

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



American Mink with Crayfish. Photo: Steve Paul

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Welcome new PFN members!

- Rosemary MacAdam
- Peter & Marian Van Bruinessen
- Rick & Carolyn Conrad
- Tessa Molina



River Otter at Burleigh Falls on December 14. Photo: Ken Morrison

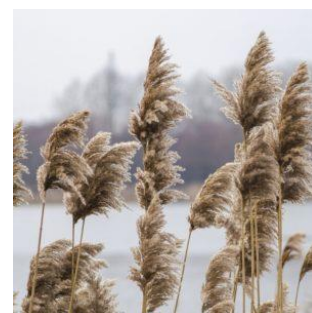


Photos from the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 20. From top: Crustose lichen displaying raised apothecia (fruiting bodies) along Meade Creek by Sue Paradisis and Common Redpoll in the Chemong Lake region by Don McLeod. The results of the Peterborough CBC will be presented in the next issue of *The Orchid*.



PFN Coming Events

With much regret, the Board of Directors decided to suspend outings until mid-February given the provincially mandated lockdown due to COVID-19. If we all do our part, hopefully we will be able to enjoy spring migration and wildflower outings in 2021. Holding the outings listed below for Feb. 21, Feb. 28 and Mar. 14 will depend on the situation with the pandemic in February and March.

<p>Thursday, Jan. 14</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting on Zoom</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: New Discoveries in Songbird Migration</p> <p>Guest speaker: Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, professor of biology and Canada Research Chair in Ecology and Conservation Biology at York University. She is also the author of the book "Silence of the Songbirds."</p> <p>Each fall, billions of songbirds leave Canada on an epic journey to their far-away wintering grounds in Central and South America where many live in tropical forests shared by toucans, howler monkeys, and jaguars. Dozens of species have experienced serious, long-term population declines that are driven in part by the threats that these birds face on migration and while in the tropics. But only recently has it been possible to track the migration of individual songbirds over part, or all, of their migration journey. Bridget Stutchbury, will talk about her research on uncovering the mysteries of songbird migration behaviour, and what this tells about the threats they face during their travels.</p> <p>Please note that the date has been changed (was Wednesday, January 13).</p>
<p>Thursday, Feb. 11</p> <p>Zoom meeting</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Using Herbicides in Restoration of Native Plant Biodiversity</p> <p>Guest speaker: Verena Sesin, Ph.D. candidate in the Environmental and Life Sciences program at Trent University in Peterborough. Verena is originally from Germany, where she completed her B.A. in Science Journalism and M.Sc. in Ecotoxicology. Her current research interest lies in pesticide effects and fate in wetlands.</p> <p>If you have been out on the bike trails around Peterborough, chances are high that you have seen a huge wall of a specific grass: Phragmites. This plant is invasive and occurs all over Ontario – and it's not picky at all, even thriving in roadside ditches! But why should you care? Well, invasive plants such as Phragmites are a serious problem for native biodiversity, because they can grow so tall and dense that they can push out native plants and alter the whole habitat. Land managers often fight back through spraying herbicides, which are chemicals that kill the invasive plants. However, many herbicides are also toxic to native plants, and therefore native plants may not only be threatened by invasive plants but also by herbicide spraying. In this talk, I will explore a balanced approach to using herbicides in restoration. I will tackle the question: How can we effectively remove invasive plants with herbicides while keeping native plants healthy?</p> <p>Please note that the date has been changed (was Wednesday, February 10).</p>



Phragmites australis,
a.k.a. common reed

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Feb. 21 8 to 10 a.m. 6 participants</p>	<p>Winter Birds Around Little Lake</p> <p>Join Scott McKinlay and explore a few spots along the shores of Little Lake and the Otonabee River for winter birds such as gulls and waterfowl. Bring binoculars and dress according to the weather forecast for the day, keeping in mind that there are often cold winds off the lake. Contact Scott at smckinlay59@yahoo.ca to register. More details will be provided closer to the outing date.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to moderate depending on snow or ice conditions</p> <p>Please note that the date has been changed (was Sunday, January 3).</p> 
<p>Sunday, Feb. 28 1 to 3 p.m. 6 participants</p>	<p>A Walk in the Cavan Countryside</p> <p>Come enjoy a late winter walk on the property of Lynn and Larry Smith. There are paths travelling through different habitats of woods, fields, and a marsh. Depending on the snow conditions, it could be a hike or snowshoeing. Contact Lynn at smithfam@nexicom.net to register.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate – there are some rugged spots</p>
<p>Wednesday, Mar. 3 7:30 p.m. Virtual meeting on Zoom Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>PFN Annual General Meeting</p> <p>The meeting will consist of an update on PFN business and the election of the next PFN board.</p> <p>Note: The AGM is being held later this year to allow time for PFN year-end reports to be circulated to all members. There will be no guest speaker, and no bucket draw or silent auction due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> 
<p>Sunday, Mar. 14 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Returning Waterfowl on the Otonabee</p> <p>With the increasing sunlight hours in March, the spring migration is underway. This afternoon trip will visit various locations along the Otonabee River to discover the returning waterfowl. More details will be available in the next issue of <i>The Orchid</i>. Martin Parker will be leading this annual early spring outing.</p>

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, February 19
Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org
or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



Request for Volunteers and Board Members

Submitted by Lynn Smith



Please read completely as you may have the skills that are needed for your PFN Board to move forward into 2021 with productive efficiency!

Computer Skills

In 2020, the Board continued with its digital updating. We're working towards continued improvements of the website, including the opportunity for online membership payments, donations, data forms and working with the charity CanadaHelps. As well, our Club meetings are through the platform, Zoom. However, with that comes the need for assistance from those who are skilled in these computer areas.

Are you that person and could you spare some of your time and expertise?

Fundraising

The Board made some tough decisions around COVID-19 (as we all have). The number of outings and respective participants was reduced, club meetings and speakers are now being delivered through Zoom, and the 2020 membership payment has been extended to include 2021. Traditional means of fundraising have been cancelled.

The Board anticipates that assistance will be needed from someone with a passion and talent for fundraising and marketing COVID-style! Ideas might include perhaps organizing and hosting a virtual fundraising event, online auction, virtual walk/run with pledges... Put your fundraising creative juices to work!

Are you that person and could you spare some of your time and expertise?

Three Vacancies for the Board

The PFN Board of Directors is looking for nominations to fill three vacancies. The term of service is three years. Skills that would benefit the Board and help shape the future of the PFN include:

- Contributing to areas of governance & policy
- Advocating where needed
- Computer or fundraising skills as mentioned above.

Should you have any questions or need further details, we encourage you to contact:

- Ted Vale tedandmarion@sympatico.ca
- Reem Ali reemest@hotmail.com
- Lynn Smith smithfam@nexicom.net

PFN Club Logo

Mark's Work Wearhouse at 1230 Lansdown Street West has the PFN Club logo ready and waiting to be embroidered on any piece of clothing of your choice: perhaps a t-shirt, hoodie or hat.



- Choose a piece of clothing and take it to the desk at the back of the store.
- Tell the clerk that you would like to have the Peterborough Field Naturalists' logo embroidered on it.
- You will receive 10% off the cost of the clothing (probably some exceptions here)
- The cost to embroider is \$5.75. You or that special someone will become one of the elite "Peterborough Field Naturalists logo-wearing club members". It doesn't get much better than that!

Round Goby Movement Project Summary

Submitted by Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

In November of 2019, my research team and I were generously awarded a \$188 PFN Legacy Grant to fund the field and lab work expenses associated with our project on the movement behaviour of the round goby. The overall goal of our study is to improve our understanding of how invasive populations expand their range once they are introduced into a stream or a lake, and how the personality traits of individual fish influence that process. Working with the round goby, our first objective is to evaluate the effect of habitat (whether an individual is from a stream or a lake) and sex on the round goby boldness (i.e., the propensity of moving through and exploring unfamiliar spaces) and movement using a qualitative approach. Our second objective is to determine the effect of habitat and sex on the round goby movement behaviour and dispersal ability, that is whether gobies move in a single direction to expand the invasion front (the geographical limit where this species can be found), or randomly in all directions until they find suitable habitat. This will be addressed using a quantitative approach.



The round goby. Photo: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan



Lab experiment setup, including the four-metre-long flume and the recording station. Photo: Sandra Klemet-N'Guessan

Field work and lab experiments were completed by my research assistant, Emily Yeung, and I from mid-September to late October. Thirty individuals (15 females and 15 males) were collected at each of those four sites: Cavan Creek, Baxter Creek, Little Lake, and Rice Lake. We had a hard time catching fish at Cavan Creek and had to go to three different locations (in different parts of the stream) multiple times to look for individuals. The low fish density could be due to the low water temperatures, the presence of competitors such as sculpins, or the winter "migration" of fish into deeper waters such as the pool in front of one of the dams at Cavan Creek. Finding males was also consistently more challenging than finding females. This could be indicative of the

invasion dynamics at all the sites we sampled, particularly at the invasion front of the two streams. In the lab, each individual was tested separately in a four-metre-long flume for one hour, including five minutes of acclimation in their shelter and 55 minutes of trial. A total of 113 trials were videotaped for subsequent video analysis.

To address the first objective of this study, Emily Yeung randomly selected a subset of our trial videos and visually assessed various behavioural parameters. She found that stream gobies were bolder than lake gobies and that within each habitat (stream or lake), one of the two sexes was more mobile than the other (females were the most mobile in lakes whereas males were the most mobile in streams). These are interesting results that point toward an effect of habitat and sex on the round goby boldness and movement. Addressing our second objective, likely in 2021 and 2022, will allow us to expand on these preliminary results more quantitatively.

Ultimately, we hope that identifying the movement patterns of each population and sex will help us better understand an important factor in species invasion - that is, species movement behaviour - and potentially predict future invasions. This is particularly relevant in the context of worldwide rapid biodiversity loss as it was estimated in 2016 that 62% of global animal extinctions were due to species invasions.

We are very thankful to the PFN members for their generous support of our project and we are looking forward to sharing our final results!

How Omemee Got Its Name

By Maxwell Matchim

Between the city of Flin Flon on the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border and St-Louis-du-Ha!-Ha! in Quebec, there's a fair number of memorable place names in this country. The town of Omemee, Ontario, a place familiar to many of us, has to be one of my favourites. The story of how Omemee got its name is a fascinating one, and it serves as a reminder of the countless ways in which European colonization has forever altered this landscape.

The name Omemee comes from the Ojibwe word for the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), a bird which sits alongside the Dodo and Tasmanian Tiger as one of the most iconic species to have been driven to extinction by human actions. The name of the neighbourhood, Mimico, in Mississauga comes from the same root word as Omemee. Likewise, Omemee's Pigeon Lake has the same bird as its namesake. In Mi'kmaq cosmology, the constellation Bootes was made up of four birds, including the Passenger Pigeon, or Ples in the Mi'kmaq language. With a population numbering some three to five billion prior to European colonization, a combination of intensive hunting and habitat loss led to the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon in 1914.

The loss of the Passenger Pigeon isn't the only way in which the natural history of this area has changed since the arrival of European colonizers. A few hundred years ago, much of present-day Peterborough and the Kawarthas was oak savannah, maintained by Indigenous stewards through controlled burns. Today, prairies and grasslands are the most endangered ecosystems on the continent, and many species associated with them have consequently disappeared from the region.

In 1615, Samuel de Champlain was the first European to reach our region. In the PFN publication, *Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas*, Doug Sadler's summary of his observations provides fascinating insight into how much the area's avifauna has changed in the past 400 years. Champlain noted that the Northern Hawk-owl and Red-headed Woodpecker were extremely common locally. He describes seeing "cranes as white as geese" throughout the region. It wasn't until the early 20th century that the Great Egret expanded its range northwards into Ontario. Consequently, Champlain likely encountered the Whooping Crane, a species which is now greatly reduced in both range and population, and entirely absent from Ontario. Sadler notes that figures of long-legged birds carved into the rocks at Petroglyphs Provincial Park may in fact be Indigenous depictions of the since extirpated Whooping Crane. While in the area, Champlain saw a bird "with a beak almost like that of a parrot, as big as a hen, yellow all over, except for its red head and blue wings" which he described as flying like a partridge. Clyde C. Kennedy, M. K. Munson and S. M. Jamieson have all interpreted this passage as referring to a vagrant Carolina Parakeet, a species which went extinct only four years after the Passenger Pigeon.

So too, have we lost the eels that Susanna Moody described in "Roughing it in the Bush". Now absent from Eels Creek and Eels Lake, Parks Canada estimates that American Eel populations have declined 99% from historic levels in the Great Lakes region. Forest pathogens like the butternut canker, Dutch elm disease, and the emerald ash-borer have all taken their toll on our native trees. Numerous species, including the cougar, American paddlefish, gravel chub, Greater Prairie-chicken, Blanchard's cricket frog, timber rattlesnake, American burying-beetle, frosted-elfin, Karner blue, and Persius duskywing have all been extirpated from Ontario. The elk and Atlantic salmon were both hunted to extinction provincially, and the small populations remaining here today are holdovers from reintroduction efforts. The Northern Bobwhite hasn't been sighted in Ontario for several years. Perhaps the upcoming Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas will confirm this species' status in Ontario.



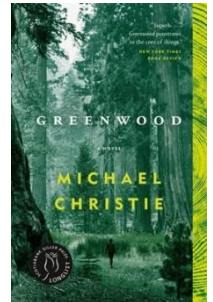
Passenger Pigeon painting by James Audubon

Despite being absent from our landscape for over one hundred years, the legacy of the once ubiquitous Passenger Pigeon can still be seen in these place names. Whenever I see the name Omemee, I'm reminded of how one of the world's most common birds was brought to extinction a few generations after the arrival of European colonists in this country. As easy as it is for birders to dismiss Blue Jays and Chickadees, remembering the Passenger Pigeon helps me appreciate the beauty and value of common wildlife. We must do everything in our collective power to make sure that we protect the natural world around us, so that imperilled residents of the Kawartha like the Blanding's Turtle and Golden-winged Warbler don't join the Passenger Pigeon as sombre endnotes in our ecological history.

Book Review: *Greenwood* by Michael Christie

Submitted by Lucie Blouin

On my weekly shopping excursion to Costco, I perused the book table as per usual and saw a book that intrigued me: *Greenwood* by Michael Christie. I had already chosen a book whose author I had heard interviewed at the Toronto International Festival of Authors (*Songs for the End of the World* by Saleema Nawaz - another book I would recommend for reading during these COVID-19 times). *Greenwood* piqued my interest for a couple of reasons: the name itself and the appearance of the trade paperback, the sides of which were imprinted with the rings of a tree. *Greenwood* has been described as a "dense yet exhilarating eco-parable" (book review by Alfred Hickling, *The Guardian*, March 18, 2020). I think I would call it an eco-saga - definitely a worthwhile read if only for purely entertainment reasons, although it is beautifully crafted.



The book's timeline mimics the growth rings of a tree. It initially starts in the future - the year 2038 - after "The Great Withering," an ecological, political and financial catastrophe, and then backtracks through several points in time: 2008, 1974, 1934 and 1908, the latter being the center of the heartwood/middle of the book. It then continues in reverse order through time and ends in the future - a mirror image of the first half. Through this, it follows the saga of the Greenwood family, not a family with a straightforward lineage, but one with a fascinating, albeit at times, fantastical, narrative, containing all the essential elements of a rewarding plot with memorable characters. Although the book is 490 pages, the story is engaging, well written and difficult to set aside!

Trees are integral to the story. The story begins in an exclusive arboreal resort located off the west coast of Canada - one of the few remaining intact forests in the world. The Greenwood family made their fortune selling lumber. One of the family members is an environmental activist, a "tree hugger." Another makes furniture out of reclaimed wood. Yet another member taps trees to make maple syrup. Throughout the book, interesting facts about trees are dispersed, as are memorable quotes such as, "The time to plant a tree is always 20 years ago." Although trees are an integral part of this book, the essence of the book is that together, as a forest, they represent a metaphor for family - "a collection of individuals pooling their resources through intertwined roots, sheltering one another from wind and weather and drought..." and, many of us would add, a pandemic.

In essence, to quote Robert J. Wiersema of *Quill & Quire* - "Christie brings together the intimate and the sweeping, the human world and the natural, the past and the future..." It's a good book to curl up with and read during the long COVID-19 winter nights ahead.

Best Novel 2020 Arthur Ellis Awards (crime writing)

Longlisted for the 2019 Scotiabank Giller Prize

CBC Books Best Canadian Fiction title of the year

American Mink and Other Sightings at Rice Lake

Submitted by Steve Paul

Every fall, local birders head down to the shores along Rice Lake to see migrating waterfowl and other species of birds as they are traveling through our area. Pengelly Landing is a very active spot. In the days prior to my visit, up to 44 species were seen at this location.

On Saturday, November 7, I arrived at 7:45 a.m. It was a beautiful sunny morning with barely a breeze on the water. A quick scan of the water with the binoculars and I could see there was lots of activity out there. A flash of white caught my eye in the bay to the west, and upon closer inspection I noticed a small flock of domestic/mallard cross ducks, with one all white, and the rest a mixed bag of greens and browns, with a couple others having a splash of white on them as well.

Getting the scope out, I started to scan the water for my target species at Pengelly Landing that day – a Red-Necked Grebe. There were three reported a day earlier, and I had yet to see one in 2020. Scanning clockwise through the open water, I saw the usual species that pass through each fall: Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Mergansers, Red-Breasted Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers and Lesser Scaup. Closer to shore, I could see Canada Geese, Mallards, Ring-Billed Gulls and Herring Gulls. Of interesting note was a single Double-Crested Cormorant sunning itself on a log, and a Great-Blue Heron actively fishing along the shoreline.

Repositioning and scanning out further, I found two large rafts of ducks, but with heat shimmer I could not identify them. I assumed they were Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, or even Redhead. Taking yet another pass near Long Island, east of the landing, I found two different pairs of Common Loons. There is always something so special about finding Loons – so beautiful and iconic! I continued scanning further east and, all of a sudden, I saw the classic grebe shape I had been looking for – long, thin neck, large pointy bill. I could even make out the black top, white cheeks, and brownish neck. It was very exciting to have seen species # 190 for the year!

Ending on what I thought was the high note for my visit, I started to head back to my vehicle. Just before I opened my door, something caught the corner of my eye. Right along the shoreline, there was movement under the water. At first, I thought it might have been a fish or a turtle, but then I saw a tail, then some feet. It took me a second to figure out it was an American Mink. It kept diving, trying to pick up something. It was oblivious to my presence, singularly focused as if on a mission.

After about a minute, it started to move closer to shore, dragging something with it. I began taking photos, knowing that most of them would just be a blur of water or fur, unrecognizable to anyone but me. But then, in a split second – its head popped up and CLICK – I snapped the one and ONLY photo that showed the Mink with a large Crayfish in its mouth. It happened so quickly, although in that moment it seemed to move in slow motion. I knew when the Mink locked eyes with the camera – I actually felt a connection with this beautiful creature. And then, in a split second, it was GONE!

It is a moment I will cherish forever, and I am happy that I am able to share my experience with our PFN members.



Photo: Steve Paul



Lichen photo by Sue Paradis

Gull Species at Little Lake in December

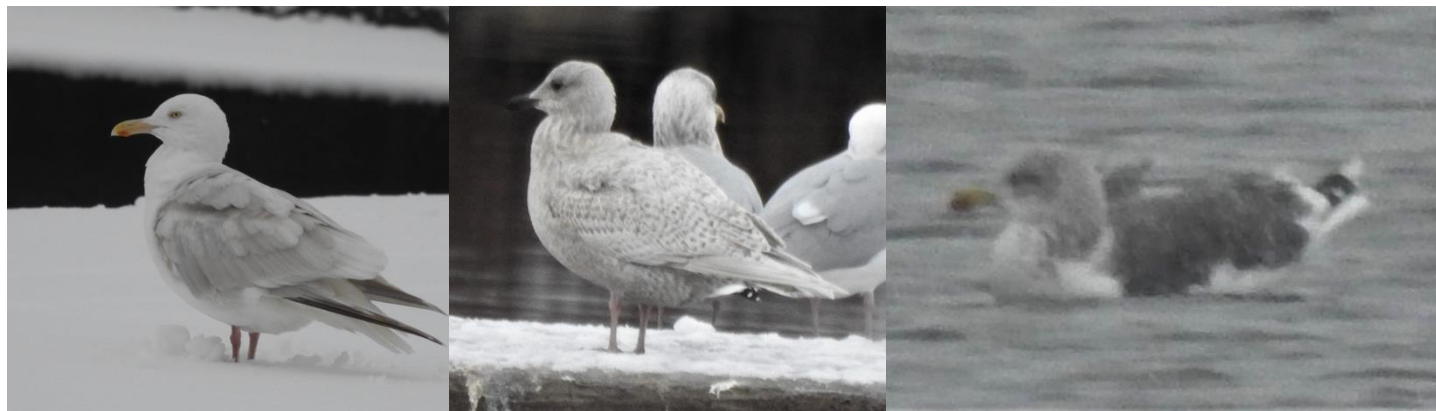
Submitted by Dave Milsom

Several interesting gull species were seen on Little Lake during the first two weeks of December. Gulls feeding at the "Peterborough Dump" regularly rested and bathed on Little Lake afterwards. Most were Herring Gulls and a smaller number were Ring-billed Gulls. Rarities included white-winged Arctic species such as Glaucous and Iceland gulls. Occasionally other species were found including Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed gulls. Drew Monkman found a probable "Great Lakes Gull" which only breeds on the Great Lakes. Other oddities included an albino Herring Gull which showed dark wing tips and bright white overall plumage. Checking Little Lake through the winter months should result in more rare finds.

Below are my photos of some of the other notable birds. From left: Albino Herring Gull ; Iceland Gull in first-winter plumage; Lesser Black-backed (taken in a snowstorm).



A Great Black-backed Gull/Herring Gull hybrid (Great Lakes Gull). Photo: Dave Milsom



Outing Report for November 29: Beavermead Birding Walk

Submitted by Gillian Trowbridge

Expert birder, Chris Risley, led an early morning birding walk for nine PFN members around Beavermead Park beginning at 8 a.m. for a couple of hours. Several members in the group were long-time birders (with eyes at the back of their heads) which made the walk for the less experienced - myself included - an excellent learning adventure. The temperature was just above freezing when we started but, fortunately, it became increasingly sunny for the rest of the morning. We visited the beach, fields, campgrounds and ended up at Ecology Park where three large, squirrel-proof feeders are maintained by the PFN.

Good weather and visibility enabled the group to identify 21 species of birds, 9 of which were water birds and the remainder land birds. The highlights for Chris were the Great Blue Heron perched on a log on the far side of Little Lake and found by Anda Rungis, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and all the Brown Creepers found by Cathy Douglas. It was a treat for me to have four different species of woodpeckers pointed out to me as we walked into Ecology Park, and to get a close-up look at a Belted Kingfisher diving for his

breakfast. The bird feeders were busy all the time which meant we could get quite close and hardly needed binoculars to enjoy the different species.



Red-bellied Woodpecker at PFN feeder in Ecology Park. Photo: Cathy Douglas

In all it was a wonderful two hours - thanks to Chris - and obviously an excellent time of day to see many of our Peterborough birds.

The birds seen were: Canada Goose (195), Mallard (47), Common Goldeneye (4), Hooded Merganser (20), Mourning Dove (8), Ring-billed Gull (130), Herring Gull (7), Great Blue Heron (1), Belted Kingfisher (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Downy Woodpecker (3), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Pileated Woodpecker (1), Blue Jay (6), Black-capped Chickadee (31), White-breasted Nuthatch (7), Brown Creeper (5), European Starling (2), American Robin (4), American Goldfinch (7), and Northern Cardinal (3).

Outing Report for December 13: Petroglyphs Provincial Park

Submitted by Cathy Douglas

Petroglyphs Provincial Park is a historical-class park, located to the north of Stoney Lake, off Northey's Bay Road. The site is known as "The Teaching Rocks" for the largest concentration of Indigenous rock carvings (petroglyphs) in Canada.

Nine members of the PFN gathered at the gate of the park to hike the access roads in search of winter birds and wildlife. The day of the outing was a little grey and the birds were a little quiet, but it was an enjoyable hike through the woods. Roads were bare to snow-covered, with a few icy patches.

A total of eight bird species were seen during the 6.6 km hike, with only 20 individuals being present. The biggest thrill or scare of the day was when a Ruffed Grouse took off from the underbrush beside the group, nearly giving the leader a heart attack.

While hiking we passed by McGinnis Lake twice. This lake is located between the two access roads. It is a beautiful turquoise coloured body of water. The colour is caused by the marl bottom (a loose earthy deposit of sand, silt, and clay that contains a substantial amount of calcium carbonate). Scott McKinlay and Rene Gareau also advised the group that the lake is known as a meromictic lake (layers of water that don't intermix) and that there were only a few of these types of lakes in Canada.

We did not hike all the way to the buildings that house the carvings as the park buildings are closed at this time of year. If you are in the area while the park is open in the summer, it is well worth the visit to see the various carvings depicting images of shamans, animals, turtles, snakes, birds, and more.

The birds seen were: Ruffed Grouse (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Blue Jay (1), Common Raven (1), Black-capped Chickadee (8), Red-breasted Nuthatch (4), and White-breasted Nuthatch (3).



Photo: Cathy Douglas

Ontario Nature Media Release

The Ontario Government Betrays the People of Ontario in Favour of Bad Developers with the Passage of Schedule 6



Now that Ontario has passed Bill 229 and its attack on conservation authorities, the job of protecting wetlands, forests, drinking water and quality of life falls to ordinary citizens

Toronto, Ont. December 8, 2020 – Today, the Ontario Government ignored a deafening chorus of expert warnings to instead reward the worst developers and land speculators by incapacitating the system that protects source water and guards Ontarians against flooding, landslides and other environmental disasters.

Members of the Greenbelt Council, non-partisan regulators, legal analysts, municipalities, NGOs and farmers, together with tens of thousands of Ontarians of all political stripes and walks of life, have warned the government of the dire consequences of “Schedule 6” amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act. These changes will let developers dump, build and excavate largely unchecked in high-risk areas, risking impaired water quality, property damage, and environmental degradation, and endangering public safety across the province.



Photo: Ryan McGilchrist CC BY-SA 2.0

The most damaging of the changes to Conservation Authorities include:

- Natural Resources and Forestry Ministers (MNRF) can now ignore the science-based work of Conservation Authorities to force through dangerous development applications already reviewed and rejected by arms-length Conservation Authorities
- That Minister can even usurp the entire permitting authority of Conservation Authority experts, making technical decisions about what will cause flooding or landslides through a backroom political process, without the watershed knowledge and specialized expert advice that would make a rational decision possible
- When the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, whose staff have no environmental expertise at all, issues a Minister’s Zoning Order (MZO) for development, Conservation Authorities will be forced to issue a permit – even if their own experts know it will cause flooding or erosion, and jeopardize human health and safety
- Developers will be allowed to build within key protected ecological areas if they pay a fee, a failed process patterned after the one used in the U.S. often called “pay to slay”

Many Ontario environmental and community organizations will continue to work with the dozens of respected organizations and the more than 50,000 Ontarians who expressed their outrage through letters and phone calls about the damaging changes to Conservation Authorities. Together, we will work to protect natural spaces and stop destructive developments to ensure a better future for all Ontarians.

“The gutting of Conservation Authorities shows that this Ontario government ignores the people. It’s a government for land speculators and the worst sorts of developers,” said Tim Gray, Executive Director of Environmental Defence. “This undermining of Conservation Authorities takes the province back over 70 years, to a more dangerous time when we didn’t know better. Now, however, we do know better, and we recognize that Ontarians deserve more, including wetlands, forests and flood plains that are intact and not paved over.”

"Replacing science-based watershed management with politically motivated backroom decision-making is just not smart planning," said Katie Krelove, Ontario Campaigner with the Wilderness Committee. "It puts the province's last remaining wetlands and the wildlife that depend on them at risk. Ontarians have been rediscovering the health benefits of local nature throughout the pandemic, that's why so many people spoke up in support of Conservation Authorities and against Schedule 6."

"It's shocking how the government has ignored tens of thousands of Ontarians, including prominent figures like David Crombie, who has characterized this whole mess as a "high-level bombing," said Caroline Schultz, Executive Director of Ontario Nature. "There is so much at stake, yet the government has chosen to pander to its developer buddies at everyone else's expense. Rest assured, we will not forget this affront to the environment and democracy."

"Ontario has been going down the path of un-economic development whereby the failure to value our intact natural ecosystems has led to policies that consistently degrade our most precious assets," said Yannick Beaudoin, Senior Economist and Director General for Ontario and Northern Canada with the David Suzuki Foundation. "Applying old economic thinking that has resulted in a global climate and biodiversity crisis and is inflating intergenerational fiscal liabilities, is not a sound pathway forward."

"If Ontario were genuine about reducing red tape and streamlining planning processes, they would not have done this. They would have had conversations about policy reform with professionals including Conservation Authorities. The fact that they have done the opposite - a sneak attack on the agency that protects Ontarians from flooding - leads me to believe that what they really think is: "People without flooding insurance, environment, and other suckers - you're on your own! Developers and land speculators, come to our Christmas party," said Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition Executive Director, Claire Malcolmson.

"Like all watersheds in Ontario, the fate of the pristine waters of the Duffins that flows through the Pickering Federal Lands to Lake Ontario must not be left to the insatiable demands of the development industry. MZOs threaten class one farmland and provincially significant wetlands in Pickering and underline the urgent need for independent arms' length organizations such as our Conservation Authorities and the Greenbelt Council. We are uniquely positioned to understand the critical imperative of all governmental jurisdictions working collaboratively if we are to weather the coming storms - literally and figuratively," said Mary Delaney, Chair, Land Over Landings.

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Please become an "advocate for nature" and sign Ontario Nature's petitions here:

<https://ontarionature.org/take-action/advocate-for-nature/>

Some current or recent advocacy campaigns include:

- Stop Sprawl and Grow the Greenbelt
- Conservation Authorities Under Fire
- Provincially Significant Wetlands No Longer Safe from Development
- Minister's Zoning Orders
- Protected Places Declaration
- Protect Boreal Caribou
- Migratory Birds
- Pollinators
- Natural Heritage Systems Planning

| PFN Board of Directors                                                        |                  |                                  |              | Other Volunteers                       |                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                                                                     | Rene Gareau      | rene.gareau@sympatico.ca         | 741-4560     | Membership Secretary                   | Jim Young 760-9397                                                                            |
| Treasurer                                                                     | Ted Vale         | treasurer@peterboroughnature.org | 741-3641     | Orchid Editor                          | Kathryn Sheridan<br>orchid@peterboroughnature.org                                             |
| Secretary                                                                     | Martin Parker    | mparker19@cogeco.ca              | 745-4750     | Orchid Mailing                         | Mary Thomas                                                                                   |
| Display Coordinator                                                           | Lynn Smith       | smithfam@nexicom.net             | 944-5599     | Jr. Naturalists                        | Lara Griffin, Stephanie Collins,<br>Erica Barclay and Jay Fitzsimmons<br>pfnjuniors@gmail.com |
| Meeting Coordinator                                                           | Marie Duchesneau | duchesneau13@hotmail.com         | 874-5739     | Ecology Park Feeders                   | JB Jaboor, Kathryn Sheridan                                                                   |
| Meeting Coordinator                                                           | Phil Shaw        | pshaw78@hotmail.com              | 874-1688     | Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects | Martin Parker                                                                                 |
| Digital Comms Co-coordinator                                                  | Marilyn Hubley   | maykeema@hotmail.com             | 760-9378     | Environmental Protection Committee     | Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Sue Paradisis                               |
| Outings Coordinator                                                           | Sue Paradisis    | sueparadisis@hotmail.com         | 559-2061     | Harper Park Stewardship Committee      | Lynn Smith, Rene Gareau, Marilyn Hubley, Ted Vale                                             |
| AGM Coordinator                                                               | Reem Ali         | reemest@hotmail.com              | 868-0060     | Webmaster                              | Chris Gooderham webmaster@peterboroughnature.org                                              |
| Assistant Membership Secretary                                                | Cathy Douglas    | cddouglas77@gmail.com            | 905-751-5292 | Peterborough CBC Petroglyphs CBC       | Martin Parker<br>Colin Jones                                                                  |
| Ontario Nature Representative                                                 | Steve Paul       | stevepaul70@gmail.com            | 930-8370     | Peterborough Butterfly Count           | Jerry Ball                                                                                    |
| Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7 |                  |                                  |              |                                        |                                                                                               |

## Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

### Interesting Facts about Trumpeter Swans:

**Swan Terminology** – A male is referred to as a “Cob”; a female is referred to as a “Pen”; a group of swans is called a “Bevy”.

**Size/Age** – Trumpeter Swans are the largest native waterfowl in North America. Their wingspans can reach between 6 to 10 feet across when stretched out, and they weigh on average between 7 and 13 kg. Males are usually slightly larger than females. They have long lives, and can live past 20 years of age!

**Food** – Adult diets consist of almost 100% vegetation, and they consume up to half their body weight daily. While feeding – you can usually see them stomping or stirring up material from the bottom, then tipping their bums in the air while they reach the vegetation with their long necks.



“L40” and mate in Ajax in March of 2019. Photo of Trumpeter Swans: Steve Paul




**Breeding** - Around 2 to 4 years of age, swans choose a mate and will generally mate for life. They nest for the first time at around 4 to 7 years of age. Nests can be built on muskrat or beaver lodges, small islands or even artificial nesting platforms. On average, 4 to 6 eggs are laid in April/May, and are usually incubated by both parents for between 32 to 37 days.

**Cygnets** - The term used for young swans. They can swim pretty much one day after hatching, but need constant protection from their parents, as they are not fully capable of flight until 3 to 4 months of age. Cygnets can be distinguished from adults by their dark, sooty gray colour. They stay that colour until the summer of their second year. Cygnets usually remain with the adults until they return to the breeding ground the following spring.

If you have any interesting stories about your interactions with any of the swan species that call Peterborough or the Kawartha Lakes area home, I would love to hear them. Please continue to send sightings information and photos to me at [stevepaul70@gmail.com](mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com)

Sightings information can be officially reported to the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration group. There is a Google doc online that can be filled out. For anyone who reaches out to me, I will share the link and help fill out the form if needed.

*The Junco, a small slate-colored bird with a white chest and pink bill, will arrive from the north to announce that winter is here. They are seed eaters and will frequent your ground feeders.*



**Junco Jubilee**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Raw beef suet            | 1 cup cracked corn      |
| 1 cup cornmeal           | 1 tbs. grape jelly      |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ cup millet | $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. sand |

In a loaf-size foil pan, put 1 cup cornmeal,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup millet, and 1 cup cracked corn. Set aside. After putting suet through meat grinder, melt down in a double boiler. Allow to cool and harden slightly. Reheat and stir in 1 tablespoon grape jelly. Pour  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups suet over dry ingredients and add  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. sand for grit. Refrigerate until firm. Serve on feeder tray.



An Eastern Grey Squirrel and its bushy tail.  
Photo: Ken Morrison



## 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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The COVID-19 pandemic eliminated many outings and all in-person meetings and reduced the sharing of information on our natural heritage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Nov. 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Donald Sutherland had a <b>Lapland Longspur</b> in a flock of <b>Snow Buntings</b> on the road near Nephton. Erica Nol, Chris Risley &amp; Donald Sutherland had 2 <b>Surf Scoters</b> with <b>White-winged &amp; Black Scoter</b> on Pigeon Lake off Sandy Point - still present on Nov. 25.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had a <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> on Pigeon Lake, off Sandy Point -- still present to Nov. 27.</p> <p>Carol Horner had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> in the eastern section of the city.</p> <p>Mitchell Gardiner had flock of 40 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> fly over the Trent Nature Area.</p> <p>Sascha Dho had 12 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> in the area of Lang.</p> <p>Dave Milsom had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> at his feeder on Scollard Drive.</p> |
| Nov. 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Anda Rungis had 6 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> &amp; 2 <b>Bonaparte's Gulls</b> on Rice Lake off Pengelly Point.</p> <p>Steve Paul had a late <b>Common Grackle</b> in his yard on Keene Road -- still present the next day.</p> <p>Chris Risley &amp; Donald Sutherland had 5 <b>Tundra Swans</b> on Pigeon Lake off Edenderry Lane. <b>Tundra Swans</b> were seen regularly on Pigeon Lake until Nov. 23.</p> <p>Mathew Tobey &amp; Dave Milsom had 200 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> on the Lakefield Lagoon and a female <b>Black Scoter</b> on the Lakefield waterfront. At Sawyer Creek Wetland they had 4 <b>Sandhill Cranes</b> flying over.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas &amp; Martin Parker had 6 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> on Rice Lake off Pengelly Landing.</p>                          |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bonaparte's Gull</b></p> <p>Pigeon Lake and Rice Lake were hotspots for Bonaparte's Gull in November.</p> <p>Some observations from Pigeon Lake include on Nov. 21, up to 47 by Chris Risley, Erica Nol and others off Edenderry Line, with up to 40 off Sandy Point by Risley &amp; Nol and others. On Nov. 22, there were 16 off Edenderry Line by Donald Sutherland, Chris Risley &amp; John Bick. On Nov. 27, 8 were off Sandy Point, 1 off Edenderry Line and 19 off Kerry Line by Donald Sutherland.</p> <p>Some observations from Rice Lake include on Nov. 21, 8 off Hall's Landing &amp; 15 off Pengelly Point by Dave Milsom. On Nov. 24, there were 15 off Hall's Landing and 36 off Pengelly Point by Dave Milsom and others. The number off Pengelly Pt declined to 2 on Nov. 28. On Dec. 8, Ben Taylor, Chris Risley &amp; Cathy Dueck saw 12 off Pengelly Point.</p> <p>In early December, numbers were being seen at the eastern end of Rice Lake. On Dec. 5, there were 10 off River Rd near Hastings, 6 off Asphodel 6<sup>th</sup> Line by Dave Milsom, and 4 off Old Orchard Road by Erica Nol &amp; Chris Risley. On Dec. 6, Donald Sutherland had 5 off Asphodel 5<sup>th</sup> Line.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Nov. 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Travis &amp; Nicole Cameron had a <b>Glaucous Gull</b> on the Otonabee River between Trent U &amp; Lakefield.</p> <p>Daniel Williams had a continuing <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in the Maria Street area - present to Dec. 24.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Nov. 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>On Pigeon Lake, Donald Sutherland had 10 <b>Tundra Swans</b> -- 4 off Edenderry Line &amp; 4 off Kerry Line.</p> <p>Carol Horner had a <b>Wood Duck</b> in the canal north of Parkhill Road - still present on Dec. 29.</p> <p>Ben Taylor &amp; Chris Risley had a <b>Golden Eagle</b> off Cty Road 6 in North Kawartha.</p> <p>Dave Milson had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> in Douro Park.</p> <p>Jerry Ball had 3 <b>Eastern Bluebirds</b> on Hannah Road. Off Pengelly Landing, he had 200+ <b>Hooded Mergansers</b> and 200+ <b>Common Mergansers</b>.</p> <p>Wendy Hogan had a <b>Common Grackle</b> near Catchacoma - still present on Dec. 3.</p>                                                                                                                   |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lynn Smith reported a <b>Rusty Blackbird</b> on Glamorgan Rd, Millbrook area and 30 <b>Snow Buntings</b> on Fallis Line.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Nov. 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Rebecca Reimer reported a <b>Pine Warbler</b> in the Dublin Street area.<br>Chris Risley had a <b>Common Grackle</b> at Eastwood Park, Selwyn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Nov. 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Bill Crins had 2 <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> off Beavermead Park -- seen by others.<br>Matthew Tobey and Weston Gavin had 5 <b>Cackling Geese</b> in wetland along Bensfort Road.<br>Travis Cameron reported 275 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> -- still present on the Lakefield Lagoon -- still 220 present next day by Dave Milsom & Matthew Tobey.<br>Drew Monkman found 2 <b>Hoary Redpolls</b> near McCracken's Landing -- present next day by several observers and as late as Dec. 12.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Nov. 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> on Pigeon Lake off Sandy Point by Donald Sutherland.<br>Iain Rayner had a <b>Glaucous Gull</b> fly over in Lakefield.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Short-eared Owl</b></p> <p>The birding highlight of December. On December 2, Drew Monkman located two Short-eared Owls flying at dusk in eastern end of the Peterborough Airport. Best viewing was from Moncrief Line (Cty Road 11). Drew noted it was difficult to see in the light of the setting sun. They have been present and putting on a show at dawn and late afternoon for many local birders and others. On December 4, 25 reports were submitted to e-Bird. They were observed interacting with a Northern Harrier at the same location. Some observers have reported three individuals were present. They were seen regularly to the end of this reporting period.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dec. 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | At the Lakefield Lagoon, Dave Milsom reported that 115 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> were still present along with 1 <b>Greater Scaup</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Dec. 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The Lakefield Lagoon now has 7 <b>Greater Scaup</b> according to Dave Milsom.<br>Jeff Stewart had a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> near Millbrook.<br>Cathy Douglas had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> in a flock of <b>Common Redpolls</b> off Moncrief Line.<br>Jerry Ball had <b>Evening Grosbeaks</b> near feeder on Northey's Bay Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Dec. 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jerry Ball had 26 <b>Bohemian Waxwings</b> on Douro 4 <sup>th</sup> Line.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dec. 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jerry Ball had 100 <b>Cedar Waxwings</b> in Highland Park Cemetery, a flock of 200+ <b>Common Redpolls</b> off Douro 10 <sup>th</sup> Line, and 25 <b>Bohemian Waxwings</b> in the Stoney Lake area. He also reported a large flock of <b>Redheads</b> and <b>Hooded Mergansers</b> are still on Rice Lake off Pengelly Point.<br>Liliana Perez spotted a <b>Long-tailed Weasel</b> in Jackson Park.<br>Ken Fulsang had a <b>Common Grackle</b> in his yard on Lily Lake Rd -- still present on Dec. 5.<br>Dave Milsom had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> along Duncan Line<br>Travis & Noah Cameron had a <b>White-crowned Sparrow</b> near Lakefield.<br>Jerry and Shauna Moodie photographed a <b>Barred Owl</b> while hiking the Lakefield rail trail. |
| Dec. 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jim & Sylvia Cashmore had 2 <b>Red-bellied Woodpeckers</b> at the northern feeder in Ecology Park -- these feeders are maintained on behalf of the PFN by volunteers JB Jaboor and Kathryn Sheridan.<br>Scott Kendall had a <b>White-crowned Sparrow</b> in his yard in Asphodel Township.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dec. 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Bob & Maxine Prentice say their feeder is active with 7 species including a <b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b> .<br>Luke Berg had a <b>Golden Eagle</b> in the Trent Nature area<br>A group had 3 <b>Hoary Redpolls</b> in a flock of <b>Common Redpolls</b> on the Elim Lodge Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dec. 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | A gull was seen on Little Lake by many which was initially identified as a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Examination of photo indicates it was probably a <b>Herring x Great Black-backed Gull</b> hybrid.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dec. 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Dave Milsom & Matthew Tobey had 2 late <b>Redheads</b> & 3 <b>Ring-necked Ducks</b> off Fothergill Isle Causeway, Pigeon Lake.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Dec. 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Donald Sutherland had a <b>Lapland Longspur</b> at the Peterborough Airport.<br>Luke Berg had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> in the Trent Nature area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Dec. 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Michael Gillespie reported <b>Eastern Bluebirds</b> along David Fife Line.<br>Ken Fulsang had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> within Kawartha Highlands Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Dec. 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Donald Sutherland observed 6 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> on Stoney Lake off Viamede Resort and a very late <b>Turkey Vulture</b> near Lakefield.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                          | Chris Risley had a <b>Hoary Redpoll</b> along Pioneer Road, Trent U.<br>Luke Berg had 3 <b>Hoary Redpolls</b> in a flock of <b>Common Redpolls</b> in the Trent Nature area                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dec. 13                                                                                                                  | On Chemong Lake at the west end of the Gifford Causeway, Henrique Pacheco & Hannah Dodington observed 1 <b>Ring-necked Duck</b> & 1 <b>Greater Scaup</b> along with <b>Common Goldeneyes</b> & <b>Common Mergansers</b> . Off Gifford Drive, they had a <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> in a flock of <b>Common Mergansers</b> . |
| Dec. 14                                                                                                                  | Dave Milsom had a <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> on Little Lake – still present the next day.<br>Jerry Ball & Ken Morrison had 3 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> & 1 <b>Bald Eagle</b> on Pigeon Lake at Lost Channel.<br>At Burleigh Falls, they photographed a <b>River Otter</b> .                                                    |
| Dec. 17                                                                                                                  | 8 <b>Eastern Bluebirds</b> were still present on Drummond Line by Dave Milson.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Dec. 18                                                                                                                  | Dave Milsom had a late <b>Common Loon</b> on Pigeon Lake off Timberline Rd -- still present on Dec.22.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dec. 19                                                                                                                  | Maureen Smith spotted a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> near Warsaw.<br>Jerry Ball had a <b>Common Grackle</b> at the north end of Fairbairn Street.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Dec. 20                                                                                                                  | Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC) -- highlights include <b>Short-eared Owl</b> , <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> , <b>Belted Kingfisher</b> & <b>Common Grackle</b> . Full details of the Peterborough CBC will be in the next issue of <i>The Orchid</i> .                                                                 |
| Dec. 22                                                                                                                  | Dave Milsom had another <b>Common Loon</b> on Pigeon Lake off the Fothergill Isle Causeway.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dec. 23                                                                                                                  | <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> found on the Peterborough CBC was relocated in the Engleburn Ave area by Chris Risley & Ben Taylor.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Dec. 25                                                                                                                  | Special Christmas Day birds include a <b>Carolina Wren</b> at feeder in Lakefield by Mike Coyne and a <b>Northern Flicker</b> at Steve Paul's feeder.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| If you have a flock of Common Redpolls coming to your feeders, examine them closely in hopes of finding a Hoary Redpoll. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## A Nature Almanac for January

By Drew Monkman

Coyotes are quite vocal during their January to March mating season. They can often be heard right in the city, such as in the vicinity of the Kawartha Golf and Country Club.

Throughout the late fall and winter, eastern gray squirrels (most of which are black in our area) are often seen high up in maples, where they dine on the keys.

In our woodlots, mixed flocks of foraging chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers bring life to the seemingly empty winter landscape. These birds are very receptive to pishing and can usually be coaxed to come in quite close.

The Winter Six and their assortment of bright stars light up January evenings. Look for the constellations Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga, Canis Major and Canis Minor.

Watch for ruffed grouse at dawn and dusk along tree-lined country roads. They often appear in silhouette as they feed on the buds of trees such as the trembling aspen.

When you're driving through open farm country, keep an eye open for huge, swirling flocks of snow buntings. It is not uncommon to see hundreds of these white birds in a single flock.

If you're up late on January 28, take a glance outside at the full moon. The early-winter moon rides higher in the sky than at any other season and passes nearly overhead at midnight. Moonlit winter nights shine with an unforgettable brilliance. The Ojibway called the moon of January the Spirit Moon.



Snow Bunting. Photo: Don Munro

## Owl Sightings



Short-eared Owl at Peterborough Airport. Photo: Marilyn Hubley



Short-eared Owl, and Short-eared Owl interacting with a Northern Harrier near Peterborough Airport. Photos: Ken Morrison



Barred Owl on Drummond Line south of Redmond on December 20. Photo: Cathy Douglas



Short-eared Owl at airport. Photo: Don McLeod



Barred Owl near Lakefield Rotary Greenway Trail on December 5. Photo: Terry Moodie



# 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 ☐ Email ☐ 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 \$30 ☐

2. Single Student or Youth \$15 ☐

3. Family \$40\* ☐

**\* 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:

☐ Natural Environment

☐ Reptiles and Amphibians

☐ Botany

☐ Birds

☐ Aquatic Life

☐ Geology

☐ Insects

☐ Astronomy

☐ Mammals

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### How do you hope to participate?

☐ Outings

☐ Citizen Science

☐ Meetings

☐ Junior Naturalists

### Volunteers are always needed. Are you interested in any of these activities?

☐ Join the PFN Board

☐ Sit on research or conservation committees

☐ Lead an outing

☐ Assist with meetings

☐ Work on field projects

☐ Help with the Orchid publication

☐ Help the junior naturalists

☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_