

# The Orchid



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*Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



*Ever seen the frozen breath of a bird before?*

An American Goldfinch enduring -24 °C on January 28. Photo: Susan Weaver

**Inside:** Results of Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count  
PFN Annual General Meeting Report  
Waxwing Miscellany  
Ontario Nature: Save Ontario Species

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### Welcome new PFN members!




- Susan & Randy Milligan
- Peter Vandendort
- Maxwell Stewart
- Eugene Jankowski
- Pat de Villiers

**Notice to Members:** This will be the last issue of the *Orchid* for those who have not renewed their PFN membership. If uncertain, contact Jim Young at 705-760-9397 [jbyoung559@gmail.com](mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com)



From top: Bohemian Waxwings at Northumberland Forest on Feb. 18 (Marla Williams), Eastern Coyote at Harper Park on Feb. 10 (Rene Gareau), and American Mink at Lower Buckhorn Lake on Jan. 2 (Ken McKeen)



PFN Coming Events	
<p>January to March</p> <p>Dates, times and locations TBD</p>	<p><b>Wildlife Tracking Outings</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Anyone interested in attending should send an e-mail to Don McLeod at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com so he can add you to an e-mail distribution list. If you signed up for last year's outings, you will automatically receive an e-mail.</p>
<p>Sunday, March 3</p> <p>1:00 p.m. in the Parking Lot for the Peterborough 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 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.</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, March 10</p> <p>8:00 a.m. at Country Style at Lansdowne East (Hwy. #7) and Old Keene Road</p> <p><i>Daylight Saving begins so remember to set your clocks ahead.</i></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 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 at 705-745-3272. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Wednesday, Mar. 13</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Ontario's Insect Diversity Near and Far</b> (with particular reference to biting flies)</p> <p>Ontario is blessed with an abundance of biting flies, including mosquitoes, horses flies, deer flies and stable flies. While most of our interactions with biting flies are unpleasant, they have important functions in our ecosystems and so have value in terms of conservation. This talk by David Beresford examines biting flies as pests of wildlife and livestock, as well as their possible conservation relevance. David Beresford, holds a Ph.D from Trent University where he now teaches entomology.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">    </div>

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, March 31</p> <p>10 a.m. at Country Style on Lansdowne East at 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 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.</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>Accessibility - Easy with travel between various viewing locations</p>
<p>Saturday, April 6</p> <p>7 a.m. in the north parking lot at the Riverview Park and Zoo, 1300 Water St.</p>	<p><b>Quest for the Canada Jay</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>This trip has an early departure in order to maximize the time spent in the park. A stop will be made in Bancroft on the way to the park. A visit to the park's Visitor Centre will be included.</p> <p>Meet in the north parking lot at the Riverview Park and Zoo 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.</p> <p>Accessibility - Easy to moderate depending on the depth of the remaining winter snow</p>
<p>Sunday, April 7</p> <p>8 a.m. in the parking lot at the Riverview Park and Zoo, 1300 Water St.</p>	<p><b>Sunday Morning Wildlife Walk</b></p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead the first of our popular Sunday morning walks for 2019. The destination will be revealed that day. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs if car-pooling and bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Wednesday, Apr. 10</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Bird Song - Defined, Decoded, Described</b></p> <p>As a youngster, well over half a century ago, Ernie Jardine was bitten by the birdwatching bug and his passion has never stopped. He is the author of <i>Bird</i></p>

### PFN Coming Events

<p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre  2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><i>Song - Defined, Decoded, Described</i> a guide to the songs of over 200 birds of eastern North America.</p> <p>Ernie will explain his system for learning to identify bird songs, developed through many years of listening to our birds, studying their songs, recording and analysing them. This practical system allows a birder to "access" and identify a mystery song in the field while the bird is singing.</p>
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### 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/>

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](mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com) for details.

<p>2 to 4 p.m.  Sunday, Mar. 3  Camp Kawartha (Clear Lake)</p>	<p><b>Traditional Skills (for kids!)</b></p> <p>PFN Junior Naturalists are invited to Camp Kawartha for some winter fun learning about traditional fire making and other skills. Registration is required as space is limited. This event is for PFN members. (New families are welcome but would need to submit their membership form and payment prior to booking spaces). Full details will be provided to registered participants. (Note: we plan to hike to the tipi, approximately 1.5 km return trip). To register, go to: <a href="https://peterboroughnature.org/events/traditional-skills-at-camp-kawartha/">https://peterboroughnature.org/events/traditional-skills-at-camp-kawartha/</a></p>
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### Other Events of Interest

<p>2 to 4 p.m.  Saturday, March 2  Art Gallery of Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Artist's Talk With Arnold Zageris</b></p> <p>Arnold Zageris' exhibit, "Antarctica" will continue at the gallery until March 29.</p> <p>If you missed Arnold's presentation at last November's PFN meeting, this is another chance to hear his fascinating talk on the Antarctic and see his amazing photos.</p>
<p>7:30 p.m.  Tuesday, Mar. 5</p>	<p><b>Trent Lands &amp; Nature Areas Plan Update: Community Input Session</b></p> <p>With the goal of assisting Trent to achieve its vision of a "sustainable and inspiring campus community, thoughtfully integrating the natural and built environments, with vibrant spaces to learn, innovate, be active and live", the</p>

Other Events of Interest	
The Great Hall, Champlain College  Trent University	University is inviting all members of the Trent and Peterborough communities to participate in the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan update.  More info here: <a href="https://www.trentu.ca/trentlandsplan/">https://www.trentu.ca/trentlandsplan/</a>
7 to 9 p.m.  Tuesday, Mar. 12  Publican House Brew Pub  300 Charlotte St.	<b>The Conservation Café: Martyn Obbard on Polar Bears</b>  Trent University's "Communicating Conservation Science Research Group" invites everyone to a new monthly event in the city. The Conservation Café is an informal, evening get-together where you can mix, mingle, relax, and listen to a guest speaker on a timely conservation topic. The Café takes place on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Publican House Brew Pub. Everyone is welcome.  Our first speaker is Dr. Marty Obbard, Research Scientist (retired) with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry. Dr. Obbard will be speaking on the biology and conservation of polar bears.
7 to 8 p.m.  599 Fleming Drive, Fleming College, Rm. 205 (Whetung Theatre)	<b>Peterborough County Stewardship Speaker Series</b>  This is a free event. All are welcome to attend. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thursday, March 28: Songbirds and Their Habitats in Our Settled Landscape</li><li>• Thursday, April 25: Turtle Conservation</li><li>• TBD: Species at Risk</li></ul>
April 26 to 28 (Friday to Sunday)  Fleming College,  599 Brealey Drive  <i>Held at new location!</i>	<b>Peterborough Garden Show</b>  This year, the Peterborough Horticultural Society has partnered with Fleming College and so the Peterborough Garden Show will be held at the Fleming Trades and Technology Centre. Admission is \$10.00 for a one-price ticket to enjoy the show all weekend. Lots of FREE parking. More details at <a href="http://peterboroughgardenshow.com">peterboroughgardenshow.com</a>  Enjoy speakers, workshops, vendors, the "Little Green Thumbs" Children's Garden and much more. All show profits go back into the community to fund scholarships for post-secondary students studying in horticulture-related fields, various local projects & Community Gardens.  The Peterborough Field Naturalists will have a booth and display at the Garden Show. Check out the Volunteer Corner to find out how you can help out!
May 4, 19, 26  Toronto area	<b>NANPS Native Plant Sales</b>  The North American Native Plant Society is proud to announce three native plant sales planned for this spring. Ethical growers approved by NANPS at all sales with knowledgeable volunteers available for assistance. Free admission and parking. Visit <a href="http://www.nanps.org">www.nanps.org</a> for more information.

## Other Events of Interest

<p style="text-align: center;">May 24 to 26 Friday to Sunday South Bruce Peninsula</p>	<p><b>Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend</b></p> <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 \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders plus \$244 (+ 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. 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>
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### Margaret and Carl Nunn Scholarship for Camp Kawartha

Do you know of a child between the ages of 7 and 14 who would be interested in attending the three-day Nature Camp at Camp Kawartha this summer? This short camp at the end of August focuses on developing knowledge about the natural world and leadership skills.

Ontario Nature will fund attendance at this camp for one child. The application must be endorsed by a member club such as the PFN. Deadline for applications is March 25.

More detailed information about the camp is available on the Camp Kawartha website and the Ontario Nature website. Please contact Ted Vale via [info@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:info@peterboroughnature.org) if you have a child you would like us to sponsor.

### Junior Naturalists Christmas Bird Count Results

Submitted by Lara Griffin

The Junior Naturalists celebrated over the winter holidays with our fourth Christmas Bird Count and a puppet show with the Paddling Puppeteers. We branched out into four groups, led by volunteer birders Martin Parker, Chris Risley, Sarah McGuire, Ayden Sherritt, and Sarah Jamieson.



Reed Fitzsimmons feeding a Chickadee. Photo: Jay Fitzsimmons

Our bird count results were: Red-tailed Hawk (1), Mourning Dove (9), Black-capped Chickadee (31), Cedar Waxwing (36), European Starling (6), Northern Cardinal (2), Dark-eyed Junco (14), American Tree Sparrow (1), American Crow (1), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (1).

Hand-feeding some Chickadees after the hike and puppet show was an extra special treat. Thanks to our volunteer birders!



Photo: Mitch Champagne



## Volunteer Corner

### Peterborough Garden Show

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will have a display table at the Peterborough Garden Show which runs Friday April 26 to Sunday April 28. This year the Garden Show is in a new venue, located at Fleming College, Trades and Technology Centre.

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 or 705-944-5599. Thank you!



### 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 pfnnjuniors@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!).



PFN volunteer JB Jaboor with grandkids and the new rodent-proof seed box he made for our bird feeders at Ecology Park

## President's Message:

### 2019 Officers

At its February meeting, the Board appointed executive officers for 2019. I will be stepping down as President at the end of June and handing the mantle on to Dylan Radcliffe. At that time I automatically become past-president and Lynn Smith will step down as past-president after two and a half years of service.

Dave Heuft will be transitioning out of the treasurer's position by the end of 2019. I have agreed to assume this responsibility and will be working with Dave to learn the ropes over the next few months. The official title will be transferred in the fall.

We have not yet selected a vice-president and will continue to work on filling that office as soon as possible. Martin Parker has graciously agreed to continue as secretary.

I would like to thank all the board members and the officers for their support during my tenure. They have made the task immeasurably easier. I would also like to thank Lynn and Dave for their services on the executive. Both have shown true dedication to the PFN in their time in office.

### New Board Member

I would like to welcome Reem Ali to the Board for a three-year term. She was appointed at our February Board meeting as we did not learn of her interest in time to put her name forward at the AGM.





## Advocacy for Nature

I am pleased to report that the provincial government has removed Section 10 from Bill 66, following public pressure from many quarters. This insures that municipalities will continue to be subject to environmental and planning legislation for all future development projects.

The province is now proposing to change the Endangered Species Act in ways that weaken protection for endangered species. Ontario Nature is organizing a petition in an effort to forestall these changes. Information is available on our blog, our Facebook account and below on how to join the petition. The PFN will also be joining the petition as an organization.

Ted Vale, President

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## Ontario Nature Campaigns: Species at Risk Media Release

### Species at Risk Habitat Shouldn't be Open for Business

**Ontario review of Endangered Species Act could put vulnerable species at even greater risk**



TORONTO — The Government of Ontario's review of the 2007 Endangered Species Act could put the province's most vulnerable animals and plants at even greater risk by removing barriers to the harmful activities that are driving wildlife decline, say the David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice, Earthroots, Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and World Wildlife Fund Canada.

Most of Ontario's 243 species at risk are listed because of habitat loss and disturbance, caused in large part by a lack of limits on industrial activity and development. Due to a regulation passed in 2013, many industries are exempt from current ESA restrictions, including forestry, which for the most part has not had to comply with ESA prohibitions.

On the 10-year anniversary of the ESA, the provincial government posted a discussion paper on the Environmental Registry of Ontario and launched a 45-day consultation period. Although the paper offers the goal of enabling "positive outcomes" for species at risk, it focuses on increasing "efficiencies for business."

The government says it wants to reduce barriers to economic development. But an overemphasis on creating greater efficiencies for industry could subject the province's at-risk species — and our natural heritage — to even greater threats. Further weakening of the act could push many of these species over the brink.

*Editor's notes:*

*The full text of the above article, including statements by representatives from the David Suzuki Foundation, Ecojustice, Environmental Defence, Ontario Nature and World Wildlife Fund Canada, can be found at:*  
<https://ontarionature.org/news-release/species-at-risk-habitat/>

*Until March 4, comments can be posted in the online Environmental Registry of Ontario under ERO# 013-4143:*  
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4143>

*Let the government know you support at-risk plants and animals. To join the petition, please visit:*  
<https://ontarionature.good.do/esa/support/>

## Waxwing Identification

Submitted by Don McLeod

Cedar Waxwings are relatively common in the Peterborough area and can be seen year round. Bohemian Waxwings occasionally pass through during the winter. Both have the following ID features: crest, yellow-tipped tail, dark mask and red waxy tips on secondary wing feathers may be present. The following photos show ID features distinctive to each species.



*Left:* Bohemian Waxwing perched in tree shows off key ID features of gray belly and cinnamon undertail coverts. *Right:* Cedar Waxwing perched in tree shows off key ID features of pale yellow belly and whitish undertail coverts.



*Left:* Bohemian Waxwing feeding on berries and nicely showing off the cinnamon undertail coverts. *Right:* Bohemian Waxwing feeding on Juniper berries and positioned to show off the white and yellow wing spots that are absent on Cedar Waxwings.



## Outing Report: PFN World Wetlands Day Walk at Trent

Submitted by Marilyn Hubley and Sue Paradisis

February 2 was World Wetlands Day and fifteen PFN members celebrated by walking the wetland trail threatened by the arena development at Trent University Nature Sanctuary. It was a beautiful day to appreciate these valuable places and the role they play in mitigating climate change. Lots of birds were counted at the Environment Centre feeders: seven species for a total of 41 birds.

Bird count results: Hairy woodpecker (5), Blue Jay (3), Black-capped Chickadee (20), White-breasted Nuthatches (2), American Tree Sparrow (6), Dark-eyed Junco (2), and Northern Cardinal (3)



Photo: Marilyn Hubley

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## Seeing Art in Nature

I was following a wooded stream looking for birds  
When what I saw next left me searching for words:  
I came upon Mother Nature, and heard her speak.  
Who'd think I would find her in this city creek!

Like cave-hidden treasure bared by light,  
Combining stalactites and stalagmites,  
Growing from a shelf of ice and snow  
Were icicles of jewel-like clarity and glow.

As if turned in a lathe, they grew thick and thin  
Perhaps because of changes in temperature and wind.  
However, there is one sure thing I've come to know:  
You can see art in Nature wherever you go.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018




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## Results of 33rd Annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Colin Jones, Count Compiler

The 33rd Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 - a day with very pleasant weather. It was a very calm day (excellent listening conditions), temperature was hovering around 1 degree for most of the day, with mostly overcast skies.

- Participants: 32 (above average)
- Total species: 34 (slightly higher than the 10-year average of 32.4 and a very good total given that there were few finch species present and virtually no open water for waterfowl, gulls, etc.).
- Total individuals: 2030 (10-year average is 2248)



Ruffed Grouse. Photo: Cathy Douglas



**Notable species and high counts included:**

- *Barred Owl*: 8 (much higher than average and close to the high count of 11)
- *Black-backed Woodpecker*: 1 in the northern portion of the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails (although previously recorded nearly every year, this species has only been detected 4 times in the past 10 years)
- *Pileated Woodpecker*: 41 (new count high - previous high count was 30 in 2015)
- *Canada Jay*: Two birds were found in the northern portion of the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails (until 2009 recorded annually but since then only recorded in 2014, during count period in 2016, and in 2017)
- *Blue Jay*: 398 which was higher than expected given that only six were recorded in Algonquin (which often has similar trends to the Petroglyphs count). Many of these individuals were away from feeders suggesting that they were finding natural food sources - likely acorns of White and Red Oak.
- *White-breasted Nuthatch*: 149 (well above the 10-year average of 76 and close to the all-time high count of 233 in 2014)
- *Bohemian Waxwing*: 5
- *Northern Cardinal*: 1 coming to a feeder in Apsley (4<sup>th</sup> time on the count)



Barred Owl. Photo: Cathy Douglas



Pine Grosbeaks. Photo: Cathy Douglas

**Low Counts:**

- *Mourning Dove*: 6 (10-year average is 18 and count high is 93)
- *Bald Eagle*: 2 (10-year average is 6 and count high is 14)
- *Brown Creeper*: 6 (10-year average is 13 and count high is 64)
- *Golden-crowned Kinglet*: 7 (10-year average is 28 and count high is 120)
- *American Tree Sparrow*: 5 (10-year average is 28 and count high is 218)

**Winter Finches:**

- *Evening Grosbeak*: 121
- *Pine Grosbeak*: 6
- *Common Redpoll*: 59
- *Red Crossbill*: 1
- *American Goldfinch*: 8 (very low - 10-year average is 163 and count high is 714)



Evening Grosbeak. Photo: Cathy Douglas

There were no notable misses.

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>

## PFN Annual General Meeting

Submitted by Lynn Smith

For the 78th Annual General Meeting on Friday, January 18, we were treated to a change of venue: the Peterborough Curling Club. With attendance under 100, and many items donated for the raffle and silent auction, the bigger space was timely.

The keynote speaker, Annamarie Beckel, has studied the ecology and behaviour of the River Otter. She shared her extensive knowledge and helped us get to know the otter. By the end of the talk we were all enchanted with the otter, hoping for the opportunity to view these playful animals running and sliding along the snow before winter's end.

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



Photo: Don McLeod

## Lola Leach Award

Lola Leach was a member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists through the late 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. She was recognized as a long-standing, hardworking, dependable Club member. When she passed away in 1985, a memorial was established in her name.

- This year the recipient of the Lola Leach award is Lara Griffin.

Lara is the leader and organizer for the Junior Field Naturalists. Through her hard work and effort, our Club has a busy and successful Junior Club for children 5 - 12 years old. Thank you, Lara!



PFN President, Ted Vale, presenting Lola Leach Award to Lara Griffin. Photo: Don McLeod

## Certificates of Appreciation

Thanks are extended to PFN members as well as members of the community who contribute to our Club activities and goals.

- Mike Hendren – His leadership while executive director of Kawartha Land Trust led to the protection of ecologically important areas in the Kawarthas.
- Kathryn Sheridan – Orchid editor
- Martin Parker – A Board member who wears so many hats we can't count them! Just to mention a few... secretary for Board of PFN, organizes Peterborough Bird Count, Orchid Diary, leads many outings, Archives, represents PFN on community committees...
- Paul Elliott – Board member for 10 years. Organized leaders for PFN outings.
- Enid & Gord Mallory – Published 8 books, several pertaining to the Kawarthas.
- Murray Palmer – Regularly writes poems and takes photos for the Orchid.
- Marilyn Freeman – Volunteer at display booths, book reviews in Orchid
- Basil Conlin – Shares his extensive knowledge of moths. Participates in bird counts.





PFN President, Ted Vale, presenting certificates of appreciation to (clockwise from top) Enid & Gord Mallory, Martin Parker, Kathryn Sheridan, Basil Conlin, Paul Elliot, and Mike Hendren. Photos: Don McLeod

## Climate Change Donations

### Submitted by Sue Paradisis

The environmental group "For Our Grandchildren" approached Peterborough city council during budget discussions in order to raise funds for climate change mitigation projects either by raising taxes 0.8 percent or by accepting voluntary donations from concerned citizens. To enable citizens to give what they can, Council chose to go the tax-deductible donation route. People started writing cheques the very next day. Councilor Kim Zippel sent us the following to answer questions we might have on the process.



Donations to be earmarked for Climate Change Action:

- The city can only accept a cheque or cash (no credit, debit cards or e-transfers).
- Please make the cheque payable to: The City of Peterborough
- Note somewhere on the cheque (or attach a note if sending cash) to indicate that the donation is for climate change funding, using the acronym CCAP is fine (staff will recognize the abbreviation).
- You can pay in person or by mail. If mailing in a cheque, please indicate somewhere in the address line 'Attn. Richard Freymond' so that the mail is directed to the correct department.
- The city's address is as follows: 500 George St. N., Peterborough, ON, K9H-3R9
- This is a charitable donation so donors will receive a tax receipt. The receipts are generated on a regular basis. If donors wish to have their receipt mailed to an address other than the one stated on their cheque, they should identify this at the time of donation, or include a note if mailing in the donation.

It will be very interesting to see how this unfolds. How much money will be donated and what projects will be chosen remains to be seen. Peterborough generosity has been remarkable in the past. When our very future depends on tackling climate change, I'm hoping we will be very generous.



A Tree-load of Bohemian Waxwings at Lily Lake on Jan. 3/19. Photo: Enid Mallory

## A Summary of 2018 Loon Observations on Jack Lake, Peterborough County

Submitted by Steve J. Kerr and Dawn Tower-Dubois

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey was initiated in 1981. It is a volunteer-based program, coordinated by Bird Studies Canada, designed to collect information to monitor the status of the common loon across Canada.

Jack Lake volunteers have been involved in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey since 1982 (Kerr et al. 2016). On Jack Lake, loon information is collected in two ways: i) Volunteers submit individual observations throughout the open water period and ii) Two-person teams are assigned a lake sector and collectively do lake-wide surveys during a specified time and date during the months of June, July, August and September. At the end of the season, these data are collated and a final report is submitted to Bird Studies Canada.

### 2018 Loon Observations

Forty-one volunteers participated in the 2018 Canada Lakes Loon Survey. Lake-wide loon surveys were conducted monthly between June 17 and September 16 (inclusive). Results of the 2018 lake-wide loon surveys are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2.

There were believed to be at least seven nesting pairs on the lake (Brooks Bay, Callahan Bay, Center Bay, Long Bay, Sheeps Bay and Sharpe's Bay (2 pairs). Most of Jack Lake was frozen by the third week of November and the last of migrants had left the lake.

**Table 1. Results of 2018 Lake-wide Loon Surveys on Jack Lake**

<b>Survey Date</b>	<b># of Adult Pairs</b>	<b># of Young-of-Year</b>	<b># Single Adults</b>
June 17	4	0	6
July 22	2	2	10
August 19	9	5	12
September 16	6	6	4

**Table 2. A Summary of Key Loon Observations From Jack Lake in 2018**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Observation(s)</b>
Arrival date(s)	Late April
Number of nesting pairs	At least seven
Reproductive success	Six young-of-year
Abandoned nests	None observed
Observed hatching date(s)	June 22 (Callahan Bay) June 24 (Center Bay)
Loon mortality	One dead adult (Williams Bay west)
Flocking (pre-migration) dates	August 19 (11 adults)
Migration dates	Mid November (latest)

A full copy of the report is available upon request from Martin Parker (mparker19@cogeco.ca).

## Help monitor the health of Canada's loons!

Join the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey.

**If you will be at a Canadian lake in June, July and August for at least 1 day please participate.**

As a surveyor you will observe loons and other birds on the lake of your choice and report your sightings online or by mail. Learn more at [birdscanada.org/loons](http://birdscanada.org/loons).

Register at [birdscanada.org/clls2019](http://birdscanada.org/clls2019) (Bird Studies Canada ID# needed — see your mailing label or contact Kathy Jones) or send the following information to Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, Bird Studies Canada, PO Box 160, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0. A kit will be mailed to you in May.

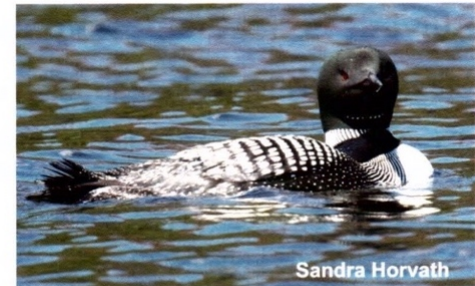
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bird Studies Canada ID# (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Need your BSC ID#?

Contact Kathy Jones by email [volunteer@birdscanada.org](mailto:volunteer@birdscanada.org)  
or phone 888-448-2473 ext. 124.



## From the Archives

### Submitted by Martin Parker

"Spring is Coming" by Earl White

From *The Orchid*, Volume 10, Number 4, April 1965

On March 28, my wife and I were on a country road when I suddenly saw a skunk loping in his awkward gait over the adamantine snow crust. The landscape was locked securely under its prism of ice and snow. Sculptured snow drifts 3 to 4 feet deep crossed the road at intervals and the late March sun, combatted by an icy wind, was not making any headway. Still, the skunk seemed to be enjoying himself, stopping to sniff at interesting places, then galloping on this way.

Just then my wife asked what the hole on the other side of the car was. When I investigated, there were two holes about 10 feet apart with a profusion of tracks around them. Some tracks belonged to the skunk but the tenant of the burrows was a groundhog who shrilled in fear as I looked in his front doorway. The groundhog had tunneled upward through 1 ½ feet of snow in search of spring.

*M.Parker's Note: How much snow will be on the ground on March 28 this year? Snow melt is happening early.*

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, March 22.

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





## Masked Beauty

About twenty-five hundred trips over five or six days:  
Cedar waxwings fly often to make late, loose cup nests.  
I'm watching a female come and go for single twigs  
From a hemlock tree - the thought makes me want to rest.

Stealing nesting material from other songbirds' nests  
Can help these sociable, pastel lookalikes save time.  
Not greedy, waxwings rotate positions to feed on berries,  
And will pass them to other waxwings along a line.

Waxwings fly in synchronous hundreds in quest of berries,  
Though their name is tied to their habit of eating cedar cones.  
Their wandering life entails no territorial defence, no song.  
Open woodlands along streams and ponds make good homes.

Like swallows, they zigzag across the water for flying insects;  
They sally from perches, and snatch them out of the air  
Like flycatchers; they can hover to glean them from leaves.  
Expect the unexpected; their beauty is beyond compare.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018



PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



January/February Peterborough county bird sightings. Clockwise from top left: Merlin, Red-tailed Hawk, Snow Buntings, Herring Gull, Long-tailed Duck, and American Tree Sparrows. Photos: Cathy Douglas



## 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

Jan. 1	Local birders in the field and on eBird reported seeing 49 species of birds. The first observations were by Thomas Tamblyn at 7:25 a.m. for the Catchacoma Lake area in Trent Lakes. Highlights of the day include <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> at feeder of Steve Paul near Keene, <b>Northern Flicker</b> by Daniel Williams, <b>60 Bohemian Waxwings</b> by Dan Chronowic along Otonabee River near outlet for Sawyer Creek, <b>Song Sparrow</b> by Scott Gibson at his feeder in the city, <b>Merlin</b> by Mike V.A. Burrell in the SW part of the city, <b>2 Bald Eagles</b> near the nest site north of Lakefield by Matthew Tobey and others., <b>Peregrine Falcon</b> on the Quaker Oats building by Drew Monkman, and <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> in Harper Park by Matthew Tobey. Don McLeod reported several flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were around the south end of Chemong Lake from mid-December to mid-January. The peak was on Jan. 1 when there was one large flock of about 500 individuals. Smaller flocks of Cedar Waxwings were with them. They were feeding on various berries, but spent most of the time feeding on Juniper berries.
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>	This winter a number of <b>White-throated Sparrows</b> have been regularly visiting feeders in various parts of the city and region since January 1. By mid-February, a White-throated Sparrow was being reported at five widely separated locations in the city and region. Three are daily visitors to feeders.
<b>Wood Duck</b>	Dave Milsom and others located a late-departing <b>Wood Duck</b> on the open water of the Lakefield Lagoon – seen by many observers until Jan. 6
Jan. 2	Scott McKinlay found an <b>Iceland Gull</b> on Little Lake. Mike V.A. Burrell had a flock of <b>38 Cedar Waxwings</b> in Lakefield. Warren Dunlop spotted a male <b>Hooded Merganser</b> on river off Engleburn Avenue. Kyle O'Grady reported a <b>Common Grackle</b> was still coming to his feeders in Indian Road, Asphodel-Norwood Twp.
Jan. 3	Paul Frost spotted a <b>Northern Flicker</b> at Loggerhead Marsh in the west end. A <b>Belted Kingfisher</b> was found by Warren Dunlop in the area of the boat ramp at the south end of Monaghan Road. Scott Gibson had a <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> on Little Lake. Dunlop also had a <b>Brown Thrasher</b> in the vicinity of Park St. & Cameron St.
Jan. 4	Sue Paradisis reported that a <b>Cooper's Hawk</b> has been visiting her yard in East City. It found a kill site and so few small birds have been visiting the feeder as a result. Today when it showed up, it was being scolded by a couple of <b>Eastern Gray Squirrels</b> . A male <b>Long-tailed Duck</b> was on the Otonabee River north of Lock 25 by Paul Frost & Martin Parker. Present until the end of the period on the river.
Jan. 5	The 33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Petroglyphs CBC was held. See separate summary on the results of this count elsewhere in this issue. While participating on the Petroglyphs CBC, Ed Poropat recorded 3 <b>American Otters</b> , 1 <b>Fisher</b> , 3 <b>White-tailed Deer</b> (plus lots of tracks), several <b>Red Squirrels</b> , 1 <b>Eastern Gray Squirrel</b> , 1 <b>Red Fox</b> , & 1 <b>Muskrat</b> (an impressive mammal total for early January)
Jan. 8	Cathy Douglas had a <b>Mute Swan</b> on Rice Lake at Birdsall Wharf. She also had 2 <b>Hooded Mergansers</b> and a <b>Great Blue Heron</b> off Drysdale Road, east of Hastings.



	Tony Barrett spotted the <b>Snowy Owl</b> at the Peterborough Airport, which was initially found on the Peterborough CBC. Still present on Jan. 11.
Jan. 9	Jerry Ball had 14 <b>Bohemian Waxwings</b> on the 5th Line of Douro and a <b>Northern Shrike</b> on the 3rd Line of Douro.
Jan. 10	Lynn Smith reported three <b>Eastern Bluebirds</b> at her residence near Cavan. Sue Paradis had a dozen <b>Pine Grosbeaks</b> in a crabapple tree eating the fruit. Still present the next day, with a single bird on Jan. 13.
Jan. 11	Jerry Ball, Chris Risley & Martin Parker had a <b>Merlin</b> on the eastern side of Katchewanooka Lake.
Jan. 14	A <b>Rough-legged Hawk</b> was observed by Chris Risley in the Buckley Lake area.
Jan. 15	Dave Johnson photographed a <b>Hermit Thrush</b> at Curve Lake FN.
Jan. 18	Iain Rayner had a <b>Mute Swan</b> on the Trent River east of Hastings and a <b>Ring-necked Duck</b> on the Trent River off the 5th Line of Asphodel. King Baker found an <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> near the north end of the pond on Jackson Park. He noted it did not appear in good condition. Don Koppin reported 3 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> on river between Lakefield and Lock 25.
Jan. 20	A <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> was located in Nicholls Oval by Robert Walker Ormston. According to Our Changing Seasons website, a <b>Northern Flicker</b> was reported by Phil McKeating on Creekwood Drive. It was regularly visiting the feeder for a couple of weeks. Marie Duchesneau also had a <b>Northern Flicker</b> in the Conger Street area.
Jan. 24	Barb Craig reported on Our Changing Seasons website that 3 sub-adult <b>Bald Eagles</b> were on the ice at Young's Point. There was also 1 <b>American Otter</b> , lots of <b>Common Goldeneyes</b> , several <b>Common Mergansers</b> and 3 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> .
Jan. 26	<b>Red Fox</b> observed by Don McLeod a 1:50 p.m. during a bright sunny afternoon casually walking around on lower Chemong Lake. Commonly seen early morning or late afternoon, this was its first appearance during the day. This fox was in excellent condition with a beautiful coat. Don is observing <b>Red Fox</b> tracks in a number of different areas with more track observations than in past years.
Jan. 30	Dave Milsom had a <b>Northern Harrier</b> in the Scollard Drive area of the city.
Feb. 3	Scott McKinlay spotted a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> in Cavan.
Feb. 4	Erica Nol observed a <b>White-winged Scoter</b> on the river adjacent the Peterborough Zoo. Robert Pratten observed a <b>Common Loon</b> off the Lakefield waterfront.
Feb. 5	A male <b>Greater Scaup</b> was found by Warren Dunlop & Janet Kelly in Little Lake in the afternoon. Earlier in the day, Iain Rayner found it on the Otonabee River south of Lakefield. Been at various locations along the river until the end of this report period. Jerry Ball had a <b>Red Fox</b> on the ice off Little Lake Cemetery.
Feb. 9	Along the 6th Line of South Monaghan, Jerry Ball had a flock consisting of two <b>Hoary Redpolls</b> & 18 <b>Common Redpolls</b> . Catherine Dibbens reported on Our Changing Seasons site about the gathering of <b>American Crows</b> in the west end of the city. During February, groups of crows numbering 50 to 100 birds can be seen flocking through the area.
Feb. 10	A <b>Chipping Sparrow</b> was reported in Lakefield by Aileen Wheeldon. Another <b>Chipping Sparrow</b> has been continuing to visit the feeder of Ann & Dave Heuft in the SE section of the city.
Feb. 13	Recent observations made at Member's meeting: Marilyn Freeman observed a flock of about 30 <b>Snow Buntings</b> on the 5th Line of Smith. Cathy Douglas noted the <b>Common Goldeneyes</b> are displaying on the river (spring is coming) and a <b>Merlin</b> has been visiting her feeder. Rose Koppin reported seeing a sleeping <b>Porcupine</b> in tree near Airport.

	JB Jaboor observed two <b>Red-tailed Hawks</b> sitting close together in a tree near Assumption. Many members reported hearing <b>Northern Cardinals</b> singing – spring is close
Feb. 14	Cathy Douglas located a <b>Northern Mockingbird</b> on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Line of Monaghan S. The same day she had two <b>American Otters</b> playing on the ice along the river south of Lock 19
Feb. 15	Cheryl Brady reported a <b>Barred Owl</b> near Millbrook. There have been numerous other reports at various locations in the region during the reporting period
Feb. 16	Donald Sutherland had a <b>Mute Swan</b> on Rice Lake off Old Orchard Road and 2 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> on the Trent River off Asphodel 5 <sup>th</sup> line. Gail Young photographed a <b>Carolina Wren</b> visiting her feeder in the Nogies Creek area of Trent Lakes. <b>Song Sparrow</b> which was observed on January 1 visiting the feeder of Scott Gibson is still present.
Feb. 15 to 17	The continent-wide Great Back Yard Bird Count. For Peterborough County, 64 participants contributed 223 checklists representing 49 species of birds. Noteworthy highlights include: <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> near Buckhorn by Martyn Obbard, 2 <b>Pine Siskins</b> by Tracy Ross at Gordon Fitzgerald Lane, Selwyn, 1 <b>American Robin</b> by Donald A. Sutherland near Fraserville, 135 <b>Bohemian Waxwings</b> with 50 <b>Cedar Waxwings</b> by Dave Milsom near the Airport, 1 <b>Brown Creeper</b> by Cathy Douglas at South Bay, Stoney Lake, 9 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> at Young's Point by Martin Parker, 1 <b>Red Crossbill</b> by Ben Taylor on Engleburn Avenue, 1 <b>Northern Flicker</b> by Bruce Kidd at his farm near Douro, & 1 <b>Merlin</b> by Scott McKinlay near Cavan For more details go to <a href="https://ebird.org/gbbc/region/CA-ON-PB?yr=all">https://ebird.org/gbbc/region/CA-ON-PB?yr=all</a>
Feb. 17	Dave Milsom had a <b>Northern Flicker</b> in Little Lake Cemetery. Jerry Ball had a <b>Raccoon</b> walking in the middle of the roadway near the intersection of the Parkway and Sir Sandford Fleming Drive.
<b>Species to Date:</b> 77	According to the eBird database, a total of 77 species of birds has been reported as being observed in Peterborough County so far this year up to February 17. The spring migration of birds is about to flow into the region.



A female and male Evening Grosbeak at Stoney Lake on December 18. Photo: Rene Gareau

# COYOTES OF PETERBOROUGH

Through November and December 2018 coyote sightings in Peterborough were submitted through Twitter and stewardsnotes.ca in an impromptu citizen science project. Below is a relative heatmap of all the sightings reported in the city during those two months. You can clearly see the parkway corridor is heavily used by coyotes to move around the city. What other wildlife might rely on these green spaces for their homes?



0 1 2 3 km

Dylan Radcliffe 2019



# Membership Application Form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing this completed form to:

Peterborough Field Naturalists  
PO Box 1532  
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



**PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS**

## Contact Information:

Name(s):	Phone(s):
Address:	Email(s):

I would like to receive The Orchid by (Pick One): ☐ Mail Delivery ☐ E-Mail ☐ Both

## Membership type and fee schedule:

**Notice:** Membership fees provide only a small part of the funds required to operate the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Donations from members like you help us offer a diverse range of programming for everyone. Please consider including a donation with your membership so that we can continue to serve you and the Peterborough community. **Please make cheques payable to Peterborough Field Naturalists.**

I have included a donation with my membership fees: ☐ Yes or ☐ No If Yes 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 wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:**

Name:	Age:	Name:	Age:

## ◀◀◀ New Member Information ▶▶▶

### Main interests:

- |  |  |                                  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles and Amphibians | <input type="checkbox"/> Botany  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds               | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life            | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insects             | <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals |
| Other: _____                                 |  |                                  |

### How do you hope to participate:

- ☐ Outings  
☐ Citizen Science  
☐ Meetings  
☐ Junior Naturalists

## Volunteers are always needed. Do you have interest in any of these activities:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join the PFN board          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit on research or conservation committees | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with the Orchid publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with meetings        | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on field projects                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead an outing                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help the Junior Naturalists | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a presentation                        |   |

## Liability Waiver (New and Returning Members):

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 my underage children

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_