

The

# Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



American Mink standing beside the carcass of an Eastern Cottontail.  
The rabbit had just been killed by the mink. Photo taken on January 16, 2018 by Don McLeod.

**Inside:**

Part 3 of Drew Monkman's Nature Guide to the Kawarthas  
Results of the Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count  
Annual General Meeting Report  
PFN President's Year in Review  
Winter Wildlife Tracking Report

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### Welcome new PFN members!

Cathy Douglas  
Steve Burrows  
Junior David Pfeiffer  
Clare & Glenn Ardley  
Marion Langford

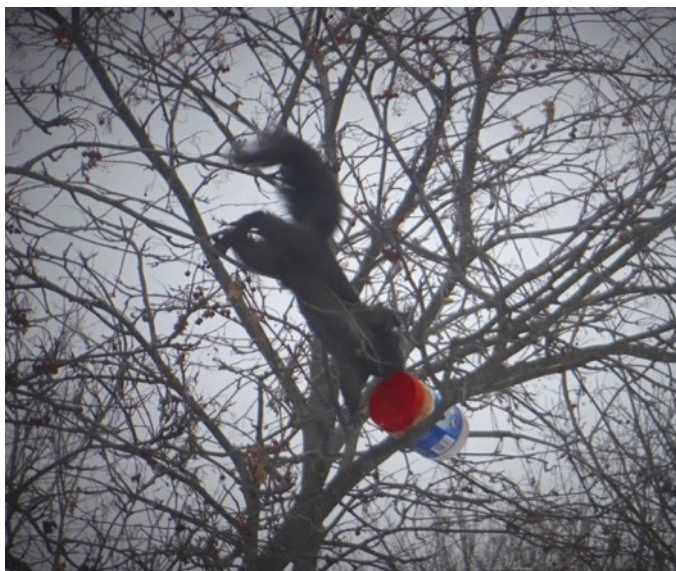


Marie Duchesneau's cat. "This is the closest Zaph will ever get to a bird because he is not allowed to go outside. Here he is watching his favourite TV show "Fou des oiseaux" on Unis TV."



More carnivores! From top: Coyote at north end of Harper Park on Jan. 25 (photo: Rene Gareau). Cooper's Hawk eating pigeon behind Don's unit on Feb. 25 (photo: Don Finigan). North American River Otter near Lock 25 on Feb. 5 (photo: Dave Milsom).

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



A photo from Dylan Radcliffe. "A squirrel got its hand on the ultimate treat (a big jar of peanut butter!) for this cold winter day (Jan.2)."



PFN Coming Events	
<p>To end of March, Weather-permitting Dates, times and locations TBD</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Tracking Outings</b></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. Accessibility: moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar. 3 6:45 a.m. in the Tim Hortons Parking Lot Sobeys/CTC Plaza</p>	<p><b>Hooters of Amherst Island</b></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>Saturday, Mar. 10 <i>Please note date change</i> 1:00 p.m. in the Parking Lot at Riverview Park and Zoo</p>	<p><b>Returning Waterfowl on the Otonabee</b></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>Sunday, Mar. 11 8 a.m. at Country Style at Lansdowne (Hwy 7) and Old Keene Road</p>	<p><b>Birding Trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park</b></p> <p>Spring is around the corner so join us for a full-day birding trip to Presqu'île, led by Jerry Ball. Thousands of ducks, geese and swans use this resting spot on their spring migrations north. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and ideally a spotting scope, if you have one. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Country Style at</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	the junction of Old Keene Road and Hwy #7. We will make our way down to Presqu'île from Peterborough, stopping at sites of interest on the way. There is an entry fee for each vehicle entering the park. For more information, contact Jerry: 705-745-3272. Accessibility: easy
<p>Wednesday, March 14 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Rd Peterborough ON</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: The Great American Eclipse</b></p> <p>The solar eclipse of August 21, 2017, dubbed "The Great American Eclipse", was a total solar eclipse that was visible within a band across the entire contiguous United States, passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. Rick Stankiewicz had the great opportunity to witness this unique solar event and will share this experience with us.</p> <p>Rick is an amateur astronomer, a published astrophotographer, and a writer. He is a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and has been a member of the Peterborough Astronomical Association since 1998 where he served as President for over five years. He currently is Publicity Director.</p>
<p>Sunday, March 25 10 a.m. at Country Style at Lansdowne (Hwy 7) and Old Keene Road</p>	<p><b>Mergansers and Friends on Rice Lake</b></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>
<p>Sundays, April 1 to May 27 8 to 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks</b></p> <p>Our regular Spring wildlife walks will commence on Sunday April 1 and continue until May 27. Unless otherwise advertised, walks will start at 8 a.m. and we will carpool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases, the leaders will confirm the destination on the day. Accessibility: Easy to Moderate.</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 11 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Moose: Crowned Giant of the Northern Wilderness</b></p> <p>Our guest speaker, Mark Raycroft, is one of Canada's foremost wildlife photographers. A wildlife biologist by training, he specializes in North American icons: bears, deer, caribou, elk, big-horned sheep and moose, the epitome of all creatures wild and Canadian. Mark's images have appeared in numerous publications in Canada and internationally, including National Geographic, Canadian Geographic, Canadian Wildlife, and many more.</p>

### PFN Coming Events

	The work collected in Mark Raycroft's latest book "Moose: Crowned Giant of the Northern Wilderness" represents 25 years of photographic field work and features the biology and natural history of the north wood's largest and majestic mammal.
<p>Saturday, April 14</p> <p>7:30 p.m. at the Tim Horton's in Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza (Lansdowne St. West)</p>	<p><b>Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles!</b></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 (a.k.a. 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 p.m. 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 25</p> <p>Meet at 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Riverview Park &amp; Zoo</p>	<p><b>Night of Salamanders and Frogs</b></p> <p>This annual PFN evening trip is to look for migrating salamanders and their egg masses in 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 also listen out for frog species calling and hopefully a Barred Owl. This trip will be led jointly by Martin Parker, Sue Paradisis and Evan Thomas.</p> <p>This is an evening outing. After meeting, we will travel to the Ingleton-Wells property on the northwestern part of Stoney Lake. Wear clothes suitable to the weather forecast, and bring water-proof footwear, a head lamp or flashlight, and an evening snack or packed supper. It is anticipated that the group will return to the city around 11 p.m.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate, with walking around woodland ponds and returning in the dark.</p>

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

Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email [pfnjuniors@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

Other Events of Interest	
<p>7 to 8 p.m. Fleming College Whetung Theatre</p>	<p><b>Peterborough County Stewardship 2018 Speaker Series</b></p> <p>March 22: Valerie VonZeuben on Black Terns April 12: Lisa Erdle on Microplastics in the Great Lakes May 17: Lesley Hale on Bats (Please see advertisement on page 20.)</p>
<p>Sunday, Mar. 4 1 to 4 p.m. 2027 Preston Rd, Lakefield between Selwyn &amp; Young's Point</p>	<p><b>Winter Hike, Ski or Snowshoe at KLT's Dance Nature Sanctuary</b></p> <p>Join us for an afternoon of winter fun and take advantage of this unique opportunity to tour a property that is not normally open to the public. Come explore the trails and learn about the many stewardship projects that have taken place at Kawartha Land Trust's first protected property, the Dance Nature Sanctuary.</p> <p>Free hot beverages (bring your own mug). Engaging guided walks lead by KLT volunteers. Please visit <a href="http://kawarthalandtrust.org">kawarthalandtrust.org</a> for more details.</p>
<p>Sat. Mar. 10, 7-11 p.m. Monocle Centre for the Arts, 140 Simcoe St.</p>	<p><b>Kawartha Wildlife Centre Art Gala</b></p> <p>Kawartha Wildlife Centre will be hosting an Art Gala on March 10 at the Monocle Centre for the Arts. Tickets are \$50 each with all proceeds going to the Kawartha Wildlife Centre. There will be a silent auction, wine and hors d'oeuvres and live music. More information is available at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1759121180766969/">www.facebook.com/events/1759121180766969/</a>.</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:kawarthawildlifecentre@gmail.com">kawarthawildlifecentre@gmail.com</a> to reserve your ticket.</p>
<p>April 13, 14, 15 (Friday to Sunday) Evinrude Centre, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Peterborough Garden Show 2018</b></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 three-day event hosts many garden-related vendors, exhibitors, daily speakers, informative workshops, displays, arrangements, and advice.</p> <p>Proceeds from the show provide scholarships to Peterborough students studying horticulture as well as financial grants for community beautification projects. For more details check out <a href="http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com">www.peterboroughgardenshow.com</a></p> <p>The Peterborough Field Naturalists will have a booth and display at the Garden Show. Check out the Volunteer Corner on page 8 to find out how you can help out!</p>

Other Events of Interest	
<p>Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 Market Hall</p>	<p><b>Pollination Summit</b></p> <p>Join the Peterborough Pollinators in working together to cultivate a resilient environment for pollinators! Our citizen-led group welcomes members of our community to join us in growing and stewarding pollinator habitats throughout Peterborough and beyond – the spirit of our group reflects the need to deepen our relationships with community and with the natural world around us.</p> <p>The Pollination Summit will be a weekend of discovery, storytelling, and connecting. Connect with one of the world's leading experts on bees and pollination; visit community stewarded urban beehives &amp; pollinator gardens; and engage with community members so that we can explore profound human questions on our role in ensuring a healthy pollinator community.</p> <p>There will be a presentation by special guest Mark Winston, author of <i>Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive</i> and internationally renowned pollination expert from Simon Fraser University. For more details, please visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughpollinators.com/events">www.peterboroughpollinators.com/events</a></p>
<p>Saturday, May 12 to Monday, May 21 Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area 20 km SE of Picton</p>	<p><b>Spring Birding Festival at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory</b></p> <p>Members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are invited to visit Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory this spring for their Spring Birding Festival. There will be guided bird walks, birding trips with guest birders, a Big Week in the South Shore IBA, and banding demonstrations. Further details can be found here: <a href="http://www.peptbo.ca/sbf.php">www.peptbo.ca/sbf.php</a></p>
<p>May 25 to 27 Friday to Sunday South Bruce Peninsula</p>	<p><b>Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birding field trips</li> <li>• General nature field trips</li> <li>• Bucket raffle and bird quiz</li> </ul> <p>Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars – this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a special place for naturalists.</p> <p>South Peel Naturalists' Club extends an invitation to join them to explore the Bruce Peninsula. This annual weekend event provides the opportunity to see the best of the Bruce with expert leaders and in the company of fellow naturalists.</p> <p>The cost per person for the weekend is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders.</li> <li>• \$236 (+ 13% taxes) for two nights' accommodation at Evergreen Resort (<a href="http://evergreenresortredbay.ca">evergreenresortredbay.ca</a>) near Red Bay (includes all meals and snacks). Book rooms in advance by calling 519-534-1868.</li> </ul> <p>To register for the weekend, send e-mail to <a href="mailto:mail@spnc.ca">mail@spnc.ca</a> or contact Donna at 905-815-0933 or Audrey at 905-820-2571.</p>

## Call for a Delegate to the 2018 Ontario Nature Youth Summit



Ontario Nature is hosting its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership to bring together students aged 14 – 19 years from across the province for a weekend of nature exploration, environmental learning and fun outdoor activities.

For the past three years, the Peterborough Field Naturalists has sponsored a high school student for the Ontario Nature Youth Summit. The PFN plans to sponsor another for 2018. Participants meet a growing network of young environmental leaders with the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded thinkers.

We are looking for someone in high school, preferably grade 10 or 11, with a strong interest in the environment and protecting our natural heritage. If you know a student who would enjoy an opportunity to attend the Youth Summit, which is being held at YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia (weekend date in September TBA) please contact Ted Vale ([tedandmarion@sympatico.ca](mailto:tedandmarion@sympatico.ca) or 705-741-3641) or any other board member.

For more information, please visit: [www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature\\_guardians/youth\\_summit.php](http://www.ontarionature.org/connect/nature_guardians/youth_summit.php)

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## PFN Spring Sighting Contest

Two mammals which are a sign that spring is arriving are the Groundhog and Eastern Chipmunk. Both species hibernate and spend the cold winter months in a deep sleep with lowered heartbeat, respiration and body temperature. As spring arrives they emerge.

Record your first sighting of a Groundhog and Eastern Chipmunk this spring and be eligible to receive a copy of the PFN publication 'Mammals of Peterborough County' by Geoff Carpentier and published by the PFN in 1986. One book will be presented for the initial sighting of each species. Two winners.

Submit your first observation of a Groundhog or Eastern Chipmunk to the coordinator of 'The Orchid Diary' Martin Parker at [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca) or 705-745-4759. Please indicate the date, time of day and location of your sightings.

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## Volunteer Corner

### Peterborough Garden Show at the Evinrude Centre

Volunteers are needed at the display table hosted by the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The Garden Show runs from Friday, April 13 to Sunday, April 15. We are looking for volunteers to cover a 3 or 4-hour shift at the PFN booth. Two people are needed per shift. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with folks who are interested in our Club activities. Bonus: There is always time to tour the many vendors and exhibitors at the show!

Please contact Lynn Smith if you would like to be involved: [smithfam@nexicom.net](mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net) or 705-944-5599. Thank you!





## Juniors Christmas Bird Count Report

Submitted by Lara Griffin

The Junior Naturalist families enjoyed a bright, brisk afternoon bird count on January 6. The weather was a very chilly -21°C, but the kids bundled up to do some birding at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. The list of species and numbers of individuals observed during the hike included: Black-capped Chickadee (23), White-breasted Nuthatch (2),



Hairy Woodpecker (2), Downy Woodpecker (1), American Tree Sparrow (1), Blue Jay (1), Northern Cardinal (2), Dark-eyed Junco (1). After hiking, we went inside to warm up and enjoyed a presentation on birds' bills with Sarah Jamieson and a puppet show with Glen Caradus of the Paddling Puppeteers. We finished after playing some Bird Bingo games, with donated prizes too!

A special thank you to our volunteer birders Martin Parker, Sarah Jamieson and Tanya Taylor for leading this event!

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## PFN Annual General Meeting 2018

Submitted by Lynn Smith

The Peterborough Field Naturalists enjoyed a successful Annual General Meeting on Jan 19, 2018 with an evening of dinner, business, raffle, silent auction and keynote speaker, Steve Burrows. Steve Burrows, award winning Canadian mystery writer and journalist entertained us with his journey from birder to birder murder mystery writer.

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

**Lola Leach Award** – Congratulations to Kim Zippel!

When Kim joined the Board in 2014, she brought with her a passion and dedication for the environment. She has maintained a leadership role in the stewardship of Harper Park, an initiative that the Club committed to in 2015. She has worked tirelessly introducing citizens to Harper Park, liaising with students and professors who are undertaking research projects, participating in a brook trout spawning survey, documenting flora and fauna and advocating when this valuable natural heritage property is threatened.

In addition, Kim has been a willing participant in a variety of Club projects and events, attended workshops and given presentations on behalf of the PFN. She has been the Club representative on the Fisheries Advisory Council.

Kim's passion and dedication is an inspiration to all of us.



Kim Zippel with PFN Past President Lynn Smith

## Certificates of Appreciation

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

- Barbara Saunders & Rob Pratten – Kawartha Highlands turtle program and invasive species monitoring
- Scott McKinlay – Harper Park projects, Outdoor leader, Christmas Bird Count leader
- Ian Attridge – Environmental guidance
- Chris Gooderham – Webmaster
- Kathy Parker – Harper Park projects
- Carol McConnell – Communicating Club news in Peterborough Examiner
- JB Jaboor – Maintaining Ecology Park birdfeeders



PFN President Ted Vale presenting certificates of appreciation to (clockwise from top left) Rob Pratten & Barbara Saunders, Scott McKinlay, JB Jaboor, and Ian Attridge.

## AGM Bucket Draw and Silent Auction

### Submitted by Rene Gareau

At our Annual General Meeting on January 19, we raised \$460 from our bucket draw and \$420 from the silent auction, for total proceeds of \$880. This represents a 75% increase over last year. A big thank you to all those who generously donated prizes for this very successful event, and to all of the enthusiastic bidders as well! All proceeds will be put to good use in funding various PFN activities.



Rene Gareau and Martin Parker officiating the bucket draw

## President's Report - 2017 Review

I wanted to provide those of you who missed the Annual General Meeting with a short review of the PFN's functioning over the last year.



2017 was a year of growth for our club. We saw growth in membership, monthly meeting attendance, Junior Field Naturalists attendance, and website use. For the first time in several years, we have a full complement of Board Members. Overall revenues increased, both from membership fees and earnings from the Rhea Bringeman legacy.

Out of our experience with advocacy over the past year (the Parkway, Harper Park, and the Lily Lake Subdivision), we have refined our advocacy approach. For the future, we intend to focus our efforts on conducting natural heritage research and becoming involved at an early stage in planning for local natural heritage areas.

The Board continues its evolution towards a planning and evaluation approach in its activities. Over the past year we have revised our accounting procedures, and conducted reviews of our monthly meeting program, the outings program, the Orchid, and the Junior Field Naturalists.

None of this could have happened without the hard work of my fellow board members and the many club members who volunteer their services the Club.

My thanks to everyone who helped make 2017 a successful year.

Ted Vale, President

## 32nd Annual Petroglyphs CBC Results

### Submitted by Colin Jones, Count Compiler

The 32nd Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count was held on Thursday, December 27, 2017 during very cold conditions. It was nearly -30 degrees Celsius first thing in the morning and only warmed up to about -18 by mid-afternoon. As a result of the very cold weather there was virtually no open water and therefore no waterbirds.

- Participants: 24
- Total species: 32 (close to the 10-year average of 33.5)
- Total individuals: 1826 (10-year average is 2248)

### Notable Species and Count Highs:

- *Bald Eagle*: 7 (slightly higher than average)
- *Golden Eagle*: 1 sub-adult bird seen soaring over the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails
- *Black-backed Woodpecker*: 1 in the Petroglyphs Provincial Park (although previously recorded nearly every year this species has only been detected 3 times in the past 10 years)
- *Gray Jay*: a single bird was located in a bog along the Sandy Lake Rd (until 2009 recorded annually but since then only recorded in 2014 and during count period in 2016)
- *Red-breasted Nuthatch*: 146 (well above the 10-year average of 87 but nowhere near the count high of 526)
- *American Robin*: 2 (absent in most years)



Nearly frozen deer at Petroglyphs Provincial Park on day of CBC. Photo: Basil Conlin



- *Cedar Waxwing*: 6 (absent in most years)
- *American Tree Sparrow*: 122 (well above the 10-year average of 18; count high is 218)
- *Dark-eyed Junco*: 134 (well above the 10-year average of 12 and near count high of 168)

#### Low Counts:

- *Ruffed Grouse*: 7 (below 10-year average of 15 and the count high of 77)
- *Rock Pigeon*: only a single flock of 10 (well below the 10-year average of 58 and count high of 89)
- *White-breasted Nuthatch*: 40 (well below the 10-year average of 80 and count high of 233)
- *European Starling*: 10 (below 10-year average of 26 and count high of 114)

#### Winter Finches:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • <i>Purple Finch</i> : 2   | <i>American Goldfinch</i> : 103                                 |
| • <i>Pine Siskin</i> : 114  | <i>Evening Grosbeak</i> : 2                                     |
| • <i>Red Crossbill</i> : 21 | <i>White-winged Crossbill</i> : 8 including singing individuals |

#### Notable Misses:

- *Snow Bunting*: recorded most years (has only been missed 5 times)

#### Total Count Results:

Ruffed Grouse 7, Wild Turkey 40, Bald Eagle 7, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Golden Eagle 1, Rock Dove 10, Mourning Dove 9, Barred Owl 1, Downy Woodpecker 25, Hairy Woodpecker 39, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker 11, Gray Jay 1, Blue Jay 206, American Crow 4, Common Raven 42, Black-capped Chickadee 641, Red-breasted Nuthatch 146, White-breasted Nuthatch 40, Brown Creeper 17, Golden-crowned Kinglet 32, American Robin 2, European Starling 10, Cedar Waxwing 6, American Tree Sparrow 122, Dark-eyed Junco 134, Purple Finch 2, Red Crossbill 41, White-winged Crossbill 8, Pine Siskin 114, American Goldfinch 103, and Evening Grosbeak 2.



A Downy Woodpecker on day of CBC showing nictitating membrane (third eyelid). Photo: Basil Conlin

The count circle (including the 6 areas) can be viewed at the following link:

<https://maps.google.ca/maps/ms?msid=217208700112631695001.0004d125bfd0d20adc5de&msa=0&ll=44.660839,-77.950058&spn=0.2525,0.676346>

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## From the Archives: Bald Eagle – A Progress Report

By Doug Sadler, From 'The Orchid', February 1993, Vol 38, No. 2

Numbers of sightings of one or more Bald Eagles on the river near the Riverview Zoo in the last week of January raises a number of questions. This is still quite a rare bird in our area, though in early settlement days, and before, it was a widespread resident of our lake country. The decline was partly due to interference with nest sites, deliberate killing, and (later) pesticides.

The population seems now to be healthy and increasing. Over the past ten years, and possibly before, a winter wintering group has been based in the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve and Petroglyphs Park, feeding largely on dead deer, but also on fish hunted below High Falls. Like other large birds, the eagle takes several years to reach adulthood and passes through several different plumages.



The increasing numbers seem to have put pressure on food resources and the eagles have been gradually spreading out to new hunting areas in the Kawartha Lakes, including the open water below dams, such as at Burleigh Falls. Lake Katchewanooka, largely the result of damming of the river at Lakefield, often has open water and eagles have been seen regularly in the past two or three winters. Muskrats seem to have been a prey item.

One or more birds have recently been patrolling the Otonabee and many residents have admired eagles including students at TASS who have watched from classroom windows. Food may include unhealthy ducks.

The three Bald Eagles seen in Harvey Township (now part of Trent Lakes) are part of a regular pattern and seem to represent an extension of the wintering area.

To date [1992] there is no evidence of renewed nesting in this area, but there are some early indications and the situation is being monitored quite closely. Keep tuned. Report any sightings.

### Editorial Comment by Martin Parker: An Update 26 Years Later

Bald Eagle populations have continued to increase in Peterborough County and throughout the southern part of the province since Doug Sadler wrote the above noted progress report.

Bald Eagles are now an active nesting species in the County. The initial nesting in over a hundred years occurred along the western shore of Lake Katchewanooka in 2003. The nesting was discovered by Jerry Ball and Drew Monkman on March 16, 2003. They spotted an adult Bald Eagle incubating in a former Osprey nest. This nesting was successful. This was the first known nesting of Bald Eagles in Peterborough County in over 100 years.

A pair of Bald Eagles have nested in this location annually since then. The tree which contained the nest platform has since fallen. The Bald Eagles constructed a nest in an adjacent pine tree. This nest is easily observed from Young's Point Road and is familiar with many birders in the region.

In recent years, reports of nesting Bald Eagles have been received from six different locations in Peterborough County ranging from Pigeon Lake to Stoney Lake to the eastern end of Rice Lake.

Winter populations have increased over the years. On the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count last December, a total 15 Bald Eagles were seen, a new count high. The average number of Bald Eagles over the past five counts was 5 individuals. On the Petroglyphs CBC in December 2016, the participants spotted a total of 7 Bald Eagles, slightly above the ten-year average of 5.9.

The Bald Eagle is now a year-round resident of Peterborough County and birders and others are observing them regularly. Watch for them while you are out birding.



Adult (left) and juvenile (right) Bald Eagles on nest in Selwyn Twp, Peterborough Cty on June 10, 2016

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is **Friday, March 23**.

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

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



## Nature-viewing in the Kawarthas: Where to Go - Part 3

Submitted by Drew Monkman

### Areas South of Peterborough

This month, I will conclude my exploration of some of the best nature-viewing areas in the Kawarthas – and beyond - by looking at destinations located mostly south of Peterborough. Almost all of these areas offer excellent opportunities to see a wide range of species and not just those mentioned in the highlights.

For a detailed list of what bird species can be found in the more popular destinations (e.g., Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary, Rice Lake - Pengelly Landing, Presqu'ile Provincial Park) go to [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). Click on Explore Data, Explore a Region, type in Peterborough (or another county such as Northumberland), 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.

**Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary:** Located on north-west corner of Co. Rd. 21 and 28. *Highlights:* Waterfowl and shorebirds, especially during spring and fall migration. A spotting scope is necessary, given the distance between the fence and the pond.

**Millbrook Valley Trails:** Take Distillery St. south from King St. in Millbrook and park at trailhead near the millpond. I recommend the Baxter Creek Trail. *Highlights:* Check the millpond for ducks, geese and shorebirds. The Baxter Creek Trail (3 km) traverses a diversity of habitat types including cedar-hemlock forest, extensive wetland (boardwalks) and meadows, each with its representative birds and plants. This is a great trail for wetland flowers, shrubs and birds. Finish up with coffee and a bite to eat at the Pastry Peddler Café in downtown Millbrook!

**Millbrook Penitentiary Property:** Drive west on King St. from downtown Millbrook until just past Queen St. /Huston St. You will see a road on your right, which leads up to the former site of the Millbrook Penitentiary. The public is allowed to access the area, despite what the signs might say. Drive or walk up to the top. You can then cross the field to the north to reach a maple-beech forest. *Highlights:* 360-degree view from top of hill. Great for stargazing. Wildflowers in forest in spring.

**Pleasant Point Rd:** From Co. Rd. 21, take 4th Line east. *Highlights:* Screech owls possible all year round in wooded areas along road. Large variety of warblers such as Northern Waterthrush and Black-throated Blue in the low, swampy forests.

**Gravel Pit Conservation Area:** Located at south end of Crowley Line, which is one line east of Bensfort Rd. Park where Crowley turns west and becomes Rosa Landing Road. Walk in along unmaintained road allowance, which continues south. Climb over gate on left. Continue until you arrive at a large open area with ponds. *Highlights:* Good general birding, shorebirds possible at ponds during migration

**Scriven Road:** Located one line east of Bailieboro, between 4th Line and the north shore of Rice Lake. *Highlights:* A good place to look for Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Snowy Owls and Red-tailed Hawks in winter. Field birds like Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks in spring and summer.

**Rice Lake (Pengelly Point to Hiawatha):** Take Co. Rd. 2 east from Bailieboro. Turn south at Scriven Rd. and follow to Pengelly Point on Rice Lake. Check lake in all directions, including lakeshore to the west. Further east, good views of the lake can also be had from Bb



Gravel Pit Conservation Area - August 2017.  
Photo: Drew Monkman

Beach Rd., Perrin Point Rd., Southview Dr., Wood Duck Dr. and from Harrick Point in Hiawatha First Nation. *Highlights:* Rafts of migrating ducks in early spring (late March through early April) and in late fall. Watch for Lesser Scaup, Greater Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser and sometimes Redhead, Canvasback and White-winged Scoter. This whole area is excellent for Osprey, as well, with many active nests along roads.

**Bensfort Bridge:** Follow Co. Rd. 2 to where it crosses the Otonabee River. *Highlights:* Ducks and gulls in winter and spring. Watch for Great Black-backed Gulls as well as white-winged gulls such as the Glaucous and Iceland.

**Herkimer Point Road:** Turn east off Co. Rd. 31 at Hiawatha First Nation. *Highlights:* Excellent birding in spring, summer and fall in a variety of habitats, including deciduous forest, swamp and marsh. Good views of Rice Lake from the end of the road, where there is a nice woodlot with wildflowers such as Wild Geranium and Wild Columbine. Bird species to expect in marshes include Virginia Rail, American Bittern, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat and Swamp Sparrow.

**Mather's Corners:** Located east of Drummond Line, just south of Co. Rd. 2 at Mather's Corners. *Highlights:* Ducks, geese and sometimes swans in early spring in flooded cornfield. In years when there is sufficient meltwater, you can often find Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler and sometimes even Snow Geese and Tundra Swans. The birds are best viewed with a spotting scope from Drummond Line. If you carry on south to the end of the road, there is a heronry with large numbers of nesting Great Blue Herons. The fields near the heronry are often good for Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks.



Geese, ducks and gulls in flooded field at Mather's Corners in early April. Photo: Drew Monkman

**Indian River at Keene:** Large wetland located just east of village. Explore north and south of the bridge by canoe. *Highlights:* Typical wetland plants, amphibians, reptiles and birds such as Virginia Rail, Barn Swallow, Swamp Sparrow, etc.

**Indian River at Warsaw:** At village of Warsaw, take Rock Rd. east about 1 km to Back Dam Park. You can look for birds from the parking lot or explore the river by canoe or kayak. *Highlights:* Good general birding in spring and early summer. Common Nighthawks migrate south over the river in late afternoon and evening, from mid-August through early September. 50 or more possible on a good evening.

**Harold Town Conservation Area:** Located east of Peterborough at 2611 Old Norwood Rd., between Burnham and Drummond Lines. Although this is primarily a mountain biking area, the trails also offer good birding, especially in the early morning before the trails become busy. *Highlights:* Good general birding. Interesting old-field species such as Field Sparrow, American Woodcock, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark.

**River Road -** Take 2nd Line of Asphodel south from Co. Rd. 2. River Rd. is first road on left. Follow across to 6th of Asphodel. *Highlights:* Beautiful old forest with impressive mature trees, diverse ferns, abundant spring wildflowers and sometimes birds like Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpecker. Louisiana Waterthrush has been found here.

**Trans-Canada Trail East** (Peterborough to Hastings and beyond): Section between Drummond and David Fife Lines can be very good, especially where it borders the wetland east of Nelson Road. *Highlights:* Excellent birding and butterfly -watching from early May through early fall. Watch for Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies east of Nelson Road where Turtlehead wildflowers grow.



### **A little further afield...**

**Ballyduff Trails (McKim-Garsonnin Property):** Take Hwy 7A to Hwy 35. Head south to Ballyduff Rd. Turn right and continue to Wild Turkey Rd. Park at 851 Ballyduff Rd. Parking is also available at 1020 Gray Rd. (South Pond Farms), located north of Wild Turkey Rd. The 260-acre Garsonnin property is a conservation easement agreement with the Kawartha Land Trust. *Highlights:* Explore five trails winding through meadow, forest, wetland and a tall grass prairie restoration project. Go to [Kawarthalandtrust.org](http://Kawarthalandtrust.org) to print off a trail map and to watch a video of the property.

**Fleetwood Creek Natural Area:** Continue on Ballyduff Rd. past Wild Turkey Rd. and watch for signs. *Highlights:* 380-hectare property located within the Oak Ridges Moraine. Trails take you through mature lowland forests, meadows and steep valleys. You will find a diverse flora, interesting geological formations and impressive fall foliage.

**Nonquon Sewage Lagoons:** Located on Scugog Line 8, east of Highway 12, north of Port Perry. *Highlights:* Diverse and sometimes abundant migrating shorebirds in spring, summer and fall. Close-up views. N.B. a ten-dollar permit is necessary. Obtain at Durham Region Transfer Site at 1623 Reach Road, Port Perry. Call 905-985-7346 ext. 112 for more information.

**Ganaraska Forest** – From Peterborough, take Co. Rd. 28 south to Co. Rd. 9. Turn right and continue through Garden Hill (check the pond for waterfowl) to just past Elizabethville. Turn right at Cold Springs Camp Rd. and continue 3 km to Ganaraska Forest Centre. *Highlights:* Located on the Oak Ridges Moraine, the 12,000-acre Ganaraska Forest is one of southern Ontario's largest blocks of forested land. There are hundreds of kilometres of trails with a good selection of woodland birds including both northern and southern species. Watch and listen for Hooded Warbler, Hermit Thrush and Scarlet Tanager.

**Peter's Woods Provincial Nature Reserve** - From Co. Rd. 28 at Bewdley, travel east on Co. Rd. 9 and Co. Rd. 29 to McDonald Rd. Turn right (south) on McDonald Rd. to the reserve. *Highlights:* Magnificent old-growth forest with huge maples, beech, ash, pine, etc. Diverse ferns (e.g., Maidenhair), orchids (e.g., Showy Orchis), spring wildflowers and birds. Southern species such as Louisiana Waterthrush have shown up here.

**Second Marsh** - McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve - Take Highway 401 east towards Oshawa. Take exit 419. Turn left onto Bloor St. E, then left onto Regional Road 56 and left onto Colonel Sam Dr. Follow to Reserve entrance on right. *Highlights:* 137-hectare provincially significant coastal wetland; important breeding and migratory stopover area for birds; Numerous trails, boardwalks, interpretive signs, viewing platforms with excellent opportunities to see shorebirds, waterfowl, field birds, raptors, etc. Scope will come in handy. For more information, including where to park, Google "Friends of Second Marsh".

**Cranberry Marsh** - Take Highway 401 east towards Whitby. Exit at Brock St. (exit 410). Go south 0.5 km to Victoria St. (eastern extension of Bayly). Turn right, go 3.2 km to Hall's Rd. Turn left, and follow to roadside parking area at pathway. Leads to platform over the marsh. *Highlights:* Great spot for waterfowl (both in marsh and along the lakeshore), owls, migrant songbirds. Excellent hawk-watching in fall. Especially mid-September for Broad-winged Hawks.

**Cobourg Harbour** – From Exit 474 on Highway 401, go south on Division St. (Highway 45) to east pier. *Highlights:* A great place to see wintering and migrant gulls, ducks and sometimes Snowy Owls. October to April is best. Migrant shorebirds often show up along the west side. Further lake views can be had from the



Fall hawk-watch at Cranberry Marsh. Photo: Drew Monkman



foot of D'Arcy St. where more gulls and waterfowl often loiter. Flat rocks here contain fossils. Watch for Red-necked Grebes in early April.

**Port Hope Harbour:** Take Co. Rd. 28 south from Peterborough to Port Hope where it becomes Ontario St. Follow south to Mill St. and to harbour. *Highlights:* Most of the common wintering ducks can be found here. Snowy Owl, Glaucous and Iceland gulls are regular winter visitors.

**Ganaraska River - Corbett's Dam:** Follow Co. Rd. 28 to first set of traffic lights south of Highway 401. Go west on Molson St. and turn right at Cavan St. Follow to Corbett's Dam where the fish ladder is located. *Highlights:* In April, watch Rainbow Trout making the run upstream to spawn. In September, Chinook Salmon – some up to 30 or 40 pounds – can be seen jumping up the ladder and waiting in the hundreds in the water below the dam. Don't forget your camera! Google "Ganaraska River - Northumberland Tourism" for more information.

**Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area:** From Campbellford, go south on Co. Rd. 30 to Loomis Rd., south of Codrington. Turn right and follow to conservation area. *Highlights:* A wide variety of ecological communities including oak savannah, wetland and mature mixed forest. There is also a well-established bluebird population. A 4-hectare tallgrass prairie site is being restored.

**Presqu'île Provincial Park** – Located south of Brighton on Lake Ontario. Follow signs. *Highlights:* The 10-km-long peninsula jutting into Lake Ontario is a migrant trap for many species of birds. Waterbirds and shorebirds migrate through in large numbers. Presqu'île has unique plant communities of over 700 species including False Dragonhead, Grass-of-Parnassus and Kalm's Lobelia. It is also a staging area for migrant Monarch butterflies in late summer. Amenities include trails, marsh boardwalk, bird sightings board and nature centre. Special event weekends throughout year including Waterfowl Viewing Weekend in March and the Monarchs and Migrants Weekend at Labour Day. Subscribe to Ontbirds Bird Alert for Fred Helleiner's weekly summary of bird sightings at the Park. The summary, along with other notable sightings in Ontario, can also be found on the ONTBIRDS Archives at [ontbirds.ca/pipermail/birdalert\\_ontbirds.ca/](http://ontbirds.ca/pipermail/birdalert_ontbirds.ca/) If you go to Presqu'île, be sure to check out the Brighton Constructed Wetland for ducks, swallows, shorebirds, Marsh Wren, Common Gallinule and many other species. It is located at 211 Prince Edward St. (at junction of Harbour St.) about 2 km east of the park entrance.



Birders on beach at Presqu'île Provincial Park - OFO Conference 2012. Photo: Drew Monkman

*Editor's Note: The first two installments of this three-part series were published in the November and December issues of The Orchid which can be downloaded from [peterboroughnature.org/the-orchid](http://peterboroughnature.org/the-orchid).*

## PFN Tracking Report

Submitted by Don McLeod

Members from the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) went tracking on the John de Pencier trail at the Trent University Nature Area. The two outings took place on January 13 & 14 with eleven trackers taking part. Species identified by tracks or sign included Red Squirrel, Ruffed Grouse, Snowshoe Hare, Porcupine, Raccoon, 3 Shrew sp (likely Masked, Smoky and Northern Short-tailed), 1 Mouse sp (likely White-footed), Ermine, Red Fox, White-tailed Deer, Eastern Gray Squirrel, American Mink and Coyote. The 14 species of mammals is a record high for one of our tracking outings; normally we count between 6 and 10 species. Other than Ruffed Grouse tracks, bird observations were low. Bird species identified by sound included: Common Raven, Blue Jay and American Robin.

Over the past few years of walking the John de Pencier trail at Trent, this walk showed the greatest activity by small mammals, in particular Shrews. The weather played a role in this change in activity. Normally when the snow is deep, small mammals concentrate their activities at ground level with the snow providing cover from predators and protection from the cold air above the snow. But a period of warm temperatures and rain melted and settled the snow to a shallow depth which then froze into a hard layer. A light snowfall on top of that provided a perfect canvas to register all tracks. Because the small mammals could not use their network of tunnels, which had collapsed, they were traveling on risky routes at the snow surface. From a tracking point of view this provided an unusual opportunity to observe many small mammal tracks.

Another interesting observation was Red Squirrel middens. Observing the middens was not unusual. It was our attempt this time to identify the tree cones that the Red Squirrels were feeding on. Middens are the "garbage" left behind by a Squirrel when they take apart a cone to feed on the seeds. By carefully inspecting the middens and comparing that to the components of cones harvested from the trees, we can conclude that these Red Squirrels were feeding on cones from both Eastern White Cedar and White Spruce.



Raccoon tracks on log. Photo: Don McLeod



Left: Juvenile female White-winged Scoter at Lakefield on Jan 1. Right: Red-necked Grebe in Otonabee river below Lakefield on Jan. 17. Photos: Dave Milsom

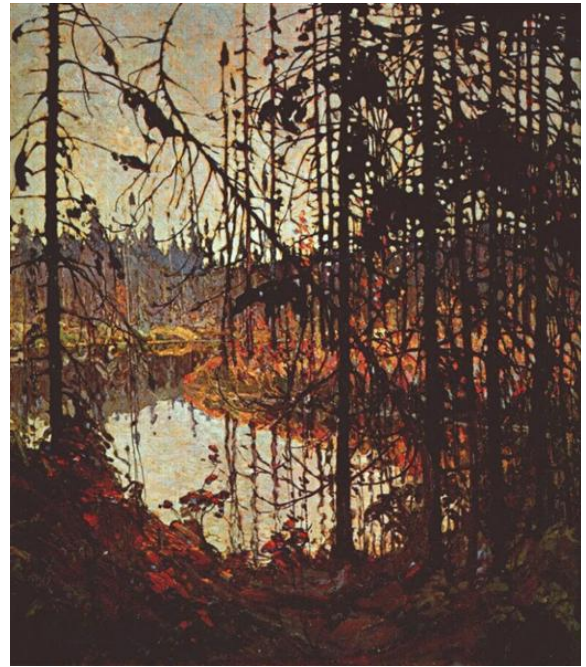
## Wilderness Calling

There's a strong yearning deep down inside of me.  
 Sometimes I can find relief inside an art gallery.  
 An arousing painting like Tom Thomson's 'Northern River'  
 Has the power to raise goose bumps, and make me quiver.  
 It compels one to journey onwards along a quiet creek  
 Where amongst wetlands and woodlands wild voices speak.

What awaits the adventurous canoeist just around the curve?  
 The scene is so enchanting, it calms almost every nerve.  
 It appears as if the black spruce with its towering spire  
 Can lift our burdens skyward, and our spirits higher.  
 But this remedy is only fleeting; I need the real thing.  
 Only the feel of real wilderness can make my heart sing.

The gurgling water around my paddle as it swirls  
 Can release wound-up tension as my stress unfurls ...  
 If I could launch my canoe into such a peaceful scene  
 Where wild animals thrive, and few men have ever been,  
 I'd commune with Nature, and try to learn her ways.  
 Is there a more satisfying way for one to spend his days?

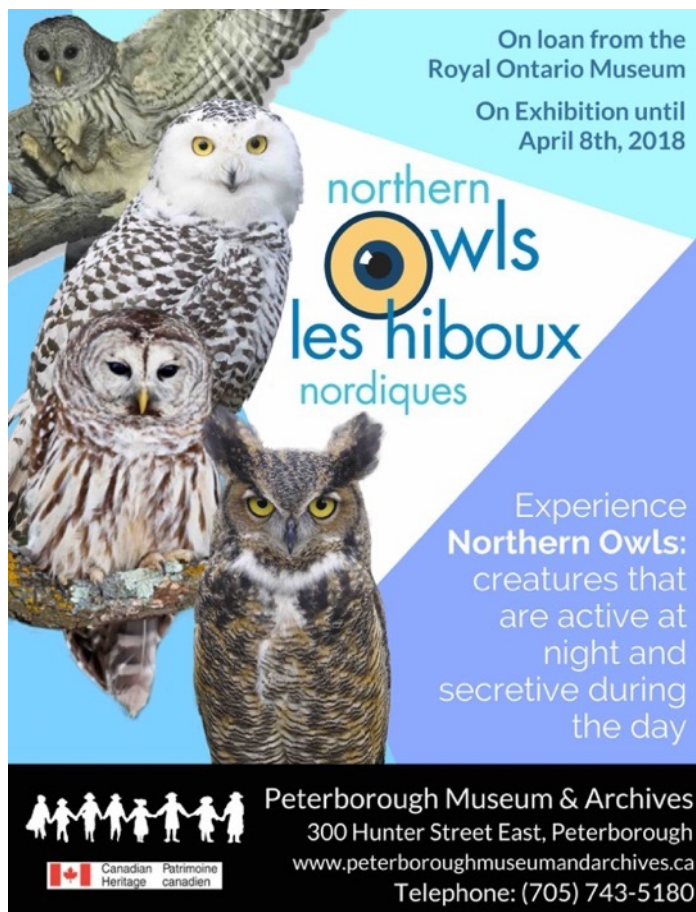
Murray Arthur Palmer, 2016



Northern River painting by Tom Thomson

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### Peterborough County Stewardship Speaker Series

Fleming College Sutherland Campus (Peterborough)  
Whetung Theatre (Room B3100) from 7 to 8 p.m.



#### March 22: Valerie VonZeuben, Black Terns

Val von Zuben is a Wildlife Research Technician with the MNRF Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section. Her talk will focus on the Black Tern, a formerly common marsh-breeding bird that is experiencing steep population declines across its range. She will discuss the Black Tern's vulnerability and adaptability to some of these dynamic stressors and explore potential management strategies that might improve nesting prospects at the local level.

#### April 12: Lisa Erdle, Microplastics in the Great Lakes

Lisa is a PhD student in the Rochman Lab and researches the effects of microplastics on fish in the Great Lakes. Lisa's talk will focus on microfibers, one of the most common types of microplastics and their impacts on fish in the Great Lakes through physical and chemical processes.

#### May 17: Lesley Hale, Bats

Lesley Hale has worked at the MNRF in Peterborough for 10 years. Most of that time she worked in science where she coordinated and conducted research on bats across the province in relation to wind turbines and white-nose syndrome. She was involved in surveying the province for new bat hibernacula and summer roosting colonies. Lesley's talk will focus on the status of bats in Ontario.



Saw-whet Owl at Harper Park on Jan. 28.  
Photo: Dave Milsom



Snowy Owl on Scriven Line on Jan. 16.  
Photo: Michael Gillespie



Barred Owl at Rotary Park on Dec. 30.  
Photo: Basil Conlin





## The Orchid Diary

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

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

Weather	Winter weather was highly variable during the period with periods of cold temperatures and snow followed by periods of above-average temperatures.
Jan 1	Noteworthy sightings of the OFO outing lead by Dave Milsom & Matthew Tobey as reported by Jerry Ball include 2 <b>White-throated Sparrows</b> , 1 <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> and <b>Snow Buntings</b> on Shrive Line. Along Cty Road 2, there were 4 <b>Coyotes</b> in one field along with a <b>Wild Turkey</b> .
Jan 2	Dave Milson reported the female <b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b> is still coming to his yard on Scollard Drive. It initially arrived in December 2017. Iain Rayner had an <b>Iceland Gull</b> in the Little Lake area. Glenn Berry had a <b>Brown Thrasher</b> on Douro Road. A <b>Common Grackle</b> is still visiting the feeders of Kathy & Martin Parker in the city. It had disappeared in late January.
Jan 4	Chris Risley, Erica Nol & Ben Taylor spotted a <b>Rusty Blackbird</b> visiting a feeder in the area of Assumption Road/Bensford Road.
Jan 8	Sue Paradisis watched a <b>Cooper's Hawk</b> capture a <b>Mourning Dove</b> at her feeder. The hawk took about an hour to consume the dove.
Jan 9	Jerry Ball & Dave Milsom found and photographed a <b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b> visiting a feeder in the Crowes Landing area. Seen by others during the following week. Scott McKinlay spotted a <b>White-winged Scoter</b> with <b>Common Goldeneye</b> on river in Lakefield. Seen by others over the next few days. <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> arrived with 1 individual off Little Lake by Chris Risley and 1 off Edgewater Blvd by Iain Rayner. Sightings of up to 4 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> were regular from the Little Lake area and Lock 19 during balance of period by many different observers.
Jan 10	Ryan Hill reported a <b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b> in the entrance area of Petroglyphs Provincial Park. Seen by others during the balance of the period. Chris Risley & Erica Nol found 4 <b>White-winged Crossbills</b> at the entrance area of Petroglyphs Provincial Park. Reported by other during balance of month.
Jan 14	A <b>Snowy Owl</b> was spotted on the barge on Little Lake by Warren Dunlop & Janet Kelly and many other observers. Not present the following day.
Jan 16	Michael Gillespie observed a <b>Snowy Owl</b> along Scriven Line which was seen by many other observes. He also reported that <b>Red-winged Blackbirds</b> are at his feeders.
Jan 17	Warren Dunlop found a <b>Northern Pintail</b> in the area of the Peterborough Marina on Little Lock. Seen by many until late February from Millennium Park south to Lock 19. Jerry Ball & Dave Milsom had a <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> on the Otonabee River just south of Lakefield.
Jan 20	Ted & Marion Vale watched a <b>River Otter</b> on the Otonabee River just north of the Sawyer's Creek Lock (Lock 25). Brendan Boyd & Alexandra Israel found a <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> at Lang Village. Ken Burrell had a <b>Canada (Gray) Jay</b> on the Nordic Ski Trails near Haltain.
Jan 21	Scott Gibson had 2 <b>Mute Swans</b> on the Trent River just west of Hastings. Rene Gareau heard and located 2 <b>Great Horned Owls</b> in Harper Park and 1 <b>American Robin</b> as well.
Jan 23	Marty Obbard had a <b>Common Grackle</b> at his feeder in the Lakehurst area. Jerry Ball noted that the <b>Bald Eagle</b> is on the nest platform on the west side of Katchewanooka Lake.

Jan 24	Basil Conlin located 2 calling <b>Northern Saw-whet Owls</b> in Harper Park seen by many others in subsequent evenings.
Jan 29	Jerry Ball had a <b>Glaucous Gull</b> at Trent University.
Late January	Paul and Ann Elliott observed a <b>River Otter</b> on the Otonabee with a fish. It had the fish trapped on the ice and then it took it into the water where it ate it.
Feb 7	Bruce Kidd reported the presence of <b>Cedar Waxwings</b> and 2 <b>Purple Finches</b> east of the hamlet of Douro. Don Finigan watched a <b>Cooper's Hawk</b> eat a <b>Rock Dove</b> in the west end of the city. Kathy Parker had a <b>Coyote</b> in the backyard in the evening.
Feb 10	Martin Parker spotted two <b>Muskrats</b> on the ice along the Otonabee between Trent U and Lakefield.
Feb 14	At the PFN meeting: Jerry Ball had 40 plus <b>American Robins</b> in the County and a <b>Bald Eagle</b> eating a fish on the ice off Little Lake Cemetery. On Pigeon Lake Road (City of Kawartha Lakes) between Fieldside and Post Rd, Lynn Smith and Scott McKinlay had 3 <b>Snowy Owls</b> . Phil Shaw had a <b>Bald Eagle</b> in the Marsdale/Ashburnham area. A <b>Muskrat</b> was on the ice of the Otonabee near the bus barns by Marie Duchesneau and John Fautley and Kathryn Sheridan had one in the Lakefield Marsh. Tobin Rowland reported there were 2 <b>Northern Pintails</b> and <b>Common Goldeneyes</b> at Lock 19.
Feb 15	Mike Burrell had the first <b>Red-winged Blackbirds</b> (2 individuals) of the year along Hwy 7 between Television Road and Hwy 28. Seen by others during the next few days.
Feb 16	Ryan Hill & Dan Chronowic had a <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> on the Otonabee near the zoo.
Feb 19	A <b>White-throated Sparrow</b> was spotted in the Millbrook area by Jeff Stewart. Mathew Tobey had a <b>Song Sparrow</b> in Harper Park.
Feb 21	Lynn Smith observed a <b>Virginia Opossum</b> cross her yard in the Cavan area. Chris Risley found a <b>Ring-necked Duck</b> on the river at Auburn Reach Park.
Feb 23	Bruce Kidd reported that <b>Red-winged Blackbirds</b> and <b>American Robins</b> have returned to his farm in the Douro area. In the Keene area, King Baker had a small group of <b>Horned Larks</b> .

## Obituary for Bryan John Whitfield

(November 1, 1944 to February 20, 2018)

Retired Professor of Mathematics and Technology at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Dear husband of Mary Beth Aspinall, beloved father of Julia and Margot (Valentim Vieira) and loving grandfather of Lucas and John.

Bryan was a long-term member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists and regularly attended meetings and outings. He was funny, loving and non-judgmental. He accepted and enjoyed a diverse circle of people with all their quirks and foibles. In the winter of 2014, Bryan and Mary Beth had a Virginia Opossum visiting their residence, which was featured in the Orchid article 'Virginia Opossum Visitor' by Mary Beth Aspinall and Bryan Whitfield in The Orchid, Volume 60, Volume 3, April 2016.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, March 10 at 2 p.m. at Emmanuel United Church with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. Arrangements with Highland Park Funeral Centre. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice if you wish.

More mammals, and a moth:



Eastern Chipmunk photo by Martin Parker



Muskrat photo by Martin Parker



A native mouse (either a Deer Mouse or a White-footed Mouse – a good look at the teeth would confirm ID, according to Martin Parker). Photo: Robert Pratten



Porcupine photo by Robert Pratten



Woodchuck (a.k.a. groundhog) photo by Martin Parker



White-blotched Heterocampa moth in July 2017 at Algonquin Provincial Park. Photo: Basil Conlin





# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

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

## membership application form

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

### CONTACT

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

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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

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

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

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

### MAIN INTERESTS

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

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

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

### I am interested in the following:

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

### AGE GROUP

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

<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: \_\_\_\_\_