

# The Orchid



January/February 2020

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

## *Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



An American Mink on the ice near Lock 25 on December 7. Photo by Steve Paul.

**Inside:** Results of Peterborough Christmas Bird Count  
Ontario Nature's Year in Review  
New Winter/Spring Outings Announced



## In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events.....	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists.....	5
Other Events of Interest.....	6
Ontario Nature Year in Review .....	8
Outing Report for Dec. 8: First Time Out With The Tracking Group.....	10
Results of 68 <sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count .....	11
Poem: Up From the Egg.....	14
The Orchid Diary .....	15
2019 PFN Legacy Fund Report and Projects.....	16
PFN Membership Application.....	18



Clockwise from top right: Varied Thrush in Irondale area on Dec. 7; juvenile Bald Eagle at Little Lake Cemetery on Dec. 23; Barred Owl in Carden Alvar area on Nov. 30; and River Otters on Canal Lake near Kirkfield on Nov. 30. Photos: Steve Paul

*Welcome new PFN members!*

Christopher & Laura Coles and juniors  
Wrennie Coles & Kipling Coles

## PFN Coming Events

*When preparing outing descriptions for inclusion in the January/February Orchid, details for some outings had not been finalized. Please check our website for further information as it becomes available.*

### Wildlife Tracking Outings

PFN member, Don McLeod, will once again lead one or more outings during the months of November to March focusing on tracks and other wildlife sign. 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 to confirm.

Accessibility: Moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.



### Owl Prowls

Owls are such magnificent birds but also very difficult to spot when walking through a forest or park. There have been reports over the years that they have been seen and/or heard in some of our urban parks and in locations very close to the city. Good numbers are usually reported on Christmas Bird Counts. Plans are being made to visit some of these places after dark or before dawn to see what we can find. Leaders and dates have yet to be determined. If you are interested in attending, send an email to sueparadisis@gmail.com and reference Owl Prowl in the subject line. You will be contacted when a night walk is planned. These outings will be restricted to members only as only a few can attend each time so as not to disturb the birds.

Accessibility: Varies



Wednesday, Jan. 1

Meet at 11:00 a.m.

Parking lot of the  
Riverview Park and  
Zoo, Water Street  
North

### First Day Walk at Silent Lake Provincial Park

Ontario Parks encourages people to get out on New Years Day and enjoy the magic of winter so we will be visiting Silent Lake. After meeting at the Riverview Park and Zoo to arrange carpooling, we will head north arriving in time for a picnic on the beach. Picnic tables are available as are heated washrooms next to the parking lot. The view down the lake is spectacular. After lunch we will head over to the Bonnie's Pond snowshoe trail for our hike in the woods. The trail is well travelled so snowshoes aren't really needed. Ice cleats on your boots and/or poles are useful as the terrain is rugged and can be icy in spots. Accessibility: Moderate to difficult

Admission to the park is \$17.00 per vehicle or \$13.50 for seniors. A single-serve coffee machine, snacks and souvenirs are available in the campground office. Dress warmly and bring a camera, lunch and change for gas and admission. We should be back by 4:00 p.m. This outing is weather dependant and will be cancelled if driving is dangerous. Send an email to sueparadisis@gmail.com if you are planning to attend so you can be kept informed. Reference "First Day" in the subject line.

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Jan. 19 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Meet in the Sobey's/Tim Horton's parking lot on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>Wintering Water Birds and Ice Formations</b></p> <p>This outing will visit various locations along the waterfront of Port Hope and Cobourg eastward to Chubb Point in search of the birds which normally winter on the open waters of Lake Ontario. Species of note should be Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Mergansers and several species of gulls. Depending on the temperatures this winter, there may be ice formations along the shoreline including an ice volcano or two. Dress in accordance to the weather forecast for the day of the outing and bring binoculars, telescope (if you have one) and a packed lunch. A stop will be made for a warm drink.</p> <p>This outing will be led by Martin Parker, an active naturalist and trip leader. Meet in the Sobey's/Tim Horton's parking lot on Lansdowne Street West at 9 a.m. The trip should return to Peterborough by 4 p.m.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Friday, Jan. 31 Doors open at 5 p.m.</p> <p>Peterborough Curling Club 2195 Lansdowne St.</p>	<p><b>Join us for PFN's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>Keep up-to-date on PFN business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation! The guest speaker, Noel Alfonso, will entertain us with tales of his adventures in fish research at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Check out the AGM poster on page 10 for further details. The deadline for ticket reservations is January 22.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Feb. 12 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Wild Pigs in Ontario</b></p> <p>Speaker: Erin Koen, Research Scientist for the Landscape Team at the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the MNRF.</p> <p>Wild Pigs are in Ontario. They can be destructive to wild habitat and crops. This introduced species is difficult to control through traditional management tools such as recreational hunting. We will learn where wild pigs have been located so far in Canada and Ontario and how we can help their monitoring by communicating sightings.</p>
<p>Sunday, Mar. 1 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Meet in the parking lot of the Riverview Park and Zoo, Water Street North</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. Steve Paul and Cathy Douglas will be leading this annual late winter outing.</p>



PFN Coming Events	
	<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>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Saturday, Mar. 7</p> <p>7 a.m.</p> <p>Meet in the Tim Horton's Parking Lot Sobeys/CTC Plaza</p>	<p><b>Hooters of Amherst Island</b></p> <p>This is the PFN's bi-annual outing to Amherst Island in the eastern end of Lake Ontario near Kingston. We will cross to the island on the ferry and visit various locations to look for wintering owls and the other hawks and eagles which will also be present. Meet in the parking lot adjacent Tim Horton's in the Sobeys/Canadian Tire Plaza on Lansdowne Street at 7 a.m. We will carpool from there and catch the 9:30 a.m. ferry to Amherst Island. Matthew Tobey and Brian Wales are the leaders for this outing. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and telescope if you have one. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast on the day of the outing.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to moderate depending on snow conditions</p>
<p>Wednesday, Mar. 11</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Unique and Diverse Flora of Western Australia</b></p> <p>Western Australia is designated as having one of the most diverse flora communities in the world. This makes it a very fascinating place to visit. But also of interest is why Western Australia's plants are so different from those we are used to here. Perhaps these very different plants will help us see our native ones in a different light and will garner them more appreciation.</p> <p>Guest speaker Ed Addison has been a member of the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists, the Richmond Hill Field Naturalists and is now, with his wife Rose, a member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Ed holds a Ph.D. from the University of Guelph. He worked for the OMNRF in the area of wildlife health. For the last twenty years, these responsibilities took him throughout Ontario on a wide variety of wildlife and ecosystem health matters.</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)
<p>Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email <a href="mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com">pfnjuniors@gmail.com</a> if you're not on the members' distribution list for event announcements. Bookings can be made online at <a href="https://peterboroughnature.org/junior-naturalists/">https://peterboroughnature.org/junior-naturalists/</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Not a PFN member yet? Child memberships are \$10 per year. Contact <a href="mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com">pfnjuniors@gmail.com</a> for details.</p>

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

Sunday, Jan.5  
1 to 4 p.m.  
Art Gallery of  
Peterborough  
250 Crescent St.

#### Let's Make Nature Art

The Peterborough Junior Naturalists are teaming up with the Art Gallery of Peterborough for a nature art event.

The Art Gallery of Peterborough (AGP) has "Family Sundays", where families can come for free to visit the gallery and make some art. For this Family Sunday, we'll be decorating wood pendants with pressed flowers and leaves. Make some nature-themed jewelry or ornaments to take home. All wood and plants are from Peterborough. Jay Fitzsimmons of the PFN Juniors will be there along with AGP volunteers.

No registration required. The event is free, as are all of the AGP's Family Sundays. You can enjoy them the first Sunday of every month. Drop in any time between 1:00 and 4:00.



### Other Events of Interest

Feb. 14 to 17

#### The Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a joint partnership between Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with Birds 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](mailto: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 2019 expired on December 31. Memberships can be renewed at the Annual General Meeting on January 31, 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).

### 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 31, you can contact Rene Gareau by e-mail at: [rene.gareau@sympatico.ca](mailto: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 28. 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 on January 31, which will include some framed prints kindly donated by PFN member Murray Palmer from artists James Carson, Wayne Mondock and Richard Edwards (see below).





## Ontario Nature Blog: Wrapping up the Decade

As we count down the final days of the decade, we're thinking back to the amazing things we accomplished for nature in 2019. We could not have done it without you – our members, followers, funders, partners and sponsors. Your support makes everything we do for nature possible.



### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership

Each year, Ontario Nature's Youth Summit brings young leaders together to learn from nature experts and gain the skills and knowledge to become environmental leaders. This year, we celebrated a decade of Youth Summits with 102 youth in attendance from 70 communities across Ontario.

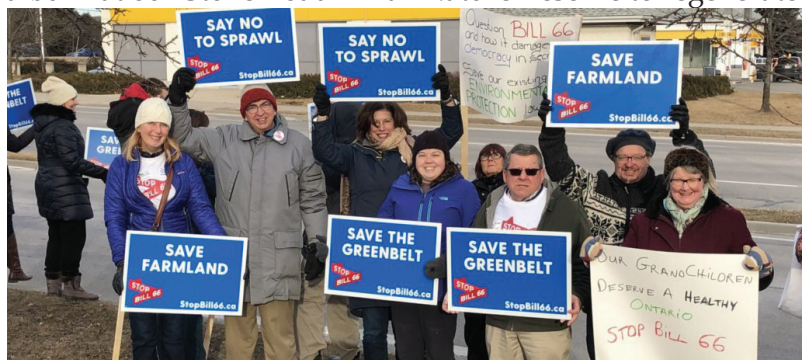
### A "prescribed burn" at one of our nature reserves

We conducted a carefully planned prescribed burn at our Stone Road Alvar Nature Reserve to regenerate this haven of biodiversity. The burn is the focal point of research to assess how fire benefits snakes, snails and other alvar species.

### Nature's watchdog

We were there when nature needed us most. Thanks to our dedicated network of members, nature groups, supporters, and Advocates for Nature, we were able to mobilize citizens and bring local environmental issues to the attention of the province. Here are just a few of our Action Alerts from 2019:

- You helped us stop Schedule 10 of Bill 66
- The fight for Ontario's wolves and coyotes
- Opposing aggregate extraction in sensitive natural areas



Ontario Nature Board members protesting Bill 66 © Kevin Thomason

### Protecting nature one acre at a time

December 3rd was Giving Tuesday, a day for Canadians to give to the causes that mean the most to them. This year, for our Giving Tuesday cause, we were raising funds to help purchase a 360-acre property on the Frontenac Arch – a geological wonder that supports some of the best remaining forest, shoreline and wetland habitat that we have left in the province.

Thanks to your very generous support, we surpassed our Giving Tuesday fundraising goal! We are now on track to permanently protecting this vulnerable habitat and creating our 26<sup>th</sup> nature reserve. Thank you to Quest Nature Tours, Ontario Nature's Board of Directors and an anonymous donor who matched every dollar raised up to \$20,000.

### Working with Indigenous communities on conservation action

For conservation professionals and advocates, knowledge of Treaties is a key facet to successful and responsible nature protection and engagement with First Nations. For this reason, Ontario Nature has hosted workshops on Treaties for conservation colleagues. Continuing with the cross-cultural dialogue, this past October we co-hosted a three-day gathering on protected areas and climate action.



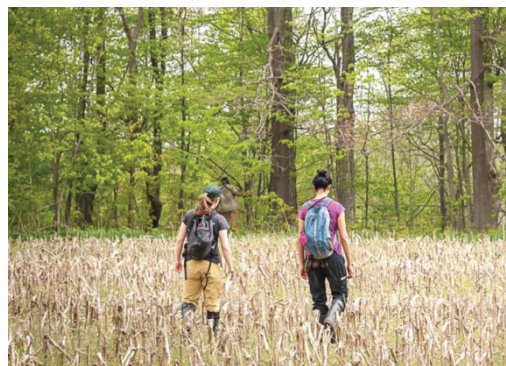
Over 100 leaders and knowledge holders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and organizations from across Ontario gathered in Kingston to share insights and strategies about the nature protection challenges we face and how to address them. A full report and video summarizing the gathering will be released in 2020.

### Restoration by the river

This year, Ontario Nature began an ecological restoration project on our Sydenham River Nature Reserve (SRNR). A biodiversity hotspot, SRNR features one of Ontario's most biodiverse waterways and is a sanctuary for many endangered and rare species.

The goal of the project is to restore formerly healthy forest ecosystems and lush habitat in areas of the reserve that were converted into agricultural crops. The first stage of the project involved removing drainage tiles, developing vernal pools and establishing native tallgrass prairie habitat.

Over two weekends this fall, we hosted seed collection and planting events with volunteer stewards of the reserve, Lambton Wildlife, and the Sydenham Field Naturalists. Thanks to the support of many dedicated Ontario Nature members and volunteers, the next stage of the restoration project – planting native trees – can be completed in 2020.



Restoration site at Sydenham River Nature Reserve © David Coulson

### Youth Circle for Mother Earth

This year was the inaugural year for the Youth Circle for Mother Earth project. Created to support and nurture a cross cultural network of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous environmental leaders to become lifelong ambassadors for nature and conservation, the project is led by Ontario Nature, Plenty Canada, Walpole Island Heritage Centre and the Indigenous Environmental Institute at Trent University.

### Making nature more accessible for all Ontarians

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature, regardless of their age or abilities. That's why we're dedicated to making our nature reserves more accessible by improving our trail networks.

Last year, we unveiled the first accessible boardwalk at our Petrel Point Nature Reserve. This year, we have nearly completed a new accessible trail at our Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve near Newmarket that focuses on both wheelchair and visual accessibility. With the first phase of the project now complete, we are exploring the use of interpretive features such as signage designed for visitors with low vision.

*Editor's Note: 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.*

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, February 21.

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



## Outing Report for Dec. 8: First Time Out With The Tracking Group

Submitted by Marilyn Hubley

Well, my first time out with Don McLeod and his tracking group was a wonderful experience that left me wanting to do more.

We all met at Don's and he had us walk a path down his back lawn towards the lake to show us the tracks he had right in his own yard. We saw tracks and trails for Eastern Gray Squirrel and Red Fox.

It helped a lot that he uses measurements of how far the tracks are apart. He showed us walking versus bounding trails and also measuring the trail width to identify the animal.

Off to Windy Ridge Conservation Area for more tracking and I think one of the neatest trails was the Porcupine.

Finding its den was fascinating. Don was excited to find a Fisher trail. The full list of mammals identified by tracks for Windy Ridge included: Coyote, Red Fox, Fisher, American Mink, Red Squirrel, Porcupine, Mouse sp. and Shrew sp. We looked around but never did see a Snowshoe Hare track... maybe we will next time. I can't wait to learn more.



Porcupine den in tree hollow with scat covered trail leading away from the tree. Photo: Marilyn Hubley



# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

**INVITE YOU TO OUR 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

January 31 5 PM at The Stone House Hall Peterborough Curling Club 2195  
Lansdowne St, Peterborough

Please RSVP by Friday, January 22 by contacting Jim Young at  
jbyoung559@gmail.com or calling 705-760-9397. Tickets are \$45/person

Doors Open at 5, Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7, Keynote Speaker at 8




## Join Noel Alfonso

This presentation will be given by keynote speaker, Noel Alfonso, Senior Research Assistant (zoology) at the Canadian Museum of Nature. He will be sharing with us his lifelong fascination with fishes and he will regale us with adventurous tales from his work at the museum.

## How many birds can you find?

**23rd Annual Great  
Backyard Bird Count**  
February 14-17, 2020  
[birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org)



White-breasted Nuthatch. Photo: Ulf Kirchdorfer/Great Backyard Bird Count



## Results of 68<sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Martin Parker, Count Compiler

On Sunday, December 15, 64 members and friends of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) ventured into the field in search of our wintering birds. Another 16 individuals monitored the birds visiting their feeders, yard and neighbourhood. This tradition of the Peterborough Field Naturalists commenced in the late 1940s and now continues annually. Since the 1963 Christmas Bird Count, all the counts have been conducted in accordance with the protocol established by the National Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada. The count is conducted within one calendar day and within a circle of diameter 15 miles. The maps for the Peterborough CBC are available for viewing on the PFN website: [www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org). The complete summary of the Peterborough CBC data follows this article.



A Dark-eyed Junco, two House Finches and a Mourning Dove at a feeder on count day. Photo: Ken McKeen



Ken McKeen noted that some of the birds didn't seem particularly animated on this year's count day.

A grand total of 56 species of birds were spotted on Count Day, consisting of 11,159 individuals. The results of the five previous counts were 65 species in 2018, 60 species in 2017, 50 species in 2016, 58 species in 2015 and 67 in 2014. The number of individuals were lower than the average of 13,736 over the previous five years.

A number of factors contributed to the lower number of species and individuals. The cold weather in November, which resulted in extensive ice coverage of some of our local lakes and other water bodies, resulted in a decline in the variety and number of water birds. For example, the 53 Canada Geese represents the lowest total over the past five years. On the 2018 count, there were 1,168 Canada Geese, in 2017 there were 3,765 and in 2015 there were 5,795. As with this year, open water was reduced due to low temperatures just before the 2016 count, which also saw a low

count of only 71 Canada Geese. The cold weather also affected the number of other waterfowl species. On the 2015 count in a warm December, there were 11 species of waterfowl but there were only 7 on this year's count. Once our local water courses freeze over in the fall, waterfowl leave and do not return until the rivers and lake open in March. Mallards, however, did not follow the trend.

The slight wind on the morning of the count created difficulties in finding owls. This year, only Great Horned Owls were recorded. Five species were found or heard the previous year.

Two species of birds were found on this year's count for the first time ever. They were:

- One **Canvasback** was counted on the Otonabee River near the wastewater treatment plant by the Area 6 team.
- Two **Turkey Vultures** were observed on the morning of the count: one in the area of the marsh at the north end of Fairburn Street, and another in the area of Anne Street and Monaghan Road.

This brings the total number of species recorded on a Peterborough CBC to 136.



New record high numbers and other highlights are:

- **Horned Grebe** – The one individual on Little Lake represents only the third time this species has been recorded on this count.
- **Peregrine Falcon** – Two were recorded: one at the Quaker Oats building and the other at Loggerhead Marsh. This is the second time two individuals have been observed on the count. (Second time on the count or second time that exactly two have been on the count?)
- **Red-bellied Woodpecker** – The 16 individuals ties the previous high of 16 on the 2017 count.
- **American Crow** – The 956 individuals exceed the previous high of 953 on the 2016 count.
- **Yellow-rumped Warbler** – this is the 7th time this species has been recorded on a Peterborough CBC.

### Winter Finches

Birders across the southern part of the province each fall wonder if there will be an influx of winter finches in the winter months. This year, the forecast was that there would not be a sufficient movement to the south this winter. The count results reflect the absence of winter finches. The following species were not reported on this year's Peterborough CBC: Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Hoary Redpoll and Pine Siskin. Only one Common Redpoll and seven Evening Grosbeaks were seen. This absence of winter finches has been duplicated on other counts in Central Ontario.

The 342 American Goldfinches, which are not considered "winter finches," were higher than the average from the past five counts.

A special thanks is extended to all the count participants for their efforts on count day.

#	Area	Participants
1	Chemong/ Bridgenorth	Don McLeod, Bill McCord, Tom Northey, David Britton, and Ken McKeen.
2	Miller Creek/ Selwyn	Brian Wales, Drew Monkman, Dani Bootsma, Luke Berg, Gary Berg, and Noah Berg.
3	Lakefield/ Otonabee River	Dave Milsom, Kathryn Sheridan, Marla Williams, Susan Chow, and Matthew Poppleton. Bird feeder watchers: Liz Milsom, Murray Palmer, Mary Lou Murphy, Inge Buchar, Ian Rainer, and Carrie Sadowski.
4	Douro Wedge	Bill Crins, Natasha Carr, Cathy Douglas, Louis Chora, Don Sutherland, Ken Abraham, Martyn Obbard, Mike Oldham & Helen Bested. Bird feeders: Mike Burrell, Erica Barkely & Abigail Burrell.
5	Burnham	Warren Dunlop, Janet Kelly, Gerry Bird, Al Sippel, Sue Paradisis, Anda Rungis, and Philip Shaw.
6	Stewart Hall/Landfill	Joan DiFruscia, Robert DiFruscia, Kathy Pimmett, Steve Paul, Dan Chronowic, J.B. Jaboor. Bird feeders: Dave and Anne Heuft.
7	Airport	Matthew Tobey, Rene Gareau, Lynn Smith, Dylan Radcliffe, and Colleen Lynch.
8	Cavan Swamp	Chris Risley, Erica Nol, Paul Frost, Ben Taylor, Gillian Holmes, and Gary Heavel. Bird feeders: Rose Addison.
9	Jackson Park	Jerry Ball, Kathy Parker, Maxwell Stewart, Scott Gibson, Colin Jones, and Mike V.A. Burrell. Bird feeders: Marie Duchesneau.
10	Downtown	Martin Parker, King Baker, Emilie Medcalfe, Breagha LaPierre, Olivia Mallett, and Andrew Brown. Bird feeders: Sue Jones, Michelle Monkman, Jim Cashmore, and Margaret Lilley.

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Total	Previous High
Canada Goose			12		15	13	4			9	53	3,765
American Black Duck			5	2		3					10	30
Mallard			85	102	80	464	92	5		182	1,010	1,264
Mallard (domestic type)						1					1	-
<b>Canvasback</b>						1					1	<b>new</b>
Common Goldeneye			56	6	25	12	12			13	124	292
Hooded Merganser			4								4	15
Common Merganser			4		27						31	255
Ruffed Grouse			1	2					1		4	82
Wild Turkey	12	12	10			31	12	28	10		115	306
Horned Grebe					1						1	1
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>									1	1	2	<b>new</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1	1					2	6
Cooper's Hawk			1			2	2		2		7	12
Bald Eagle			1	2	1	2	1	1	1		9	13
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2		6	5	3	3		5		25	64
Rough-legged Hawk									1		1	5
hawk sp.						1					1	-
Ring-billed Gull			1	1	4		15	2	7	11	41	399
Herring Guil		42	93	23	29	181	6	6	3	24	407	1,302
Glaucous Gull			2								2	5
Great Black-backed Gull			2					1			3	32
gull sp.					15			6			21	-
Rock Pigeon	41	20	5	100	90	81	88	56	170	456	1,107	2,027
Mourning Dove	97	111	60	71	67	58	76	13	6	15	574	1,329
Great Horned Owl		1					1				2	40
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3	3	1		3	3	1		1	1	16	16
Downy Woodpecker	7	6	3	8	5	11	4	4	7	5	60	119
Hairy Woodpecker	7	3	3	9	5	4	5	3	9	2	50	84
Northern Flicker		1		2							3	5
Pileated Woodpecker	1		1				1	1	2		6	28
American Kestrel						1					1	14
Merlin										1	1	3
Peregrine Falcon				1				1			2	2
Northern Shrike							1		1		2	29
Blue Jay	33	21	25	36	23	3	15	12	26	3	197	469
American Crow	68	51	81	40	122	171	61	15	106	241	956	953
Common Raven	2	5	4	7	4	1	1		2		26	29
Black-capped Chickadee	139	218	134	325	145	148	132	96	247	57	1,641	2,148
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1		2	1			1	2	1	2	10	66
White-breasted Nuthatch	16	14	5	18	7	10	10	2	10	6	98	225
Brown Creeper	3	1				1	1		3	1	10	21
Golden-crowned Kinglet		3		4			5		3		15	47
American Robin	10	7	3	111	2	2			8		143	1,943
European Starling	155	56	110	243	682	80	54	15	524	134	2,053	3,400
Cedar Waxwing		81	3	7		57	2	64	72		286	737
Snow Bunting								150			150	1,683
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1							1	3
Am. Tree Sparrow	16	54	6	27	4	8	16	8	39		178	589
Dark-eyed Junco	35	73	36	52	26	8	37	41	54	40	402	739
White-throated Sparrow		2					1	1		1	5	11
Northern Cardinal	17	8	28	9	12	10	10	8	19	23	144	173
Common Grackle	1										1	4
House Finch	10		11	1		30	4	2		2	60	1,197
Purple Finch					16						16	60
Common Redpoll							1				1	1,736
American Goldfinch	38	78	12	24	27	13	51	34	21	44	342	941
Evening Grosbeak		5	2								7	n/a
finch sp.		12			15						27	-
House Sparrow	25	1		12	22	19	11	20	4	104	218	2,209
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>10,686</b>	
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>56</b>	



### Up From The Egg

By Ogden Nash

Bird watchers top my honors list.  
I aimed to be one, but I missed.  
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,  
My aim turned out to be erratic,  
And I, bespectacled and binocular,  
Exposed myself to comment jocular.

We don't need too much birdlore, do we,  
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;  
Yet I cannot, and never will,  
Unless the silly birds stand still.  
And there's no enlightenment in a tour  
Of ornithological literature.  
Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,  
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?

You can rush to consult your Nature guide  
And inspect the gallery inside,  
But a bird in the open never looks  
Like its picture in the birdie books –  
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,  
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.  
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,  
Watching a clock instead of finches,  
But I sometimes visualize in my gin  
The Audubon that I audubin.

*Editor's Note: If you ever find yourself sharing a ride with Jim Cashmore on a PFN outing, ask him if he can still recite this poem by heart. He might have other amusing poems to regale you with, too!*





## 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 705-745-4750

<b>Weather:</b> Conditions were highly variable from days with winter storms with freezing rain and snow to days with above average temperatures. Areas with slow moving water became ice-covered at some point during the month.	
Nov 16	Late report to Drew Monkman's Sightings website: Perce Powles' grand-daughter observed an <b>Opossum</b> running along Oriole Drive.
Nov 20	Dan Williams observed a <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> on Little Lake off the south end of Mark St.
Nov 21	Ben Taylor observed in the area of Elim Lodge, one <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> on Pigeon Lake and one <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> . Matthew Garvin had a late departing <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> in the area of Rotary Park. At about 5:30 p.m., Carrie Sadowski observed large numbers <b>frogs</b> (dozens at least, perhaps hundreds) crossing River Road between Trent U. and Lakefield. The majority were hopping towards the river. The temperature at the time was 3 °C with drizzle. This was after a cold period.
Nov 23	Lynn Smith had a late departing male <b>Northern Flicker</b> visiting her feeder in the Cavan area. Dave Milsom spotted a <b>Ruddy Duck</b> on the river at Auburn Reach Park.
Nov 24	On the PFN outing, along the north shore of Rice Lake, the group viewed over 500 <b>Canada Geese</b> and 700 <b>Common Mergansers</b> and other waterfowl which were on the open water or adjacent ice sheet off Pengelly Landing. Then an adult <b>Bald Eagle</b> flew over and the geese and mergansers filled the air. At Hall's Landing they observed a <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> .
Nov 25	Jerry Ball had an <b>American Kestrel</b> along County Rd 2 at Drummond Line.
Nov 26	Travis Cameron had a flock of approximately 100 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> fly over his residence just south of Lakefield. Carl Welbourn observed a <b>Beaver</b> along Hooton Line in the Cavan Swamp.
Nov 28	Iain Rayner had a <b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b> fly over his yard south of Lakefield.
Nov 29	Ken Fusang had a single <b>Sandhill Crane</b> in the Norwood area.
Nov 30	<b>Ruddy Duck</b> still present on river at Auburn Reach Park according to Iain Rayner. Jerry Ball had a <b>Coyote</b> in the Parkhill Road West area. Tim Dyson observed an adult <b>Golden Eagle</b> passing over in the Warsaw area.
Dec 1	Greg Warner photographed a <b>Common Grackle</b> coming to his feeder in the Cherryhill area. In the later part of November he also had a <b>Red-winged Blackbird</b> & <b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>
Dec 2	Richard Straka had a late departing <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> within the Trent Nature Area.
Dec 3	A late <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> was located on north side of Little Lake by Iain Rayner and Matthew Gavin. Cathy Douglas spotted a <b>Snowy Owl</b> within Little Lake Cemetery. It was being mobbed by <b>American Crows</b> . Jerry Ball had a single <b>Snow Bunting</b> in the Orange Corners area. Carl Welbourn photographed a <b>Rough-legged Hawk</b> feeding on a <b>Carp</b> which was on the ice. (Wonder who caught the Carp.)

Dec 4	Marie Duchesneau spotted a <b>Northern Shrike</b> along the county road between Burleigh Falls and Buckhorn. Outside his house in the City, Jerry Ball had an <b>American Robin</b> . Drew Monkman had a <b>Bald Eagle</b> on the ice at Lock 25.
Nov 8	Sue Paradisis spotted a <b>Bald Eagle</b> in the Flynn's Corner area.
Dec. 9	Jerry Ball had a <b>Bald Eagle</b> at Katchewanooka Lake near the eagle nest site.
Dec 11	Reports given at Member's Night: Enid Mallory observed a <b>Great Horned Owl</b> in the Lily Lake area. Randy Beacler reviewed an encounter with two <b>River Otters</b> . While he was following a trail an otter came bounding down the trail towards him. When the otter detected him it stopped, cried out and then took off in another direction. A few minutes later another otter repeated the process. Quite an encounter.
Dec. 15	68 <sup>th</sup> Peterborough Christmas Bird Count -- 56 species, 11,159 individuals See separate report in this issue of <i>The Orchid</i> . New count species were two <b>Turkey Vultures</b> -- one near Fairburn Marsh by Mike V. Burrell and Scott Gibson and another near 182 Charlotte Street by Olivia Mallet, Breagha LaPierre and Andrew Brown and one <b>Canvasback</b> on river near Waste Water Treatment Plant by the party covering area 6. The Mike Oldham party had a <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> in trees along river at East City Bowl
Dec 16	The 2 <b>Glaucous Gulls</b> present on the river at Trent U. on the CBC were still present according to Drew Monkman.
Dec 17	Ben Taylor had a <b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b> within Petroglyphs Prov. Park
Dec 18	Wendy Hogan had a <b>Common Grackle</b> visiting her feeder in the Catchacoma area. Also present on December 19.
Dec 20	Several groups of birders were in the Petroglyphs Park area. Highlights include: <b>Northern Goshawk</b> by Matthew Tobey and Dave Milsom. <b>Boreal Owl</b> calling by Luke Berg. It called three times near north end of park at about 1400 hours. <b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b> - Donald Sutherland, Matthew Tobey and Dave Milsom. Matthew Tobey reported a <b>Beaver</b> on the ice in the area of Lock 25 on the river.

## 2019 PFN Legacy Fund Report and Projects

The PFN Legacy Fund (Fund) is an endowment fund of the Peterborough Field Naturalists managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. The Fund was established through the bequest received from the late Rhea Bringeman. The Fund provides an annual grant to the PFN which the Board has been using for special projects. This year the grant received from the Fund was \$1,070.

This grant was utilized by the Board to fund the following projects in 2019:

1. Rhea Bringeman Award which permitted two students to attend the 2019 Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership.
2. The fees payable to the North American Butterfly Association for the participants of the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count
3. Four awards at the 2019 Peterborough Regional Science Fair for the top nature/wildlife/environment/projects at the Elementary level and Junior level. One of the Award winners attended the Canada-wide science fair and received a silver metal.
4. The initial applications for a Peterborough Field Naturalists Legacy Grant were awarded. Four grants were issued for the following:
  - i. Installation of bird feeders at Peterborough Hospice

- ii. Interpretive signs at Alderville Black Oak Savannah
- iii. Round Goby Movement Behaviour Project
- iv. The Growth Patterns of wild Spotted Salamanders

### Contributions to the PFN Legacy Fund

The PFN Legacy Fund is intended to provide an annual source of income to the PFN for the funding of special projects. The Fund is an endowed fund and, in accordance with federal tax regulations, the principal cannot be withdrawn but at least 3.5% of the value of the Fund is granted to the PFN annually to be used as the PFN Board determines. The funds for the past three years were used for special projects and initiatives.

Contributions and bequests to the PFN Legacy Fund will grow the capital in the fund and the resulting annual grant will support the objectives of the PFN into the future. Your contribution or bequest will be your continuing legacy to the PFN. All donations are tax deductible. For additional details please contact Dylan Radcliffe or Martin Parker.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President & Co-webmaster	Dylan Radcliffe	dylan.radcliffe@gmail.com	991-0422	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
Vice-President	Vacant			Orchid Editor	Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Past President and Treasurer	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
Secretary	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin, Stephanie Collins, Erica Barclay and Jay Fitzsimmons pfnjuniors@gmail.com
Director-at-Large	Dave Heuft	dave.heuft@gmail.com	743-6164	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Kathryn Sheridan
Community Partners Liaison	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects	Martin Parker
Meeting Coordinator	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Environmental Protection Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Sue Paradisis
Meeting Coordinator	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Harper Park Stewardship Committee	Dylan Radcliffe, Lynn Smith, Rene Gareau, Marilyn Hubley, Ted Vale
AGM Coordinator	Reem Ali	reemest@hotmail.com	868-0060	Webmaster	Chris Gooderham webmaster@peterboroughnature.org
Digital Comms Co-coordinator	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Peterborough CBC	Martin Parker
Outside Shows Booth Coordinator	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones
Outings Coordinator	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com	559-2061	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball
Ontario Nature Representative	Lesley Hale	lesleyhale@hotmail.com	917-0373		
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



# 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:** \_\_\_\_\_