aquifer, storm water runoff into the Park and Harper Creek, realigning water courses, light and noise pollution, and disrupting natural corridors into the Park.

Although the City has decided to proceed with the present location for the Casino, there is still much that can be done to mitigate its impact on the Park. In its original approval of the casino location, the City did commit to consulting with the PFN and the Harper Park Stewardship Committee about site planning and mitigation.

The Board will be pursuing this but it would be very helpful if members could contact their councillors to remind them of this commitment and the urgent need for a management plan for the Park.

Ted Vale

Membership Renewals Are Due

LAST ORCHID IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

This is a reminder that 2016 PFN Memberships expired on DECEMBER 31.



Memberships can be renewed at the March 8 meeting or at any regular PFN meeting (2nd Wednesday of the month) or by mailing the application form at the back of the Orchid with a cheque to the PO Box address on the upper right hand corner of the form.

If you joined or renewed after the summer, you are paid up to the end of 2017. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact Jim Young by e-mail (jbyoung559@gmail.com) or phone (705-760-9397).

PFN Annual General Meeting 2017

Submitted by Lynn Smith

The Peterborough Field Naturalists enjoyed a successful Annual General Meeting on Jan 20 with 84 people coming out to enjoy the evening of dinner, business, raffle, silent auction and keynote speaker, Leora Berman, talking on "The Land Between."

Each year the PFN recognizes those people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Lola Leach Award – Congratulations to Don and Emily Pettypiece!

Don and Emily have been long-standing members since 1998. As a Board member, Don has worn several hats including Publicity, Membership, and Treasurer. Don was photo editor for the Club's book, "Nature in the Kawarthas." Emily was Club secretary for 12 years. For 18 years, she was the dependable person behind the refreshment table at Club meetings. Both have been willing participants in a variety of Club projects, events, and committees. From their vast experience, they always shared words of wisdom.



Club President (now past-president) Lynn Smith presenting Emily and Don Pettypiece with the Lola Leach Award.

Certificates of Appreciation

1) Many thanks to the PFN members who take time out of their busy schedules and provide this Club with much needed assistance:

- Mark Zippel – Harper Park projects
- Don McLeod – Harper Park projects and brook trout survey
- Brian Wales – Maintenance at Miller Creek & bird box construction
- Dorothy & Bill McCord – Completing inventory of books at Sadler Library
- Marion Vale – Hosting monthly Board meetings
- Jerry Ball – Outdoor leader
- Marla Williams – Orchid editor for 3 years

2) Many thanks to the businesses within the City of Peterborough who supported the Club and Junior Field Naturalists:

- Lisa Dixon from Black Honey
- Jean Grant from The Toy Shop of Peterborough
- Peer Christensen from Christensen Fine Art
- Drew Merrett from Merrett Home Hardware
- Alvin Schieck from Offices That Work

3) Many thanks to the individuals whose efforts in advocating and protecting natural heritage within the City and County of Peterborough have made a difference.

- Richard Straka – City of Peterborough Planning Department – now retired
- Steven Kerr – Director for Environment with the Jack Lake Association



From left to right: Marla Williams, Jerry Ball, Bill and Dorothy McCord, Don McLeod, Mark Zippel, Steven Kerr, Marion Vale and Lynn Smith

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President and Ontario Nature Rep	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
Vice-President	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587	Orchid Editor	Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peteboroughnature.org
Secretary	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
Treasurer	Dave Heuft	dave.heuft@gmail.com	743-6164	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin 749-3639 pfjuniors@gmail.com
Meeting Co-ordinator	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor Don Finigan
Meeting Co-ordinator	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects	Martin Parker
Outings Coordinator	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501	Miller Creek Stewardship	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Brian Wales
Harper Park Committee Chair	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Advocacy Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Marilyn Hubley, Martin Parker, Ted Vale
Co-webmaster	Dylan Radcliffe	Dylan.radcliffe@gmail.com	741-3641	Webmaster	Chris Gooderham webmaster@ peterboroughnature.org
Past President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Peterborough CBC	Martin Parker
Special Projects	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones
				Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					

Junior PFN Environmental Excellence Award

Submitted by Lara Griffin

The Peterborough Junior Field Naturalists are thrilled to have received the Environmental Excellence Award for Stewardship from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority! The award was presented on January 19th at the ORCA Annual General Meeting in Ennismore. Lara Griffin was honoured to receive the award on behalf of the membership. The Junior Naturalists have shown many times that they love to roll up their sleeves to make a difference in protecting and enhancing our community's natural areas. In the past year and a half, the Junior Naturalists have helped at several events with ORCA. They helped to raise awareness about water quality protection by participating in the Yellow Fish Road storm drain-marking program at Riverview Park and Zoo. They pitched in at the annual Earth Day clean-up at Jackson Park. They learned about healthy forest ecosystems while planting trees in the Township of Douro-Dummer, and they learned about the importance of pollinators while planting native shrubs and flowering plants in a new pollinator garden at the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area.

The photo to the right was taken after the Junior Naturalists trekked through the wooded trails at Camp Kawartha on snowshoes and later warmed up with some traditional fire-making skills with Mike, one of the camp's Outdoor Education staff. Despite the warm weather and rain earlier in the week, we had a great wintery day!

Congratulations to all of the Junior Naturalists and thank you for helping to protect our local natural areas! Looking forward to more fun activities with you in 2017!



PFN Volunteer Corner

Rallying for Refreshments

For the past 18 years, PFN members have enjoyed refreshments at the Club meetings, thanks to Emily Pettypiece and her backup, Don Pettypiece. Emily and Don feel it is time to retire from this job and they encourage others to come forward. Thank you so much for your efforts, Emily and Don!

Please contact Lynn Smith (smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599) if you are interested and willing to help look after the refreshment table at Club meetings. Your contribution to the PFN meetings will be most appreciated!

Volunteers are needed at the PFN display booth for the Peterborough Garden Show

During the Peterborough Garden Show from April 7 to April 9, the Peterborough Field Naturalists will host a display table. We are looking for volunteers to take a 3 or 4-hour shift at the booth. Two people are needed per shift. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with folks who are interested in our club activities!

Please contact Lynn Smith: smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599. Thank you!





Member Volunteer Efforts: The PFN operate bird feeders at Ecology Park. Squirrels were eating all the seed in December, leaving none for the birds, so J.B. Jaboor (seen in photo above taken Jan 6) made new guards. They seem to be deterring the squirrels



Great Grey Owl near Cordova Road
in Marmora Feb 15

~Submitted by Martin Parker

From the Archives: A Checklist of the Birds of Peterborough County, Ontario

Submitted by Martin Parker

The Archives of the Peterborough Field Naturalists contains a copy of the above-noted report prepared by J. L. McKeever in April of 1958. As the introduction states 'This is the first known attempt at a list of the birds to be found in Peterborough City and County.' Comments are kept to a minimum but they indicate whether the bird is a migrant or whether it is rare or abundant. A bird is said to breed in this area only when the evidence is incontrovertible.

A sampling of some of the species accounts is as follows:

Canada Goose: *Many flocks pass over Peterborough in spring and fall. Often seen on the lakes just after the ice goes out.*

Mallard Duck: *Seen in migration and occasionally during summer – breeds locally. Stoney Lake nest, April 27, 1967 (12 eggs).*

Sparrow Hawk (M.P. note: now called American Kestrel): *Common – seen all year round in this area, although only occasionally in winter. Breeding in Nassau area.*

Nighthawk (M.P. note: now called Common Nighthawk): *Common summer resident, arriving about mid-May and departing in late August. On August 14, 1950, several hundred seen 'hawking' just over #7 Highway some miles east*

of Peterborough. Breeds in Peterborough, mainly on asphalt and gravel roofs. June 19, 1943 female and two small chicks on roof of P.C.I.; City Hall roof 1955.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (M.P. note: now called American Three-toed Woodpecker): Uncommon winter visitor. Considerable invasions from mid-October 1956 to February 1957. Noted by stripping of bark from both live and dead trees.

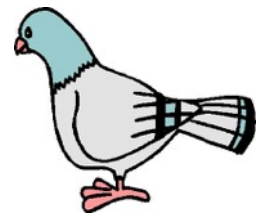
Cardinal: Reported sporadically in winter for several years but verified in the case of at least 3 male and 1 female residents around Peterborough in December 1957 and January 1958.

Note: These are just a few of the 206 species mentioned in the above report. These species have been highlighted as there has been a major change in their status in the region. Canada Goose, Mallard, and Northern Cardinal are now common year-round residents. On the other hand, American Kestrel, Common Nighthawk, and American Three-toed Woodpecker have declined in the County.

What the Heck Are Those Pigeons Up To?

Submitted by the Orchid Editor

In the last issue of The Orchid, I asked readers to write in with serious or silly theories to explain why pigeons sometimes fly in formation above city centres for long periods of time, without any apparent interest in landing anytime soon. Since no responses were forthcoming, I called up my old friend Randy, who is in no way whatsoever anywhere near close to being a bird expert, let alone an aspiring birder, or even a person who enjoys engaging in bird-talk – unless it's perhaps to share ideas on making tasty jerky out of Canada Goose breast meat. I told Randy about the pigeons and I asked him what he thought they were doing. His very quick response was: "Pigeons are revolting." Well, my old pal is a sharper tool-in-the-drawer than I am, that is for sure. He quite enjoyed the ensuing minute or so of my sputtering in indignation on behalf of the pigeons. "What did pigeons ever do to you?!?" Then he repeated himself and nonchalantly inserted the word "the" - as if it had been there the whole time. So there you have it. The award for the most ridiculous theory goes to Randy: The pigeons are revolting. As for a more plausible explanation, maybe we'll hear some ideas at the next PFN meeting!



Citizen Science Volunteer Project: Canadian Lakes Loon Survey

Submitted by Martin Parker

If you plan to spend at least one day in each of June, July and August on your favourite lake, then you can help Bird Studies Canada better understand the health of the Common Loon and other water bird populations in the Canadian Lake Loon Survey (CLLS). We are trying to ensure that as many previously-monitored lakes are surveyed as possible.

For more information on how to participate in this project, contact Kathy Jones of Bird Studies Canada by e-mail at volunteer@birdscanada.org or by phone at 1-888-448-2473, ext. 124.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the March issue is **Friday, March 24.**

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org

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



Silent Lake Tracks

Submitted by Sue Paradis

I was up to Silent Lake Feb. 23 and of course I was looking for tracks. Although there was still 45 to 60 centimetres of snow in the woods, it was very granular and wouldn't register fresh tracks. However, I observed an interesting phenomenon of old tracks. An animal had walked across the snow and out on to the lake and had compacted the snow with each foot print. The non-compacted snow around the track was melting faster, leaving behind little pillars. Judging from the stride and the track pattern, I would guess it was a fox.



The Beguiling River Otter

Slick and slippery, he's a sleek North American river otter, Best known for sliding on snow and mud into water. Across the Bering Land Bridge two million years ago Slipped his forebears to become the critter we now know: A semi-aquatic weasel with thirty- six sharp teeth, Dense guard hair and underfur, but no fat layer underneath. Like a beaver swimming, his eyes, ears, and nose form a line On his flat head, completing a torpedo-like body design. He doesn't hibernate in winter, but hunts all year-round, And lives in an old muskrat or beaver lodge, or underground In chambers dug into banks of lakes, rivers, bogs and such - Rarely making his home, he takes others, not adding much. He lies in ambush or chases fish, crayfish ... even a duck, Flightless, or turtle may disappear below by his toothy pluck. More active by day in winter, he frequents holes in the ice. Watching otters play as large carnivores do is so, so nice!



Photo taken by Murray Palmer at Riverview Zoo July 2013

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2016



The Orchid Diary



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

Information is compiled from eBird, Drew Monkman's Sightings web page, the ptbosightings Yahoo group, and individual submissions.

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750.

Weather	The temperature was above average with warm periods and rain. South of Peterborough there was little snow cover.
Jan. 1	Dave Milsom & Matthew Tobey led a joint PFN and Ontario Field Ornithologists outing in the Peterborough area for 20 participants and observed 34 species of birds with highlights: 2 Wood Ducks north of Lock 24, 2 Bald Eagles & 2 Eastern Screech Owls near the Airport, 1 Belted Kingfisher south of Lock 24, 3 Eastern Bluebirds & 1 Rusty Blackbird along Hannah Road, 10 Bohemian Waxwings near Burleigh Falls, & 8 Evening Grosbeaks at a feeder on Northey's Bay Road. Daniel Williams reported on eBird a Northern Pintail off Beavermead Park.
American Robin	This is the winter of American Robins . Large numbers of American Robins are being reported daily by many. They are feeding on the abundance of wild grapes and fruits on ornamental trees.
Wood Duck	The pair of Wood Ducks have been observed by many on the Otonabee River, primarily between Lock 24 and 25. Most days only one individual was reported on eBird.
Jan. 2	A White-winged Scoter was reported from Little Lake by Toby Rowland. A wintering Gray Catbird that was initially reported by Matthew Garvin and seen by many was in a grape thicket along Little Lake off Edgewater Blvd. It was feeding on wild grape berries. Matthew Tobey had a White-throated Sparrow in the Fortye Drive area.
Jan. 3	Michael Gillespie along River Road had 1 Bald Eagle , 1 Belted Kingfisher , 100 Cedar Waxwings , 2 Wild Turkeys , and lots of American Robins . A Northern Flicker and a Red-winged Blackbird visited Dave Milsom's feeder along Scollard Ave.
Jan. 5	Bill Snowden reported a Northern Shrike was harassing the smaller birds at his feeders.
Jan. 8	The Common Loon reported on the river along the Lakefield waterfront in December was initially reported by Toby Rowland and seen during this reporting period by many.
Jan. 11	There was a report of 4 Eastern Bluebirds on Carmel Line near Millbrook according to the eBird Peterborough County birds database. One individual was present the following day.
Jan. 13	Martyn Obbard located a Red-breasted Merganser at Gannon Narrows. Mark Rogers had a Peregrine Falcon near the corner of Downie & Murray Street. It was present in the downtown area for both months.
Jan. 14	Iain Rayner heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl calling in the Bear Creek area in the City.
Jan. 15	Jackie Lewis spotted an adult Bald Eagle feeding in a field south of Fowler's Corners.
Jan. 18	Michael Gillespie at the corner of County Rd 2 and Plunket Road watched a Barred Owl for about 20 minutes. Sightings of Barred Owls are a frequent occurrence this winter by many observers.
Jan. 19	Maureen Smith reported a Northern Pintail joined the Mallards on the river at Warsaw. Was not present the following day. Iain Rayner found a Gray Jay in Petroglyphs Provincial Park.
Jan. 21	A Red-winged Blackbird was found by Iain Rayner & Scott Gibson along County Road 36 in the vicinity of Jack's Hill Road.
Jan. 22	A Carolina Wren was spotted by Chris Risley and Erica Nol visiting a feeder on Bonaccord Ave.
Jan. 30	Sue Paradisis observed a Common Flicker in her yard in the city. It was eating crab apples. Later in the day she had 3 Trumpeter Swans off the Lakefield waterfront.
Jan. 31	Sue Paradisis had an adult Bald Eagle near Lock 25 (south of Lakefield). It was feeding on a dead fish. Sightings of Bald Eagles along the section of the river were a regular occurrence.
Feb. 1	Luke Berg located 2 Mute Swans on the Trent River near Preston Island in Asphodel-Norwood Township. These were seen by others during month. Iain Rayner had a very early Turkey Vulture near the Baxter Creek Golf Course, County Road 28.

Feb. 2	Luke Berg spotted a Red-breasted Merganser on the Trent River at the south end of the 5 th line of Asphodel Township. Bruce Kidd reported that it was a boring winter at his feeders with only American Tree Sparrows visiting. He had a Cooper's Hawk in the yard which was feasting on an European Starling.
Eastern Bluebirds	There were numerous sightings during the month including 7 along Hannah Road on Feb. 1 by Iain Rayner, and another 7 on Feb. 2 along the 5 th Line of Asphodel. Other sightings were received during the month.
Feb. 3	Matthew Tobey found a Winter Wren along the trails in the Trent University Nature Area.
Feb. 3 & 4	Don McLeod and PFN members observed wildlife tracks and signs along the John de Pencier trail at the Trent University Nature Area: species list included Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Cottontail, Porcupine, Snowshoe Hare, Shrew spp., Mouse spp., Raccoon, Coyote, Red Fox and Red Squirrel.
Feb. 4	Sue Paradis reported that her crab apple trees are attracting lots of birds including more than 4 dozen American Robins and 100+ European Starlings along with 1 Cedar Waxwing and 1 Bohemian Waxwing . In summary, she noted there were birds everywhere
Feb. 5	Lynn Smith had a flock of about 100 Bohemian Waxwings in her yard on the Tapley ¼ Line west of Cavan. They were not present the next day. Matthew Tobey found 2 Gray Catbirds in an area with an abundance of wild grape off Edgewater Blvd. where an individual Gray Catbird has been seen regularly since the beginning of the year. The two individuals were also present at the same location on Feb. 7.
Feb. 6	Bill Snowden reported about 30 American Robins on Ennis Road west of Ennismore. He noted the abundance of grapes is starting to decline. European Starlings were also feeding on the grapes plus buckthorn berries and crab apples. Matthew Tobey spotted a Northern Goshawk in the vicinity of Fleming Drive at The Parkway. Jerry Ball observed a Red Fox near the intersection of Douro Centre Road and River Road.
Feb. 7	Pam Donaldson photographed 2 Great Gray Owls in the Peterborough area with the photographs being posted on the Weather Network web site. There was a report of a Great Gray Owl in the Bensford Road area. Details on this year's influx into this area will be provided later. This winter there was a major southern movement in the Ottawa- Cornwall-Montreal area.
Feb. 8	At the PFN meeting, Marie Duchesneau reported a Brown Creeper was in her yard. Basil Conlin noted a pair of Great Horned Owls were occupying a nest in the Trent University Nature Area and Susan Weaver observed a Peregrine Falcon on the ice of Little Lake.
Feb. 9	Meredith Clark reported that there were approximately 40 American Robins feeding in the cherry tree near her residence and the birds were also diving and splashing in the snow.
Feb. 11	Luke Berg spotted a Northern Goshawk within Petroglyphs Provincial Park. While skiing the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trail he spotted a Gray Jay . The Winter Wren in the Trent U. Nature Area was relocated by Dave Milsom.
Feb. 15	Jerry Ball had a Northern Flicker along Centre Line in Asphodel Township
Feb. 17	Martyn Obbard had a Common Redpoll at Summet Drive, Buckhorn. This species has been virtually absent this winter. Gabriel Matamoros had 6 Pine Siskin along County Road 507 north of Buckhorn
Feb. 17	Gord Trask observed a Great Gray Owl near Fowler's Corners. Not located the next day.
Feb. 19	Herring Gulls starting to return. William Snowden had one on the Otonabee River north of Lock 25. He also had the first Red-winged Blackbird of the spring between Lakefield & Bridgenorth.
Feb. 22	Sue Paradis spotted a Merlin in East City.
Feb. 23	Matthew Tobey & Luke Berg, while doing a road survey of owls from Keene to Hastings, found 1 Ross's Goose , 4 Cackling Geese , 2 Killdeer and numerous flocks of Eastern Bluebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles , and Brown-headed Cowbirds . Mike Oldham, while doing the owl survey, had 2 Northern Pintails on a pond on the Second Line Road east of Highway 28.
Owl Survey Feb. 23	Michael Burrell organized a roadside survey for Great Gray Owls and other owls in the afternoon involving eight teams of birders who traversed many miles of roads looking for owls. Unfortunately, no Great Grays were found. As noted above, other spring migrants were found during the day.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:	
		Work Tel:	
Address:		Receive Orchid by:	Email(s):
		<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10 ☐

4. Family (couple or family with children*) \$30 ☐

*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

<input type="radio"/> Birds	<input type="radio"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="radio"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)
<input type="radio"/> Astronomy	<input type="radio"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="radio"/> Geology <input type="radio"/> Field Trips
<input type="radio"/> Hiking	<input type="radio"/> Conservation	<input type="radio"/> Other (specify)

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following areas _____ and would be prepared to

☐ lead an outdoor session ☐ give a presentation ☐ prepare an article for The Orchid

I am interested in the following:

☐ Joining the PFN Executive ☐ Sitting on research or conservation committees ☐ Working on field projects
☐ Helping with refreshments at meetings ☐ Please have a member of the executive call me

AGE GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

☐ Under 20 ☐ 20-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70-79 ☐ 80< over

DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) accepting this application, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever release and discharge the PFN, their officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from my participation in PFN activities, whether by reason of negligence of the PFN or its representatives, or otherwise. I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required for field trips or other activities in which I participate, and accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation. As a member of the PFN and/or as a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years of age, I have read and understood the above, and accept its term on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____