

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Rehabilitated young adult eastern grey squirrels on their release day, May 20, 2016.
Submitted by the Orchid Editor

Inside: Petroglyphs CBC and Great Backyard Bird Count Results
Harper Park News
Winter Tracking Report
Ontario Nature Meeting Agenda
Meet a Wildlife Rehabilitator
Advice for Encounters with Injured or Orphaned Wildlife

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12).....	6
Other Events of Interest.....	7
PFN Volunteer Corner	8
President's Message – Supporting Harper Park.....	10
Harper Park News	10
Results of 31 st Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count	12
2017 Great Backyard Bird Count Results	13
Winter Tracking Report.....	15
From the Road to Recovery: Snapper Success Stories.....	16
How to Help and Handle an Injured Turtle	16
Meet a Wildlife Rehabilitator.....	17
What to Do If You Find Wildlife in Distress	19
A Fossil Poses a Question.....	21
From the Archives: Selected Extracts 1950-60.....	21
The Orchid Diary	24
PFN Membership Application	26

Welcome new PFN members!

Peter Mills

Christine Post & Charlie Menendez

Donnell Gasbarrini & Jesse Jarvis

David Marshall & Barbara Moffat

Brent Patterson & Ashley Spenceley

Danica Jarvis



Great Grey Owl on Trans Canada Trail Mar 4. Photo by Bernie Obert



There was a lot of activity at Marilyn Hubley's feeder on March 26 in Peterborough, including salivating squirrels (left) and feasting chickadees (above). Juncos also appeared at the feeder that day.

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sundays</p> <p>April 2 to May 28</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p>North Parking Lot, Riverview Park & Zoo</p> <p>Water Street, Peterborough</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Wildlife Outings</p> <p>Our regular spring wildlife walks will commence on Sunday April 2 and continue until May 28th. Unless otherwise advertised, walks will start at 8 AM and we will carpool from the parking lot of the 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. Accessibility: Easy to Moderate.</p> <p>April 2: Jerry Ball April 9: Chris Risley April 16: Martin Parker (tbc) April 23: tbc April 30: Mike McMurtry May 7: Lynn Smith – see details below May 14: tbc May 21: Paul Frost – see details below May 28: Don McLeod – see details below</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 Regional 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. The agenda appears on page 9 of this newsletter.</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 12</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: The Biodiversity of Thicksen's Woods and the Forgotten Pollinators</p> <p>Thicksen's Woods is the last remnant of old-growth pines on the north shore of Lake Ontario. In 1983, when those pines were threatened with logging, a handful of naturalists formed the non-profit corporation "Thicksen's Wood Land Trust" and purchased the woods. Later, in 2001, they bought an eight-acre meadow just north of the woods and today that cow pasture is a remarkable wildlife habitat and buffer from the fumes and noise of nearby roads.</p> <p>Since early childhood in England, Phill Holder has had a great passion for nature, which he shared with his family. Thicksen's Woods was the first place the family birded together after moving to Canada in 1982. Phill's son, Matt, became an expert birder, naturalist and published scientist. After Matt suddenly passed away in 2011, Phill and his wife created in his memory the Matt Holder Environmental Education Fund.</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	In this presentation, Phill will share the incredible discoveries, all sponsored by the Matt Holder Fund, that have been made in this small reserve, known previously only for migrating birds.
<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>Sunday, May 7</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p>Meet at Cavan GO Transit Carpool lot/bus stop</p>	<p>A Walk on the Oak Ridges Moraine</p> <p>Led by Lynn Smith, this outing will include car stops as well as a couple of strolls along back roads and through some hilly countryside. Bring binoculars, scope, snacks, water and perhaps be prepared for some mosquitoes and/or blackflies. 8-11 am.</p> <p>Meet at the Cavan Carpark/GO Bus Stop: From Peterborough take Hwy 115 south and exit at County Rd 10/Millbrook Cavan (Exit #38). Come to a stop sign. Go straight and the carpool lot is on your left, on Syer Line.</p> <p>Accessibility: a combination of easy to challenging. One of the hikes will include some hilly terrain (challenging). Otherwise, car stops and relatively level walking (easy).</p>

PFN Coming Events	
<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 Michael 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>Sunday, May 21</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p>Meet at 1419 Ireland Drive</p>	<p>Exploring Loggerhead March, Provincially Significant Wetland</p> <p>Join Trent University's professor of aquatic sciences, Paul Frost, who, together with the PFN has been advocating to get Loggerhead Marsh protected from the impact of encroaching urban development.</p> <p>Loggerhead Marsh is now recognized as a provincially significant wetland. It contains a large area of cattail marsh, patches of forested wetland, and expanses of wet meadows. Its outflow stream flows through several forested areas and downstream into Jackson Creek.</p> <p>Bring your binoculars! Accessibility: mostly easy, but there may be some small slopes of moderate difficulty. Some areas may be damp, so good boots are recommended.</p> <p>Meet near Paul Frost's house at 1419 Ireland Drive, Peterborough. There is plenty of street parking available on Ireland Drive.</p>
<p>Sunday, May 28</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p>Meet at public parking lot on Crawford Drive</p>	<p>Fleetwood Creek Natural Area</p> <p>Don McLeod will lead a walk along the road allowance at Fleetwood Creek Natural Area and circling back through the McKim/Garsonnin property. Don's specialty is tracking and there are sandy areas along the road allowance that are good spots for tracks. We should also see a good variety of birds including warblers.</p> <p>Meet at the public parking lot on Crawford Drive, at the end of Harper Road and just off the Parkway and Sir Sanford Fleming Drive.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate, there is some uphill walking.</p>
<p>Sunday, June 4</p> <p>7 AM</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's on Lansdowne St. W.</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area</p> <p>An all-day visit to the wonderful Carden Plain, an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will be our guide to this globally rare habitat 65km west of Peterborough. Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers are all possibilities.</p> <p>Bring some lunch, water, camera and binoculars.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West.</p>

PFN Coming Events

<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>
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PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

<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>
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Bird House Workshop

Spring sunshine was streaming in the Environment Centre windows at the Junior Naturalists' bird house workshop on March 19. We had a fantastic turn out with 30 families participating, including 12 new families. The kits were designed for Black-capped Chickadees and loaded with bird-friendly features to increase the likelihood of occupancy, including floor drains, ventilation, and an interior ladder. One of our volunteers reported that within 20 minutes of installing her bird house, a Chickadee was spotted checking it out. On behalf of all the kids, thank you to Merrett Home Hardware Building Centre for generously donating all of the wood for this project and to Ted Vale and Brian Wales for producing so many easy-to-assemble kits. Thank you to our workshop volunteers, Sarah Jamieson, Sarah McGuire, Ayden Sherritt, and Danica Jarvis. We couldn't have done it without you!



More volunteers = more kids' events!

Thanks to the support of our members and new families joining the club, we've been growing! Having a larger group means we can plan more activities. If you have ideas to share and would like to help out, please email Lara at pfnjuniors@gmail.com. You don't need to be an expert. Our goal is to get outside with our families and have fun while learning about nature.

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>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>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>
<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>
<p>Sep 25-29, Oct 2-6, or Oct 10-13</p> <p>Queen's University Biological Station</p>	<p>2017 Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshops</p> <p>Learn about the mushrooms and other fungi of Southern Ontario. Now in their 8th year, these hands-on workshops offer a unique opportunity to develop your fungal identification skills. Suitable for all levels. Max 12 per workshop. Register early (the workshops always sell out). Details: https://qubs.ca.</p>

Other Events of Interest

Seasons on the Moraine

This is a series of eight guided nature walks on Ballyduff Trails (next to Fleetwood Creek Conservation Area), sponsored by South Pond Farms. Tickets are \$30 per event and include a meal. For more information, please visit www.southpondfarms.ca/events/#seasons-on-the-moraine.

- April 22: Night Sounds
- May 6: Songbird Sightings
- May 13: Wildflowers and Other Things
- June 18: Dragons, Damsels & Butterflies, Too
- July 23: Wetland Wonders
- August 13: Seeing the Forest for the Trees
- September 17: Flowers, Feathers & Other Finery
- October 1: Fleetwood Valley: Then and Now



PFN Volunteer Corner

Phragmites at Loggerhead Marsh

The Loggerhead Marsh Stewardship Association (www.loggerheadmarsh.org) is seeking volunteers to help with the removal of an invasive plant called Phragmites australis (or the European common reed). It is tagged as "Canada's worst invader for wetlands" and is currently spreading in two spots about 50-80 m from the wetland boundaries. (Aha! Another reason why big buffers are important!) It is a fast grower and will take over wetlands and open spaces.



Volunteer names are being collected for the second patch, which is massive and is growing on the shoreline of the natural pond corner Ireland Dr and Nornabell Ave. The work involves clipping the seedheads, then burning them, then removing the dead plant biomass (preferably with a heavy duty weed wacker, one that can handle tough stems). A second extraction should then occur (this time with shovels) to remove the new growth in July before the new seedheads form. This amounts to about 2 hrs of your time. Please contact loggerheadmarsh@gmail.com if you are interested.

Rallying for Refreshments

To continue enjoying refreshments at our Club meetings we need 1 or 2 people to volunteer a little time to bring supplies. You are guaranteed a smile of appreciation from all Club members.

If interested please contact Lynn Smith (smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599).

Drivers Needed

Both the Sandy Pines and Foster Forest wildlife rehabilitation centres need more drivers to help move injured or orphaned wildlife to and from their facilities. If anyone regularly drives between Peterborough and Napanee or Trenton or the 401 corridor, or if anyone just likes to drive for a good cause, please contact Sue at Sandy Pines in Napanee (613-354-0264 sandypines@gmail.com) or Dee at Foster Forest in Trenton (613-394-6667). Calls for drivers are expected to be infrequent, but important.



Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Camp Kawartha Environmental Centre, 2505 Pioneer Rd., Peterborough

Hosts: Peterborough Field Naturalists

- 9:30 – 10:30 **Welcome and Introductions:**
- Election of new Lake Ontario North Regional Director**
- Club Highlights** (part 1)
We thank you for your enthusiastic response to this part of the program, but due to timing, we ask that you provide **only 2 highlights from your club**. Please feel free to provide a complete summary on your activities form and they will be attached to the minutes.
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Refreshment Break**
- 10:45 – 11:45 **Special Presentation – Ellen Schwartzel, Deputy Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO)**
-
- Environmental Commissioner of Ontario** Ellen will share information on the tools of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* (EBR) and how to use them effectively to the benefit the environment.
Your Environment, Your Rights
- 11:45 – 12:30 **Lunch** (bring your own bag lunch and mug)
- 12:30 – 1:00 **Club Highlights** (part 2)
- 1:00 – 1:30 **Peterborough Field Naturalists and Harper Park**
The Harper Park Stewardship Initiative is now a committee of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Lynn Smith, Past PFN President and Kim Zippel PFN, VP will provide us with background on how PFN is working to conserve this urban wetland complex.
- 1:30 – 2:00 **Ontario Nature – “Nature Network UPDATE”**
Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia, Regional Co-ordinator
- 2:00 – 4:00 **Hike the Trails of Trent University’s Wildlife Preserve with Paul Elliot,**
PFN Board member and Biology Professor at Trent



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

***A special thank you to the Peterborough Field Naturalists
for hosting the Ontario Nature Regional Meeting***

Please make sure to hand in you club activity forms and any changes
to your contact information

We appreciate your continued support of Ontario Nature

If you are not already a member of Ontario Nature – please consider joining,
Together we can be a Voice for Nature! www.ontarionature.org

President's Message – Supporting Harper Park

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about how Harper Park was upgraded to a provincially significant wetland. A key factor in this upgrade was that barn swallows had been sighted on several occasions in the park. These observations were recorded by Martin Parker on eBird and so were accepted as official by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.



Spring is upon us and many of you will be out watching spring migrations and courtship rituals, and listening to birds and frogs singing. Please take the time to record your observations on one of the growing number of citizen science websites. eBird and the Ontario Atlas of Reptiles and Amphibians are two that are easily accessible. Or you could send your observation to the sightings section of our very own newsletter: The Orchid Diary.

Who knows, you might be instrumental in protecting one of Peterborough's natural areas!

Ted Vale

Harper Park News

Submitted by Lynn Smith

... and the Harper Park roller coaster ride continues with more exciting happenings!

Harper Creek Wetland Upgraded to a Provincially Significant Wetland

Harper Park is a 60-hectare parcel of land in the southwest corner of Peterborough that the City has called a naturally protected area for planning purposes. The Harper Creek Wetland is 21.9 hectares and sits partly within this Park but extends into privately owned land.

Some background:

The Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF) has developed an Evaluation Manual for wetlands with a set of criteria that allows the value of one wetland to be compared to another. The wetland scores points within four major components: Biological, Social, Hydrological and Special Features. A Wetland of Provincial Significance would need to score 600 points. Harper Creek Wetland was evaluated in 2009 and scored 544 points, 56 points shy of Provincial Significance. In March 2017, MNRF did a desktop re-evaluation for Harper Creek Wetland and announced that with new information available, the Wetland scored 705 points, deserving of a Provincially Significant designation.

What new information you ask?

- The Biological Component of the evaluation remained the same.
- Under the Social Component, the Wetland scored higher in the 'Nature Enjoyment/Ecosystem Study' category. More people are enjoying the Park. Naturalists are recording inventory. Teachers are using it as an outdoor classroom. Historians are examining the old barn and home foundation of an early pioneer, Robert Harper, who owned and farmed the land in the 1870's. Students from Trent University are doing environmental studies, and one very keen boy in grade 8 has completed a brook trout habitat quality study.



PFN board members at the press conference announcing the PSW designation of the Harper Creek Wetland. From left: Lynn Smith, Ted Vale, Dylan Radcliffe, and Kim Zippel.

- Harper Creek Wetland has always scored high in the Hydrological Component. Harper Creek is cold, well-oxygenated and sustains a wild population of brook trout. The headwaters of the northern tributary and the many seeps and springs all contribute to an amazing volume of high quality water.
- The Special Features component of the evaluation showed the greatest increase in points. As Club members, many of you have heard Martin Parker insist on the absolute importance of getting your sightings recorded online, for example with eBird and eButterfly. Martin and Matthew Tobey have led workshops on it. In this 21st digital century, this is the best way for new information to be shared. Well, I guess Martin was right (can't believe I just wrote that). It was noted by MNRF that barn swallows were recorded (online) on more than one occasion foraging in the Harper Creek Wetland. Populations of barn swallows have declined in this area by 60% since the 1980's. It is considered a threatened species. The Wetland received 150 points.
- Also, two locally significant plants, Purple Avens and Swamp Fly Honeysuckle were recorded during a 2013 Bioblitz. The Wetland received 17 points for that information.

Harper Park and the wetland are highly biodiverse habitats and there's so much more to learn. It will continue to be important for us to record flora and fauna and, dare I say it, get it online.

Plans for development near or in a wetland designated to be Provincially Significant are subject to additional restrictions.

Harper Creek Brook Trout Study & the Opportunity to Fund and Follow a Fish

The Peterborough Field Naturalists have partnered with Trent University to conduct a two-year comprehensive study of the life history of the Brook Trout population in Harper Creek as well as urban stream ecology. It will be a Master's Thesis beginning in the spring of 2017 with the tagging of Brook Trout. Each trout will carry a radio tag that is less than one gram in size.

Opportunity to Fund and Follow a Fish

To help cover the cost of the tags, there is an opportunity for you, your business, school or organization to partner with Trent University for the Fund and Follow a Fish event.

******I encourage you to go to the PFN website peterboroughnature.org and check out the Harper Park/Brook Trout Study page for complete details on the Fund & Follow a Fish Opportunity******

By funding a fish, your first decision will be to give your trout a NAME (what fun!). You will also receive:

- a picture of the trout you are funding
- information about your trout
- data about where and when your funded trout moves within Harper Creek
- receive your own copy of the published study on the Harper Creek wild brook trout population

OR, if you wish to donate to the research itself, a donation is welcome to help fund general expenses such as equipment, transportation costs and field staff.

Brook trout populations have declined about 80% in Southern Ontario. We need further study to understand how we can help conserve this very special species as development pressures escalate.

Harper Park Community Summit

The Harper Park Community Summit on March 25 was well attended. The photos of the event shown below were provided by Peterborough Dialogues.



Results of 31st Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Colin Jones (compiler)

The 31ST Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count was held on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 during less than favourable weather conditions. The day was dull and overcast all day long with strong winds and intermittent periods of light snow and freezing drizzle.

Participants: 24

Total species: 28 (lower than the 10-year average of 33.5)

Total individuals: 1937 (10-year average is 2248)

In contrast to last year when there was a significant amount of open water resulting in 8 species of waterfowl, there was virtually no open water and therefore no water birds.

Notable species and count highs included:

Cooper's Hawk 1 (4th time on the count); Rough-legged Hawk 1 dark-morph bird seen by two parties (6th time on the count); American Robin 11 (near the count high of 13) and Bohemian Waxwing 318 (previous count high was 76)

Low Counts:

Ruffed Grouse 6 (below 10-year average of 22 and the count high of 77); Mourning Dove 5 (below 10-year average of 20 and count high of 93); Pileated Woodpecker 4 (below the 10-year average of 14 and count high of 30); Blue Jay 74 (below 10-year average of 271 and count high of 653); Red-breasted Nuthatch 32 (below 10-year average of 100 and count high of 526) and Golden-crowned Kinglet 4 (below 10-year average of 31 and count high of 120)

Notable Misses:

Barred Owl recorded every year since 1995 with the exception of 2012 and this year. A pair of Gray Jays were visiting a feeder inside the count circle leading up to the count (count period) but were not present on count day. An average

of 5 birds were recorded on the count up until 2009 but have not been recorded on count day since (with the exception of 2 in 2014).

With the exception of reasonably good numbers of American Goldfinch (326) and 44 Evening Grosbeak, no other finches were recorded.

Total Counts Results:

Ruffed Grouse 6, Wild Turkey 43, Bald Eagle 5, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Rock Pigeon 34, Mourning Dove 5, Downy Woodpecker 23, Hairy Woodpecker 25, Pileated Woodpecker 4, Northern Shrike 1, Blue Jay 74, American Crow 10, Common Raven 65, Black-capped Chickadee 676, Red-breasted Nuthatch 32, White-breasted Nuthatch 92, Brown Creeper 24, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, American Robin 11, European Starling 45, Bohemian Waxwing 318, American Tree Sparrow 22, Dark-eyed Junco 19, Snow Bunting 26, American Goldfinch 326 and Evening Grosbeak 44.

2017 Great Backyard Bird Count Results

Excerpts from Summary Written by Marshall Iliff and Pat Leonard

Another Great Backyard Bird Count is in the books, and thanks to participants from around the world, it was the biggest count in its 20-year history. Bird watchers set a new high bar for number of checklists submitted and total number of species reported. Whether longtime contributors or first-timers, many expressed their enjoyment of the experience.

- Estimated Participants: 214,018 (2016 final total estimate: 163,763)
- Species: 5,940 (2016 final total: 5,689)
- Complete Checklists: 173,826 (2016 final total: 162,052)

Top 10 most frequently reported species:

(number of GBBC checklists reporting this species)

What's interesting to note in this list is that the American Crow has bounced all the way up to the number two spot. It has typically come in near the bottom of the Top 10 ever since West Nile Virus appeared in North America in 1999. Perhaps the crows are finally rebounding after the virus took a serious toll on their overall population.

Species	Number of Checklists
Northern Cardinal	52,422
American Crow	47,275
Mourning Dove	47,076
Dark-eyed Junco	42,208
Downy Woodpecker	38,760
Blue Jay	38,402
Black-capped Chickadee	36,417
House Finch	35,889
House Sparrow	33,749
White-breasted Nuthatch	32,598

Data totals as of March 3, 2017

Note: All Top 10 species are common in North America, reflecting continued high participation from this region.

Top 10 most numerous species:

(sum of how many individuals were observed across all GBBC checklists):

Species	Number of Individuals
Snow Goose	4,793,261
Red-winged Blackbird	2,464,572
Canada Goose	1,895,077
European Starling	919,038
Mallard	715,594
Ring-billed Gull	647,950
American Coot	500,261
Greater White-fronted Goose	426,040
Common Grackle	416,720
American Crow	378,483

Data totals as of March 2, 2017

Note: These Top 10 species are common in North America, reflecting high participation from this region.

Early Migrations

The warm weather during the GBBC continued through the last two weeks of February, and that made it abundantly clear that this unprecedented February warmth in the eastern United States and eastern Canada kicked off early migration that started around GBBC time. Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles are well-known to arrive in late February, even as far north as the northernmost U.S. states and southern margins of Canada. This year however those two blackbirds were even more widespread than normal and their numbers continued to build through February's final week.

Two shorebirds that eschew the shore are also early migrants, with arrivals of Killdeer and American Woodcock apparent in New England and the Great Lakes states where they don't really overwinter. Those arrivals continued to build through February and while these species sometimes stay south until mid-March, they are already widespread and displaying on territory in many areas as we write.

Most exceptional have been arrivals of Tree Swallows well north of normal range, a species that usually waits until March to start coming back, since their flying insect food is not usually out until later in the spring. While some Tree Swallows overwintered on the East Coast in January 2017 as far north as Long Island, all the inland birds reported on the GBBC were part of a remarkable early push that continued into February. Though most areas have not seen large numbers yet, these early scouts probably set record early dates in many areas this year. For example, according to eBird, Quebec and northern Illinois had their first-ever February records this year and Massachusetts, which had two records of returning migrants in February previously (both from 2014), added four more this year. If the warm weather continues, we could see the earliest spring ever for bird migration in the eastern United States: watch for a wave of Eastern Phoebes, Pine Warblers, and Chipping Sparrows next!

Please continue to use eBird, where you can document your bird observations year-round, since your observations and photo-documentation of early arriving birds help to establish patterns that shed light on how unusual weather and long-term climate change are affecting our birds, their migrations, and their populations.

More information on the count can be found here: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/2017-gbbc-summary>

Winter Tracking Report

Submitted by Don McLeod

Members from the Peterborough Field Naturalists went tracking on the John de Pencier trail at the Trent University Nature Area on Friday, February 3. Wildlife species identified by tracks or sign included Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Cottontail, Porcupine, Snowshoe Hare, Shrew sp, Raccoon, Coyote and Red Squirrel. Observing tracks of several Eastern Cottontails was an improvement over the winter of 2016 when they were absent from most of the Trent University Nature Area. Porcupines had dens under the boardwalk, as in previous years. The most interesting observation was a chase scene involving a Coyote hunting an Eastern Cottontail. Strides of 8 feet between track sets were observed for the Rabbit, evidence of a high rate of speed as it attempted to escape. We did not find evidence of a kill. Birds identified: Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch and American Robin.

Another group of PFN members went tracking on the John de Pencier trail on February 4. Similar to Friday, species identified by tracks or sign included Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Cottontail, Porcupine, Snowshoe Hare, Shrew sp, Raccoon, Coyote and Red Squirrel. New observations for Saturday included Red Fox and Mouse sp. Old sign for Beaver was also observed on both days. Birds identified: Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch.

A final outing on March 18 to the John de Pencier trail produced many of the same species as before despite poor conditions. Noticeably absent was the Snowshoe Hare. New for this day was Ermine. A quick detour to Harper Park picked up tracks for Coyote, White-tailed Deer, Red Squirrel, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Raccoon and Ruffed Grouse.

The winter of 2016-17 really was a challenge for trackers. Much of the winter was hampered by icy conditions or snow melt. In light of this tough winter and the shortage of opportunity for PFN members to go tracking, there will be an outing on May 28 to the Fleetwood Creek Natural Area. This outing will focus on summer tracking and birding.



Left: Porcupine nip twig. Right: Snowshoe hare tracks.
Photos by Don McLeod.

From the Road to Recovery: Snapper Success Stories

Reprinted from Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre
March 2017 Newsletter

Just like every person has a story, we like to think that every turtle has a story. So often, as evidenced through their painful injuries, the turtles we treat at the Trauma Centre tell us the saddest stories. This is why we take every opportunity we get to showcase the ways that OTCC is able to make a difference and turn these turtle stories around.

When injured turtles arrive at the Centre (through the amazing heroics of caring supporters and volunteers like you) their lives are in real jeopardy and the situation is often very touch and go. Dr. Carstairs together with the Trauma Centre's dedicated team of vet techs, students and amazing volunteers provide the most incredible level of attention and care to each and every turtle we treat for the entire duration of their time with us. It is because of their care and compassion that we bear witness to the most unbelievable stories of healing and rehabilitation. I'd like to share one such story with you now.

This is Rob, a fireman by trade and an OTCC Volunteer hero in his spare time. And that big Snapper on the floor is the largest turtle at the Centre.

The story of how this Snapping turtle arrived at the Centre begins like so many others: He was brought to us after being hit by a car and the trauma he sustained was so severe that he was barely responsive and unable to walk. Dr. Carstairs performed immediate surgery on his shoulder and started an intensive care regime for him, and for a long time, staff and volunteers alike weren't sure that he would make it!

Even though turtles are strong and resilient – they have remained relatively unchanged for about 90 million years – they can't compete with cars.



It takes a lot of time and effort, compassion and care and funds to repair their injuries.

Given that this Snapper is so big (he weighs almost 50 lbs.) we NEED Rob to pick him up and help with his turtle care.

OTCC's innovative approach to turtle care frequently involves the use of physiotherapy to help rehabilitate our turtles and ultimately help them to regain their strength. Without the generosity of our turtle supporters and donors we would not have the funds to perform the required treatments for these amazing animals.

The outlook for this Snapper is extremely positive—he has an excellent appetite and now, when Rob puts him on the floor he wanders around and Rob is constantly chasing after him to put him back on the mat area. In fact, he is so mobile that Dr. Carstairs hopes to release him in the spring.

What a shame it would have been, had this Snapping turtle not survived. He has walked the earth for 75 years or more and still has the ability to produce offspring for many, many years. The turtle population needs him!

The OTCC team, including our volunteers, couldn't have helped him without you.

Thank you for your continued support of our Trauma Centre and the work we do to treat Ontario's injured native turtle species and a special thanks to Rob, for being a turtle care hero!

Please visit our website at www.ontarioturtle.ca to see how you can help us out with a donation in kind.

How to Help and Handle an Injured Turtle

From OTTC web page

Follow the steps below:

Carefully place the injured animal in a well-ventilated plastic container with a secure lid (turtles can climb!).

Most turtles can be picked up carefully with two hands. When handling snapping turtles keep a safe distance from their head as they will snap at you if they feel threatened. You may want to use a shovel or board to lift the turtle.

Watch our video clip for more tips for handling turtles.

Note the location (road, major intersections, and mileage) where the turtle was found to ensure it can be released according to provincial regulations.

Call us [OTTC] at 705-741-5000

DO NOT EMAIL WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AN INJURED TURTLE. An injured animal needs medical attention as soon as possible!

Do not transport turtles in water. Do not offer the turtle anything to eat.

Wash your hands after handling the animal.

Never attempt to treat a sick or injured wild animal yourself. Always contact your nearest licensed Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. If you would like to become a licensed Wildlife Custodian please contact the Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Network for more information or to register in a course.

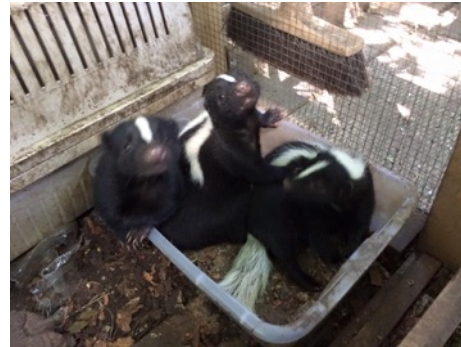
Meet a Wildlife Rehabilitator

Submitted by The Orchid Editor

If you were ever to meet Dee Newberry of Foster Forest in person, she would likely have a baby something-or-other in one hand, a syringe full of feeding formula in the other hand and she would be listening to you intently as she shifted back and forth between looking at you over her glasses and looking through her glasses to aim a syringe nipple at some creature's tiny mouth. Dee is a very busy woman when it isn't winter. She has been rehabbing (shop talk for rehabilitating wildlife) for eight years now while also working part-time as a professional gardener.

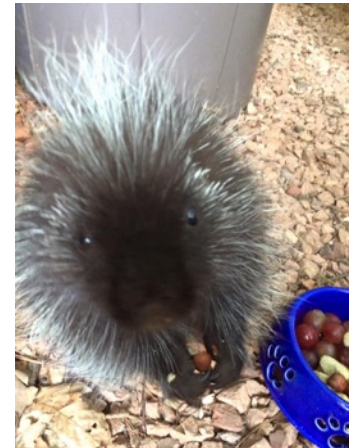
For her, it all started when she contacted Sue Meech of the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee about a young bird she encountered. Shortly after, she began volunteering at the centre. While there, she learned how to care for the animals by feeding them and cleaning cages and, later, fostering animals. Dee soon took the basic OWREN (Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Network) course in Ottawa, passed the test and then proceeded to get certified by the MNR. In the early days, when she didn't have nearly as many critters passing through her centre, she'd take her charges with her to work in pet carriers so she could feed them on schedule. Now she has about 17 volunteers who help with feeds, fostering, fundraising, computer work, cage construction, cage cleaning and transporting the wildlife. Typically, Dee takes in

between 135 to 200 animals a year. About 75% are squirrels and chipmunks. The rest are a smattering of ground hogs, weasels, minks, foxes, skunks, porcupines, bunnies, bats, and turtles. Young skunks, a porcupine and three groundhogs – all beneficiaries of Dee's care and hospitality – are shown in the images below.



Dee has dedicated one room in her house to the young ones. That room is hopping busy 24/7 in the spring with her and the volunteers

dancing around each other to retrieve the next young mouth that needs feeding, or to put the one that has just been fed back in its cage, or to heat up some formula, or to clean a cage. When there is not enough space, time or resources for new young ones, they get diverted to other wildlife centres or to fosterers. At first, the very, very young (aka "pinkies") live in pet carriers. When they are a little older, they get moved to larger indoor cages and then to larger-still outdoor enclosures. In the outdoor enclosures, they get used to outdoor concepts such as sun, rain, wind, the sight and sound of other animals and birds, and the smell of trees and other plants.



The enclosures take up approximately 25' by 15' of Dee's enormous backyard. Setting them up is an art form for Dee. You could compare the task to interior decorating but it is so much more than that. The enclosures are as natural looking and attractive as you could possibly hope them to be if you were a squirrel, a ground hog or what have you, but they are also put together very purposefully with the animals' needs kept well in mind. These needs include comfortable and private sleeping areas in the form of den or nest boxes, and contrivances that encourage the animal to



hone its survival skills and instincts. For instance, when she has ground hogs, she gives them an enclosure with enough dirt for them to practice digging tunnels.

When the animals are old enough, they are taken in their den or nest boxes and released to the wild. By this time, they will have developed a healthy natural fear of humans and will have long forgotten that they were hand-raised. The animals are released within 15 km of where they were found according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry regulations. Their boxes stay at the release site so they have a safe place to live while they establish their territory, find sources of food and eventually have time to build their own house. Somebody will go back to the release site from time to time and do food drops to help them get through their first winter.

Dee says that the number one reason that wildlife passes through the doors of a wildlife rehab center is due to "kidnapping". This is when well-intentioned people assume that young animals or birds are in trouble and that their parents must have abandoned them. They whisk the young creatures away to a rehab centre without trying to reunite them with their parents. This is a typical scenario for young bunnies and fledgling birds, but also for young squirrels and baby birds who have found themselves grounded from a windstorm or a chainsaw. In these situations, Dee would advise calling a rehab centre to get advice before taking action. More often than not, the mother will return for her young when the coast is clear. Wildlife rehabilitation centres can be found by going to the Ontario Wildlife Rescue web page (<http://www.ontariowildliferescue.ca>) and clicking on the animal in question at the top of the page. Phone

calls are preferred. Rehabbers usually don't have much time to respond to e-mail or Facebook inquiries during the busy season.

There's no question that this can be hard work - and sometimes heart-breaking, too, when things don't go well for the infirm, or when much-needed donations are slow to come in - but Dee loves it. She never intended for her little operation to get as big as it has, but there was a need so she grew with it. She says her heart melts when she sees the helpless young animals and that's one of the things that keeps her going. Another big thing for Dee is public education. She is very serious about sharing what she knows with others who will hopefully share it in turn. Everyone who comes in with an animal leaves with a bit more knowledge, respect and understanding for the creatures we share Earth with. These are some of the things that help Dee to sleep peacefully - in the winter, that is!

If you find an orphaned animal or have other concerns, you can call Dee at the Foster Forest number: 613-394-6667.



Graphic courtesy of Dee Newberry

What to Do If You Find Wildlife in Distress

Reprinted with permission from Shades of Hope
Wildlife Refuge in Pepperlaw, Ontario

BIRDS THAT HAVE HIT A WINDOW

Every year during spring and fall migration, birds suffer injuries due to window collisions.

If you find a bird that has hit a window, place it in a small box with a non-fraying towel at the bottom and air holes poked from the inside-out. Do Not place in any food or water as they may drown. Place the box in a warm, quiet, dark area for a couple of hours and then put the box outside and take the lid off. Often the bird will fly away immediately. However, if it does not attempt to fly, or cannot fly far, it should be transported to Shades of Hope right away. If the bird hit the window with enough force, it may have massive internal injuries and will not survive the trauma.

To prevent window strikes from occurring there are several things you can do put decorative decals on your windows or install windsocks or wind chimes in your garden.

NESTLING BIRDS WITHOUT FEATHERS

On windy days through spring and summer, nestling birds (**pink, with minimal feather development**) can easily fall from their nest. These babies should be placed back in the nest if possible. Look up into the nearest tree as these helpless birds will not have travelled far. If the nest is too high up, a substitute nest can be constructed out of a margarine container with holes in the bottom for drainage. Line it with twigs and grass and place it as close to the original nest as possible. Parent birds will feed from two nests. **Don't be concerned if you touch the infant birds as their parents have a very poor sense of smell.** The nest should be monitored and if the infant is pushed out again, this could indicate intentional brood reduction. If the babies are pushed out more than twice they should be brought to our Rehab immediately.

Nestlings are very difficult to raise in captivity, as they must be fed every 15 minutes during daylight hours. They may develop deformities or feather abnormalities if they are not fed this regularly. **It is important to remember that the babies will have a much better chance for survival if they are left with their parents.**

FLEDGLING BIRDS THAT HAVE FEATHERS

BUT CAN'T FLY

Before young feathered birds can actually fly, they jump out of the nest and spend a few days on the ground. These fledglings look like their adult counterparts, but with shorter tails. This is the time when they learn to forage and fly. They will practice their takeoffs from the ground and are often mistaken as adult birds with wing injuries because of their failed attempts.

Please be assured that this is a perfectly normal stage of development. **A fledgling only needs help if there is visible sign of injury** (a droopy wing, blood, problems standing). Also, be aware that the parents are always in the area and will swoop down approximately once an hour with some food. This is a very quick exchange and you would likely need to watch carefully, without looking away, for several hours to be convinced that this bird has been orphaned.

We understand that you are concerned with the dangerous environment that the fledgling is in when on the ground (cars, dogs & cats in the area) but these birds have a better chance of surviving and living a normal life in the wild if they are reared by their parents, even with all the neighborhood dangers. Humans cannot teach these birds how to sing or recognize an alarm call - only their parents can do that. If you want to help these birds, keep your pets indoors or leashed and encourage others to do the same, at least through this fledgling period.

DUCKLINGS

If you find a single or several ducklings that appear to be without their Mom, place them in an open box with a shallow pan of water. Leave the box in a safe place in the area that you found them. If Mom does not return to her babies within 2 hours, bring them to the Rehab.

BIRDS OF PREY - OWLS, HAWKS

These birds can be very dangerous as they have sharp beaks and talons. Do not handle without gloves. Please call us at 705-437-4654 for assistance before attempting to rescue these birds.

SQUIRRELS

If you find a baby squirrel with unopened eyes, put it in a warm cloth or sock and place in a small box. Squirrels this young are not normally out of their nest

at all. If you find such a tiny squirrel, call or bring it to the Rehab right away.

If you find a baby squirrel that has opened eyes but appears to be abandoned, leave it alone and watch it for a few hours. Usually, the mother is not far away. If the baby is truly abandoned, place in a covered box and bring it to the Rehab.

If you find an injured squirrel, carefully place it in a lined, small box without food or water and call us at 705-437-4654. We will either direct you to a vet or request that the animal be brought to the Rehab.

RABBITS

It is imperative that young rabbits are left alone unless there is obvious abandonment or injury.

People often encounter nests of baby rabbits when raking or mowing their lawn. Eastern Cottontails commonly nest in urban areas, in a shallow depression in the ground, lined with fur. If the nest has not been damaged, or the babies are not injured, **leave them alone.** People are often concerned because they have not seen a parent anywhere near the nest. This is normal. **Mothers only feed their babies twice a day, usually at dawn and dusk.** She will stay away from the nest the rest of the time so as not to attract predators (newborns do not have scent and are quite safe from predators).

It is important that you **do not touch the babies.** Unlike birds, mammals can smell human scent. If you are not convinced that a parent is around, you can place two pieces of wool in a crisscross over the top of the nest. If the wool is undisturbed the next morning, the babies were not fed during the night. This should only be done if you have a strong reason (dead adult nearby) to suspect that the babies are not being fed. A healthy infant rabbit's chances of survival are greatly reduced if introduced into captivity. They are easily stressed and often won't eat when taken into care. If babies are indeed alone and unfed, carefully place the whole nest in a small, covered box and bring to the Rehab. **Do not pet them!** You may just scare them to death!

Baby rabbits are fully furred within a week and their eyes are starting to open. They are weaned and

independent when they are three to four weeks of age (only the size of a softball!)

DEER

If you find a fawn that appears to be without a parent, leave it alone! It is normal for fawns to be sitting alone in a field. Similar to rabbits, the mother will feed her fawn periodically but will leave it on its own the rest of the time. She is never far away. If you are concerned, monitor the baby for 24 hours to be sure it is truly in need of rescue.

Fawns feed only at dusk and dawn when the mother returns. If the fawn is lying quietly, it is probably NOT orphaned. If the fawn is crying & wandering, it MIGHT need your assistance. Play the attached **distress call** which may attract either the mother or another doe which may adopt the fawn if it has lost her own baby or has a fawn close to the same age.

If you find an injured fawn or adult, cover their head with a jacket or blanket. This will help to limit its stress. Then, call us! 705-437-4654

RACCOONS

Raccoons are cute, cuddly and highly intelligent. **However, they can also be unintentionally deadly.** A large percentage of raccoons carry a roundworm (*Baylisascaris*) that is shed through their feces. If any of these microscopic eggs are transferred and accidentally ingested, they can cause death in other animals and in humans. It is imperative that raccoons be cared for in a separated environment. **Shades of Hope is not currently equipped to care for these unique animals.**

If you find abandoned babies, as in all other species, please make sure they really are abandoned or at risk before you attempt to rescue them. Call us at 705-437-4654 and we will direct you to a Rehab that does have the special facilities required for their care.

COYOTE, BEAR & COUGAR

Contact your local MNR office by phoning 1-800-667-1940 for Peterborough and southern Ontario. Website: www.mnr.gov.on.ca

A Fossil Poses a Question

You're a fossil now, bug-like, in three lobes designed.
Used as Stone Age amulets, you long intrigued mankind.
In ancient seas, you would have been a numerous sight.
Distant relation to horseshoe crabs, you're an extinct trilobite,
A marvel in my hand, one of a twenty thousand-member clade.
What an attractive emblem of prehistoric life you have made!
The mineral surface on your face conceals compound eyes within.
Two round bulges pique my wonder, and your 'eyes' draw me in.
Your eyes likely had hundreds of transparent, crystalline lenses.
Your vision was one of animals' first highly developed senses.
Closely spaced eyes imparted depth of field to aid in predator detection;
In sighted trilobites, they may have helped with food and mate selection.
Armoured by their hard chitinous exoskeleton or carapace,
Some trilobites bore long, projecting spines. What threats did you face?
Your undersides had many soft appendages for feeding and locomotion.
As filter feeders, scavengers or predators you filled every sea and ocean
From the Lower Cambrian to Permian periods, for 300 million years.
Now Earth's most dominant creature, how long 'til man disappears?

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2016.



From the Archives: Selected Extracts 1950-60

Submitted by Martin Parker

The following are selected extracts from PFN History 1950 – 1960, written by John E. Fitzgerald

'In December of '50 they were looking for Evening Grosbeaks as none had been spotted. They didn't seem hard to find these past few years, at least. On one of the field trips that October, Miss Eastwood found Wild Lettuce of the extraordinary height of eight feet. Anyone seen this plant since?

'Roger Tory Peterson was the guest speaker at the annual dinner held on January 1951. Mr. Lewis Bird was elected President.

'In 1954 in conjunction with the Peterborough Recreation Commission, a bird house building contest for boys under 10, 10 to 12 and 13 to 15 years old was held. Over 100 entered.

'Up until 1956, the club bulletin was known as the PNC News. That year was the first for it to take the name that has stayed with us, that of 'The Orchid'. According to the issue of Feb. 1956 it was named in honour of the former President and most active member in the formation of the club, the late F. J. A. Morris (1869 – 1949). The same year Doug Sadler was elected President.

'An unusual find was made in Jan. of '56. A female Purple Martin was picked up on George Street. Doug Sadler forwarded the carcass to J.L. Baillie, the well-known ornithologist, who examined the bird. A broken bill had been sustained which seriously handicapped the bird's insect diet. These birds, according to Baillie, winter in the Amazon Valley in Brazil.'



Roy T. Bowles took this picture of two Trumpeter Swans on the west side of Katchewanooka Lake on March 7. A program to reintroduce Trumpeter Swans to Ontario began in the early 1980s and has been very successful. Roy reported the tag numbers to the USGS who reported back to him that the swans were hatched in 2014 or earlier and were banded on Jan 8, 2017 near Washago, Ontario.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
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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
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Fabulous Fall Fungi

WORKSHOPS 2017

INSTRUCTOR: RICHARD AARON
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Illustration © 2017 Joyce Hui

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the May issue is **Monday, April 24**.

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

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





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. Special thanks for Matthew Tobey for his assistance. Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750.

Weather	The weather during the month was more wintery than the previous month. The temperatures were cold with snow in the middle period of the month.
Feb. 25	Don McLeod saw Canada Geese in pairs on lower Chemong Lake 3-4 weeks earlier than normal.
Feb. 26	Bill Snowden reported that Red-winged Blackbirds arrived in his yard at the southern end of Buckhorn Lake. There was a small flock of all male birds. He noted they usually arrive about March 6 th or 7 th . Donald Sutherland had an early Turkey Vulture over the downtown. Snowden also observed a small flock of male Common Mergansers on the lake and noted there were many Canada Geese .
Feb. 27	At the meltwater pond of Mather's Corner, Jerry Ball had 400 Canada Geese , 4 Northern Pintail , and 9 Tundra Swans . He also had 12 Red-winged Blackbirds on the 2 nd Line of South Monaghan and a Common Grackle on Nicholson Road.
Feb. 28	Jerry Ball estimated there were 2,350 Canada Geese on the river between Trent University and Lakefield.
Mar. 1	Bill Snowden spotted a flock of about 100 Snow Buntings resting on the ice of Chemong Lake. They lifted and flew over the causeway. Jerry Ball had 23 Hooded Mergansers on Little Lake.
Mar. 2	Bill Snowden spotted an American Kestrel at the junction of Robinson and Ennis Roads in the Ennismore area.
Mar. 3	Mike & Sonje Barke woke during the night by a calling Great Horned Owl in the Algonquin Blvd area of the city.
Mar. 4	Ben Taylor, Chris Risley, Erica Nol and Sheila Collett had a hybrid Snow x Ross's Goose on the east side of the river opposite the Holiday Inn. Daniel Williams had an Iceland Gull on Little Lake.
Mar. 5	Bernie Obert photographed a Great Gray Owl along the Trans Canada Trail near Keene. Jerry Ball noted Buffleheads had returned to the river between Trent U. & Lakefield and the Bald Eagle was occupying the nest NW of Lakefield. Iain Rayner found 2 Cackling Geese between Locks 23 and 24 and Daniel Williams had 1 at Beavermead Park. Marge Decher had a flock of 16 Tundra Swans off Fothergill Isle. Causeway, Pigeon L.
Mar. 6	Jerry Ball reported Ring-necked Ducks have arrived on Little Lake. Ball also had 3 Eastern Bluebirds on Hannah Road, Merlin on Nicholson Road and 1 Porcupine on Mervin Line. Linda Sutherland had a dark morph Snow Goose with flock of Canada Geese at Beavermead Park. Darryl Tobey watched a Peregrine Falcon feeding on a female Wood Duck in the parking lot of Genpak on Aylmer Street. Matthew Tobey observed a Turkey Vulture soaring over the downtown. Derry Fairweather found the carcass of a Long-eared Owl at Buckhorn Lake.
Mar. 7	Chris Risley & Erica Nol had a Northern Saw-whet Owl in their backyard in the city.
Mar. 8	Jerry Ball had a Northern Flicker at the Hiawatha First Nation.
Mar. 9	Bill Snowden had a Horned Lark on Tracy Hill Road, Ennismore. Matthew Garvin had 1 Iceland , 1 Glaucous & 1 Great Black-backed Gull on Little Lake.
Mar. 10	Merlin returned to Little Lake Cemetery according to Cal Welbourn.
Mar. 11	Iain Rayner spotted 3 Tundra Swans & 2 Trumpeter Swans off Frank Hill Rd, Fife Bay. Kathy McCue found and photographed a red phase Eastern Screech Owl on the 9 th Line of Selwyn.
Mar. 13	Bill Snowden reported that a Common Grackle has arrived at his feeders.

Mar. 15	Mike V.A. Burrell had an early Hermit Thrush (or overwintering individual?) on the 8 th Line of Douro. Michael Oldham had an American Woodcock walking across Kingsdale Drive.
Mar. 16	Don McLeod heard and saw a Belted Kingfisher along Harper Creek.
Mar. 17	Jerry Ball had a Swamp Sparrow near the mouth of the Otonabee River (off Hiawatha Road) and 30 Bohemian Waxwings feeding in two berry trees near Lock 24.
Mar. 17	Don McLeod observed an American Mink crossing Lancaster Bay on Chemong Lake. A flock of Canada Geese saw the Mink and in unison all starting marching toward it. While they closed the gap, the Mink was able to escape into open water near the culvert.
Mar. 18	Matthew Tobey found a Cackling Goose in the Jameson Drive area of the city. Martyn Obbard had 2 American Wigeon and 8 Redheads in the Curve Lake First Nations area. A Red-breasted Merganser was present on Little Lake off Beavermead Park, initially reported by Daniel Williams and reported by others. Donald Sutherland had a Golden Eagle over Pigeon Lake at the Fothergill Causeway. A Great Gray Owl was found on the 8 th Line of Douro by Mike V.A. Burrell and Erica Barkely and others. An immature Cooper's Hawk visited the feeders of Bill Snowden at the southern end of Buckhorn Lake, and may have attacked a Mourning Dove – there were many feathers around. Jennifer Budgell spotted a Great Gray Owl on Television Road @ Maniece Avenue.
Mar. 19	Matthew Gavin had a Northern Goshawk in the Nichols Oval Park area. Iain Rayner had a Red-shouldered Hawk migrating over the city. Jerry Ball & participants of PFN outing to Presqu'ile observed 40 species of birds.
Mar. 20	Matthew Tobey, Luke Berg & Braeden Gibb had 13 Tundra Swans along MacGregor Bay Road in the Keene area. A male Canvasback was present with a flock of Ring-necked Ducks on Little Lake west of the Mark Street Wharf in the morning by Matthew Tobey and many other observers. Toby Rowand had Cackling Goose off Rogers Cove on Little Lake. A Winter Wren was reported by Mike V.A. Burrell from the 8 th Line of Douro. Iain Rayner had 4 Greater Scaup off Fothergill Isle Causeway, Pigeon Lake and Luke Burg had 3 off Humphries Line near Hastings. Iain Rayner had an Eastern Meadowlark on Stockdale Road. Don McLeod observed Trumpeter Swans in lower Chemong Lake off Frank Hill Rd with two at the culvert. 25 Swans observed in the lake directly north of Fowlers Corners. Most appeared to be Trumpeter Swans, but many were dabbling and difficult to ID.
Mar. 21	Iain Rayner had 2 Cackling Geese on the river between Trent U. and Lakefield. Luke Berg & Matthew Tovey had 23 Tundra Swans in the Hasting area. Warren Dunlop & Janet Kelly had 2 Pine Siskins at feeder on Northey's Bay Road.
Mar. 22	Jerry Ball observed a Mink walking among a resting flock of Canada Geese . The geese ignored the mink.
Mar. 23	Kathy Parker had an Eastern Chipmunk , 2 White-throated Sparrows and 1 Song Sparrow at the feeder in the yard in the city.
Mar. 23	Matthew Tobey and Braeden Gibb found 3 Snow Geese (two white phase and one blue phase) and 2 Ross's Geese with the Canada Geese on the river off the Rowing Club at Trent University. Were seen by many other observers.
Mar. 25	Iain Rayner had a Ring-necked Pheasant along Tara Road in the Ennismore area. Lynn Smith reported that both American Woodcock and Killdeer were calling outside her home in the Cavan area. Tina Fridgen had 2 Sandhill Cranes along Division Rd in Douro-Dummer Township.
Mar. 26	A flock of about 30 Snow Geese flew over at intersection of Eel's Creek and Northey's Bay Road by Tim Haan.
Mar. 27	Bill Snowden reported a pair of American Kestrels have returned to the nest box.

Correction from Jan/Feb Orchid Diary: Martyn Obbard did not see a Common Redpoll.



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: _____