January/February 2019 Volume 65, No. 1 peterboroughnature.org

# Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know 

◆ Appreciate 

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Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



White-tailed deer in the winter woods. Photo: Toby Rowland

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#### Welcome new PFN members!

- Reem Ali
- Don & Victoria Koppin
- Jane Kroes
- Lucie Blouin
- James Rafter
- Robert & Kathleen Clysdale
- Rolf Mantei
- Ingrid Knor
- Isa Knor & Mike Prophet









Some photos taken by Toby Rowland during the 2018 Christmas Bird Count (Area 9). Clockwise from left: Downy Woodpecker, juvenile Cooper's Hawk, Northern Cardinal, and Pine Grosbeak.

Front cover: If you would like to see more of Toby Rowland's nature photography and perhaps make a purchase, please visit his website: tobypcr.wixsite.com/naturephotoaday

|  | PFN Coming Events   |
|--|---|
| January to March   | Wildlife Tracking Outings   |
| Dates, times and locations TBD                                 | PFN member and expert tracker, Don McLeod, will lead one or more outings during the months of January 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.   |
|  | 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.  |
| Friday, Jan. 18  | Join us for PFN's 78th Annual General Meeting   |
| Doors open at 5 p.m. Peterborough                              | 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!   |
| Curling Club<br>2195 Lansdowne St                              | Tickets are just \$40 for the evening, and can be reserved by contacting Lynn Smith at 705-944-5599 or email smithfam@nexicom.com   |
|  | <ul> <li>Doors open at 5:00 pm; meal begins at 6:00 pm</li> <li>Meeting at 7:00 pm, followed by raffle/silent auction at 7:30 pm</li> <li>Keynote speaker, Annamarie Beckel, begins at 8:00 pm</li> </ul>   |
|  | Check out the AGM poster on page 24 for further details.  |
| Sunday, Jan. 27  | An Introduction to eBird  |
| 1 p.m.  Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road     | 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 and 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. |
|  | This workshop will be at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre off Pioneer Road, on the Trent University Campus. Bring your laptop or other mobile device to use during the workshop.  |
| Wednesday, Feb. 13   | Monthly Meeting: Love is in the Hir   |
| 7:30 p.m.  Camp Kawartha Environment Centre  2505 Pioneer Road | For this talk, Susan Chow will enhance our St. Valentine's season with a photographic exploration of the mysterious worlds of pollen and spores. She will show us how to collect and identify pollen, help us pronounce palynology, biostratigraphy, paleoecology and other pollen-talk, and she will demonstrate how pollen and spores enhance archeology, forensics, human health and the honey industry.   |

|  | PFN Coming Events   |
|--|---|
|  | Susan Chow is a Lab Demonstrator, Instructor and Technician in the Trent University Biology Department. She teaches field and lab courses on Native Wild Plants, Ecology and Limnology.   |
| Sunday, March 3  | Returning Waterfowl on the Otonabee   |
| 1:00 p.m. in the<br>Parking Lot for the<br>Peterborough Zoo  | 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 there will be Common Goldeneyes 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 will be again leading this late winter outing.                  |
|  | 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.   |
| Wednesday, Mar. 13   | Monthly Meeting: Guest speaker TBA  |
| Sunday, March 31   | Mergansers and Friends on Rice Lake   |
| 10 a.m. at Country<br>Style on Lansdowne<br>East at Old Keene<br>Road                              | 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 should be present. Some early returning raptors such as Northern Harrier, Osprey and Turkey Vulture may be seen. Martin Parker with the assistance of Steve Paul, will be leading this spring outing. |
|  | 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.  |
|  | Accessibility - Easy with travel between various viewing locations  |
| Saturday, April 6  | Quest for the Canada Jay  |
| Meet in the north<br>parking lot at the<br>Peterborough Zoo,<br>Water Street North<br>at 7:00 a.m. | The Canada Jay officially relinquished its former name (Gray Jay) and resumed its even earlier name (Canada Jay) last year. It was officially recommended as Canada's national bird by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. This special outing will be an all day trip to Ontario's oldest Provincial Park: Algonquin. The focus of the trip will be to look for Canada Jays and other birds such as Spruce Grouse and winter finches. Early spring migrants are possible. Leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.  |

## **PFN Coming Events**

This trip has an early departure in order to maximize the time spent in the park. A stop will be made in Bancroft on the way to the park. A visit to the park's Visitor Centre will be included.

Meet in the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo, Water Street North at 7:00 a.m. Dress according to the weather forecast for the day of the outing and bring winter footwear. Bring your binoculars, camera, and packed lunch.

Accessibility - Easy to moderate depending on the depth of the remaining winter snow

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

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/

Activities are geared for ages 5 to 12, but kids of all ages are welcome (parents stay and participate). Our events are led by PFN members and individuals from other organizations in our community who volunteer to share their knowledge and skills with us. We also organize environmental stewardship activities for kids to get involved and inspired.

Not a PFN member yet? Child memberships are \$10 per year. Contact pfnjuniors@gmail.com for details.

#### Other Events of Interest

#### Feb. 15 to 18

#### The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a joint partnership between Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with Bird Studies Canada as the official Canadian partner. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages birdwatchers of all ages across North America in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day, or for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy - and it helps the birds!

It's as simple as counting the birds at a location near you, estimating how many birds you saw of each species, and filling out an online checklist on the Great Backyard Bird Count website. As the count progresses, you can visit the GBBC website to view results and share photographs. You can also enter the photo contest, win prizes, and share your experiences on the Facebook and Twitter social networks. E-mail gbbc@birdscanada.org for more information.

To read more about the GBBC and to find out how you can join, please visit: http://gbbc.birdcount.org/

## Membership Renewals Are Due

PFN memberships for 2018 expired on December 31. Memberships can be renewed at the Annual General Meeting on January 18, at any regular PFN meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month), or by mailing the application form at the back of the Orchid with a cheque to the PO Box address on the upper right hand corner of the form.

If you paid after September 1, you are paid up to the end of 2019. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact Jim Young by e-mail (jbyoung559@gmail.com) or phone (705-760-9397).

Orchid deliveries will continue until March.

#### **Bucket Draw and Silent Auction Donations**

If you have any items to donate for the bucket draw or silent auction to be held at our Annual General Meeting on January 18, you can contact Rene Gareau by e-mail at: rene.gareau@sympatico.ca or by phone at 705-741-4560 and arrangements will be made to pick up your donations. (Please note: Due to the required set-up time and limited table space available for the bucket draw and silent auction, we are asking you to please submit your donations no later than January 16. Any donations made after that date would be withheld for a future event.) Thanks again for your generosity in the past. We look forward to another successful and fun event at our upcoming AGM!

## Peterborough Field Naturalist Board OPPORTUNITY!

Do you have financial expertise with skills in bookkeeping/accounting?

The Nominating Committee is seeking a volunteer member to join the Board and transition into the treasurer position.

We encourage you to come forward. We need YOU!

Questions about the position? Need more information about the job?

Please contact Lynn Smith 705-944-5599 or smithfam@nexicom.net

# Junior Peterborough Field Naturalists: Help Needed!

Hello parents! The PFN has an active Junior Naturalists program thanks to the many volunteers who have hosted events for us over the years. We're looking for your help in planning more fun kids' activities for 2019. This is a great way to get your own kids out learning about nature from talented and knowledgeable people in our community, while helping to keep the program going for others. Are you interested in hosting an event or taking on a program planning role? If you're wondering about the level of commitment / time required, it's up to you! Please reach out to Lara at pfnjuniors@gmail.com if you have any questions or to offer an activity (e.g., birding, animal tracking, geo-caching, plant identification activity, you name it!).

#### President's Message: Open for Business and Cormorants

I want to draw your attention to two more issues of concern for naturalists in recent Ontario Government policies.



The government is proposing an unlimited open season on cormorants, under pressure from commercial and sports fisheries who imagine these birds will destroy all the fish in the province. Anyone with a hunting license would be allowed to kill 50 cormorants a day and would be allowed to leave the carcasses in the field. Cormorants are colony nesters, thus very vulnerable to attack during the nesting season.

Section 10 of the Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act (currently before the Legislature) would allow municipalities to pass "Open for Business" bylaws allowing certain proposed developments in their area to bypass many pieces of legislation designed to protect the environment. This would include endangered species, wetlands, river valleys, and the Greenbelt, to name but a few. Municipalities would be permitted to ignore the Provincial Planning Act and their own official plans.

The PFN is intending to submit letters of protest on these issues, and we urge you to consider doing so, both to the province and to your local municipalities.

For more information or to join one of their petitions, you can consult the Ontario Nature website, under the section "Take Action": ontarionature.org/take-action/advocate-for-nature.

Ted Vale, President

### **Ontario Nature Campaigns**

As stated on their website, "Ontario Nature is a conservation organization that protects wild species and spaces through conservation, education and public engagement." It is also an umbrella organization for naturalists' clubs in Ontario, such as the Peterborough Field Naturalists. One of the many things Ontario



Nature does is to organize letter-writing campaigns on important issues that affect nature, the environment and, by extension, us. The latest one (below, taken from the Ontario Nature website) is particularly pressing.

#### Privileging Big Business Over the People of Ontario

Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, was introduced by the Government of Ontario on December 6, 2018 to facilitate development across Ontario. If passed, this legislation would trump critical environmental protections for land, water and wildlife. Schedule 10 of the proposed legislation would allow municipalities to create an "open-for-business planning by-law" to circumvent planning requirements and land use restrictions under numerous provincial laws, plans and policies. Under the guise of cutting red tape, Schedule 10 would line the pockets of big business at the expense of our health, our natural heritage and our environmental rights.

It would undermine everything we have learned – sometimes under tragic circumstances – about how to protect our environment, and the health of people and communities across Ontario. We do not want another disaster like Walkerton.

From Thunder Bay to Toronto and Ottawa to Windsor, these changes would roll back progress that has been decades in the making. We will lose critical protections for water, wildlife and greenspace that are in the Planning Act, the Greenbelt Act, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, the Great Lakes Protection Act, the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, the Clean Water Act and more. This is not about unnecessary red tape or creating jobs – it is about generating short-term profits for the few at the long-term cost of the many. Additionally, despite the false narrative about jobs, Ontario's economy is strong – the unemployment rate is at its lowest level in 18 years, and the construction industry is also doing well.

"Open-for-business by-laws" can bypass legal requirements intended to ensure fair, consistent and transparent public engagement with land use decisions in our communities. They can present industry with a back door to develop properties in places like the Greenbelt. For example, these by-laws

- can be passed without any public notice or meetings,
- cannot be appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal,
- do not need to be consistent with municipal official plans,
- do not need to be consistent with Planning Act policy statements, and
- do not need to conform to provincial plans.

In other words, these "open-for-business by-laws" would turn back the clock on many years of good planning, community input and strong leadership from previous Progressive Conservative and Liberal governments. They would sidestep laws and policies intended to protect the long-term health and resilience of our communities and their residents by facilitating sprawling and unchecked development in areas that are home to sensitive natural features and the water resources upon which we all rely.

"Bill 66 represents an unprecedented and unacceptable attack on legislative provisions which currently safeguard environmental quality and public health and safety throughout Ontario." – Canadian Environmental Law Association

Please join us in urging the government to remove Schedule 10 from Bill 66. Please visit: https://ontarionature.good.do/schedule10/sign/

Editor's note: Also, until January 20, comments can be posted in the online Environmental Registry of Ontario under ERO# 013-4293: https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4293

#### Tracking ID Tips: Squirrel Family Tracks & Trails

#### Story & Photos submitted by Don McLeod

Tracks and trails made by squirrels have many similarities but they do have key differences that will help with species ID. Members of the Squirrel family (Sciuridae) that are common in central Ontario, with reference to winter tracking, include Eastern Gray Squirrel, Red Squirrel and Eastern Chipmunk. All three species have similar trail patterns but can be differentiated primarily based on mammal size, and track or trail measurements. As you would expect, the larger squirrels have greater track measurements. When viewed in photos without size reference, they look very similar.

Photos of track sets from three species of squirrels:



The main similarity among the three species is the pattern of four tracks in a trapezoid with two smaller front tracks side-by-side and slightly ahead of them the two larger hind tracks also side-by-side. Refer above to the photos of track sets which show a very similar track arrangement for all three species. The set of four tracks is usually distinct in shallow snow. But in deeper snow, the four tracks will merge into two oblong holes that are side-by-side. In very deep soft snow, squirrels will often avoid the snow route and stick to the trees. But when they do hit the snow, the trail can consist of a series of large "tracks". Each large "track" is basically the hole left in the snow each time the body lands, with all four legs and body sinking in to make one hole.

The most important measurement to make when identifying winter tracks for squirrels is trail width. Keep a ruler or tape measure handy so you can avoid guessing the measurement. Measure across the full width of the trail while perpendicular to the direction of travel. The trail width is measured from the

outside of the farthest right track to the outside of the farthest left track for the typical set of four tracks in a track set. Refer to the photo (right) of trail width measurement. (Can you ID the species? If not, keep reading!) The whole trail encompasses several track sets which may vary in configuration with slight variation in trail width. If I have the option, I usually take several trail width measurements over several track sets. I then use an average value after eliminating the outliers. If a squirrel has to stop suddenly and its feet splay outward, that would be a good example of an outlier.

The most common measurements for trail width are as follows: Eastern Gray Squirrel



= 5", Red Squirrel = 3.25, Eastern Chipmunk = 2.25". Of course the values will vary, and then you have to consider the likely ranges for these values. I have found that 4.5" to 5.5" is normal for Eastern Gray Squirrel with the occasional low of 4". For Red Squirrel 3" to 3.5" is normal with the occasional high of 4". A range of 2" to 2.5" is safe for Eastern Chipmunk.

The value of 4" for trail width can occur for both Eastern Gray and Red Squirrels. So if you observe this value, it is important to get an additional measurement or consider the habitat. If snow conditions permit, try to get a track measurement: this would be the width across an individual track left by one foot. The best would be a hind track measurement where hind tracks would show up clearly as the larger tracks in the track set. Hind track values of below 1" tend to be Red Squirrel and above 1" tend to

be Eastern Gray Squirrel. Without track measurements, you may have to consider habitat. Red Squirrels dominate in coniferous forests while Eastern Gray Squirrels dominate in deciduous forests.

Throughout the winter, Red Squirrel and Eastern Gray Squirrel tracks are very common. Eastern Chipmunks will be in their burrows for the winter but often emerge by late winter or early spring. March is the month when I observe most of my Chipmunk tracks. I have yet to observe or photograph Flying Squirrel tracks. But from what I have read, the measurements should be similar to Red Squirrel and there should be distinctive landing marks when Flying Squirrels glide from tree to ground. My impression so far is that they are not on the ground very often. The other distinctive member of the Squirrel family is the Woodchuck, but it is not commonly seen during the winter and hence tracks in snow are rare.

The trails for Eastern Gray Squirrel and Eastern Cottontail can occasionally be confused. The track set shown in the photo below looks like rabbit due to the overall triangle shape of the track set instead of a

typical trapezoid; but these tracks were in fact made by an Eastern Gray Squirrel. I make this claim with 100% certainty because I saw the squirrel! In similar fashion, rabbit track sets will sometimes take on the trapezoid pattern with the two smaller front feet side-by-side rather than one in front of the other. So what other clues can you use under these circumstances? The really easy clue is to look for little presents (scat) left by the Eastern Cottontail which is a regular feature along their trails and browsing areas. The other easy clue is to follow the trail. Squirrels usually begin and end at trees while rabbits stay on the ground. If track details are visible, a final clue is that squirrel hind tracks splay outwards while rabbit hind tracks point forward.



#### What's Happening With the Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship

#### From Posting on Camp Kawartha Website on October 29

One of Camp Kawartha's many community initiatives is the Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship collaboration. With over 50 organizations involved in its design and launch, the Pathway Project has entered into an exciting pilot phase this fall.



Children hatching and releasing Monarch butterflies; volunteers learning how to be nature mentors; Early Years educators learning nature songs, rhymes and stories for preschoolers – these have all happened this fall under the umbrella of launching the Pathway project in local centres.

The Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship is built around a series of 30 'Landmark' experiences that nurture caring, connection and responsibility for the wellbeing of each other and the world we share. It has generated a great deal of interest amongst educators, health professionals and environmentalists across North America, and it all started in Peterborough – under the leadership of Camp Kawartha!

Forty-seven elementary classrooms and several Early Years Centres have agreed to weave the Landmark activities into their programs this year. That's more than 1500 children and their families who will have memorable outdoor and community-linked experiences to foster physical and mental health, meet inspiring mentors and work on projects to enhance environmental health.

Our thanks to the good folks at Queen Elizabeth, Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph's and Millbrook South Cavan Elementary Schools, Compass Early Learning and Care, and Early ON Child and Family Centres for agreeing to pilot the project, and provide feedback to help fine-tune as we move forward. Many talented people have offered to support teachers as we work together to make these simple, but important experiences part of the culture of childhood, both at home and at school.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation and local donations are supporting this pilot phase, and we hope to expand next year. For more information, visit the project website, or contact Cathy Dueck at cathy@pathwayproject.ca

Editor's note: Quite a number of PFN members have volunteered to be nature mentors in this program.

#### Citizen Science Project: Reporting Wild Turkeys

#### Jenn Baici, B. Sc. MFC

I am a PhD student at Trent University in the Environmental and Life Sciences program focusing on the study of wild turkey social structure and behaviour.

One of my research goals is to determine the feasibility of deriving accurate population estimates for wild turkeys using citizen science data collected from platforms such as eBird and iNaturalist.

I will compare population estimates derived from eBird and iNaturalist with population estimates derived from conventional methods, such as road line transects and aerial surveys.



Wild Turkeys. Photo: Ken McKeen

Last winter (December 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018) I ran a pilot project in Peterborough County, to explore how we might be able to use data gathered by citizen scientists to predict wild turkey population size, and we received over 200 wild turkey observations!

This year we have expanded the project and are requesting wild turkey observations province-wide. This means that if you spot a wild turkey flock anywhere in Ontario from December 1, 2018 to March 31,

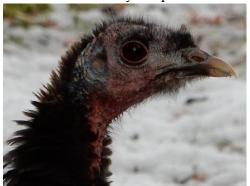


Photo: Ken McKeen

2019 and submit your sighting to eBird or iNaturalist, your observation will be used to help estimate how many wild turkeys call Ontario home.

This project aims to develop accurate methods to estimate wild turkey population size throughout Ontario. Turkeys were once extirpated from the province and have since been reintroduced. Populations have increased since reintroduction and wild turkeys are now legally harvested in many areas. As a reintroduced game species it is especially important that we monitor populations to ensure that we are harvesting sustainably.

# Trip Report: Rice Lake Birding on Nov. 25

#### Submitted by Don McLeod

The traditional Wave Riders outing for the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN), led by Martin Parker, attracted 16 members for some birding along the north shore of Rice Lake. Contrary to previous years, a severe cold snap in November resulted in an early freeze with ice covering the lake. There were no waves for the ducks to ride! A more recent mild spell and rain produced a layer of water on the ice which gave the illusion of open water. But as we watched a flock of Common Mergansers fly over the lake and land on the "water", it was quickly evident that they were standing on something solid: ice!

Our first stop was Pengelly Landing which was fairly quiet for birds. The usual flock of Canada Geese was there and in their normal spot just west of the Landing. A Beaver was spotted along the shore just past the Geese. Two Muskrats appeared out of nowhere; they must have found an opening in the ice created by the mild weather. Pengelly Landing bird counts were Canada Goose(130), Herring Gull(1), American Crow(2).

Hall Landing was next and this location produced the highest number of species. Bird feeders at nearby cottages were a big help in attracting more birds with Red-bellied Woodpecker being a nice find. Out over the lake a flock of



Above: Common Mergansers landing on Rice Lake. Below: Common Mergansers *standing* on Rice Lake.



Common Mergansers flew about and then landed on the ice which produced amazing reflections in the ice/water. Thanks to Scott and his good scope, a Red-tailed Hawk was spied from a great distance. Hall Landing bird counts were Canada Goose(40), Mallard(5), Common Merganser(40), Mourning Dove(8), Herring Gull(11), Red-tailed Hawk(1), Red-bellied Woodpecker(1), Downy Woodpecker(5), Blue Jay(3), American Crow(3), Black-capped Chickadee(8), White-breasted Nuthatch(1), House Finch(3), Dark-eyed Junco(6).

A brief stop at Bensfort Bridge found the following: Common Goldeneye(5), Common Merganser(1), Ring-billed Gull(1), Herring Gull(40). The trip wrapped up at Hiawatha which was really quiet for birds. This is where the spotting scopes were essential which allowed us to spot a Herring Gull and a Bald Eagle. In the day's most embarrassing moment, several of us were convinced that there was a large white bird on the ice about 2km away from us. The bird app eBird must be pretty smart because it would not let us enter Trumpeter Swan without a background check! Scott to the rescue again with his good scope - turns out we were looking at a white buoy!

# Trip Report: PFN in the Niagara Region on Dec. 1 Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

On December 1, fourteen PFN members, including the leaders Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey, took part in the annual PFN day trip to the Niagara Region to witness the world's largest and most diverse concentration of gulls. The weather was overcast with a maximum temperature of 3 °C and an average wind speed of 20 km/h blowing from the south. We made the usual tried and true stops: The Sir Adam Beck Generating Station for gulls; the Niagara Whirlpool for more gulls plus other possible waterfowl; areas above the falls for gulls, Tundra Swans, and diving ducks; Dufferin Islands Park for a possible Titmouse (no such luck this year) and other possibilities; Sir Isaac Brock monument in Queenston for vultures; and Niagara-on-the-Lake for ducks and wine-tasting. This year we elected to forgo the Horseshoe Falls due to the wind direction. We would have gotten cold and wet very quickly!

Our bird list (48 species): Canada Goose (100), Tundra Swan (300), Gadwall (30), American Wigeon (6), Mallard (220), Mallard (domestic type) (3), American Black Duck (8), Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid) (1), Canvasback (2000), Redhead (300), Greater Scaup (700), Harlequin Duck (2), White-winged Scoter (6), Long-tailed Duck (14), Bufflehead (35), Common Goldeneye (300), Hooded Merganser (6), Common Merganser (2), Red-breasted Merganser (75), Horned Grebe (2), Rock Pigeon (190), Mourning Dove (20), Bonaparte's Gull (400), Ring-billed Gull (200), Herring Gull (4000), Iceland Gull (Thayer's) (2), Iceland Gull (kumlieni) (3), Lesser Blackbacked Gull (3), Glaucous Gull (1), Great Black-backed Gull (19), Double-crested Cormorant (5), Great Blue Heron (1), Black Vulture (2), Turkey Vulture (7), Bald Eagle (1), Red-tailed Hawk (3), Belted Kingfisher (1), Downy Woodpecker (3), Blue Jay (14), American Crow (4), Black-capped Chickadee (13), White-breasted Nuthatch (1), Carolina Wren (3), Goldencrowned Kinglet (6), American Robin (19), European Starling (100), House Finch (7), American Goldfinch (1), Dark-eyed Junco (2), Northern Cardinal (6), House Sparrow (75)



Juvenile Great Black-backed Gull. Photo: Steve Paul



Carolina Wren at Dufferin Islands Park. Photo: Steve Paul



Long-tailed Duck at the Niagara-on-the-Lake harbour. Photo: Susan Weaver



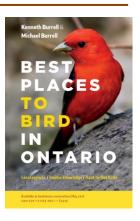
Of interest in this photo (left), besides the many Herring Gulls, is the handsome sea duck in the lower right-hand corner. Not all of us got to see the Harlequin Ducks this year as the two we knew about were far off in the distance and either diving or obscured behind rocks. Even the photographer thought he had missed out until he had a closer look at this image later at home! Like last year, the Harlequin Ducks were just north of the barge above the falls.

Photo: Steve Paul

#### Best Places to Bird in Ontario

The upcoming book, *Best Places to Bird in Ontario*, outlines the top thirty birding destinations in Ontario, with up-to-date information on hard to find species, directions, birding tips, and much more!

This book will be available in bookstores starting in May of 2019. To pre-order before March 31, Kenneth and Michael Burrell are offering signed copies for \$20 (\$5 off regular pricing). Contact them (burrellbirding.ca/contact) with your details and they will arrange a payment option. Otherwise, you can pre-order directly from Amazon for the list price of \$24.95.



# Results of 67<sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count Submitted by Martin Parker, Count Compiler

On the morning of Sunday, December 16, sixty-one members and friends of the PFN ventured into the field to look for and count the winter birds in the Peterborough Christmas count circle. They were divided into ten field areas. Each field area had a designated team of observers. Some areas split their participants into more than one party to enhance coverage. Eight individuals also reported on the birds at their feeders. Collectively, the participants spent 159.3 hours looking for birds of which 58.5 hours were spent on foot.

Several groups were out before dawn and spend 6.3 hours looking for secretive owls. They were rewarded: five species of owls were recorded on the count. The party led by Matthew Tobey had five species of owl in a period of three hours.



Snowy Owl near Peterborough airport during CBC. Photo: Rene Gareau

At the end of the day, the participants observed 65 species of birds consisting of 13,267 individuals. This is the second highest number of species. The record high was 67 species in 2014. Another four species were seen either three days before the count or three days after (count week birds).

The cold temperatures in November and early December resulted in all the major lakes being frozen, reducing the number and variety of waterfowl and gulls. For example, a total of 1,168 Canada Geese were observed, which pales in comparison to the 3,795 observed on the count in December 2015. However, there was a good variety of winter finches and late departing summer birds.

#### **Overall Highlights**

**Red-breasted Merganser** – One was spotted on the river near the Hwy 115 bridges. This is the 7th time this species has been on the count and each time there was only one.

**Ruffed Grouse** – Only three were found. The record low was in 2016 when only two were spotted. On the 1979 count, there were a total of 82 Ruffed Grouse. This species is slowly declining in the area.

**Sharp-shinned Hawks** – The six represent a new count high. The previous was five in 2016.

Ring-billed Gull – 17 individuals compared to a record high of 399 in 2015.

Herring Gull - 329 individuals compared to record high of 1,302 in 1998.

**Iceland Gull** - The single individual is the 17th time this species has been recorded on the count.

**Rock Pigeon** - The 2,027 individuals exceed the previous high of 1,761 on the 2015 count.

Eastern Screech-Owl - The four individuals tied the previous high of four in 2016.

**Great Horned Owl** – Only two were found compared with 40 individuals on the 1992 count: a declining species in our region.

**Snowy Owl** – The one individual found at the airport is the 11th time this species has been on the count. Each time only one individual was reported.

**American Kestrel** - Only one individual. On the 1979 count, there were 14 - another declining species.

**Peregrine Falcon** – The two individuals represent a new count high.

**Black-capped Chickadee** – The 2,148 individuals exceed the previous high of 2,112 last year.

**White-breasted Nuthatch** – The 225 individuals exceed the previous high of 138 on the 2015 count.

**Carolina Wren** – This is the 8th time this southern species has been on the count - a single bird each time

**Hermit Thrush** – This is the 6th time on the count, and again one each time.

**Chipping Sparrow** – One individual was at the Heuft feeder and was the 6th time it was on the count.

**Northern Cardinals** – The 173 individuals exceed the 114 spotted last year for a new high.



First-winter Iceland Gull atop the Peterborough Rowing Club building during CBC. Photo: Dave Milsom

| Species                  |     | -   |     |     | Ar  | ea  |     |     |     |     | Total |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Species                  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | Total |
| Canada Goose             |     |     | 282 | 165 | 277 | 120 | 30  | 1   | 10  | 283 | 1,168 |
| Wood Duck                |     |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2     |
| American Black Duck      |     |     | 2   | 3   |     | 6   |     |     |     | 6   | 17    |
| Mallard                  |     |     | 112 | 244 | 63  | 208 | 37  |     |     | 590 | 1,254 |
| Bufflehead               |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1     |
| Common Goldeneye         |     |     | 43  | 4   | 11  | 14  | 3   |     |     | 12  | 87    |
| Hooded Merganser         |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 2     |
| Common Merganser         |     |     | 17  |     | 6   | 1   |     |     |     |     | 24    |
| Red-breasted Merganser   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1     |
| Ruffed Grouse            |     | 1   | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     | 3     |
| Wild Turkey              |     | 24  | 7   | 35  |     |     |     |     | 28  |     | 94    |
| Northern Harrier         |     |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |     |     |     | 2     |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk       | 1   |     | 2   |     |     |     | 1   | 1   | 1   |     | 6     |
| Cooper's Hawk            |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     | 3   |     | 6     |
| Bald Eagle               |     |     |     |     |     | 3   |     |     |     |     | 3     |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | 2   | 1   | 1   | 5   | 1   | 4   | 6   | 3   | 5   |     | 28    |
| Ring-billed Gull         |     |     | 3   | 4   | 4   | 1   | 2   | 2   | 1   |     | 17    |
| Herring Gull             | 10  | 22  | 204 | 15  | 3   | 24  | 1   |     | 19  | 31  | 329   |
| Iceland Gull             |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1     |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 0     |
| Great Black-backed Gull  |     |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2     |
| Rock Pigeon              | 170 | 122 | 95  | 100 | 90  | 166 | 326 | 130 | 313 | 515 | 2,027 |
| Mourning Dove            | 30  | 69  | 39  | 116 | 83  | 386 | 19  | 15  | 161 | 19  | 937   |
| Eastern Screech-Owl      | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1   | 1   | 1   |     |     | 4     |
| Great Horned Owl         |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     | 2     |
| Snowy Owl                |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1     |
| Barred Owl               |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 2     |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl    | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 2     |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1   | 5   | 1   |     | 3   |     | 12    |
| Downy Woodpecker         | 7   | 10  | 7   | 11  | 8   | 6   | 14  | 15  | 11  | 8   | 97    |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | 6   | 7   | 4   | 11  | 6   | 10  | 10  | 11  | 8   | 2   | 75    |
| Pileated Woodpecker      | 4   | 3   |     | 1   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 21    |
| American Kestrel         |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1     |
| Merlin                   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1   |     | 3     |
| Peregrine Falcon         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   | 2     |
| Northern Shrike          |     | 3   |     | 1   |     | 2   |     | 1   | 3   |     | 10    |
| Blue Jay                 | 41  | 52  | 30  | 82  | 36  | 32  | 52  | 23  | 60  | 7   | 415   |
| American Crow            | 41  | 28  | 33  | 49  | 25  | 57  | 29  | 15  | 42  | 56  | 375   |
| Common Raven             | 4   | 6   |     | 4   | 2   | 8   | 2   | 1   | 1   |     | 28    |
| Black-capped Chickadee   | 205 | 277 | 129 | 323 | 117 | 202 | 290 | 171 | 295 | 139 | 2,148 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch    | 6   | 2   | 3   | 5   | 1   | 3   | 4   | 20  |     | 4   | 48    |
| White-breasted Nuthatch  | 27  | 18  | 19  | 21  | 13  | 26  | 22  | 31  | 26  | 22  | 225   |

| Species                |     |       |       |       | Aı  | ea    |       |     |       |       | Total  |
|------------------------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|--------|
| Species                | 1   | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5   | 6     | 7     | 8   | 9     | 10    | Total  |
| Brown Creeper          | 3   |       | 1     | 6     | 3   |       | 2     | 1   |       | 1     | 17     |
| Carolina Wren          |     |       |       | 1     |     |       |       |     |       |       | 1      |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet |     |       |       |       |     |       |       | 2   |       | 1     | 3      |
| Hermit Thrush          |     |       |       |       |     |       |       |     |       | 1     | 1      |
| American Robin         | 1   | 4     | 2     | 61    | 27  |       | 2     |     | 12    | 1     | 110    |
| European Starling      | 47  | 55    | 36    | 63    | 33  | 468   | 133   | 7   | 179   | 270   | 1,291  |
| Bohemian Waxwing       | 70  | 44    |       | 1     |     |       |       | 16  | 40    |       | 171    |
| Cedar Waxwing          | 47  | 95    | 9     | 71    |     |       | 3     |     | 177   | 6     | 408    |
| Snow Bunting           | 1   | 80    |       |       |     | 65    |       |     |       |       | 146    |
| American Tree Sparrow  |     | 8     | 6     | 6     | 10  | 30    | 9     |     | 33    |       | 102    |
| Chipping Sparrow       |     |       |       |       |     | 1     |       |     |       |       | 1      |
| Dark-eyed Junco        | 68  | 38    | 17    | 29    | 8   | 41    | 10    | 33  | 25    | 33    | 302    |
| White-throated Sparrow |     | 4     |       |       |     |       |       |     |       | 4     | 8      |
| Song Sparrow           |     |       | 1     |       |     | 1     | 1     |     |       |       | 3      |
| Northern Cardinal      | 16  | 46    | 13    | 10    | 13  | 8     | 15    | 23  | 18    | 11    | 173    |
| Pine Grosbeak          | 1   | 22    |       | 1     |     |       | 10    | 39  | 3     | 3     | 79     |
| House Finch            | 18  |       |       | 6     | 2   | 10    | 3     | 43  | 30    | 23    | 135    |
| Purple Finch           |     |       | 16    |       |     |       |       |     |       |       | 16     |
| Common Redpoll         | 38  | 41    |       | 63    |     | 13    | 12    | 24  | 1     | 10    | 202    |
| Pine Siskin            |     | 18    |       |       |     |       |       |     |       |       | 18     |
| American Goldfinch     | 35  | 44    | 57    | 52    | 20  | 24    | 15    | 16  | 48    | 22    | 333    |
| Evening Grosbeak       |     | 1     |       |       |     |       |       |     |       |       | 1      |
| House Sparrow          | 25  | 5     |       | 33    | 27  | 47    | 25    | 25  | 12    | 56    | 255    |
| gull species           | 1   |       |       | 7     |     |       |       |     |       |       | 8      |
| woodpecker species     |     |       |       |       |     |       |       |     |       | 1     | 1      |
| Total Individuals      | 929 | 1,153 | 1,202 | 1,614 | 900 | 2,006 | 1,105 | 683 | 1,580 | 2,150 | 13,322 |
| Total Species          | 31  | 33    | 37    | 36    | 31  | 39    | 40    | 31  | 33    | 31    | 65     |

Count week birds: Long-tailed Duck, Northern Flicker, White-crowned Sparrow, Common Grackle

|                      | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10    | Total   |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Start Time           | 8:00  | 8:35  | 7:15  | 8:00  | 7:50  | 8:10  | 8:05  | 6:00  | 8:00  | 7:30  |         |
| Finish Time          | 16:00 | 13:15 | 16:30 | 15:34 | 15:50 | 16:10 | 16:15 | 16:00 | 16:00 | 16:00 |         |
| Kilometers in Car    | 175   | 95    | 75    | 126   | 85.5  | 143   | 99    | 90    | 110   | 96    | 1,094.5 |
| Kilometers on Foot   | 7     | 3     | 7     | 15.5  | 6     | 4     | 10    | 12    | 34    | 66.5  | 165.0   |
| Kilometers Owling    | 20    |       | 1     |       |       | 14    | 0.3   | 12    |       |       | 47.3    |
| Hours in Car         | 16    | 5     | 7.5   | 9     | 8.25  | 15.8  | 8     | 13    | 6     | 6     | 94.5    |
| Hours on Foot        | 3     | 5     | 1.5   | 10.5  | 4.5   | 3     | 5     | 5     | 11.5  | 7.5   | 56.5    |
| Hours Owling         | 2     |       | 0.75  |       |       | 1.5   | 1     | 1     |       |       | 6.3     |
| # of Participants    | 5     | 4     | 5     | 9     | 6     | 6     | 7     | 6     | 6     | 7     | 61      |
| Minimum # of Parties | 2     | 2     | 2     | 4     | 2     | 2     | 1     | 2     | 3     | 2     | 22      |
| Maximum # of Parties | 2     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 4     | 2     | 3     | 3     | 4     | 30      |
| Feeder Watchers      | 0     | 0     | 3     | 0     | 2     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 4     | 0     | 10      |

| #  | Area                     | Participants  |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 1  | Chemong/Bridgenorth      | Don McLeod, Bruce Kidd, Iain Rayner, Bill McCord, Ryan Hill   |
| 2  | Miller Creek/Selwyn      | Brian Wales, Drew Monkman, Luke Berg, Gary Berg   |
| 3  | Lakefield/Otonabee River | Dave Milsom, Susan Chow, Sean Prentice, Kathryn Sheridan, Sara Whitehead. Feeder watchers: Liz Milsom, Scott Gibson, Carrie Sadowski.                 |
| 4  | Douro Wedge              | Bill Crins, Al Sippel, Louis Chora, Peter Davis, Mitch Hall, Mike Oldham, Mike Burrell, Erica Barkley, Abigail Burrell                                |
| 5  | Burnham                  | Warren Dunlop, Cathy Douglas, Phil Shaw, Sue Paradisis, Ken Sunderland, Linda<br>Sunderland   |
| 6  | Stewart Hall/Landfill    | Scott McKinlay, Joan DiFruscia, Robert DiFruscia, J.B. Jaboor, Steve Paul, Keegan<br>McKitterick. Feeder watchers: Ann & David Heuft                  |
| 7  | Airport                  | Mike McMurtry, Lynn Smith, Matthew Tobey, Rene Gareau, Kim Zippel, Dylan Radcliffe,<br>Aimee Blythe   |
| 8  | Cavan Swamp              | Chris Risley, Ben Taylor, Gary Heuvel, Dan Williams, Ali Girouz, Alain Parada. Feeder watcher: Donald A. Sutherland                                   |
| 9  | Jackson Park             | Jerry Ball, Kathy Parker, Scott Gibson, Jane Kroes, Maxwell Stewart, Toby Rowland.<br>Feeder watchers: Don and Emily Pettypiece, Ted and Marion Vale. |
| 10 | Downtown                 | Don Sutherland, Ken Abraham, Don Koppin, Martin Parker, King Baker, Meredith Clark,<br>Murray Palmer  |

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| Ontario Nature<br>Representative                  | Lesley Hale      | lesleyhale@hotmail.com          | 917-0373     | Peterborough<br>Butterfly Count              | Jerry Ball  |
|   | Peterboro        | ugh Field Naturalists, P.O. Box | 1532, Peterl | oorough, Ontario, K9                         | J 7H7   |

#### 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



#### From the Archives - 1948 Christmas Bird Count - Continued

#### **Submitted by Martin Parker**

The November 2018 issue of *The Orchid* reprinted a report on the Peterborough Bird Count held in 1948 which was printed in the initial *Nature Notes* of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The complete results of the count were not included. Matthew Tobey searched the collection of *Canadian Field Naturalist* at the Bata Library at Trent University and found the following details on this count.

#### Christmas Bird Census Results - Peterborough, Ont. January 8, 1948

Conditions: Cloudy then clear. Wind 3-5 mph [5-11 km/h]. Temperature 34-44 °F [1-7 °C]. Snow 8 inches [20 cm].

Effort: 3 observers in 1 party. 35 miles [56 km] by car. 4 miles [6 km] on foot. 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Participants: J. L. McKeever, R. L. Hale, and R. Fitzgerald

Totals: 11 species, 156 individuals

Common Goldeneye – 7 White-breasted Nuthatch – 2

Common Merganser – 9 European Starling – 10

Herring Gull – 2 American Goldfinch – 20

Downy Woodpecker – 3 American Tree Sparrow – 30

Hairy Woodpecker – 1 House Sparrow – 40

Black-capped Chickadee – 32

#### **Gus The Goose**

#### Submitted by Don McLeod

Large numbers of Canada Geese on lower Chemong Lake are a common occurrence through the ice-free months. A single goose puddling around on its own on November 26 definitely caught our attention. It was occupying a small patch of open water at the mouth of a stream entering the lake. The rest of the lake was frozen with about 2 inches of ice. We never saw the goose fly and had no idea where it roosted at night.

During the first few days, it remained on the open patch of water and was able to feed on aquatic vegetation still available in the perimeter areas of the open water. The first change to this behaviour occurred on Thursday, November 29, when the goose slowly waddled across the ice to shore where it found access to green grass. While watching the goose, we came to realize that there must be an injury affecting its behaviour. Feeling bad for the bird, we decided to name it: thus started our connection to Gus the Goose.

Gus alternated between feeding on grass and resting throughout Thursday. By late afternoon with daylight receding, Gus hopped on to the ice and waddled back to open water. I hung around for a while

but darkness set in and I could no longer see him. There was a generous amount of droppings left behind which I cleaned up and put on the compost pile. For the next two days, Gus repeated the same routine of walking to shore and feeding on grass.

By Sunday, December 2, a change in behaviour took place. Gus did not show up for the morning but was back for the afternoon when he fed again on grass and rested. Late in the day, I wanted to get a photograph so tried to sneak up on Gus by hiding behind the garden shed. He appeared more alert than in previous days. Fortunately I had my zoom lens and was able to get a couple of photos of Gus along the shoreline. Then much to my surprise, Gus took flight! He did not get much altitude, perhaps getting as high as 4 feet above the ice, before landing in the open patch of water. While Gus was in flight, I managed a few more photos. It was clearly evident that his left wing was injured with visible damage to the feathers. While Gus floated on the open water, I proceeded to clean up the droppings he left behind.

Poop alert! For those of you who don't share my enthusiasm for scatology, please feel free to skip to the next paragraph. I think many folks have had the unfortunate experience of stepping on droppings left by Canada Geese. An interesting question arises: how much do they produce? Suddenly I had the brilliant idea that I could actually get a useful measurement. Gus the Goose had been feeding on the grass for 2.5 days and, of course, had been producing droppings during that same time period. I knew he was the only goose present so the droppings were from a single goose. I picked up all his droppings and measured the total volume at 2.5 litres - a production rate of 1 litre per day! Imagine the amount from 50 geese!

During Monday, December 3, there was no sign of Gus. He returned for a half day on December 4. I was curious about where he spent the time and how he got there. It wasn't long before I got my answer. When I tried to get another photo of him late in the afternoon, he jumped up into the air and proceeded to fly higher and higher. Much to my amazement, I observed him get above the tree tops and then watched him disappear into the distance! He performed similar feats over the next two days. Then we had a cold snap and the open patch of water was frozen on Friday. Thursday, December 6 was the last day we saw Gus. We believe he is still alive and we suspect that he has joined the legions of geese occupying the Otonabee River in Peterborough.



While in flight, the injury can be observed with damage to feathers in the left wing.



Gus resting in the late afternoon before the big flight.

#### Yip, Bark, and Howl

I stood in a clearing, watching the flashing of fireflies
When in the growing darkness there arose high-pitched cries
Of North America's mammal with the most varied vocal repertoire.
Known to some as the song dog, to scientists it's adaptation's avatar.

A mix of once common eastern wolves, and coyotes from the west,
The border collie-sized coywolf has spread, doing its wily best
To rebound from attempts to exterminate it by poison, trap, and gun.
When lead pairs of packs let others reproduce, the numbers war can't be won.

Killing coywolves destabilizes packs, a lone coywolf takes a vacant territory - The replacements may well be more aggressive and predatory. Better to learn how to learn how to live with the individual who's understood Than to cope with one that's unpredictable and up to no good.

The coywolf is crepuscular, but will hunt during night and day. It may eat fruit, food, and garbage in backyards, and find its wild prey. It rarely attacks adult humans, but never leave a small pet outside. Some people see the eastern coyote as beautiful, and regard it with pride.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018



Photo: Murray Palmer



# 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  | The weather overall was warmer than November but temperatures ranged from days above                                      |
|----------|---|
|          | average to days below average. The larger bodies of water in the region were ice-covered.                                 |
| Nov. 27  | A Glaucous Gull was located at the Trent Rowing Club by Robert Walker Ormston and   |
|          | observed almost daily during the month by many observers.   |
|          | Donald A. Sutherland had a <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> on the Rotary Trail at Trent U.                                    |
| Nov. 28  | Scott Gibson reported a <b>White-crowned Sparrow</b> visiting his feeder on Bissonnette Drive. It                         |
|          | remained for the balance of the reporting period.   |
| Dec. 1   | A late <b>Chipping Sparrow</b> was observed by Scott Kendall in his yard in the city.                                     |
| Dec. 2   | Steve Paul located an <b>American Coot</b> with Mallards on the river off Auburn Reach Park.                              |
|          | Jerry Ball had 2 <b>American Kestrel</b> at the intersection of Cty Road 2 and Hiawatha Road.                             |
| Dec. 3   | The first <b>Snowy Owl</b> report of the winter was from Tapley ¼ Line by Ryan Campbell.                                  |
|          | Observed in same area on Dec 5 by Brendan Boyd.   |
| Dec. 4   | Toby Rowland had a late departing <b>Hermit Thrush</b> in Harper Park.  |
|          | A Common Loon was on Katchewanooka Lake off Stenner Road.   |
| Dec. 5   | Dave Milsom located a <b>Wood Duck</b> in the Lakefield Lagoon and it was seen by many other                              |
|          | observers during the reporting period. A second individual was also observed on the                                       |
|          | Otonabee River in the area of Lock 25.  |
| Dec. 6   | Tim Haan had a <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> in the city.  |
| Dec 7    | Jerry Ball reported 30+ Evening Grosbeaks at feeders along Northey Bay Road.  |
| Dec. 8   | Jeff Stewart spotted a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> in Millbrook.  |
|          | Iain Rayner had a <b>Greater Scaup</b> on the Otonabee River north of Lock 25.  |
| Dec. 12  | Alain Parada Isade located a Lesser Black-backed Gull in the area of Douro-Dummer   |
|          | Township.   |
| Dec. 14  | Jerry Ball had a <b>Barred Owl</b> on the Parkway Trail off Hilliard Avenue.  |
| Dec. 16  | Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count. A total of 65 species were reported. See full summary elsewhere in 'The Orchid' |
|          | Martin Parker, King Baker, Meredith Clark & Murray Palmer observed a Coyote looking for                                   |
|          | squirrels in the Parkers' backyard in the city around noon (see page 21 for photo).                                       |
| Snowy    | The Snowy Owl located at the Peterborough Airport during the Peterborough CBC was   |
| Owl      | regularly seen from that date to the end of the reporting period.   |
| Carolina | The Carolina Wren located at the intersection of the 5th Line Douro and Division Road on the                              |
| Wren     | Peterborough CBC by Bill Crins et al. was being reported regularly to the end of the reporting                            |
|          | period by various observers.  |
| Dec. 22  | Lynn Smith had 4 Eastern Bluebirds in her yard near Cavan.  |
| Dec. 24  | A <b>Northern Goshawk</b> was located by Stan Phippen near Nephton.   |
| Dec. 25  | A Cooper's Hawk visited the Parker yard and was spotted by Kathy sitting on one of the bird                               |
|          | feeder poles looking for prey. No other birds were present.   |
| Top      | As of Dec. 25, Donald A. Sutherland managed to locate and identify 215 species of birds in                                |
| Birders  | Peterborough County, followed closely by Iain Rayner with 214.  |
|          |   |
|          | Dave Milsom spent the year searching for birds around the province and managed to spot a                                  |

# **Membership Application Form**

Memberships may be obtained by mailing this completed form to:

Signature:

Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532 Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



| Contact Information:  |  |
|---|--|
| Name(s):  | Phone(s):  |
|   |  |
| Address:  | Email(s):  |
| 7.00.000  |  |
|   |  |
| I would like to receive The Orchid by (Pick One):   | □ Mail Delivery □ E-Mail □ Both  |
| Membership type and fee schedule:   |  |
| <b>Notice:</b> Membership fees provide only a small part of the fun operate the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Donations from the help us offer a diverse range of programming for everyone. I including a donation with your membership so that we can expou and the Peterborough community. <b>Please make chequipeterborough Field Naturalists.</b> | members like you Please consider continue to serve  I have included a donation with my membership fees:  amount:   |
| 1. Single Adult \$25 □ 2. Single Student \$15 □   | 3. Single Child (5 – 12) \$10 □ 4. Family \$30* □  |
| *Please give the names and ages of children w   | wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:   |
| Name: Age:  | Name: Age:   |
|   |  |
|   |  |
|   |  |
|   |  |
| <<< New Membe   | er Information >>>   |
| ✓< <p>Main interests:</p>   | er Information >>>  How do you hope to participate:  |
|   |  |
| Main interests:   | How do you hope to participate:  |
| Main interests:  □ Natural Environment □ Reptiles and Amphibians  | How do you hope to participate:  □ Botany □ Outings  |
| Main interests:  □ Natural Environment □ Reptiles and Amphibians □ Birds □ Aquatic Life   | How do you hope to participate:  Description: Geology Description: Geolo |
| Main interests:  □ Natural Environment □ Reptiles and Amphibians □ Birds □ Aquatic Life □ Insects □ Astronomy   | How do you hope to participate:    Botany  |
| Main interests:  Natural Environment Reptiles and Amphibians Sirds Aquatic Life Insects Astronomy Other:  Volunteers are always needed. Do you have interest  | How do you hope to participate:    Botany  |
| Main interests:  Natural Environment  | How do you hope to participate:    Botany  |
| Main interests:  Natural Environment  | How do you hope to participate:    Botany  |
| Main interests:  Natural Environment  | How do you hope to participate:    Botany  |
| Main interests:  Natural Environment  | How do you hope to participate:    Botany  |

Date:

# The Peterborough Field Naturalists 2019 AGM, Dinner, Guest Presentation

"River Otters: Playful Enchanters"

**Annamarie Beckel** is a writer and a naturalist living on the Otonabee River near Lakefield. In the past, as a graduate student in ecology and animal behaviour, she

studied North American River Otters (Lontra canadensis) in northern Wisconsin and years later she is still enchanted by them, and especially by their playful behaviour.

Her most recent novel, Weaving Water, is about otters, healing a human heart and finding hope for the Earth imperilled by environmental destruction. All royalties for this book are donated to the World Wildlife Fund, the International Otter Survival Fund and the River Otter Project.

Date: January 18, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$40/person

Please RSVP by Friday, January 11
To reserve tickets, please contact
Lynn Smith at smithfam@nexicom.net
or call 705-944-5599

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 call 705-741-4560. Please do not bring items the night of the AGM.



**LOCATION:** The StoneHouse Hall, Peterborough Curling Club

2195 Lansdowne St, Peterborough, ON K9J 6X4