

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Ruffed Grouse in Highbush Cranberry, All Ready to be Counted

Photo taken by JB Jaboor on the *very* cold morning of 2017's Peterborough Christmas Bird Count

Inside: **Not None, Not One, But Two Book Reviews**
 Part 2 of Drew Monkman's Nature Guide to the Kawarthas
 Results of the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count
 Bird Parasite Prevention

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)	5
Other Events of Interest	6
Junior Naturalists Visit Trent U Collections	6
President's Message: Official Plan.....	7
PFN Legacy Fund Report and Projects	7
Nature-viewing in the Kawarthas - Part 2	8
Deadly Bird Parasite in Canada.....	11
Where Will City Move the Transit Garage?	12
PFN Day-Trip to the Niagara Region	13
Book Review: American Wolf	14
Book Review: A Shimmer of Hummingbirds....	16
eBird Science: Using Birdwatcher Expertise	18
Results of 66 th Christmas Bird Count	20
Peterborough's Official Plan: Survey #4.....	24
Bird Behaviour at Bird Feeders	24
What Stories An Antler Could Tell	25
The Orchid Diary	26
PFN Membership Application	27

Welcome new PFN members!

Clare Sandy
Gerten & Terry Basom
Amelia MacDonald
Doug Boden
Gale & Garry Koteles & junior Charlie Wyllie



In reference to an article further on, here's an example of orderly bird feeder behaviour: a Chickadee at a PFN bird feeder in Ecology Park (photo: Kathryn Sheridan)



Here's an example of disorderly bird feeder behaviour - absolute mayhem, in fact - but there's plenty of food for all and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. (photo: Martin Parker)



Some of the clientele that can be seen dining at winter bird feeders. From left: Northern Cardinal (photo: Dave Milsom); Dark-eyed Junco, Mourning Dove, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Blue Jay (photos: Martin Parker)

PFN Coming Events

<p>December to March</p> <p>Dates, times and locations TBD</p>	<p>Wildlife Tracking Outings</p> <p>Once again, PFN member and expert tracker Don McLeod will lead one or more outings during the months of December to March, focusing on tracks and other wildlife signs. These outings will be scheduled when weather conditions permit. 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>Friday, Jan. 19</p> <p>Doors open at 5 p.m.</p> <p>Peterborough Naval Association</p> <p>24 Whitlaw Street</p>	<p>Join us for PFN's 77th Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Keep up-to-date on PFN business, elect the next board, enter the raffle for prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation!</p> <p>Tickets are just \$35 for the evening, and can be reserved by contacting Jim Young at 705-760-9397 or email jbyoung559@gmail.com Please RSVP NO LATER THAN Fri Jan. 5th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Meal begins at 6:00 p.m. • Meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by raffle/silent auction at 7:30 p.m. • Keynote speaker, Steve Burrows, begins at 8:00 p.m. <p>Check out the AGM poster on last page for further details.</p>
<p>Sunday, Jan. 28</p> <p>1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Rd</p> <p>Peterborough</p>	<p>An Introduction to eBird</p> <p>eBird is the Internet-based bird record system developed by the Lab of Ornithology and coordinated in Canada by Bird Studies Canada. It is a method of maintaining one's personal bird sighting records while contributing your records to the largest international database on bird observation. The data is being used by scientists around the world to gain a greater understanding of avian populations, dynamics and migration. At this indoor workshop, Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey will give an introduction to eBird, including how to enter data and how to review the data already submitted. Jennifer Baici, PhD student at Trent University will give a short presentation on her use of eBird data to estimate the size of Peterborough County's Wild Turkey population and how your individual observations can contribute.</p> <p>This workshop will be at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre off Pioneer Road, across from the Trent University Campus. Bring your laptop or other mobile device to use during the workshop.</p>

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Wednesday, Feb. 14 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Rd Peterborough</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Kevin Middel on Rabies Vaccine Baiting</p> <p>Rabies is a very serious virus that can spread from an infected mammal to other mammals, including humans, pets, livestock and wildlife. The most common carriers are bats, foxes, raccoons and skunks. Last summer, MNRF planes dropped 30,000 rabies vaccine baits in the Kingston and Cornwall areas in the hopes that these animals would eat them, thus preventing the spread of the disease. According to Kevin Middel, the goal is to eventually eliminate rabies from the landscape by immunizing enough animals. Kevin Middel is an analytical biologist and is the Rabies Science Operations Supervisor for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry of Ontario.</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar. 3 6:45 a.m. in the Tim Hortons Parking Lot Sobeys/CTC Plaza</p>	<p>Hooters of Amherst Island</p> <p>This is the PFN's bi-annual outing to Amherst Island, which is at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, near Kingston. We will cross to the island on the ferry and visit various locations to look for wintering owls and other hawks and eagles which will also be present. The trip will leave from Peterborough at 7 a.m. and travel to the ferry terminal to take the 9:30 a.m. ferry to the island. Martin Parker is the PFN leader for this outing and will be assisted by Mark Read of the Kingston Field Naturalists. Mark is very familiar with the island and this winter's visitors.</p> <p>Meet in the parking lot adjacent Tim Horton's in the Sobeys/Canadian Tire Plaza on Lansdowne Street at 7:00. We will carpool to the island. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and telescope if you have one. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast on the day of the outing.</p>
<p>Sunday Mar. 11 1:00 p.m. in the Parking Lot at Riverview Park and Zoo</p>	<p>Returning Waterfowl on the Otonabee</p> <p>The spring migration gets underway with the lengthened days in March and increased hours of sunlight. This afternoon trip will visit various locations along the Otonabee River to discover the returning waterfowl. It is anticipated that there will be Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead doing their spring courtship rituals. Common Merganser, with the males in their bright spring plumage, will also be present. Other species are also possible. The trip will also make a visit to the Bald Eagle nesting site in the Lakefield area to see if the adults are occupying the nest this year. Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey will again be leading this annual late winter outing.</p> <p>Meet at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Peterborough Zoo. Bring binoculars and telescope if you have one. Dress for the weather forecast for the day of the outing. An afternoon break in Lakefield is planned.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Mar. 14 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Guest speaker TBA</p>

PFN Coming Events

<p>Sunday, Mar. 25</p> <p>10 a.m. at Coffee Time at Lansdowne (Hwy 7) and Old Keene Road</p>	<p>Mergansers and Friends on Rice Lake</p> <p>On this trip, we will look for spring migrants - primarily waterfowl - and we will visit various access points on the north shore of Rice Lake, between Keene and Hastings. We will be looking for areas of open water near the edge of the ice in search of concentrations of American Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads and other returning waterfowl. Other spring migrants such as American Robins, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles will be logged. Some early returning raptors such as Northern Harrier, Osprey and Turkey Vulture may be seen. Martin Parker will be leading this spring outing.</p> <p>Meet at 10 a.m. at the Country Style just east of the intersection of Lansdowne Ave East and Hwy 7 and the Old Keene Road. Bring binoculars and telescope if you have one, and dress for the weather forecast for the day. Bring a packed lunch as the outing will last until the middle of the afternoon.</p>
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PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

<p>Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email pfnjuniors@gmail.com if you're not on the members distribution list for event announcements. Bookings can be made online at https://peterboroughnature.org/junior/</p>	
<p>Saturday, Jan. 6</p> <p>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Rd</p> <p>Peterborough</p>	<p>Juniors' Bird Count and Puppet Show</p> <p>Be part of one of the longest running citizen science projects. Join us at the Christmas Bird Count for Kids! (Even though it's after Christmas, Bird Studies Canada confirms that this is still within the date range for kids' events). We have volunteer birders to host hikes where we'll look and listen for birds, and record our observations. Kids can use a bingo sheet to keep track of what they see and hear. After the bird count we'll head inside for songs and a puppet show with Glen Caradus of the Paddling Puppeteers! Before heading home, try feeding a Chickadee by hand at the bird feeders.</p> <p>This event is for PFN members. Online registration is required as spaces are limited. Not a member yet? This is a great time to join. Child PFN memberships are only \$10 per year and can be purchased at the event.</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>First Friday of each month 7:00 p.m.</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>Jan 5: The Winter Hexagon by various PAA members Feb 2: TBA</p>
<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting</p> <p>Join us at 6:30 p.m. for socializing. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. 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>Jan 25: Marcy Adzich from Greenup on "Edible Urban Ecology: Food Forests and Beekeeping in our Urban Community"</p> <p>Feb 22: Robbie Preston on "Victory Gardens to the Present"</p>

Junior Naturalists Visit Trent University Collections

Submitted by Lara Griffin



move, feed, and reproduce and why they look the way they do. The kids then took a moment to hone their observation skills by drawing their favourite animal. A huge thank you goes to Chris Risley and Jim Schaefer for hosting this exceptional opportunity for hands-on learning!

The Junior Naturalists had a great time exploring the Trent University Biology Department's bird and mammal collection in November. The kids had a chance to observe many different specimens, including skulls, pelts, feathers, and teeth to list just a few. They learned interesting facts about how some of these animals



Bucket Draw and Silent Auction Items for Our January 19 AGM

We've had a good response so far to our request for bucket draw and silent auction items for our upcoming AGM banquet on January 19, but there's always room for more prizes. If you have any items that you wish to donate, please advise Rene Gareau in advance by email at rene.gareau@sympatico.ca, by phone at 705 741-4560, or bring the items with you to the AGM. **Don't forget to bring some extra cash with you, as we'll have a great selection of prizes available for you to review.** Bucket draw tickets are only \$2.00 each, or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Please remember that all proceeds will help fund our various PFN activities. We hope to see you at the AGM.

President's Message: Expressing Your Views on Peterborough's Official Plan

Elsewhere in this issue of The Orchid, there is information on the on-going updating of Peterborough's Official Plan. Martin Parker is the PFN representative on the Committee developing the Natural Heritage Strategy. This process will have a significant impact on the protection of the natural areas we all love in the City.



I urge you to participate in the citizen survey on the proposed Plan, which can be completed online until January 16th at www.peterborough.ca/planit.

Ted Vale, President

PFN Legacy Fund Report and Projects

2017 Projects:

The PFN Legacy Fund is an endowment fund of the Peterborough Field Naturalists managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. The Fund was established through the bequest received from the late Rhea Bringeman. The Fund provides an annual grant to the PFN which the Board has been using for special projects. This year the grant received from the Fund was \$988. This grant was utilized by the Board to fund the following:

1. The Rhea Bringeman Award which permitted a student to attend the 2017 Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership.
2. The fees payable to the North American Butterfly Association for the entry of participants in the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count
3. Out-of-pocket expenses for the project with the Trent Community Research Centre for an Update of the Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy
4. Four awards at the 2017 Peterborough Regional Science Fair for the top nature/wildlife/environment projects at the Elementary level and Junior level.

Contributions to the PFN Legacy Fund

The PFN Legacy Fund is intended to provide an annual source of income to the PFN for the funding of special projects. In accordance with federal tax regulations concerning endowment funds, the principal cannot be withdrawn but at least 3.5% of the value of the Fund is granted to the PFN annually for use as the PFN Board determines.

Contributions and bequests to the PFN Legacy Fund will permit the fund to grow and continue to support the objectives of the PFN into the future. Your contribution or bequest will be a legacy for the PFN. All donations are tax deductible. For additional details please contact Ted Vale or Martin Parker.

Nature-viewing in the Kawarthas: Where to Go - Part 2

Submitted by Drew Monkman

This month, I would like to continue my exploration of some of the best nature-viewing areas in the Kawarthas by looking at destinations located mostly north of Peterborough. I have started in the northeast with the Carden Alvar near Kirkfield and worked eastward towards the Havelock area. As a general rule, spring and early summer are the best times of year for birds and wildflowers but interesting sightings are possible all year round, including winter.

To see a detailed list of what bird species can be found in the more popular destinations (e.g., Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, Petroglyphs Provincial Park, Carden Alvar) go to ebird.org. Click on Explore Data, Explore a Region, type in Peterborough or Kawartha Lakes, click on Hotspots, click on the destination of your choice and then click on Bar Charts. You will see a list of all birds seen, along with their seasonal abundance. You can choose different date ranges, as well. I suggest Jan-Dec, 1900-2018.



Vast swaths of Prairie Smoke cover much of the Carden Alvar. Photo: Drew Monkman.

Carden Alvar: Located northwest of Lindsay, about 75 minutes from Peterborough via Hwy 7 and Kawartha Lakes Co. Rd. 6. From Kirkfield, take Co. Rd. 6 north and turn right onto McNamee Rd. Explore concessions such as Wylie Rd., Shrike Rd. and Alvar Rd. *Highlights:* Best early summer birding destination in southern Ontario, especially for uncommon and rare grassland birds (e.g., Loggerhead Shrike, Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink, Eastern Bluebird, Grasshopper Sparrow) and marsh birds (e.g., Sedge Wren, Virginia Rail, American Bittern); unique alvar plant communities (e.g., Prairie Smoke, Indian Paintbrush) For an excellent on-line resource, Google: "Carden Alvar Birding Guide"

Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Reserve: About 70 minutes from Peterborough via Kawartha Lakes Co. Rd. 49 and 121. From Kinmount, Co. Rd. 45 west for about 7 km. The property is on the south side of the road at address marker 4164. *Highlights:* 470

hectares of high-quality forest straddling the contact between the granite rocks of the Canadian Shield and the limestone of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Lowlands; great diversity of habitat types, breeding birds (e.g., Red-shouldered Hawk) and flora (e.g., Showy Lady's-slipper) For more information, Google: "Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary"

Ken Reid Conservation Area: From the junction of highways 7 and 35, go 5 km north on Hwy 35. Turn right on Kenrei Park Rd. and go 3 km. *Highlights:* Forest, fields and huge marsh with boardwalks; high density of active Osprey nests

Emily Tract: Located on Peace Rd. (Kawartha Lakes Co. Rd. 14) just west of Cowan's Bay and Emily Provincial Park. *Highlights:* A heavily-wooded park with two looped trails; wide variety of mature trees including old pines; excellent display of trilliums and other wildflowers in spring

Gannon's Narrows: On Co. Rd. 16 north of Ennismore at junction of Pigeon and Buckhorn lakes. *Highlights:* Waterfowl in winter, spring and fall; eagles possible; otters on ice.

Gannon's Narrows Conservation Area: On north side of Co. Rd. 16, just east of the bridge. *Highlights:* Large stand of mature hardwoods and conifers; large pond; good wildflower display in spring

Big (Boyd) Island: Situated at the north end of Pigeon Lake, this 1100-acre Kawartha Land Trust property is open to the public. However, the island is only accessible by boat. You can park and launch a canoe from Bear Creek Road on the east side of the lake. For a trail map, go to kawarthalandtrust.org. Click on Protected Properties. *Highlights:* extensive wetlands; large marsh and island complex; limestone cliffs on west shore and granite cliffs in the northeast (a microcosm of The Land Between); diverse bird life, including Eastern Towhee and Golden-winged Warbler; alvar habitat; giant Butternut trees, old growth Eastern Hemlock (west side); impressive diversity of ferns such as Maidenhair Fern and the regionally rare Hay-scented Fern.



Aerial view of Boyd Island. Photo: Kawartha Land Trust

Six Foot Bay Road to Buckhorn Lake: From Buckhorn, go east on Co. Rd. 37 about 5 km. Take Six Foot Bay Rd. south, just west of Sandy Lake. *Highlights:* Migrating waterfowl in spring during ice break-up.

Galway-Cavendish Forest Access Road: From Buckhorn, take Co. Rd. 36 north to Co. Rd. 507 and follow north to just past the Mississauga Dam Rd. Turn west onto Galway-Cavendish Forest Access Rd. *Highlights:* excellent butterfly including rarities such as West Virginia White; watch for some species perched on road (e.g., Eastern Comma, Compton's Tortoiseshell); excellent warbler habitat.

Bridgenorth Trail: Located between Hilliard Street North (at 5th Line) and Brumwell St. (off East Communication Rd. on east edge of Bridgenorth) *Highlights:* birds, butterflies (especially gravel pit at Bridgenorth end), amphibians, late-summer flowers.

Selwyn Beach Conservation Area: Located on east shore of Chemong Lake, at 2251 Birch Island Rd. Access from 12th Line of Selwyn. *Highlights:* A nature trail passes through wetland, woodland and open field; impressive stands of beech, maple and oak; excellent wildflower display in May.

Lakefield Sewage Lagoons: On southeastern edge of Lakefield. Turn east off Co. Rd. 32 (River Rd) onto Co. Rd. 33. Parking on right. Open to public, but avoid blocking the gate. Follow footpath on east side of parking area. Both lagoons are worth checking. *Highlights:* Wide variety of migrating ducks in spring and fall; rare Black Terns in summer; diverse songbirds. Number 1 eBird Hotspot in Peterborough County. Spotting scope useful.

Lakefield Marsh: Located at south end of Lake Katchewanooka. Turn north off Co. Rd. 29 (Bridge St.) onto Clement St. Turn right on D'Eyncourt St. Follow signs. *Highlights:* Wetland birds including Black Terns, American Bittern and migrant ducks; large assortment of dragonflies and damselflies in summer, especially when explored by canoe; observation tower and interpretive signage.

Lake Katchewanooka: The lake is best viewed from the bottom of Stenner Rd. off east side of Hwy 28, just north of Lakefield. *Highlights:* Waterfowl in fall, winter and especially spring; eagles possible all year. They can often be seen perched on the pine trees on the islands to the south of Stenner Rd., where there is a nest.

Miller Creek Wildlife Area: On 7th Line of Selwyn, about 2 km west from Co. Rd. 24. *Highlights:* Wetland birds (e.g., American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Swamp Sparrow) in swamp at southern end of main trail. Marsh at observation tower now mostly grass-covered. Sandhill Cranes nest here and are sometimes seen in adjacent fields.

Camp Kawartha: Located at 1010 Birchview Road, north of Lakefield. Park beside Camp office. *Highlights:* Explore the large network of trails on west side of Birchview Road, opposite the Camp. Wetland, woodland and alvar-like habitat; boardwalks; erratics; Eastern Towhees and Whip-poor-will possible; interesting plants such as Balsam Ragwort and Wild Bergamot. A trail map and detailed trail interpretive guides can be found online at campkawartha.ca. Click on About and then Virtual Facility Tour. If the office is open, please check in first. However, you can use the trails any time.

Lynch's Rock Road and Sawyer Creek Wetland: Follow Hwy 28 north almost to Lakefield. Turn east on Strickland Rd. and then north on Douro 5th Line. Turn east on Lynch's Rock Rd. and follow through Sawyer Creek Wetland Wildlife Area. Continue south along Douro 3rd Line. *Highlights:* Large wetland with nesting Least Bittern. Sandhill Cranes and Upland Sandpipers possible in fields adjacent to Douro 3rd Line.

Warsaw Caves Conservation Area: Take Co. Rd. 4 north from village of Warsaw. Turn east at Cave Rd. Follow signs. *Highlights:* Fascinating limestone geologic formations including kettles and caves; large variety of ferns including Walking Fern; good birding in a variety of habitat types.

Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park: Located north of Buckhorn Lake between Co. Rd. 507 and Hwy 28. Access points include Coon Lake Rd., Long Lake Rd. and Anstruther Lake Rd. Best explored by canoe. *Highlights:* A huge Canadian Shield park with vast rock barrens and strong wilderness qualities; high-quality bogs, fen communities, alvar and Atlantic coastal plain plant communities, all with interesting flora; mature forest stands; high concentrations of some species at risk including Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk; dark skies for astronomy.

Silent Lake Provincial Park: Located on Hwy 28 between Apsley and Bancroft, about 70 minutes from Peterborough. *Highlights:* Diverse habitats, including mixed medium-aged forests, sphagnum bogs (abundant Rose Pogonia at southeast end of lake), beaver meadows; valleys support 25 fern species (e.g., Silvery Glade Fern).

Algonquin Provincial Park – A 2 h 15 min trip from Peterborough, which is well worth the effort, even in winter. From Bancroft, take Hwy 62 and 127 N to Hwy 60. Turn left and follow Hwy 60 through southern sector of park. *Highlights:* Transition zone between the southern hardwood and boreal evergreen forests with diverse flora and fauna; Moose along Hwy 60 in spring; year-round boreal birds such as Gray Jay, Spruce Grouse, and Boreal Chickadee at locations such as Spruce Bog Trail and Opeongo Road; abundant winter finches (e.g., crossbills) some years; self-guiding interpretive trails; dark skies for astronomy; excellent visitor centre (open all year) with active feeders (e.g., Evening Grosbeaks). Go to algonquinpark.on.ca for up-to-date information including bird sightings.

Jack Lake Road: Turn south off Co. Rd. 504 on east side of Apsley. Follow to Jack Lake and then west and south to sand and gravel pits at end of road. *Highlights:* birds (e.g., eagles possible over Jack Lake in late fall and winter; crossbills in tamarack bog just south of Hwy 504, excellent warbler habitat), large variety of butterflies, especially in tamarack bog and in sand/gravel pits; abundant deer.

Stony Lake Trails: Follow Hwy 28 north from Burleigh Falls to Mt. Julian Viamede Rd. Turn right and continue to Reid's Rd. Park at address marker 105. *Highlights:* 10 km of well-marked, interconnected trails with benches. Open to the public thanks to a special agreement with landowners, including Kawartha Land Trust. Deciduous forest on limestone bedrock with fern-rich gully called "The Chute" (Blue Trail); mixed forest on Canadian Shield granite with large groves of hemlocks, extensive wetland, vernal ponds (Yellow and Red Trails). Google "Stony Lake Trails" for information and a map.



Stony Lake Trails: Limestone cut in The Chute section of blue trail. Photo: Drew Monkman



Petroglyph Provincial Park: Minnow Lake on the Nanabush Trail. Photo: Drew Monkman

Petroglyphs Provincial Park: Follow Hwy 28 north from Burleigh Falls to just past Woodview. Turn right on Northey's Bay Rd. and follow for about 11 km. *Highlights:* Situated on southern edge of Canadian Shield; excellent birding and botanizing (e.g. Pink Lady's-slipper) on Nanabush Trail; large stands of Red and White Pine; abundant White-tailed Deer; birds of interest include Bald Eagle, crossbills, Evening Grosbeak, warblers and sometimes Black-backed Woodpecker; Five-lined Skinks fairly common; diverse butterflies along edges of roads and wetlands.

Hubble Road: Follow Co. Rd. 6 along south shore of Stony Lake and turn right at Co. Rd. 44. Continue southeast for about 4 km to Hubble Rd. on right. *Highlights:* Woodland and alvar-like habitat with uncommon birds such as Golden-winged Warbler, Whip-poor-will and Eastern Towhee.

The Gut Conservation Area on Crowe River: From Apsley, drive east on Co. Rd. 504 to Lasswade. Continue east for about 7 km. Watch for signs. *Highlights:* Impressive gorge in basaltic rock; Canadian Shield birds; impressive showing of spring wildflowers in May; excellent place to look for ferns and mosses.

County Road 46: From Apsley, drive east on Co. Rd. 504 to Lasswade. Turn right onto Co. Rd. 46 and follow south to Havelock. Best birding is between Lasswade and Round Lake. *Highlights:* A bird-rich area of mixed forest and wetlands; typical Canadian Shield species (e.g., Hermit Thrush, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Raven, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush); excellent frog chorus in spring; Wood Lilies along roadside in June.

Sandy Lake Road: From Co. Rd. 46, turn right about 6 km north of Oak Lake onto Sandy Lake Rd. *Highlights:* Diverse butterflies including uncommon skippers (e.g., Mulberry Wing, Broad-winged in summer) along the edge of the sedge marshes; uncommon spring butterflies in May (e.g. Chryxus Arctic, Olympia Marble, Pine Elfin); Pine Warblers in pines; eagles and crossbills in winter.

Next month, I'll look at some destinations south of Peterborough.

Deadly Bird Parasite in Canada

From November 1st e-mail from Vivian Forte-Perri, Stewardship Officer, Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario), Environment and Climate Change Canada

I am writing to inform you of a parasite, *trichomonas gallinae*, which is currently affecting migratory birds in Canada, and of preventative measures which may be undertaken to minimize its spread.

Trichomonas gallinae, a microscopic parasite most often affecting pigeons and doves, can also affect other birds, such as finches, wild turkeys and raptors. Incidents of the parasite have been recently reported in the Maritimes and Quebec, with regular encounters in Atlantic populations of purple finch and American goldfinch. The parasite is primarily spread through an infected parent feeding their young, consuming contaminated food or water (which can easily occur in bird baths or feeders), or consuming infected prey. While the parasite does not pose a health threat to humans or other mammals such as dogs or cats, captive poultry and pet birds could be infected.

Measures can be taken to help prevent spreading the parasite. Bird feeders and baths are problematic as they attract many birds in close proximity, facilitating the spread of the parasite. Daily replacement of drinking water and periodic replacement of food, as well as cleaning and disinfecting food and water sources is recommended. Feeder positions should be alternated to avoid a concentration of food (e.g. food

that falls to the ground) and to prevent seed from getting wet, which favours parasite survival; platform feeders are discouraged for these reasons.

Affected birds may drool saliva, regurgitate food, have difficulty swallowing food and water, demonstrate laboured breathing and/or have a swollen neck or throat. They may also show signs of general illness (i.e. lethargy, poor flight ability and fluffed up feathers). Sick or dead birds should be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (link below).

In an effort to prevent the further spread of this parasite, we have prepared an information sheet to provide guidance on the effects of the parasite, how it is transmitted, and ways to limit its spread. This can be found on the Environment and Climate Change Canada website at:

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=A96001B2-1>.

Additional information can also be found on the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative website at: <http://www.cwhc-rscf.ca/trichomonosis.php>.

Please direct any further questions about the parasite to ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca or to Caroline Ladanowski at Caroline.Ladanowski@canada.ca

Where Will the City Locate the Transit Garage?

Submitted by Lynn Smith

The City of Peterborough needs to upgrade its bus depot, currently located at 182 Townsend Street. A project is now underway to evaluate potential sites against a number of criteria and then recommend a preferred new site to City Council.

Potential locations include:

- 587 Harper Rd. (where Kawartha Metals & City compost site is located)*
- 1490 Crawford Dr/551 Harper Rd. (near the casino)*
- 182 Townsend St. (the current public works yard)
- 107 Parks St. N (GE property)
- 420 Ashburnham Dr. (north of Neal Dr.)
- 1801 Fisher Dr. (at Airport Rd)

*Note that the first two potential sites are adjacent to the Harper Creek provincially significant wetland.

Some concerns for using Harper Road sites for the bus facility:

- In the fall, the City agreed to update the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study, a report that will form the basis of land use for the secondary plan within the Official Plan. A bus facility will have a huge land use impact in the area. One wonders how a bus facility could be sited on Harper Road before the completion of this study.
- The site would be located within the boundaries of a cold-water stream riparian zone and a provincially significant wetland.
- A recent report by Dr. Ron Brooks (a snapping turtle expert) who was hired to peer-review the environmental assessments for the Casino Development stated that, "Given the presence of turtles and the lack of clearly explained mitigation of the impact of construction and proposed new roads and increased traffic, I conclude that construction should not proceed until impacts have been identified and their mitigation has been addressed."
- A new garage/transit facility will increase traffic along these same roads. It will also increase noise and light pollution, air and water pollution, and the percentage of impervious land surface.
- The lands on Harper Road were designated as the 'buffer zone' between the Casino development and the natural lands to the west, including Harper Park (report PLPD16-038, pg16)

The public has an opportunity to comment in writing by January 10, 2018. All comments will be taken into consideration. They are valuable and, yes, it is worth sending them. The contacts are:

- 1) Rob Dunford, senior project manager for the City: rjdunford@peterborough.ca
- 2) Daniel Crosthwaite, City's consultant at IBI Group in Toronto: daniel.crosthwaite@ibigroup.com

After January 10th, keep an eye on the City of Peterborough website for updates on this project.

PFN Day-Trip to the Niagara Region

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

On Saturday, December 2, seventeen PFN members and friends gathered along the Niagara River, a designated Important Bird Area (IBA), to witness the world's greatest concentration of gulls. This outing was led by Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.

The first stop was the lookout at the Sir Adam Beck Hydroelectric Power Plant Station. Here we saw a thousand or so Herring Gulls flying around along with some Ring-billed Gulls, Iceland Gulls (both subspecies), Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls and Bonaparte's Gulls. The numbers weren't as staggeringly high as I had imagined they would be. Matthew Tobey explained that this was due to the unseasonably warm weather, which meant that the lakes hadn't frozen up yet. When the lakes freeze, the birds get on with their migration, stopping to take an important resting and feeding break in the Niagara Region on their way. It was a warm 7 °C on this particular day. Apparently, if you really want to be wowed by ginormous concentrations of gulls, show up when the weather is forbidding.

Next, we drove to the Niagara Whirlpool where we saw thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls, one Horned Grebe, and an unfortunately injured juvenile Ring-necked Duck. After this, we headed to Horseshoe Falls. In the carpark next to the greenhouse above the falls, we saw some Chickadees, a few Golden-crowned Kinglets and a flock of Pine Siskins.

Above the falls, we watched a group of five Harlequin Ducks diving for fish. I understand that the fishing is fairly easy for them because the fish are disoriented from being tossed and turned in the turbulent water and perhaps from having been battered against some rocks and crags along the way. Harlequin Ducks aren't common in this part of Canada, so it was neat to have an opportunity to see them. Numerous Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers (some in eclipse plumage) were also fishing in this section of the river, as well as a few Double-crested Cormorants and a Glaucous Gull. From this spot, we could see the nesting site of the Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Blue Herons on one of the islands.

Just below the Horseshoe Falls, once again we saw thousands of gulls resting or fishing. There was great excitement among the bird-watchers over a juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake (photo above). Many people commented on what a rare and great view we had of it. Martin said that it was absolutely stunning to watch it fly around. The way it rose up in the mist and flew through the rainbow was as if it was showing off for us.

We had a late lunch at Dufferin Islands Park where we were hoping to see a Titmouse. We didn't find one, although Dave and Anne Heuft saw quite a few the next day at the same spot. Here we saw the usual suspects for this time of year (Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, a White-breasted Nuthatch,



Juvenile Black-legged Kittiwake at the Horseshoe Falls. This view of the bird shows the characteristic "M" marking across the wings and back of the juvenile phase. Photo: Greg Piasetzki

and a Downy Woodpecker) plus a lovely female Kingfisher, numerous Mallards and a Mallard-American Black Duck hybrid.

After lunch, we stopped by the Diversion Dam. We saw a female Snowy Owl sleeping far off at the end of the pier. In the water, off in the distance, there was a large raft of about a thousand Greater and Lesser Scaup and approximately 200 Tundra Swans. There were also ten Canvasbacks upriver from the Control Gates.

Heading home, we stopped at a lookout just north of the Sir Isaac Brock monument in Queenston. From this vantage point, we could see across to Lewiston, N.Y., where we saw two roosting Black Vultures and eight Turkey Vultures. The PFN group thinned out at this point - it being late in the afternoon - but remaining members had some more treats in store for them. The next stop was a wine-tasting at Riverview Cellars Estate Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake. After this, the group ventured to the mouth of the Niagara River where they watched 200 to 300 Bonaparte's Gulls leaving the river to roost far out in Lake Ontario. The last stops were Picard's Peanuts in Niagara-on-the-Lake and then dinner in Grimsby.

This is a really great PFN outing. I am definitely planning on going again in 2018. Against my better judgement, I'll hope for forbidding weather (but safe driving conditions).

Book Review: *American Wolf* by Nate Blakeslee

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

I am a CBC Radio One addict. The radio is often on in the background while I'm doing something that doesn't involve reading. Recently my attention was grabbed by an interview with author Nate Blakeslee about the reintroduction of wolves from Alberta into Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. His book, *American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West*, reads like a movie script.

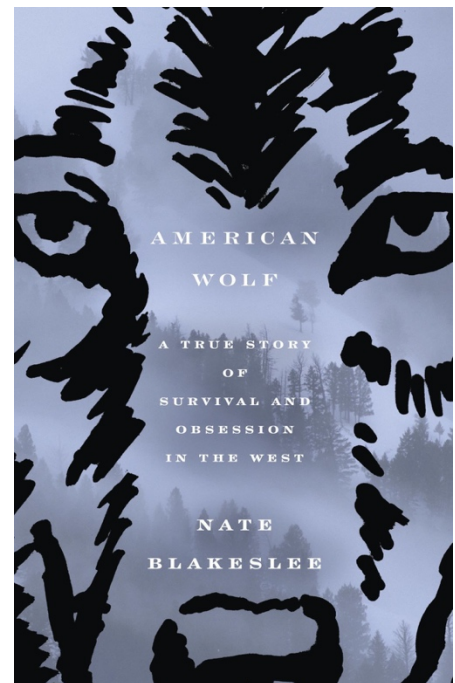
Yellowstone had been essentially devoid of wolves for almost 70 years, the last one being shot by park rangers in 1926. By the 1930s, the elk population had boomed, its natural predator having been eliminated. As a result, grazing elk had decimated the stands of aspen and willow, damaging riparian areas and trout habitat as stream banks caved in. Yellowstone officials had no choice but to take over the predator role of the absent wolves and start culling the herds. This continued until the 1960s.

Although the idea of bringing back wolves to Yellowstone had been around since the 1940s, the political clout of ranchers and hunters in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming was strong. They wanted no wolves. The ranchers were concerned with livestock depredation and the hunters wanted all the elk for themselves and their rich clients.

In 1995, Canadian wolves were brought to Yellowstone in the hopes that they would establish territory inside the park and breed.

This book is the story of the world's most famous wolf, O-Six. An alpha female and the great-granddaughter of the Canadian immigrants, O-Six and her pack and pups were the most observed and most filmed of any wolves ever. People came from all over the world to stand with scopes and binoculars, hoping to get a glimpse of her and others. But this isn't just a story about O-Six, remarkable as she was. It's really a story of humans, wolves and politics.

The cast of characters include the wolf biologists who record the stats: age, weight, range, diet, fertility and longevity. The more interesting characters are the wolf watchers, namely three people who, as a group,



know more about the wolves than the biologists - the difference being that the watchers know the 'stories' of the wolves.

Wolf packs use the same den for generations. They practice cultural transmission. Wolves who hunt elk had offspring who chased elk. Those who included deer in their diets taught that food source to their pups and those who feasted on cattle and sheep passed that practice on as well. A wolf's sensory experience helps create its emotional environment.

Many memorable scenes from this story occur not in the wilderness but in the courthouses of Billings, Bozeman and Washington, DC. Unbelievably, the high stakes of the 2012 elections meant that if Obamacare was to live past its infancy, wolves needed to start dying in Montana. Democrats needed to keep a toehold in Congress and this numbers game meant electing a Democrat in Montana. "Wolves had become another commodity in Capitol Hill's never-ending swap meet."

Another interesting aspect of this story is the "trophic cascade" caused by the reintroduction of the wolves. Beavers were reintroduced to the area in the mid 1990s. By 2009, the colonies had ballooned from 49 to 118. This was because the willows were coming back after the reintroduction of wolves took down the number of elk. More wolves meant more beavers. By the spring of 2011 this was the hottest research project in the park, ironically just as the political situation for the wolves was going downhill.

In 2012, O-Six roamed outside the park limits. She was shot by a local hunter. He had done nothing illegal. It was this story on the radio that captured my attention. What happened when the hunter shot the wolf was like nothing he had ever seen. Although he was defensive when approached by the author, it was evident that this experience had shaken him. (That's as much spoiler alert as you're going to get!)

Six months after the death of O-Six, there was an enormous backlash against the Fish & Wildlife's proposed de-listing of all wolves in the Lower 48. The agency received more than one million comments, the most ever submitted to any such proposal in the history of the Endangered Species Act. In 2014, the proposal was rejected due to evidence that it wasn't based on the best available science.

I found this book fascinating. It is an intimate portrait of the loving, humanlike relationships that govern wolves in the wild as observed by a dedicated group of watchers. It's also the story of how science gets sacrificed to politics, and it begs the question of which predator is more dangerous: wolves or humans.

Available in the Peterborough Library in the New Biographies section: 599.7730978752 Bla

She-Wolf film documentary by Bob Landis for National Geographic's NatGeo Wild channel

4 minute Yellowstone "trophic cascade" video narrated by George Monbiot

<http://www.monbiot.com/2014/02/13/how-wolves-change-rivers/>

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is **Friday, February 16.**

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

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



Book Review: A Shimmer of Hummingbirds by Steve Burrows

Submitted by Geoffrey Carpentier

This is the fourth in a series of birder/murder mysteries that Steve Burrows has written and, like the first three, it left me intrigued and spellbound right up to the last page – in fact right up to the last two words on the last page!

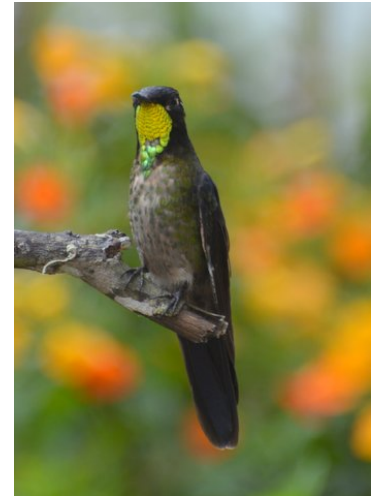
Unlike the first three books which were set in Great Britain and pitted Canadian Dominic Jejeune against evil and self-serving folk from his newfound home across the Pond, book four is set partly in Colombia and partly back in Great Britain. Now the challenge for Steve was to weave two separate stories into one cohesive book. The Colombian plot centred on Dominic's apparent birding trip to find five species of endemic hummingbirds. The reality was that it was more than that, for he was there to try to clear his brother's name from a crime he admitted to but may not have actually committed – and somehow the hummers were a key to handling this task. The second part of the book strives to solve a mystery back home where Jejeune's arch-rival comes back to haunt him in his absence and maybe steal his job away at the same time. Marvin Laraby and Dominic have been associates and enemies for years, but why? And will either use their history to undermine the other? Well, you may just have to read the book to find out.



Crowned Woodnymph 2016-01-16 Columbia. Photo: G.Carpentier

eyes open to see what else I might have missed!

I have spoken before of Steve's ability to weave complex plots, to never leave a fact dangling once the book is done and somehow to make sense of disparate facts that seem to have no reason to be mentioned in the same book. Everything Steve offers the reader has a purpose and once the plot is finally revealed in its entirety he ensures that the reader understands how everything was linked. Even the quirky attributes of his key characters have purpose – be that to amuse, confuse or somehow lead to a solution to the crime. And underlying all that are the birds, for in every book, somehow birds are woven into the plot and have an essential part to play either in the solution or the explanation of the story.



Black-backed Thornbill
2016-01-15 Columbia.
Photo: G.Carpentier

But wait! There's another mystery unravelling as the book unfolds. Lindy, Jejeune's girlfriend and lover, is involved in an accident that at first seems innocent. She is hurt, but fares well eventually. But was it really an accident or was Raymond Hayes involved? Faithful readers will never have heard of him until now, but rest assured he will resurface in book five. Stay tuned, for he is an evil addition to the cast of the Birder Murder Mysteries.

I was with Steve when he researched the South American part of the book (see sidebar). I must admit as I read the book, I was a bit embarrassed as Steve has an uncanny ability to see "everything" as we travel. His eye for detail is excellent. He describes scenes in the book which I had seen firsthand, but somehow never saw. As he tells the story, he provides details that I had overlooked on the journey but now came rushing back as Steve wove these apparently incidental observations into his spell-binding plot. I am going back to Colombia with another group of birders this winter and will certainly keep my



Indigo-capped Hummingbird -
Enchanted Garden, San Francisco,
Colombia 2016-01-04. Photo:
G.Carpentier

So here are few teasers: 1) Laraby falls in love with one of Jejeune's associates. Does this complicate or facilitate the solving of the British crime? Laraby emerges as a great storyteller himself. At one point, he speaks about cops and how they can and should do their jobs. It is a compelling analysis that drew me in completely. How can drones be used to protect birds and can they be used as a murder weapon at the same time? 2) Does Canada have a new National bird yet? Burrows shows his support for his preferred choice. Which one did he choose? Steve shows his inner self a bit in the writing of the book. We already know he is a well-travelled birder, but his simple descriptor of himself as a



Black-throated Mango -
Enchanted Garden, San
Francisco, Colombia 2016-01-
04. Photo: G.Carpentier

birdwatcher not a bird "see-er" tells a great deal as he studies birds with an eye to understanding them. He clearly gets birds, birders and birdwatching. 3) In Colombia, Jejeune is tricked and falls into a pit deep in the Colombian jungle and assuredly will die for no one is there to rescue him. In fact, no one even knows where he is, so how could they save him? If he dies, does the series end or does Laraby take over as the hero and life goes on?

In closing, if you haven't read any of Steve's books, you don't

have to read them in order but it does help, simply because you understand better who the key players are and how they interact and associate. Jejeune, Salter, Lindy, Maik, Quentin Senior, and many more all have unique roles to play as the characters emerge in the books. "A Siege of Bitterns" and "A Pitying of Doves" are the first two books in this compelling series. Dominic's brother is introduced in "A Cast of Falcons" and becomes a central character in this book as well. All are an excellent read.

A Shimmer of Hummingbirds. 2017. Steve Burrows. Dundurn Press, Toronto. Softcover 372 pages. \$15.95. (ISBN 978-1-4597-3530-9).

Editor's Note: Geoff Carpenter is owner of Avocet Nature Services (www.avocetnatureservices.com). He is a past president of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. As an active member, he led many field trips. Now he is based in Port Perry.

If you are interested in purchasing any of Steve Burrows' birder mysteries, Michelle Berry of Hunter Street Books (164 Hunter Street West, ph: 705-400-8229) has stocked her store with them. You can e-mail her at hunterstreetbooks@gmail.com and she will put one aside for you to pick up, or you can order from her webstore.

Steve was looking to set part of his book somewhere in South America, but after I explained the unique and exciting opportunities awaiting us in Colombia, he decided to join me and a group from the Toronto Ornithological Club and North Durham Nature on a tour I had organized to explore the newly emerging ecotourism opportunities there. Our guide Andres Trujillo was an excellent companion who taught us all a great deal about Colombia, its wildlife and its people. We explored many areas of Colombia on our tour and saw well over 500 species of birds. Included in that number were several that Steve highlights in the book as he travels with the reader along much of the ground we covered on the tour. As the book unfolds, Steve masterfully showcases some of these locations visited in the book linking the five key endemic hummingbirds that are essential to the plot.

eBird Science: Using Birdwatcher Expertise to Make Every Bird Count

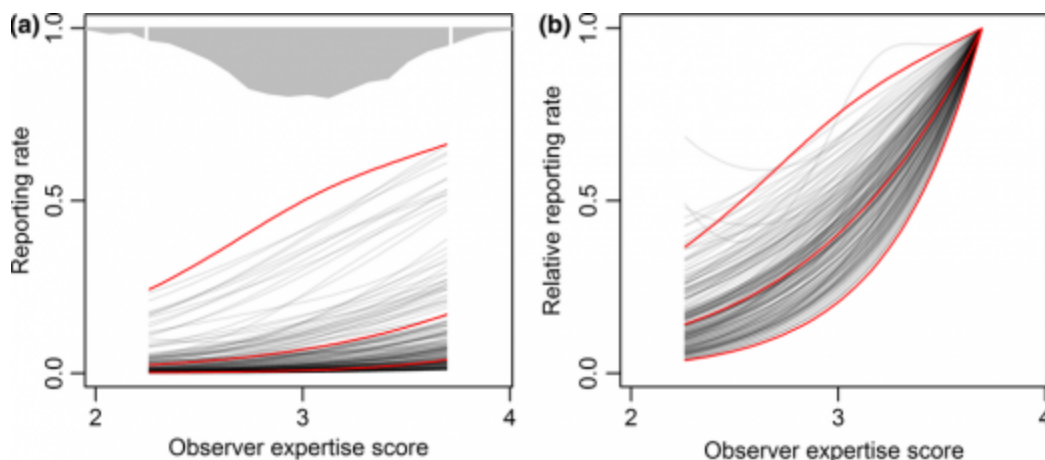
From eBird.org October 9, 2017

Variation between observers is one of the trickiest biases to account for in observational data. If 10 birders independently walk around a park for an hour and record what they see, they'll all have a different checklist of birds. This is not a bad thing – as long as we can understand these differences. By understanding this variation, we can ensure that every eBird checklist is as valuable as it possibly can be. Beginning birders can submit complete checklists and know that they're still collecting valuable data, and anyone using eBird data for analysis can minimize inter-observer biases. And all you have to do is go eBirding! Thanks to lead author Ali Johnston for the below summary of her recent work on observer expertise, most recently "Estimates of observer expertise improve species distributions from citizen science data" as published in *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. This new paper builds upon the 2015 paper (with Ali as co-author) that described the estimation of observer expertise by using species accumulation curves.

Your valuable eBird sightings contribute to many scientific studies. They have helped scientists discover more about bird migration, investigate species hybridization, map the distributions of rare birds, optimize bird conservation, and so much more. It is this link between birdwatchers and science that makes eBird so powerful.



Common Yellowthroat is a species that is detected less by many birders due to their often-secretive nature. Photo by Ryan Schain/Macaulay Library.



It's possible to calculate species-specific reporting rates based on individual observer patterns. Each line in this figure is the 'reporting rate' for a single species, and shows how more experienced birders detect the majority of species at a higher rate.

It's great to know that, as a birdwatcher myself, the birds I report contribute to so many scientific advances. However, as a more beginner-level birdwatcher, I sometimes wonder if my checklists are good enough to contribute to all this high-quality science. We all know those experienced birders who can identify a flyover shorebird by hearing only a distant call, or confidently call out a warbler as it flits past through the trees. I know that my checklists will generally include far fewer species than the checklists from these experienced birders. There might have been some songbird calls I struggled to identify and some distant ducks that I couldn't place to species. For this reason, my finger sometimes hovers over the complete checklist question, wondering whether my list really qualifies as a complete checklist. If I tick this checklist as 'complete', am I adding poor data into the database? Not at all!

We've recently published research that uses eBird data to demonstrate how every eBird checklist can be useful in scientific research. We developed an approach that allows us to identify the more experienced birders, the average birdwatchers, and those like me, who are just learning how to birdwatch. When this expertise information is included in analyses, the statistical algorithms take account of the different levels of skill among different birdwatchers. We found that estimates of bird distributions had improvements when we accounted for these differences among birdwatchers.

By including skill level in the analyses of eBird data, we can be confident that data from all eBirders can contribute to science. When I miss an overhead Pectoral Sandpiper call or fail to identify a distant female duck, the analysis takes account of the fact that I'm still learning some of these species and that I generally detect fewer species than those who know just about everything that they encounter. This means that the 'complete checklist' check really means whether this was a complete checklist for me. Did I include all the species that I was able to identify? Complete checklists are very important for use of the eBird data and now I can confidently tick that it was 'complete' because all the species that I was able to identify were included. This research is another step forward in helping to make the bird sightings contributed to eBird as useful as possible for science and conservation of birds.

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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					

Results of 66th Christmas Bird Count – Sunday, December 17, 2017

Submitted by Martin Parker

New Count Species: Sandhill Crane and Fox Sparrow

New Count High: Cooper's Hawk - 12 (previous was 10), Bald Eagle - 13 (previous was 5), Red-bellied Woodpecker - 16 (previous was 8), Pileated Woodpecker - 28 (previous was 12), Dark-eyed Junco - 739 (previous was 543), Northern Cardinal - 144 (previous was 120. Only present on 2 counts in the 1960s).

Almost High Counts: Merlin - 3 and Peregrine Falcon - 1; both tie previous highs. The total of 466 Blue Jays was 3 short of previous high of 469.

Absent Species: American Kestrel -- none were recorded.

The last miss was in 2006. They have been on 92% of the previous counts. Also, lack of winter finches -- no Common and Hoary Redpolls, and Evening Grosbeaks.

Low Number: Waterfowl and gulls were in lower numbers compared to recent years due to the freezing conditions prior to count day. House Sparrow numbers continue to be low when compared to numbers in the past.

Species Count: The 60 species reported on count day is the 2nd highest, with the high being 62 on the 2014 count. The ten-year average is 52 species on count day.

Editor's Note: The results of the Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count will be presented in March's Orchid newsletter.



Fox Sparrow observed during Peterborough Christmas Bird Count. Photo: Scott Gibson

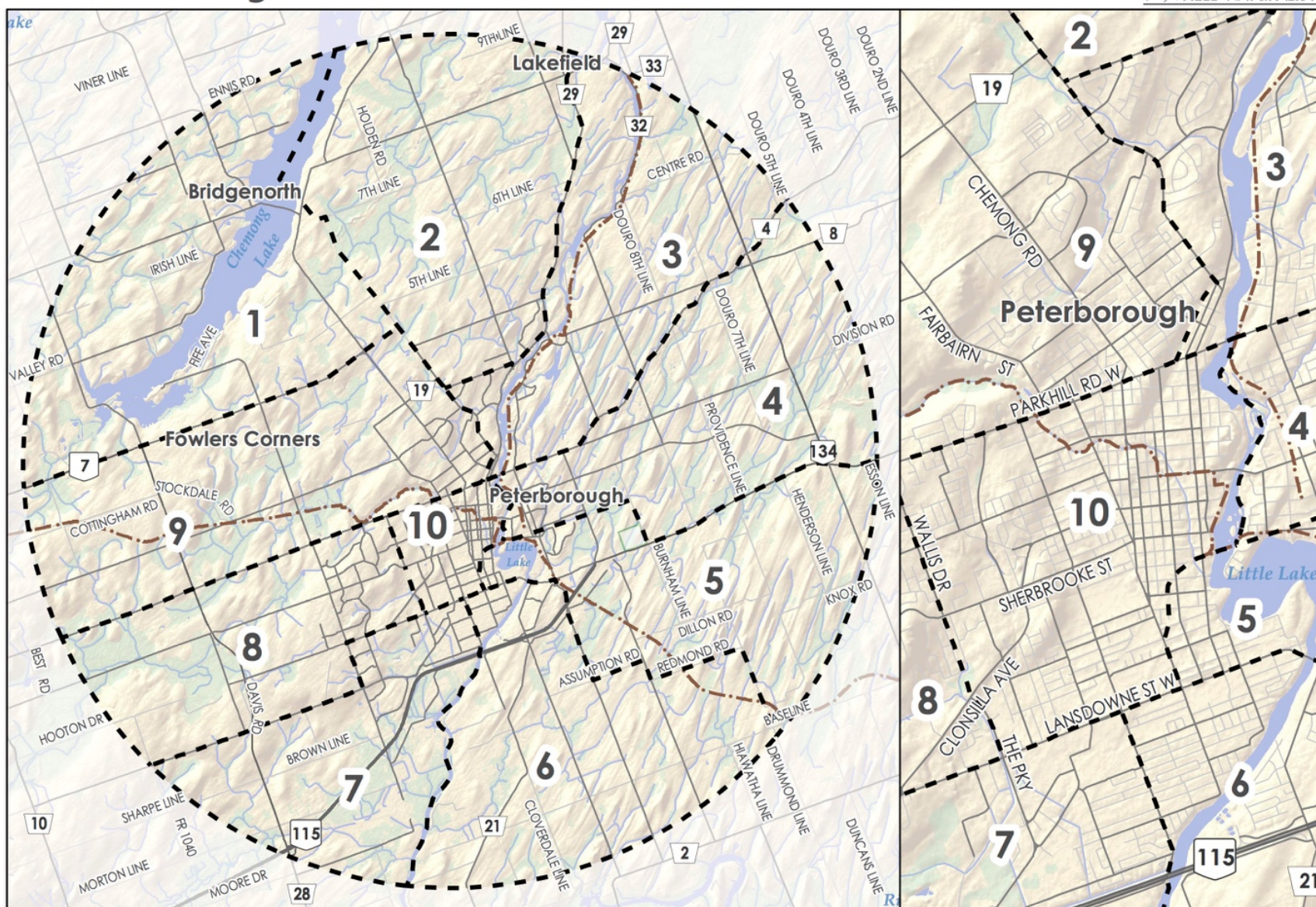
#	Area	Participants
1	Chemong/Bridgenorth	Don McLeod, Ryan Hill, Jonathan Kelly, Bill McCord, Mark Zippel
2	Selwyn/Miller Creek	Brian Wales, Dan Chronowic, Mitch Brownstein, Thom Unrau, Luke Berg, Gary Berg, Noah Berg
3	Lakefield/Otonabee River	Dave Milsom, Marla Williams, Susan Chow, Sarah Whitehead, Kathryn Sheridan; plus feeders -- Liz Milsom, Scott Gibson
4	Douro	Warren Dunlop, Janet Kelly, Al Sippel, Louis Chora, Cathy Douglas, Anda Rungis, Fiona McKay, Michael Oldham, Helen Bested, Laurie Phillips, Robert Oldham, Veronique Oldham, Andrew Collins
5	Burnham	Drew Monkman, Ken Sunderland, Jim Cashmore, Phil Shaw, Mike Barker; plus feeder -- Sue Paradises
6	Stewart Hall/Landfill	Scott McKinley, Susan Malan, Joan DiFruscia, Marc & Shelia Stickland; plus feeders -- Norm & Charmaine, Ann Heuft
7	Airport	Michael McMurtry, Rene Gareau, Dylan Radcliffe, Amiee Blythe, Monica Fromberger, Kim Zippel, Matthew Tobey, Lynn Smith
8	Cavan Swamp	Chris Risley, Erica Nol, Alain Parada, Ben Taylor, Sheila Collett, Penny Jones, Ali Giroux, Allie Anderson, Amie MacDonald, Kristen Glass; plus feeder -- Murray Palmer
9	Jackson Park	Jerry Ball, Kathy Parker, Jennifer Routledge, Liam Routledge, Colin Jones, Scott Gibson, Ted & Marion Vale; plus feeders -- Don and Emily Pettypiece, Jon Boxall
10	Downtown	Martin Parker, King Baker, Meredith Clark, Ken Abraham, Martyn Obbard

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Total	Previous High
Canada Goose			150	40	1	12	2		172	23	400	3,765
American Black Duck			1	1		5				1	8	30
Mallard			211	282	30	192	1			248	964	1,264
Bufflehead										2	2	13
Common Goldeneye			43	10	6	26	3			12	100	292
Hooded Merganser						1					1	15
Common Merganser			7								7	255
duck species				40							40	
Ring-necked Pheasant			cw*									
Ruffed Grouse	1	1		1		3	2		9		17	82
Wild Turkey		64	8	3	30	43	32	1	42		223	306
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1						1			2	5
Cooper's Hawk	3	2	1	1	2	2				1	12	10
accipiter species		1		1							2	
Bald Eagle		1	2		2	5	3				13	5
Red-tailed Hawk	4	4	2	8	6	6	12	4	4		50	64
Sandhill Crane						1					1	new
Ring-billed Gull		1	1	1		1	3			2	9	399
Herring Guil		1	54	8	24	30	1			3	121	1,302
Iceland Gull						1					1	2
Glaucous Gull			1								1	5
Great Black-backed Gull			1								1	32
gull species				4	5						9	
Rock Pigeon	180	175	107	77	202	123	151	85	335	245	1,680	1,711
Mourning Dove	174	42	33	69	122	174	150	74	242	16	1,096	1,329
Eastern Screech-Owl							1	1			2	4
Great Horned Owl								2			2	40
Snowy Owl					1						1	1
Belted Kingfisher									1		1	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1		1	1	2	4	3	2	2		16	8
Downy Woodpecker	10	11	4	12	4	12	14	11	14	3	95	119
Hairy Woodpecker	7	10	7	6	2	8	5	8	5	2	60	84
Northern Flicker									2		2	5
Pileated Woodpecker	4	3	3	3		3	4		6	2	28	12
woodpecker species				1							1	

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Total	Previous High
Northern Harrier								cw*				
Merlin							1			2	3	3
Peregrine Falcon										1	1	1
Northern Shrike		1		1		4		1	1		8	29
Blue Jay	55	36	16	94	46	27	85	47	44	16	466	469
American Crow	95	18	35	91	36	168	30	43	41	59	616	953
Common Raven	2	2			1	2	2				9	29
Black-capped Chickadee	131	310	140	371	200	141	226	179	322	92	2,112	2,044
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	1	2	7			9	1	1		27	66
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	12	4	16	4	11	10	16	9		88	138
Brown Creeper		4		1			2				7	21
Carolina Wren							cw*					
Golden-crowned Kinglet		5	3	7			7	2	4		28	43
American Robin	1	35	14	22	40	6	27	1	35		181	1,943
European Starling	211	156	35	144	173	619	204	162	91	432	2,227	3,400
Cedar Waxwing	70								45		115	737
Snow Bunting	110	1				30			2		143	1,683
Am. Tree Sparrow	29	113	33	32	4	40	51	70	66	1	439	989
Dark-eyed Junco	70	96	66	60	69	104	84	63	85	42	739	543
Fox Sparrow									2		2	new
Song Sparrow			1								1	27
White-throated Sparrow		1					1		2	1	5	11
Northern Cardinal	4	11	12	24	4	14	13	26	21	15	144	120
Red-winged Blackbird		1						1			2	13
Brown-headed Cowbird								1			1	13
House Finch	31	5	29	13	5	13	1	10	2	13	122	1,197
Purple Finch	2										2	60
White-winged Crossbill									1		1	379
Pine Siskin	20	30				32		15	2		99	750
American Goldfinch	55	36	34	70	14	49	45	74	21	31	429	941
House Sparrow	20			34	9	22	62	16	4	14	181	2,209
Total Count	1,302	1,191	1,061	1,556	1,044	1,934	1,247	917	1,635	1,279	13,166	
Total Species	27	34	33	36	28	36	34	28	33	25	60	

*Count Week (cw) Birds: Northern Harrier (area 8), Ring-necked Pheasant (area 3), Carolina Wren (area 7)

Peterborough Field Naturalists Christmas Bird Count



Author: Jonathan Kelly, November 2017.

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry;

road, railway, waterbody, watercourse, wetland/2017.

Scale:

1:150,000



0

3

6 km

Trail
Wetland

Inset Scale:

1:50,000

www.peterboroughnature.org

Official Plan Update: Survey #4 - Growth Management

Adapted from City of Peterborough Press Release

The City is inviting residents and interested parties to participate in the latest survey on the update to the city's Official Plan. "Planning for a total of 115,000 residents and 58,000 jobs by the year 2041 will bring forth changes to the City. Feedback from residents and community stakeholders will help guide growth and development in a manner that is appropriate and desirable for our community," said Mayor Daryl Bennett. The survey will be available from December 7, 2017 to January 18, 2018 at www.peterborough.ca/planit. For more information, or to request an alternate format of the survey, please contact: 705-742-7777 extension 1494 or email: planit@peterborough.ca.

This survey is the latest in a series of surveys for the Official Plan. The previous survey, the third, which was conducted in August and September of this year, asked residents to provide comments on the vision and guiding principles of the Official Plan. The previous survey received 791 online responses from the community as well as 150 in-person responses from Fleming College and Trent University students. A summary report of the results from the previous survey is available on the Official Plan Update webpage, www.peterborough.ca/planit.

Bird Behaviour at Bird Feeders

Submitted by Michael Gillespie

Whilst sitting in front of the feeder on this nasty, blustery day, I've been able to make the following observations:

Bad Feeder Behaviour:

1. Bullying smaller birds (Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Chickadees etc.) by larger species through intimidating wing spreading and aggressive feints.
2. Sleeping on the feeder when not actually feeding (e.g., Mourning Doves in particular).
3. Shitting on the roof of the feeder. 'Nuff said!
4. Not moving over for a clean landing by a new visitor or hungry mate.
5. Indiscriminately chucking undesirable (to themselves) seeds onto the ground in order to seize the prized black sunflower seeds.
6. Hiding at the backside of the feeder thus not allowing me a good look at the good species.

Good Feeder Behaviour:

1. Waiting patiently for a fellow "fluffy" to depart the suet hanger before alighting on it.
2. Dropping a crumb or two to ground-hugging Juncos who have been waiting until the larger fellows have departed.
3. Bringing in a rare species (Brown Thrasher or Fox Sparrow, say) for a snack and an observation by the house host - ME.
4. Alighting on an easily observable perch, affording me good looks or perhaps a camera shot.

Well there you have some of the observations from this morning's activity. Now I will go and explain the theory of relativity to the cat.

Brian Tinker added the following comments: I might add that - at least on my feeder - the Juncos bully the Goldfinches. My most dominant species seems to be the Red-bellied Woodpecker. The Blue Jays come late afternoon so don't have much competition. And I concur: Mourning Doves do sleep on the feeder - and even on my heated bird bath.

What Stories An Antler Could Tell

In the hinterland of oak and pine, tamarack and black spruce
 Lives a solitary deer of majestic bearing, the unforgettable eastern moose.
 The only thing small about this towering titan is his little flap of a tail –
 He just gets by on fifty pounds of twigs and branches when cold winter winds prevail.
 He seeks out willows, poplars, red osier dogwood and balsam fir to strip,
 Aided by his long neck and snout, tough tongue and prehensile upper lip.
 High-stepping on long, sturdy legs, there are few places this versatile animal can't go
 To feed in wetland haunts, or to outrun wolves through deep layers of snow.
 Escaping biting insects and hot sun when life for a moose is not so harsh,
 This boreal behemoth stands past his shoulders in a beaver pond or marsh.
 Since spring he's been growing a crown of palmate antlers designed to impress
 Inquisitive cows and other bulls who'll contest his strength and fitness.
 He needs to feed, to nourish the blood-filled velvet that grows his antler bone,
 To restore his winter-stressed body to vigour, and build muscle tone.
 For minutes at a time his head is deeply submersed in water,
 Gathering bunches of water lilies, pondweeds, and other sodium-rich fodder.
 His expanding headdress is prone to injury and malformation until the velvet is shed;
 He doesn't spar with other bulls now, and saves his energy instead.
 Then the weather grows pleasantly cooler, and the length of day begins to wane ...
 The bull moose becomes excited and aggressive; now sex hormones rule his brain.
 The bull digs a wallowing pit in which he deposits his pungent, urine-borne scent,
 Thrashes trees and shrubs with his ponderous crown, rendering saplings broken and bent.
 The calm of the early misty morning is broken by the cows' nasal, plaintive call –
 He replies with a guttural, burping sound, proclaiming that he's the best of all.
 He sizes up the competition, and sways his mighty head in ritualized confrontation.
 Weaker warriors defer to him; close contenders retreat after bouts of head vibration.
 The cows, they roll and revel in and wear their chosen suitor's aromatic cologne,
 And when his cow is receptive to him, he never leaves her alone.
 He follows her, and gently rests his great muzzle along her sensitive spine –
 Moose must enjoy this brief companionship when their moods climactically combine.
 He seeks out cow after cow in turn as he senses each one's readiness to mate;
 The cows recognize his prime condition, and nuzzle him, ensuring a synchronous state ...
 The tamaracks now shine golden yellow, reflected in the still water's icy sheen;
 The fiery glow of the surrounding hills has faded, a ghost of what it's been.
 Now mating time is over, and one by one the now onerous antlers fall to the ground,
 But what stories they could tell if able to speak – stories that surely would astound.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2012

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is **Friday, February 16.**

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.

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

Weather	Winter arrived in December with nighttime temperatures dipping to the -30°C range during the night in the last week of the month. Open water froze over quickly.
Nov. 24	On PFN outing off Pengelly Point (Rice Lake), there was 1 Cackling Goose .
Nov. 24	Daniel Williams had a late departing Yellow-rumped Warbler in Little Lake Cemetery
Nov. 27	King Baker reported that on the bay off his cottage on Chandos Lake there were about 100 Common Mergansers , mostly males. Also, a few Common Goldeneye and a couple of Hooded Mergansers .
Nov. 29	Iain Rayner had a Northern Saw-whet Owl near his residence north of Gannon's Narrows. Jerry Ball had an American Kestrel along Scriven Line.
Dec. 1	Iain Rayner had a Black Scoter at the western end of the Chemong Lake causeway and a Double-crested Cormorant and Snowy Owl off Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake. John Bick had another Snowy Owl on George Street.
Dec. 2	A Gadwall was still present on the Lakefield Lagoon by Drew Monkman. Donald Sunderland had a Redhead off Pengelly Point and John Bick had a Black Scoter off Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake. Bonaparte's Gulls were still present on Rice Lake from Hall's Landing (2) and Pengelly Point (9) by Donald Sutherland.
Dec. 5	The last day for the American Coot off Millennium Park by many observers.
Dec. 6	Luke Berg had a Northern Goshawk near Lansdowne and the Parkway. Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had a Rough-legged Hawk near Orange Corners, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk over Bridgenorth.
Dec. 7	Ring-necked Duck off Chemong Lake causeway by Iain Rayner
Dec. 9	A late departing Northern Shoveler was still present at the Lakefield Lagoon by Sarah Bonnett and Will Van Hemessen. Iain Rayner had a Cackling Goose on the Otonabee River near Millennium Park.
Dec. 9	Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had 7 Canada Geese , 4 Common Goldeneyes , 4 Common Mergansers & 2 Hooded Mergansers on the SW corner of Jack's Lake along with 11 White-tailed Deer in one cottage yard. Last day a possible Yellow-throated Warbler was observed at a feeder in Buckhorn.
Dec. 10	Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had a Great Blue Heron at Young's Point
Dec. 17	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count with a total of 60 species including two new count birds – Sandhill Crane and 2 Fox Sparrows . See separate CBC report.
Dec. 18	A Carolina Wren visited the feeders of Matthew Tobey in the SW corner of the city (not seen on count day). Dave Milson had a female Ring-necked Pheasant visiting his feeder of Scollard Drive (also not seen on count day).
Dec. 22	Michael Gillespie had a Rough-legged Hawk on David Fife Line. It was feeding on a deer carcass.
Dec. 26	A Common Grackle started visiting the feeders of Martin & Kathy Parker daily. Ben Evans had a Lapland Longspur in the Village of Douro.
Dec. 28	The 32 nd Petroglyphs CBC was held and the 25 participants had 32 species with highlights being 7 Bald Eagles & 1 Golden Eagle . Details in next issue of The Orchid.
Jan. 1	What was your first bird and mammal of 2018? Start a year's list.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

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

CONTACT

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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

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

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

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

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

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

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

I am interested in the following:

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

AGE GROUP

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

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

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

LIABILITY WAIVER

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

Signature: _____

The Peterborough Field Naturalists 2018 AGM, Dinner, Guest Presentation

Steve Burrows is an award-winning mystery writer, journalist and past recipient of a "Nature Writer of the Year" award from BBC Wildlife.

Born in the U.K., he came to Canada as a youth. After studying at York University, he moved to Hong Kong where he served as editor of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society magazine and a contributing field editor for Asian Geographic.



In 2014, he published his debut novel, *A Siege of Bitterns*, followed by *A Pitying of Doves* (2015), *A Cast of Falcons* (2016) and *A Shimmer of Hummingbirds* (2017).

Date: January 19, 2018

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35/person

Please RSVP by Friday Jan 5th.

To Reserve tickets, please contact

Jim Young at jbyoung559@gmail.com or call 705-760-9397

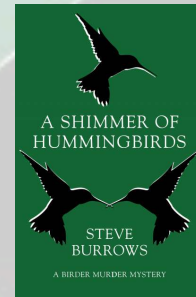
Doors open: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Raffle: 7:30 p.m.

Keynote speaker: 8:00 p.m.



Contact Rene Gareau if you have items to donate to the raffle or silent auction: rene.gareau@sympatico.ca or 705-741-4560

LOCATION: The Peterborough Naval Association
24 Whitlaw St., Peterborough, ON K9J 1K9

If you are interested in purchasing any of Steve Burrows' birder mysteries, Michelle Berry of Hunter Street Books (164 Hunter Street West, ph: 705-400-8229) has stock. You can e-mail her at hunterstreetbooks@gmail.com and she will put one aside for you to pick up, or you can order from her webstore.