

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Short-eared Owl at Rice Lake on February 13. Photo: Dave Milsom

Inside: PFN Yearly Reports for AGM
Results of Christmas Bird Counts
Nature Almanac for March
OTTC Year in Review

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Welcome new PFN members!

- Gabriel Fillion
- Alexander Harrod
- Ross & Norah Jackson
- Manny Mamo and Lindalee Fulton
- Malcolm Bridges
- Eva & Rob Kennedy
- Jessica Zok
- Zoe Mager and Solomon Israel
- Virginia Swinson
- Jessica Daze
- Krystyna Perron and David Feldbruegge
- Abbey Struyk
- Gerry Bird
- Gunther & Lily Schubert
- Sandra Caswell and John Porter
- Sharleen Ward
- Tessa Molina
- Richard & Carolyn Conrad
- Rosemary Macadam
- Peter & Marian Van Bruinessen



Left: Visitors from the north. Photo of Snow Buntings in Dunsford on February 6 by Steve Paul. Photo of Snowy Owl at Lily Lake on February 1 by Enid Mallory.

Above: A visitor from the south. A Blue Grosbeak photographed on Millage Road, Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield, April 29, 2020 by Stephan Ragaz who wrote that it was "an unusual bird at our bird feeder."

PFN Coming Events

Thankfully, the provincial government eased lockdown restrictions in time for planned February outings. Although outdoor groups of 25 are currently allowed to gather, the PFN Board and our outing leaders prefer a more cautious approach. Most outings have been restricted to five participants as per leader requests while some may allow more due to the nature of the event. Safety is paramount.

Until the pandemic is over, we will continue to require preregistration and restrict participation to members only. As well, we will usually avoid a lot of travel and we will not arrange carpooling.

<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 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. Accessibility: Moderate – there are some rugged spots. This outing is now full.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Mar. 3 7:30 p.m. Zoom meeting 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. 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 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Returning Waterfowl on the Otonabee</p> <p>With the increasing hours of sunlight and lengthening days in March, the spring migration is underway. This trip will visit various locations along the Otonabee River from Little Lake to Lakefield to discover the returning waterfowl. It is anticipated there will be Common Golden-eyes and Bufflehead doing their spring courtship rituals. Common Merganser, with the males in their bright spring plumage, will also be present. Other species are also possible.</p> <p>The number of participants on this trip will be determined by the public health guidelines and restrictions at the time and the discretion of each leader. Due to the popularity of this outing, the participants will be split into three groups starting from different locations to reduce the number of cars in any one group. Those registering will be assigned to a leader and meeting spot. Each group will follow their own schedule of stops. Martin Parker, Steve Paul and Cathy Douglas will be leading this annual late winter outing. Bring binoculars and telescope if you have one. Dress for the weather forecast for the day of the outing.</p> <p>To register for the 10 a.m. start time, contact Cathy at cddouglas77@gmail.com For the afternoon start, contact Martin at mparker19@cogeco.ca</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>



Male Common Goldeneye photo by Marilyn Hubley

PFN Coming Events

<p>Sunday, Mar. 28</p> <p>Afternoon outing</p>	<p>Mergansers and Friends on Rice Lake</p> <p>On this trip, we will look for spring migrants - primarily waterfowl - and we will visit various access points on the north shore of Rice Lake, between Keene and Hastings. We will be looking for areas of open water near the edge of the ice in search of concentrations of Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Buffleheads and other returning waterfowl. Other spring migrants such as American Robins, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles could be found. Some early returning raptors such as Northern Harrier, Osprey and Turkey Vulture will be looked for. Martin Parker will be leading this spring outing.</p> <p>Bring binoculars, telescope if you have one, and dress for the weather forecast for the day. Bring a packed lunch as the outing will last until the middle of the afternoon.</p> <p>Contact Martin at mparker19@cogeco.ca in order to preregister for this outing. The participation limit will be in accordance to public health requirements on the date of the outing. Details will be sent to those members who have registered.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Thursday, Apr.8</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting on Zoom</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>PFN Meeting: Back in the Ecosystem, Trumpeter Swans in Ontario</p> <p>Donna Lewis, member of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Group, has been working at Adena Springs North as the Swan Keeper since 2005. Not originally hired as such, she said that it was an interesting learning curve. The Trumpeter Swans are now a passion project that has been going on for 16 years. The swans are also the passion of hundreds of regular people involved with their restoration. Learn how everyone can help with the swans' continuing expansion in Ontario and hear about the ongoing trials and tribulations of this ongoing odyssey.</p>
<p>Saturday, Apr. 17</p> <p>Evening outing</p>	<p>Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles!</p> <p>The dusk air of the spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle. Join Martin Parker and Karina Bissonnette (Trent U. placement student with the PFN) for a two-hour outing to learn to distinguish between the different species of calling frogs and to listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock within the provincially significant Cavan Swamp wetland.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking along a closed roadway.</p>



Female Common Merganser photo by Marilyn Hubley

PFN Coming Events	
	Contact Martin at mparker19@cogeco.ca in order to register for this outing. The participation limit will be in accordance to public health requirements on the date of the outing. Details will be sent to those members who have registered.
Tuesday, Apr. 20 10:00 am 5 Participants	Miller Creek and Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield (BEL) Rotary Trail Spring migration is underway, and these are two prime locations for birders. The trails travel through several different habitats which are ideal for variety. You should also be hearing calling frogs like Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs in the wetlands. Join expert birder, Cathy Douglas, for this mid-week, mid-morning walk. Members who would like to join Cathy can contact her by email at cddouglas77@gmail.com for details on where to meet. Accessibility: Easy

Other Events of Interest	
Virtual presentations on Zoom	Peterborough County Stewardship Speaker Series Mar. 28: Kate Powell – Overview of the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program Apr. 14: Brent Patterson - Wolves and Coyotes: The Wild Dogs of the Kawarthas Apr. 28: Susan Wood-Bohm - How Trees Communicate (tentative date) Keep an eye on the events page at peterboroughcountystewardship.org for updates on speakers and dates.



Advocacy and the PFN

Submitted by Sue Paradisis



When the Peterborough Field Naturalists was incorporated, its stated objectives included protect and preserve wildlife and to stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation. As such our Environmental Protection Committee has been tasked to advocate for nature by lobbying to prevent destruction of greenspace and wildlife habitat.

Last year Committee member Jim Cashmore successfully lobbied City Hall for the creation of the Ridge Top Trail along the top of the Lily Lake subdivision drumlin and down to the Trans Canada Trail along Jackson Creek near the pink bridge. Although the trail is not open yet, it can be seen from below.

The Board also sent a letter off to the County regarding the potential closure of the MacIntosh bridge on Preston Road and has signed on to numerous Ontario Nature letters to the Provincial government concerning threats to greenspace and wetlands.

Locally we will be commenting on the draft Peterborough Transportation Plan which still has most sections of the Parkway included and considerable road development at Trent University. We have already

commented on the draft Trent Lands Plan which was approved in February by its Board of Directors. We have numerous concerns and will be watching the Implementation Plan closely.

For your interest, the following letter was sent to Trent and Peterborough City Council members in early January.

Dear Chairman of the Board and President of Trent University,

The Board of Directors of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Draft Report of the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan. We understand that Trent University is looking for ways to sustain itself into the future and as such has proposed a development and revenue driven project, but with environmental sustainability as secondary.

Despite promotional language in the Report there is a lack of transparency and lack of detail with timelines. This raises many questions and concerns.

1. Roads and traffic through the Wildlife Sanctuary

The report says, "Areas to enhance the safety for wildlife are prioritized and explored through various mitigation opportunities". When Pioneer Road was rebuilt by the City, with Trent approval, wildlife connectivity culverts were recommended that would have allowed water to move from the Otonabee and Archaeology wetlands to the Nature Sanctuary wetlands and for the safe movement of animals. These connectivity culverts were never installed. Instead, there are only deep ditches. In these times of climate change, the protection of wetlands has never been more important. Plans to redirect traffic along Pioneer Road, will increase noise, pollution, and wildlife mortality in the Nature Sanctuary. There is reference to future improvements to University Road. The Pioneer Road mistakes must not be repeated.

2. Hydrology

The report says that the University will "incorporate natural waterflows to work in harmony with the site and its surroundings". This begs the following questions. What are the consequences of changes in hydrology when the recommended culverts on Pioneer Road were not installed? A drumlin has been excavated for Cleantech Commons. Have aquifers been affected, has groundwater discharge and recharge been affected?

3. Urban Sprawl

Trent promotes itself as continuing "to build on its reputation as a world-leading environmental university" and claims that "in our care for and use of the land, Trent will demonstrate leadership in environmental education and stewardship." The building of the Seniors Village, development of the East Bank Lands, Peninsula Lands and the expansion of Cleantech Commons will result in significant loss of wildlife habitat. The opening of a trail along the river will not compensate for all the new road construction nor help protect wetlands.

4. Peninsula Lands

The Report states that the Peninsula Lands will be developed with "leading edge environmental approaches to development". The true measure of stewardship will be in the details not yet known! Will this be just another subdivision or a "Sustainable Village", off the grid demonstrating green technology such as solar power, geothermal heat and zero carbon? The new Forensic Crime Scene Facility is a great example of sustainable building practices. Will this development be an example of how to build in the future?

5. The Seniors Village

The Seniors Village is to be built in a habitat vital to a population of Western Chorus Frogs. How much forest habitat will be cleared?

6. Loose Dogs in the Nature Sanctuary

Although problems with dogs in the Sanctuary are noted in the Report there are no solutions put forward. The PFN used to regularly use the Nature Sanctuary for Outings but after numerous unpleasant incidents with dogs and owners it is no longer considered a worthwhile destination. We hope there will be a ban on dogs on the land on both sides of University Road so that we can return to visiting these trails.

The PFN looks forward to the release of the Implementation Plan. The Report states that it will, "Uphold the role of the Nature Areas in conserving biodiversity, providing ecological services in local adaptation to, and mitigation of climate change."

- Will we see significant solutions to protect flora and fauna, their habitat, and the environment as the Trent Lands are developed?
- Will there be additional plans for ongoing scientific monitoring of these issues?

While we do not expect to stop development, it is our hope that Trent University and the City of Peterborough will place a high priority on mitigating damage to the environment from the resultant loss of habitat, wildlife connectivity, biodiversity of flora and fauna, and the impact on climate change.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Candidate for Ontario Nature Camp Scholarship

Submitted by Ted Vale

Every year, Ontario Nature awards a scholarship to a youth between the ages of 7 and 14 to attend a four-day nature camp at Peterborough's very own Camp Kawartha. This camp is especially designed for youth who are interested and knowledgeable about natural history and have potential to develop leadership in this area. The camp session runs from August 29 to September 1.

The youth must be nominated for the award by a club which is a member of Ontario Nature. Last year, we nominated a youth who was the successful candidate. We would like to nominate someone again this year.

Information about the award can be found on the Ontario Nature website: go to ontarionature.org, click on "Take Action" and then "Make a Conservation Award Nomination". More information about the camp is available on the Camp Kawartha website: go to campkawartha.ca, click on "Summer Camp" and then "Nature Camp".

If you know of a youth who is interested, please contact Ted Vale at 705-741-3641 or e-mail Ted at treasurer@peterboroughnature.org by March 13 so we have enough time to prepare and submit the nomination. The deadline for the nomination to Ontario Nature is March 26.

A Nature Almanac for March: Waiting for Spring-to-Be

By Drew Monkman

"March comes, a kind of interregnum, winter's sovereignty relaxing, spring not yet in control."

- Hal Borland

Like many of our months, March derived its name from a Roman god. In this case it was Mars, the god of war. For the Romans, however, it was not the third, but rather the first month of the year. This made sense because March is a time of warm spring weather in the Mediterranean and therefore a logical point to begin the year. This was also the start of the military campaign season, hence the name's connection with war.

In the natural world, March is a time when winter's grip finally begins to loosen. Large numbers of migrants return, bird song greets us as we step outside in the morning, the buds of several tree species begin to open, and the longer days and warmer sun rekindle our spirits.

Open sections of local lakes and rivers will be host to thousands of northward-bound ducks later this month. Little Lake, Lake Katchewanooka, Gannon Narrows, and the Otonabee River offer good viewing opportunities.

Red squirrels become aggressive towards their own kind as the mating season begins. Listen for the squirrels' scolding "cherr" call as feuding over territory becomes common. Several males at a time can sometimes be seen chasing a half-terrified female through the forest canopy.

With earlier sunrises, later sunsets, and the sun's higher path through the sky, we enjoy longer and usually warmer days. A good measure of winter's waning can also be seen in the circles of bare ground around tree trunks. Although sunlight reflects off snow, it is absorbed by dark tree bark and gently radiated back to the surrounding snow. Snow melt then occurs around the base of the tree.

House sparrows are already laying claim to nest boxes. The male house sparrow will often perch on the box and call repeatedly in order to show ownership and to attract a female.

This is mating season for the barred owl. Famous for their wide range of vocalizations, these highly vocal birds scream, hiss, hoot, and cackle the March and April nights away. Listen especially for a resounding "hoo, hoo, too-HOO; hoo, hoo, too-HOO, ooo." The easy to remember mnemonic is "Who, cooks, for-you? Who, cooks, for-you, all?"

After several months of respite from house flies, these pesky critters often reappear on windows in March. They are adults that have "slept" through the winter in a type of hibernation called diapause. Fly eggs that were laid in the fall may also be present, but they won't hatch until later in the spring.

Male raccoons lose interest in sleeping as breeding seasons begins. Watch for the meandering tracks of males in the snow and mud as they search out receptive females. They may also visit your yard in search of food. They are known to enjoy bird seed

Consider a trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park to see migrating waterfowl. The park is located near Brighton, about an hour's drive south of Peterborough. Up to 10,000 birds of as many as 25 different species are usually present in the waters off the park. You can expect to see large numbers of canvasbacks, long-tailed ducks, redheads, ring-necked ducks and, especially, greater scaups.



White-tailed Deer interested in the bird feeders at Stoney Lake cottage. Photo: Rene Gareau

Bird song is now very noticeable. Listen especially for the cardinal and house finch. The latter sings a high-pitched, disjointed, warbled song, often from the top of a tall conifer.

The furry catkins of pussy willows are a time-honoured sign of spring. Catkins are actually clusters of tiny flowers densely covered with silky white hairs when immature. Catkin is a Dutch word meaning "little kitten."

Red-tailed hawks are making their way back from wintering grounds in the United States. Watch for pairs of these birds soaring together over their woodlot territories.

This is an excellent time of the year to listen for owls. In the southern Kawarthas, great horned and screech owls can be heard, while the northern Kawarthas is home to the barred owl. Northern saw-whet owls are also a possibility.

Chipmunks reappear in our yards. Although we haven't seen them since last November, they were not sleeping all the time. Because chipmunks don't have enough body fat to keep themselves alive for many months, they need to arise occasionally during winter to snack from underground food caches and to go to the bathroom.

This is one time of year when dandelions are actually a welcome sight. Even though there may still be lots of snow on the lawn, snowmelt usually occurs along the bottom of southward facing walls. Here, the first green grass appears and, often, the first dandelions bloom as well. Even though we battle this alien species later in the season, right now it's a much-appreciated sign of spring.

The buds of a number of trees look different this month as they swell and stand out clearly against the blue spring sky. The buds of red maple, silver maple, and trembling aspen (a cousin of the pussy willow) are among the most noticeable.

Sugar maple trees are tapped around the middle of March. Daytime temperatures above 5C combined with nights below freezing create the best conditions for a good sap run.

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. This Irish saint is said to have rid Ireland of snakes. It's unfortunate that Western tradition see these reptiles as creatures of ill-repute. Many Ontario species are extremely rare or even threatened with extinction. On St. Patrick's Day, Ontario's snakes are still down below the frost line in hibernaculae such as crevices, wells, and rodent burrows.

The first songbirds have usually returned by mid-month. In the city, the most commonly seen species are robins and grackles. Grackles are those foot-long, glossy-purple blackbirds that make a loud "chack" call as they fly around your neighbourhood in small groups. They can be easily separated from starlings by their long, wedge-shaped tail.

Flocks of red-winged blackbirds are now returning to the still-frozen wetlands of the Kawarthas. These early arrivals typically perch in the highest branches of trees and are easy to see. Some flocks venture into the city and may even turn up at feeders.

Depending on the year, the vernal equinox (first day of spring) takes place March 19, 20, or 21. For the next six months, we enjoy days that are longer than nights. Both the moon and sun rise due east and set due west today.

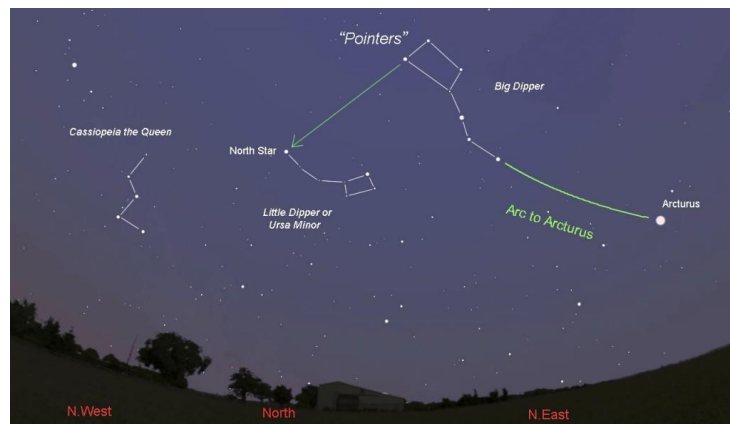


Barred Owl at Airport Road on February 6. Photo: Steve Paul

Starting at about 7:30 p.m., watch the eastern horizon for Arcturus, the brightest star of summer, and the harbinger of spring. To find this beautiful star, follow the arc of the Big Dipper's handle to the next brightest star. Mariners used to say: "Arc to Arcturus."

On a warm day in late March, you may get a glimpse of a mourning cloak butterfly taking its first flight since last fall. These purple-black and yellow butterflies will often feed on sap dripping from maple trees in spring. The mourning cloak overwinters in the adult stage of the life cycle.

A melt-water pond often forms in the corn field just south of Mather's Corners and east of Hiawatha Line. The pond welcomes a variety of ducks such as mallards, northern pintails, American wigeon, blue-winged teal, black ducks and wood ducks.



From The Campsite on Tumblr

If the weather becomes particularly warm, you may see the odd honey bee on a crocus or snowdrop in your garden. Honeybees are one of the few insects that remain active all winter.

The signature constellation of spring is Leo. Ruling over the southeastern sky in the evening, it is one of the few constellations that actually looks like its namesake.

By late March, killdeer appear on pastures and other open areas with short grass. They get their name from their "kill-dee" call.

Sandhill cranes return to the Kawarthas and can sometimes be heard calling at dawn and dusk. This species has seen a steady increase in numbers in recent years.

Wild leek leaves poking through patches of late March snow are often the first sign of new herbaceous plant growth. Leeks do not flower, however, until early summer.

Coyotes give birth to three to seven pups in late March or April.

The weasel's coat may be already turning from white back to brown. The change is caused by hormones that are released as a result of the lengthening hours of daylight.

Small flocks of tree swallows, the first true insect eaters to return to the Kawarthas, can sometimes be seen flying low over the Otonabee River and Little Lake in the last few days of March.



Coyotes at Lower Buckhorn Lake.
Photo: Ken McKeen

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, March 26

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org

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



Summary of the 2020 Peterborough Christmas Bird Count

Submitted by Martin Parker, Count Compiler

On Saturday December 20, the 69th annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count was conducted. A total of 91 people participated by covering part of the count circle. Another 9 people participated by submitting a summary of the birds observed at their feeders. There was a tremendous volunteer effort in this year of COVID-19. All participants respected public health guidelines during this event. At the end of the day, the participants recorded a total of 64 species of birds, representing 19,878 individual birds.

Highlights

New highs were established for 15 species: Species - # individuals (previous high and year)

Hooded Merganser - 19 (15 in 2015), Iceland Gull - 3 (2 in 2004), Rock Pigeon - 2,072 (2,027 in 2018), Mourning Dove - 1,356 (1,329 in 2010), Eastern Screech-Owl - 7 (4 in 2018), Barred Owl - 5 (2 in 2018), Short-eared Owl - 2 (1 in 2014 and another count), Red-bellied Woodpecker - 25 (16 in 2017), Blue Jay - 563 (469 in 2010), Common Raven - 34 (29 in 2016), Black-capped Chickadee - 3,123 (2,148 in 2018), Red-breasted Nuthatch - 74 (66 in 2008), White-breasted Nuthatch - 335 (225 in 2018), Northern Cardinal - 457 (173 in 2018), and Hoary Redpoll - 7 (3 in 2001).

Tied Previous Highs

Pileated Woodpecker - 28 (also in 2017), Merlin - 2 (also in 2018), and Peregrine Falcon - 2 (also 2 in 2018 & 2019)

Notable Species

Short-eared Owl - third time on count; Belted Kingfisher - not usually considered as a winter bird but 36th time on count; Red-bellied Woodpecker - now a regular count species but the 17th time; Peregrine Falcon - now expected annually but the 12th time; Common Raven - now expected annually but only the 20th time; Winter Wren - 12th time on a count; Yellow-rumped Warbler - 8th time; Swamp Sparrow - 17th time; Common Grackle - 24th time; and Hoary Redpoll - 9th time.

The participants in Area 7 (Airport) deserve special mention. They collectively observed 50 of the 64 species observed on the count.

Tentative date for 2021 count: December 19.

Area	Participants
Chemong/Bridgenorth	Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch, Tyler Miller, Ryan Hill, Beige McIntosh, Sammy Tangir, Ken McKeen, John McKeen. Bird feeders: Robyn McKinlay, Loran McCleary
Miller Creek/Selwyn	Drew Monkman, Mitch Brownstein, Luke Berg, Gary Berg, Noah Berg, Dan Chronowic, Abigale Struyk, Shannon Pennington, Iain Rayner
Lakefield/Otonabee River	Dave Milsom, Travis Cameron, Noah Cameron, David Britton, Carol Horner, Bruce Kidd, Guy Hanchet. Bird feeders: Carrie Sadowoski, Elizabeth Milsom, Susan Chow, Scott Gibson, Lucie Blouin, Mary Lou Murphy. Owling: Mike Burrell
Douro Wedge	Bill Crins, Natasha Carr, Mike Burrell, Erica Barkley, Abigail Barkley, Michael Oldham, Helen Bested, Mireille Delisle Oldham, Donald Sutherland, Ken Abraham, Marty Obbard, Ben Taylor, Marla Williams, Kathryn Sheridan
Burnham	Warren Dunlop, Janet Kelly, Gerry Bird, Al Sippel, Cathy Douglas, Anda Rungis, Fiona MacKay, Sue Paradisis, Phil Shaw
Stewart Hall/Landfill	Scott McKinlay, Beth McKinlay, Joan DiFruscia, Robert DiFruscia, Steve Paul, Laurie Healy
Airport	Matthew Tobey, Rene Gareau, Antje Gareau, Lynn Smith, Larry Smith, Paul Frost
Cavan Swamp	Chris Risley, Erica Nol, Andrew Brown, Olivia Maillet, Ali Giroux, Gary Heuvel, Gill Holmes, Ed and Rose Addison, Melissa Rose
Jackson Park	Jerry Ball, Ken Morrison, Kathy Parker, Colin Jones, Scott Gibson, Matt Gavin, Mike Burrell. Bird feeder: Don Pettypiece
Downtown	Martin Parker, King Baker, Maxwell Stewart, Marilyn Hubley, Jane Kroes, Iain Rayner, Anne Pasek, JB Bell, Juniper Mitchel, Erin McGauley, Stephanie Melles. Feeders - Michelle Monkman, Jim Cashmore, Linda Sunderland, Nuala Murnane

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Total	Record High	# of Counts (out of 61)
Canada Goose	315	25	151	2	27	99	177	71	5	633	1,505	3,795 in 2015	40
Ameridan Black Duck			3	2		3	2			2	12	30 in 1974	49
Mallard	4		213	154	211	144	181	16		328	1,251	1,264 in 2012	52
Common Goldeneye			35	11	25	43	12			9	135	292 in 2001	55
Hooded Merganser				4		10				5	19	19 in 2020	35
Common Merganser						1	1				2	225 in 2012	46
Ruffed Grouse	2	3	2	4	1	1	2		4		19	82 in 1979	60
Wild Turkey	6	24	16			47			8		101	306 in 2014	17
Northern Harrier						1	1				2	6 in 2016	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1								2	6 in 2018	45
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	5	1			1				9	12 in 2017	44
Bald Eagle							1				1	13 in 2017	15
Red-tailed Hawk	3	6	4	5	3	8	6		3	1	39	64 in 2014	57
Rough-legged Hawk							1				1	5 in 1963	23
Ring-billed Gull			3	2	99	49				5	158	399 in 2017	36
Herring Gull		1	35	34	91	134	23	1	2	15	336	1,302 in 1998	42
Iceland Gull						2	1				3	3 in 2020	18
Glaucous Gull						1					1	5 in 2004	22
Great Black-backed Gull					2	3					5	32 in 1884	28
Rock Pigeon	54	38	78	178	290	265	115	38	182	834	2,072	2,072 in 2020	47*
Mourning Dove	203	60	76	210	148	203	141	131	155	29	1,356	1,356 in 2020	53
Eastern Screech-Owl	1					4	1		1		7	7 in 2020	23
Great Horned Owl		1	1			1					3	40 in 1992	54
Barred Owl		1			1	1	2				5	5 in 2020	21
Short-eared Owl							2				2	2 in 2020	3
Belted Kingfisher			1	1							2	4 in 2015	36
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	1		1	2	4	6	3	2		25	25 in 2020	17
Downy Woodpecker	12	10	9	16	10	15	9	14	10	9	114	119 in 1974	61
Hairy Woodpecker	12	4	8	13	10	4	8	7	8	2	76	84 in 1975	58
Pileated Woodpecker	5		2	1	5	5	2	5	2	1	28	28 in 2020	58
American Kestrel							2				2	14 in 1979	55
Merlin					2		1				3	3 in 2020	24
Peregrine Falcon										1	1	2 in 2020	12
Northern Shrike	1	1					1		1		4	29 in 1986	59
Blue Jay	75	73	37	81	60	43	83	41	53	17	563	563 in 2020	61
American Crow	42	21	45	64	45	144	15	23	55	122	576	956 in 2019	58
Common Raven	9	5	3	3	2	7	3		2		34	34 in 2020	20
Black-capped Chickadee	302	459	316	475	369	213	206	199	377	207	3,123	3,123 in 2020	61
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	11	9	8	4	1	2	9	4	15	74	74 in 2020	49
White-breasted Nuthatch	32	30	31	52	42	16	32	41	37	22	335	335 in 2020	61
Brown Creeper	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	4		20	21 in 1982	57
Winter Wren							2				2	6 in 2006	12
Golden-crowned Kinglet			1				3				4	47 in 1982	47
American Robin	1	106	19	18	4	1	35	36	3	1	224	1,943 in 2016	44
European Starling	375	58	3	89	150	708	214	105	123	479	2,304	3,400 in 2011	61
Bohemian Waxwing	30		203	19	33	3	231	26	45	61	651	2,180 in 1983	23
Cedar Waxwing	62	1	1	32	38	96	23	13	13		279	737 in 2011	47
Snow Bunting			1	1			1		4		7	1,683 in 1989	53
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1							1	3 in 2012	8
American Tree Sparrow	19	87	28	20	30	50	41	68	55		398	589 in 1974	60
Dark-eyed Junco	61	76	79	70	36	29	25	82	53	65	576	739 in 2017	59
White-throated Sparrow		1	2							1	4	11 in 2002	36
Song Sparrow			1			2	2				5	27 in 1982	38
Swamp Sparrow		1					1				2	5 in 1982	17
Northern Cardinal	66	56	89	42	42	40	20	30	40	32	457	457 in 2020	54
Common Grackle									1		1	4 in 1973	23
Pine Grosbeak	19	2	1	2	4		1	13			42	196 in 1993	30
House Finch	5	8	37	9	10	2	4	9	1	20	105	1,197 in 1991	38
Common Redpoll	87	171	49	107	4	440	170	43	293	1	1,365	1,736 in 1993	42
Hoary Redpoll			1	1			1	1	3		7	7 in 2020	9
Pine Siskin	5		1								6	750 in 1986	36
American Goldfinch	137	29	60	144	74	144	54	37	53	56	788	941 in 2006	61
Evening Grosbeak								2			2	971 in 1986	38
House Sparrow	30	24	19	28	157	26	19	33	12	120	468	2,209 in 1981	61
duck spp				2							2		
gull spp				6	103		4			6	119		
woodpecker spp			1		1				1		3		
falcon spp										1	1		
waxwing spp					20						20		
finch spp		1	4		6						11		
Total Individuals	1,997	1,399	1,685	1,914	2,164	3,014	1,894	1,098	1,615	3,100	19,880		
Total Number of Species	35	34	43	39	35	43	50	29	34	29	66	10-year average = 59	

cw: 1 counted in count week

Highlights of the 2020 Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count

By Colin Jones, Count Compiler

The 35th Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count was held on Tuesday, December 29 - a day with very pleasant weather. It was calm in the morning (excellent listening conditions) but the wind began to pick up as the day progressed. Temperatures were quite mild at about -4 °C in the a.m. warming to about -2 °C, with a mixture of overcast skies with sunny periods.

Lakes and ponds were frozen so there were no waterbirds detected this year.

Overall, it was very quiet day and we had to work hard to detect the birds (lots of pishing, squeaking and owls calls to draw the birds in). Even when the birds appeared, they were often quite silent.

- Participants: 34 (above average)
- Total species: 26 (quite a bit lower than the 10-year average of 32.4)
- Total individuals: 1,927 (10-year average is 2,248)

Notable species and high counts include:

Rock Pigeon: 120 (new count high)

White-breasted Nuthatch: 205 (well above the 10-year average of 96.5 and very close to the all-time high count of 233 in 2014)

Bohemian Waxwing: 651 (high number)

Low Counts:

- *Mourning Dove*: 1 (a near miss; this species has been recorded every year since 1995 with a 10-year average of 8.8 and count high of 93)
- *Golden-crowned Kinglet*: 8 (10-year average is 41 and count high is 120)
- *European Starling*: 2 (a near miss; this species has been recorded every year since 1989 with a 10-year average of 26.5 and count high of 114)

Winter Finches:

- *Evening Grosbeak*: 75
- *Pine Grosbeak*: 23
- *Common Redpoll*: 71
- *Pine Siskin*: 2
- *American Goldfinch*: 17 (very low - 10-year average is 166.5 and count high is 714)

Misses:

- *Wild Turkey*: Count period only. It has been recorded nearly yearly since 2002 with a 10-year average of 56.
- *Black-backed Woodpecker*: Once a nearly annual species on this count, it has only been recorded 3 times over the past 10 years.
- *Canada Jay*: Another once annual species but only recorded 4 times over the past 10 years.
- *Snow Bunting*: This is only the 8th time this species has been missed. 10-year average is 9.8.

2020 Petroglyphs Butterfly Count - Highest Number of Species

From "Ontario Butterfly Counts in Summer 2020" by James Kamstra, published in *Ontario Insects*, Vol. 26, No. 1, December 2020

The results of 25 counts were provided and the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count participants observed the most number of species of any of the counts summarized. The Petroglyphs count recorded 58 species. The second highest was the Marion Corners count in the Ottawa region. A cumulative total of 98 species were recorded on Ontario counts last year.

The Petroglyphs Count also had the 2nd highest number of individuals (4,742). The Skunk's Misery Count near London recorded 5,269 individuals with the Long Point count being third with 42,58 individuals.

The Petroglyphs Butterfly Count is sponsored by the PFN and compiled by Gerry Ball.

Helping Our Birds

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

In January, members were treated to an excellent presentation on Zoom by Doctor Bridget Stutchbury, of York University. She shared her fascinating research on the migration of several bird species including the Wood Thrush and the problems they encounter. A question was asked about what we can do to help, and she mentioned the importance of choosing shade-grown coffee. Birds such as the thrushes, warblers, vireos, flycatchers and redstarts winter in the tropical rain forests of Mexico, Central America and South America. Since the 1970s, many of these forests have been cleared to grow new varieties of higher yield plants that do well in the sun. Much like an apple orchard, the shrubs are planted in rows and pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers are used.

Naturally, coffee is a shade-tolerant plant grown under the forest canopy and is part of a complex ecosystem. Studies have shown that of all agricultural land use, shade-grown coffee farms support the greatest diversity of migratory birds and native flora and fauna. A study in Mexico recorded 184 bird species (46 being migrants) in traditional plantations while as few as 6 to 12 were found in unshaded monocultures. These diverse ecosystems attract birds and mammals which eat herbivorous insects. They also attract bees for pollination. Fertilizer is not needed as the leaf litter from the various plants provides nutrients and helps with water retention. There is significantly less erosion and nutrient runoff in the shade farms and carbon is sequestered. That's enough reason for me to search out shade-grown coffee.

Dr. Stutchbury told us she purchases her coffee from a company online. I like to buy local so did some phoning around and it is available at several Peterborough and area stores. Simply use whatever search engine you like and look for "shade-grown coffee Peterborough" and a number of options will pop up with phone numbers. Be sure to specify shade-grown. The birds are under threat from habitat loss and this is one way we can help.

Request for Locations for Tree Swallow Boxes for Tree Swallow Study

Bronwen Hennigar, a graduate student at Trent University, is seeking advice from the Peterborough Field Naturalists regarding areas in north Peterborough or Lakefield to place tree swallow boxes. Ideally these would be open fields with enough space to place transects of bird boxes.

If you are interested in permitting Bronwen to erect a series of Tree Swallow nest boxes on your property, please contact Bronwen directly at bronwenhennigar@trentu.ca.

Silent Lake... Silent Thoughts

New Year's afternoon wasn't too soon to trade our man-burrows for woodland.
We naturalists had high hopes despite icy slopes to seek a vision grand
In a mature forest boreal, which we would feel in our individual ways.
From the start, snowy tree forms did impart a nivean glow to the gloomy day.

Our tracker guy with discerning eye revealed traces of denizens unseen;
In new-fallen snow he was able to show what track pattern, size, and gait mean.
He fuelled our imagination and subconscious assimilation of learned sympathy -
Tenuous but growing, stronger in knowing, to attain love, care, and empathy.

Beauty engenders respect; some photographed to collect a vivid reminder.
Mother Nature speaks in odd ways unique; where or when will we find her?
What place means hinterland to us? Not a stand of managed, even-aged 'forest'!
Without the open and edge spaces of wetlands and such places, biodiversity is poorest.

Here the understory allowed us to see a good variety of trees of mixed sizes.
A few winter birds were heard; a Brown Creeper stirred, searching for small prizes.
How uplifting to see a rocky stream running free over surface stone, inciting
Our hearts to take heed of all creatures' needs in a world more inviting.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2020



Silent Lake on PFN's First Day Walk last year.

Photo: Murray Palmer

Orchid Issues Needed for Archives

PFN's archives are missing the following issues of PFN's newsletter, *The Orchid*:

- April 2008
- September 2008
- October 2008
- March 2010

If you still have a copy of any of these issues, it would be appreciated if you would consider donating to the PFN Archives. Please contact Martin Parker at 705-745-4750 or mparker19@cogeco.ca.

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

Trumpeter Swans are currently jockeying for dominance and romance at various wintering sites across the south-central Ontario region, and soon pairs will start leaving to head back to their summer nesting sites. Trumpeter Swans congregate at these wintering sites because they have access to open water and food all winter long. If you have a chance to visit any of these places, they are quite spectacular - and NOISY!

Here are the rough counts at each of the main wintering sites:

- LaSalle Park - around 200 in area
- Washago - close to 200
- Tommy Thompson Park - close to 100
- Bluffers Park - around 50 to 60
- Port Severn - around 50 to 60
- Marmora - around 50 to 60
- Frenchman's Bay - up to 20
- Whitby Harbour - up to 20
- Barcovan Beach - up to 20
- Bobcaygeon - 5 to 10
- Lakefield area - consistently 4 to 7



Family of four Trumpeter Swans on the Otonabee River near Lock 25 on December 28. Photo: Steve Paul

Sadly, over the last month, there have been at least three Trumpeter Swans that have died from suspected lead poisoning. Next month, I plan to discuss this topic a bit further. I hope we can do our part this year to help make sure we keep our waterways clean and do everything possible to protect these beautiful creatures!

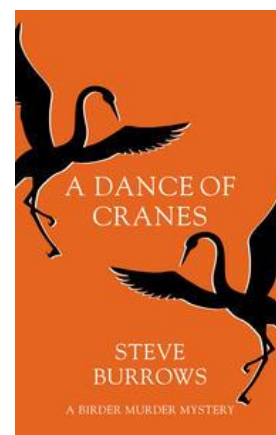
On a positive note, anyone who remembers my story of R39 (a.k.a. Trent), who was named after spending time around Trent University and the Otonabee River last February and March, he is currently hanging out with his buddies in the Aurora area. Hopefully he decides to come back and visit us this spring - and maybe even bring a lady friend with him!

Book Review: A Dance of Cranes by Steve Burrows

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

I picked up Steve Burrows latest in the birder murder mystery series, *A Dance of Cranes*, with alacrity. A good antidote to pandemic ponderings! As most of you know, Burrows' first book in the series, *A Siege of Bitterns*, won the 2015 Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel; The Globe and Mail 100: Best Books of 2014; and was shortlisted for the 2015 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize for best mystery. If anything, Burrows has continued to improve with each successive novel.

A Dance of Cranes has some very clever plotting. I found myself wondering if Burrows has a giant whiteboard upon which to map out all the different strands presented in this story. Not only are there three crimes, but also three countries and two continents! Most of the regular characters appear again in this novel with the addition of a couple that might make it into the next. Like any good series, the main characters are human with human foibles, making human mistakes and are presented with compassion. Given that part of the story takes place in Wood Buffalo National Park, I was pleased to see reference to the Dene people and their relationship to the



land. As Gaetan Robideau says, "They say they are working to restore the natural balance. As if this is something that is in their power to do. Humans cannot restore nature. Only the Great Mother Earth can do this. Forget management, forget remediation, forget restoration. The best thing humans can do is to stop causing the damage. Cause no harm, and let the park take care of healing itself."

In *A Dance of Cranes*, the dancing is done by cranes and by humans, both literally and figuratively. We expect descriptions of crane mating dances. After all, this is the birder murder mystery series. But it was an artful surprise at the end to see a bit of dancing between two awkward humans who have been light-footing around each other in previous novels. (Sorry, no spoilers!)

Burrows hasn't forgotten that birders want information about birds as well as a fast-moving plot. There's information about when hormones kick in to get the cranes into migrating mode before they even begin to dance. There's a good discussion of how natural instincts like the migration instinct can be eliminated from DNA when a small population on the edge of extinction is bred in captivity to ensure their survival.

As much as I enjoyed escaping into this book (and into the boreal forest), I was jarred by a mistake. Canoes do not have oarlocks! Nor are they moved with oars! Small shame on the editor. Jejeune and his brother would have known better!

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Ptbo library: Fiction Burro

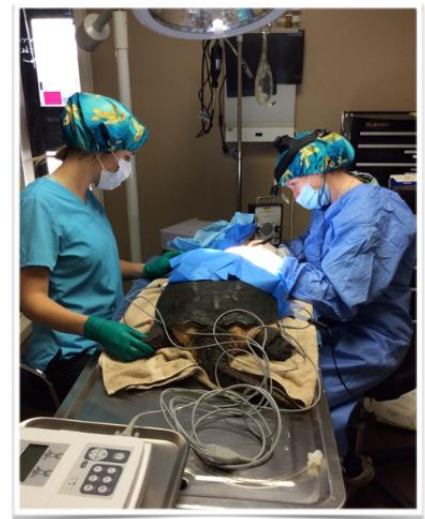
Excerpts from OTCC: The Year in Review

By Dr. Sue Carstairs, Executive and Medical Director

With full [COVID-19 safety] measures in place to protect the public and staff, we were able to continue to offer all our hospital services, resulting in over 1,000 turtles being admitted and treated! With a no-contact method of drop-off and pick-up, our amazing hotline staff navigated the transport of these turtles to OTCC. With over 3,000 phone call inquiries to manage, we kept our 3 hotline summer staff very busy for 12 hours a day and 7 days a week!

With about 40 first responders across the province, turtles were able to receive care quickly and efficiently even if they were too far to be brought to OTCC right away. These first responders are primarily veterinarians who volunteer their time to help us to ensure emergency care for the turtles. They are provided with any training needed, 24/7 support, and any equipment required, by OTCC. They are truly very special people! Our 840 turtle taxi volunteers were coordinated by our Hot-line staff, to allow transfer to a first responder, and further transport to OTCC -resulting in many thousands more phone calls and emails!

Of course, every adult turtle we return to the wild has a population benefit as they are impossible to replace. For an adult snapping to have time to replace him/herself in the population, it can take upwards of 60 years! Their long lives ensure that this is possible, but only if adult mortality is near zero. Road mortality tips this balance, and we are helping to tip that balance back, and "buy time" until the problem can be more fully resolved with the implementation of Ecopassages.



"Our surgery was in constant use all season, as usual! Thank you to Drs. Kristen Jenke and Chris Dutton for all their amazing work helping Dr. Sue Carstairs to keep up with it all!" - OTTC

Our hatchling program evolved as a natural extension of the hospital. With about half of the admitted turtles being females, and many of these struck by vehicles on their way to lay eggs, we ensure that none of these eggs are lost. Incubating almost 5,000 eggs this year, was a “Labour of Love,” and the resultant hatchlings are now overwintering at the centre, growing, and getting ready for release in the spring.

This program provides us with another opportunity to augment turtle populations. Even if the adult mother did not survive, we can ensure that her offspring will be returned to her home wetland, to carry on her genes!

Our field work evolved as a natural extension of the hatchling program, as we fill knowledge gaps in this area, and ensure the best “success” for these released juveniles. With much unknown in the field of “headstarting”, OTCC has helped to add to the existing knowledge, with our research so far indicating that these juveniles are adding to the subadult population. They are comparing very favourably with the wild-hatched juveniles that we are also tracking via radiotelemetry!

We are following a group of headstarted juvenile Blanding’s that were hatched from injured turtles admitted to the OTCC, alongside a group of juvenile Blanding’s that were found at our study site. This allows us to compare the movement patterns, behaviour, growth, and survival, between the two groups. This project is quite unique in having a “control” group and allows us to accurately evaluate the “success” of our headstarted turtles. We plan on following these turtles through to maturity, to ensure they are contributing to the adult population.

While our field season was a bit delayed due to closure of Ontario’s Parks, as soon as we got the green light, we were ready to go! The field team managed to find all the turtles from 2019 and had a very successful season following our turtles!

The full newsletter, including an update on the new building, education and outreach, and volunteers, as well as a donation form, can be found here:

<https://ontarioturtle.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Turtle-Times-2020-12.pdf>

**An injured turtle needs medical attention as soon as possible.
Call OTTC immediately: 705-741-5000**

Western Chorus Frog Monitoring Program

Why monitor western chorus frogs? It is a threatened species in Canada. Data contributes to a range-wide long-term monitoring program. Your data helps us identify range declines and increases. Your data helps us quickly respond to range declines over time.

We need your help! We rely on volunteers to conduct three short daytime call surveys. Sign-up to contribute in your community. Choose your preferred number of sites to survey and preferred travel distance.

Where? Range-wide! We’ll help you select sites.

When? As soon as western chorus frogs begin calling! (March to May)

E-mail info@blazingstar.ca to learn more.

Avant-Garden Receives 'Wild Bird Store' Award

Congratulations to Brenda Ivey, owner of The Avant-Garden shop for receiving 'The Wild Bird Store of the Year' award from Wild Bird Trading. The past year has seen a surge in sales of bird feeders, bird food and accessories. The award celebrates the best in product knowledge, quality, selections and overall customer service. The Avant-Garden shop supported the installation of bird feeders at Peterborough Hospice, an initiative by a PFN member and recipient of a PFN grant.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



Cedar Waxwings sheltering in a pine tree in January. Photo: Marilyn Hubley



Northern Mockingbird on BB Beach Road on February 9. Photo: Dave Milsom



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, reducing the sharing of information on our natural heritage.	
2020	During 2020, 242 species of birds were reported on eBird as being observed in Peterborough County. Dave Milsom observed the most species (238) followed closely by Donald Sutherland with 232 and Matthew Tobey with 226. A total 24,300 individual checklists were submitted to eBird during the year.
	A belated report from 2020. Dr. Stephen Ragaz photographed and posted on iNaturalist a Blue Grosbeak at his feeder on April 29 (photo on page 2). This is the third record for the county on eBird. The previous records were in 1996 and 1994. Details are being collected for review by the Ontario Bird Records Committee.
Dec 12	A belated report. John Williams observed an American Opossum in his yard in Ennismore area.
<p style="text-align: center;">Short-eared Owl</p> <p>The Short-eared Owls, which were initially located at the eastern end of the Peterborough Airport on Dec. 2 by Drew Monkman, continued to put on a show each dusk through this reporting period. Each night, birders from the region stopped by to watch these owls hunt. They were observed catching mice and mobbing the winter resident Northern Harrier.</p> <p>On February 12, Jerry Ball located another Short-eared Owl off Cty Road 2 east of Scriven Line. He watched it actively hunt and catch a mouse. Since that date it has been observed by other birders.</p>	
Dec 25	A Carolina Wren was located along shoreline of the Otonabee River off the north end of Driscoll Terrace by Patrick Kramer. Seen regularly until the end of the period by numerous other birders. Ken Furlong continued to report a wintering Common Grackle in his yard.
Dec 26	Karl Smith reported two Eastern Bluebirds in his yard north of Young's Point. They were roosting in a nest box.
Dec 27	Betty Morrison reported a Snowy Owl in the vicinity of Cumberland and Royal in city. Don Sutherland reported that one of the dark backed gulls on Little Lake is actually a hybrid Great Black-backed x Herring Gull . Observed by others periodically until January 20.
Dec 29	Steve Smith observed 4 Eastern Bluebirds in his yard on Woodland Drive in the city. Susan Chow reported two Barred Owls calling in her yard between Peterborough and Lakefield. The courtship period has commenced for some owls. The Tundra Swan reported in December in the Lakefield area is still being reported along with Trumpeter Swans and 2 Mute Swans . All observed periodically during the period.
Dec 31	Dave Milsom observed 2 different Common Loons on Pigeon Lake -- one off Timberline Road and the other was off Kerry Line. Ken Furlong was attracted by a group of mobbing Black-capped Chickadees in his yard and discovered they were mobbing a Northern Saw-whet Owl .
Jan 1	Mike V.A. Burrell and other birders saw a Sandhill Crane in the area of Scriven Road & Cty Road 2 in the Baillieboro area. Donald Sutherland had a Northern Goshawk in the Fraserville area. Gary Berg observed a Snowy Owl in the Trent Nature area. Donald Sutherland & Luke Berg had a Winter Wren along Mervin Line - first located on the Peterborough CBC.

	Luke Berg had an Eastern Bluebird in the area of the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary. White-winged Crossbills observations: 2 on Hannah Rd, Baillieboro by Mike V.A. Burrell, 18 in Lakefield by Mike Coyne, 2 in Beavermead Park by Daniel Williams & 2 on Mervin Line by Donald Sutherland.
Jan 2	Iain Rayner initially reported a Snowy Owl along the Centre Line of Smith, south of the 7 th Concession. Observed by 20 other birders on eBird for this date. Present until the end of the reporting period. Luke Berg found a Swamp Sparrow in the Miller Creek Wildlife area
Jan 3	Paul Frost spotted a Rough-legged Hawk & flock of 75 Snow Buntings on Scriven Line. Patrick Kramer found a Winter Wren along the river below Driscoll Terrace. Later, a second individual was present, and they were being seen regularly during the period.
Eastern Bluebird	
There were Eastern Bluebirds observations throughout the period including -- 4 in Carol B.'s yard in Selwyn Twp on Jan. 4, 2 on Centre Line of Smith on Jan 10 by Chris Risley, 5 on Preston Road near Lakefield on Jan 11 by Henrique Pacheco, 4 along Centre Line of Smith by Sarah Bonnett, 2 along Zion Line on Jan 21 by Hannah Dodington, 4 in Millbrook area by Donald Sutherland on Jan 30 and 6 in the Keene area the same day by Cathy Douglas, 6 on Assumption Road on Jan 31 by Steve Paul (twice on this date), 2 on 4 th Line near Squirrel Creek CA on Feb 9 by Hannah Dodington, 2 on Duncan's Line on Feb 11 by Dave Milsom, 3 on 2 nd Line north of Hall's Landing on Feb 12 & 14 by Dave Milsom, 2 on Zion Line on Feb 13 by Gis Seglet, 2 on 2 nd Line east of Baillieboro on Feb 13 by Matthew Gavin, with reports from five locations on Feb 14 by multiple observers and 3 on Feb 15 on 2 nd Line east of Baillieboro.	
Jan 4	Mike Burrell had a Winter Wren in his yard in Douro Twp -- third location this winter.
Jan 5	Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet found a Red-necked Grebe on Little Lake -- seen by many others until Jan 8. Ben Taylor, Chris Risley & Patrick Kramer found a White-crowned Sparrow along the river below Driscoll Terrace.
Jan 6	Cathy Douglas had a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Meadowvale Park.
Jan 7	Erica Nol had a Northern Goshawk along Gilmour Avenue.
Jan 8	Donald Sutherland had another Northern Goshawk near Burleigh Falls.
Jan 9	Iain Rayner located a Slaty-backed Gull with the concentration of gulls on the ice on Little Lake off the Mark Street ramp. It was viewed later in the afternoon by other birders. Photos and videos were taken. This is the first record for Peterborough County and full details will be reviewed by the Ontario Bird Records Committee. This gull is native to the Pacific coastline of NE Asia. It was seen the next morning by some other observers within the flock of gulls on the Little Lake. Travis & Noah Cameron had a Lesser Scaup on the river near Lakefield. Luke Berg had 2 Golden Eagles at Nephton Ridge Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet found a White-winged Crossbill in the Thompson Bay area.
Jan 10	Dan William located a Red-shouldered Hawk at the KLT Ingleton-Wells property. Rene Gareau photographed a Northern Shrike in Harper Park.
Jan 12	Rene Gareau observed about 50 Evening Grosbeaks along Northey's Bay Road Jerry Ball had a Merlin at Little Lake Cemetery. Jane Kroes & Marilyn Hubley spotted 2 Red-winged Blackbirds over wetland on Scollard Drive.
Jan 13	Gerry Bird had a flock of 78 Red-winged Blackbirds feeding in a bare field about 1 km east of Keene. Still present on Jan 16 according to Steve Paul & Laurie Healey.
Jan 14	Bob Prentice took a video of 11 Trumpeter Swans on Belmont Lake.
Jan 15	Kathryn Sheridan provided an update on the PFN feeders in Ecology Park. They are being visited constantly by Black-capped Chickadees & White-breasted Nuthatches . She noted there are lots

	of woodpeckers present including 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker . There is a major die-off of ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. Cathy Douglas had a Red-winged Blackbird in the Thompson Bay area of the canal.
Jan 16	Cathy Douglas had a White-crowned Sparrow on Duncan Line south of Cty Road 2, still present on Jan 18 by Laurie Healey.
Jan 18	A Northern Saw-whet Owl was found at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre by Kevin Gevaert & Camryn Prikker and seen by many others.
Jan 19	Henrique Pacheco & Hannah Dodington located a Savannah Sparrow in mixed flock of sparrows on Smithson Rd -- still present on Feb 7.
Jan 24	Dave Milsom relocated the Yellow-rumped Warbler in the Stevenson Park area, first reported on Peterborough CBC. Was found over next few days by others.
Jan 27	Dave Milsom had a Swamp Sparrow within the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area.
Jan 28	Dave Milsom had a Pine Warbler along River Road, east of Hastings. Seen over next few days by others. Kathy Parker spotted an overwintering American Robin feeding on Buckthorn berries in her yard in the city. Jerry Ball & Ken Morrison had 5 Pine Grosbeaks on 5 th line of Douro.
White-winged Crossbill	
There were scattered reports of this irruptive species from across the region in early February -- including 20 on the Omemee Rotary Trail by Sara Bonnett on Feb 1, 8 in his yard in the S.W. section of the city on Feb 5 by Matthew Tobey, 5 near Bensfort Corners on Feb 10 by Hannah Dodington, and 1 in the city on Feb 14 by Glen Desy.	
Feb 5	Laurie Healey had a Common Grackle along the Keene Road.
Feb 6	Golden Eagle day: Mike Burrell & Erica Barkley had 1 over yard on 8 th Line of Douro and Scott Gibson had 1 along Cty Road 37 just north of Cty Road 2.
Feb 8	Dave Milsom had a Red-breasted Merganser on Old Orchard Road in Hastings area.
Feb 9	Hannah Dodington located a Northern Mockingbird on BB Beach Road east of Baillieboro -- seen by many until the end of the reporting period (photo on page 19).
Feb 10	Cathy Douglas had a Hermit Thrush in the Millbrook Prov. Fishing and Recreation area.
Feb 11	Mike Burrell had a Hoary Redpoll in his yard on the 8 th Line of Douro. He also had a Pine Siskin -- the first he had seen in months in his yard -- continued to the end of the period.
Feb 12	Jerry Ball had a Sharp-shinned Hawk along BB Beach Road.
Feb 13	Thomas Tamblyn had a Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Catchacoma Lake area. Susan Weaver had a Hoary Redpoll along Whittaker St in the city.
Pine Siskin	
Numerous reports of movement of Pine Siskins into area on Feb 14: 4 along Lang Road, Keene by Laurie Healey & Steve Paul, 3 in Allandale yard by Pam Martin, 2 near Hope Mill CA by Sascha Dho, 2 on Esson Line by Donald Sutherland, 8 on BB Beach Road by Tony Barrett & Phyllis McNally, 1 on Carveth Drive, Millbrook by Jeff Stewart, 1 at feeder of Collin Richardson in East City, and 5 in Cavan by Scott McKinlay.	
Feb 14	Jeanne Brown had a Northern Goshawk in the area of Hope Mill. Zale Wile located and photographed a Red-shouldered Hawk along Cty Road 28 near Baxter Creek Golf Course.
Feb 15	Mike Burrell had 7 White-winged Crossbills along BB Beach Road, Baillieboro. Pine Siskin reports from this date included 1 in Mike Burrell's yard, Douro Twp, 2 on Heritage Line by unknown birder, 5 on Whitfield Drive by Tony Barrett, 4 on BB Beach Road by Steve Paul & Laurie Healey.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Annual Report for 2020

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

80th Anniversary

The PFN was founded on May 20, 1940. Unfortunately, activities planned to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding could not be held due to COVID-19. Special collector pins to celebrate the 80th anniversary were produced and are still available.

Memberships – Jim Young

At the end of 2020, there were 176 memberships (down from 187) representing 275 individuals (down from 302). Online membership application and fee/donation payment was implemented.

Members Meetings – Marie Duchesneau

Even as we had to change from in-person meetings to Zoom meetings, we continued to benefit from the expertise of our guest speakers. We joined the world's longest insect migration with the Monarch Ultra Marathon and hiked Canada's Great Trail. We discovered Western Australia's unique flora and the diversity of our Arctic fish population. We were warned about the introduction into nature of wild pigs and of the challenges facing the North Atlantic Right Whales. We looked at the anthropogenic debris brought to their nests by Double-Crested Cormorants and spied on the lives of a local population of Wild Turkeys. We learned the latest methods to follow the migration routes of individual songbirds and the threats they encounter during their travels.

Outings – Sue Paradisis

2020 started out so well with a First Day Hike on January 1 to Silent Lake Provincial Park. Nineteen members attended and enjoyed an afternoon of fresh air, exercise, camaraderie and spectacular views of a winter wonderland of fresh snow. Twelve outings took place before COVID-19 forced us to shut everything down from mid-March until September. Another eleven outings took place in the fall with reduced numbers and pre-registration. In spite of COVID-19, we were able to offer 23 outings and had 265 participants, a far cry from the numbers of previous years. Sadly 2020 ended with a return to lockdown but hopefully we will be able to safely resume outings before too long.

The Orchid – Kathryn Sheridan

Publication of PFN's newsletter, *The Orchid*, continued unabated throughout 2020. There were fewer outing reports than usual due to the pandemic, but some new contributors stepped up to the plate to help keep PFN members informed. New article contributors included: Matthew Tobey (Yellow-crowned Night-Heron), Maxwell Matchim (ROM visit), Lucie Blouin (book review), Karen Vanderwolf (bat boxes), Steve Paul (swan sightings, squirrel-free bird feeders), Matt Garvin (Magnificent Frigatebird), Mary Kate Whibbs (freshwater mussels), Roger Jones (dogs, people and wildlife), Carrie Sadowski (Saw-whet Owl banding report), Anda Rungis (outing report), Jay Fitzsimmons (PFN Juniors' art event), Enid Mallory (Lily Lake update), Sue Paradisis (Burnham Woods, flower diary), Gemma Arvin via Caroline Tennant (student connections with nature), Susan Weaver (wacky squirrel behaviour), and Anria Loubser via Phil Shaw (polyphemus silk moth). Many thanks to all who submitted photos and articles to share with other members in *The Orchid*. It was nice to have this means to stay connected during this challenging time.

Junior Field Naturalists – Jay Fitzsimmons, Erica Barkley, Stephanie Collins, Lara Griffin

Once the pandemic hit, the Juniors did not do any events. Before the pandemic, in what feels like another era, we had two really nice events.

In January, we partnered with the Art Gallery of Peterborough for a nature-based craft event. The gallery has “Family Sundays” every month, when families can come for free to visit the gallery and make some art. For this Family Sunday, our organizations teamed up for kids to decorate wood pendants with pressed flowers and leaves. Dozens of kids and their families came, some parents learning about one group or the other for the first time. A video crew from CHEX News also showed up, which was a nice surprise. We'd been talking with the gallery about doing more such events in the future. Hopefully that time will come again.

On Saturday February 22, PFN hosted the Junior Field Naturalists' annual Children's Christmas Bird Count that had been rescheduled due to poor weather conditions. Martin Parker gave a presentation on CBCs and participants broke into smaller groups led by volunteer guides. After each group had completed their bird count, numbers of each species were compiled. Kawartha Wildlife Centre gave a presentation about the Kawartha Wildlife Centre and the animals they help, as well as how to make a wildlife-friendly property.

We don't know what we'll do in 2021, but we'll take it as it comes and see what's possible. Thank you to all of the parents who have been understanding of the lack of events given the circumstances.

Digital Communication – Marilyn Hubley

The PFN Facebook following has gone from 1,272 in January 2020 to 2,458 as of Jan 18, 2021 (up 1,186). Instagram has gone from 304 Jan 2020 to 580 (up 276) and Twitter has gone from 2,196 to 2,319 (up 123). The PFN website is updated periodically as additional material becomes available.

ADMINISTRATION**Ontario Nature Representative – Steve Paul**

PFN is one of over 150 conservation groups that make up Ontario Nature's “Nature Network,” and is among 28 groups that make up the Lake Ontario North region. Becoming the Ontario Nature Rep, I looked forward to attending the in-person meetings in both the spring and fall, to learn what other groups are doing, and to share best practices with our membership.

As COVID-19 swept into our lives in March, everything changed as we moved to a more virtual form of communication. The spring event to be hosted by Lands Over Landings on May 2 was cancelled and was replaced by a phone conference on April 30. The fall event was held on Zoom on October 28. There were great presentations and information shared on both dates. The Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership also went through a dramatic change, moving from a traditional, single-day in-person format, to a series of virtual livestreams over a five-week period between August and September. It was also very successful, filled with cross-cultural learning and knowledge sharing.

Our club supported multiple advocacy submissions of Ontario Nature, opposing both the reintroduction of the spring bear hunt and the introduction of a fall Double-Crested Cormorant hunt; endorsed a letter addressing the use of Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) to over-ride policy protections for provincially significant wetlands; endorsed a letter regarding the Ontario Government's proposal to remove the prohibition on aggregate extraction in the habitat of threatened and endangered species in the regional Natural Heritage System of the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and endorsed removing Schedule 6 from Bill 229, which was proposed to allow the Minister of Natural Resources to hold majority decision-making

power on new developments while allowing developers the ability to appeal decisions made by conservation authorities to the ministry.

Club Sales – Marie Duchesneau and Cathy Douglas

Sales of PFN publications continued. Books were available for purchase at club meetings, from two local businesses and from another organization. Several copies were presented in recognition of special efforts. An additional stock of *Nature in the Kawarthas* was purchased. The book is still being sold commercially by Dundurn Press and the PFN still receives a royalty from these sales.

80th anniversary pins were produced and are still available for purchase.

Archives – Martin Parker

Regular maintenance of the PFN Archives continued during the year.

PFN Legacy Fund – Martin Parker

The annual grant to the PFN from the PFN Legacy Fund (an endowed fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough) was \$2,230. These funds were used for the following special initiatives of the PFN: PFN Awards and Support of the Peterborough Regional Science Fair, registration fees for the participants of the Petroglyphs & Fenelon Falls Butterfly Counts, costs for organizing the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count, PFN Research Grants to Peter Andreas and Bradley Howell at Trent University, and donations to Kawartha Land Trust and Nature Conservancy of Canada for land purchases.

Sponsorship of a student to attend the Ontario Nature Youth Summit was planned; however, the in-person summit was postponed due to COVID-19.

CITIZEN-SCIENCE – NATURE STUDY

The principal citizen-science or nature studies projects conducted by PFN were the annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count, Petroglyphs Bird Count, Petroglyphs Butterfly Count, continuing documentation of flora and fauna of Harper Park, and The Orchid Diary. This year, the PFN co-sponsored the Fenelon Falls Butterfly Count in cooperation with the Kawartha Field Naturalists.

Two students enrolled in the Conservation Biology Course at Trent University and undertook placements with the PFN as part of their course requirements. Karina Bissonnette is preparing a summary of the reptiles and amphibians of the County and Shelby Cohen is updating information on mammals of Peterborough.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Harper Park Stewardship – Lynn Smith

Harper Park, considered a ‘natural gem in the City’, covers 150 acres in the southwest end of Peterborough. It is home to a provincially significant wetland, a cold-water stream, a population of brook trout and a high diversity of plants and animals.

Some 2020 highlights:

- The first Harper Creek Subwatershed Study (SWS) meeting was held and members from the PFN attended. The purpose of the SWS is to create a detailed inventory of the water resource system, including the natural heritage features, functions and cultural values of the Harper Creek Subwatershed. The SWS will recommend a land use plan, detailed management strategy, and

stormwater management strategy that will satisfy the policy direction of the Provincial Policy statement, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and the city of Peterborough Official Plan. Further meetings will continue in 2021 with a couple of events to inform the public.

- Jacob Bowman, a student at Trent University, and an active naturalist and researcher in the Harper Creek watershed, reported Harper Creek's first Northern Spring Amphipod, *Gammarus pseudolimnaeus*.
- Congratulations to Jacob Bowman for his success at the Youth Science Canada Online Fair for his research project on climate change implications for the urban brook trout in Harper Creek.
- To date, 141 species of birds were reported to ebird.org and 320 species of flora & fauna were reported to iNaturalist.org. We encourage members to continue to inventory species in Harper Park. The data is valuable as the City begins to develop a management plan for the Harper Creek watershed.

Ecology Park Bird Feeders – JB Jaboor, Kathryn Sheridan

The three bird feeders at Ecology Park were filled weekly by PFN volunteers with black oil sunflower seed for the months of January to March, November and December.

Municipal Planning Issues

The PFN participated on two committees involved in the new City of Peterborough Official Plan and has two representatives on the Harper Creek Subwatershed Study. The PFN participated in the Trent University Lands Study including meeting with the consultants. The PFN supported initiatives taken by Ontario Nature and others to object to provincial reduction of protection of Natural Areas.

PROMOTION

Unfortunately, the shows and displays normally attended by PFN were not held in 2020 due to COVID-19. Plans to upgrade the PFN display boards were initiated. The PFN was mentioned periodically in the 'Northcrest' and 'Changing Seasons' columns in the *Peterborough Examiner* along with other articles in the newspaper.

PFN AWARDS

The Lola Leach Award was awarded to Paul Elliott at the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Certificates of Appreciation were also awarded to Jacob Bowman, Dr. James Schaefer, McLean Smith, Lesley Hale, Matthew Tobey, Monica Fromberger, Milda Bax and Susan Chow.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Dylan Radcliffe (January to March) & Rene Gareau (March to December)

Vice-President – Rene Gareau (January to March)

Past President – Ted Vale

Secretary – Martin Parker

Treasurer – Ted Vale

Directors – Philip Shaw, Reem Ali, Sue Paradisis, Marie Duchesneau, Steve Paul, Cathy Douglas, Lynn Smith, Marilyn Hubley

VOLUNTEERS

Members Meetings

- Coordinator – Marie Duchesneau & Philip Shaw
- Speakers – Noel Alfonso, Erin Keon, Ed Addison, Rodney Fuentes, Sonya Richmond, Sean Morton, Jennifer Baici, Cathy Merriman.
- Zoom Coordination – Reem Ali

Outings

- Coordinator – Sue Paradisis
- Leaders – Donald McLeod, Sue Paradisis, Martin Parker, Steve Paul, Cathy Douglas, Matthew Tobey, Brian Wales, Sonya Richmond, Sean Morton, Kathy Parker, Lynn Smith, Patricia Wilson, Chris Risley

The Orchid

- Editor – Kathryn Sheridan
- Contributors: Steve Paul, Sue Paradisis, Jim Young, Rene Gareau,, Ontario Nature, Marilyn Hubley, Ken McKeen, Martin Parker, Reem Ali, Basil Conlin, Jay Fitzsimmons, Blake Shaw, Patricia Swales, Colin Jones, Anda Rungis, Drew Monkman, Carrie Sadowski, Dave Ellis, Sheena Symington, Murray Arthur Palmer, Marilyn Freeman, Ken Lyon, Enid Mallory, Donald McLeod, Susan Weaver, Philip Shaw, Cathy Douglas, Roger Jones, Dave Milsom, Heidi St. Thomas, Matthew Tobey, Lynn Smith, Maxwell Matchim, Dylan Radcliffe, Marie Duchesneau, Marla Williams, Kathryn Sheridan, Gemma Arvin, Jerry Ball, Daniel Swales, Paul Elliott, Birha Farooqi, Ruth Davenport, Mary Kate Whibbs, Ted Vale, Joanne Sutherland, Karina Bissonnette, Victoria Reimer, Steve Kerr, Karen Vanderwolf, Jim Cashmore, Jacey Moore, Aimee O'Reilly.
- Orchid Mailing – Mary Thomas, James Young

Junior Field Naturalists

- Coordinator – Jay Fitzsimmons, Lara Griffin, Erica Barkley, and Stephanie Collins

Digital Communications

- Webmaster – Marilyn Hubley and Chris Gooderham
- Blog and Facebook Postings – Marilyn Hubley

Nature Studies

- Orchid Diary – Martin Parker and many contributors.
- Peterborough Christmas Bird Count – Martin Parker, compiler and 96 participants.
- Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count – Colin Jones, compiler and 36 participants.
- Petroglyphs Butterfly Count – Jerry Ball, compiler and 20 observers
- Fenelon Falls Butterfly Count – Martin Parker, compiler and 14 observers
- Bird Feeders at Ecology Park – JB Jaboor, Kathryn Sheridan
- Harper Park Inventory and Monitoring – many members

Community Advocacy

- City of Peterborough Official Plan Committee – Martin Parker
- Kawarthas, Naturally Connected – vacant

Promotion (Display & Book Sales)

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the shows and displays normally attended by the PFN were cancelled.

Partnerships

- Ontario Nature Spring and Fall Regional Meetings – Steve Paul
- Kawartha Land Trust – field outing destinations and donation towards the purchase of Christie Bentham Property
- Nature Conservancy of Canada – donation towards purchase of Cedarhurst Alvar within the Carden Alvar
- Kawartha Naturally Connected – participating organization
- Bird Friendly Peterborough Initiative – Reem Ali. A collaborative initiative of several local organizations
- Camp Kawartha – use of facilities for PFN members and Board meeting, Junior PFN events and the Sadler Memorial Library
- GreenUP Ecology Park – location of bird feeders
- Peterborough Regional Science Fair – awards and support
- Trent University – newsletter reproduction, student projects and grants, published paper
- FMZ17 Fisheries Advisory Council – Lynn Smith and Phil Shaw
- Peterborough Stewardship Council – Phil Shaw
- Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough – management of PFN Legacy and PFN Investment Funds
- Kawartha Wildlife Centre – donation to gala fundraiser (unfortunately postponed due to COVID-19)
- The Wildlife Society – support for conference (unfortunately postponed due to COVID-19)

Donors

Many members gave a donation to the Club throughout the year including items for the bucket draw and the silent auction at the annual general meeting. In November 2019, the PFN activated its Canada Helps portal for accepting donations, purchasing AGM tickets and paying up memberships, with 2020 being the first full year this site was active.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting

Friday, January 31, 2020

The Stone House Hall, Peterborough Curling Club

1. Call Business Meeting to Order

President Dylan Radcliffe called to order the 79th Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists after a buffet supper at the Peterborough Curling Club. Approximately 110 members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of the 78th Annual Meeting, January 18, 2019

Moved by Jerry Ball, seconded by Marilyn Hubley:

That the Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists approves the Minutes of the 78th Annual Meeting held on January 18, 2019. Carried

Copies of the minutes of the 78th Annual Meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

3. President's Address

President Dylan Radcliffe gave the Presidential Address in which he reviewed the accomplishments of the PFN Board during the year, focusing on membership growth; the PFN's role in citizen-science; an expanded outings program; improvements in our digital presence; and our role in advocating for nature in all its forms. He also noted the PFN ended the year in a very favourable financial situation due to the involvement and support of the members.

President Radcliffe thanked the directors and members who contributed to the success of the PFN during the past year.

4. Annual Report

Moved by Mike McMurtry, seconded by Ian Attridge:

That the Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists approves the Annual Report for 2019. Carried

Copies of the Annual Report were distributed prior to the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report for Year 2019

Moved by Randy Beacler, seconded by JB Jaboor:

That the Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists approves the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. Carried

Copies of the 2019 Fiscal Year Treasurer's Report were distributed prior to the meeting. Dave Heuft reviewed the highlights. The year ended with a small surplus of \$114.93 with total net assets of \$15,352.10.

6. Nominations Committee Report

Moved by Ted Vale, seconded by Ian Attridge:

That the Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists approve the Report of the Nominations Committee. Carried

The Nominations Committee Report was distributed prior to the meeting and presented by Ted Vale. The following members were elected to three-year terms: Dylan Radcliffe, Martin Parker, Cathy Douglas, and Steve Paul.

President Dylan Radcliffe called for additional nominations three times and none were offered.

7. Certificates of Appreciation

President Dylan Radcliffe awarded Certificates of Appreciation to the following members and supporters for their continuing contribution to the Peterborough Field Naturalists, documenting the area's natural heritage, or special contributions:

- Jacob Bowman -- for his continuing study of the brook trout population in Harper Creek and for documentation of the flora and fauna of Harper Park.
- McLean Smith -- for his study of historic bird sightings contained in 'The Orchid Diary' which resulted in a published paper: 'Structured and Unstructured Citizen Science: Seven Decades of Expanding Bird Populations in Central Ontario, Canada'.
- Dr. James Schaefer -- faculty supervisor of the 4th year biology project of McLean Smith.
- Lesley Hale -- for her contribution to the PFN Board for the past two years.
- Matthew Tobey -- for his continuing efforts in leading PFN and Ontario Field Ornithologists outings, for being area leader for both the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count and Petroglyphs Butterfly Count, and for participating in many other citizen-science projects.
- Monica Fromberger -- for being a volunteer representing the PFN at the Cavan-Millbrook kids' program which encourages young people to get out and explore and connect with nature.
- Milda Bax -- for being a volunteer representing the PFN and talking to the young people of the Norwood Library Summer Reading Program on the theme 'The Natural World'.
- Susan Chow -- for her willingness to share her knowledge both at meetings and on outings, especially the workshop which focused on identification of sedges, grasses and rushes.

8. Lola Leach Memorial Award Presentation

President Radcliffe noted the Lola Leach Memorial Award is presented periodically by the Board to a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Peterborough Field Naturalists and its objectives over an extended period of time. He announced that the 2020 recipient of the Lola Leach Award is Paul Elliott. Paul has served on the Board for the past eleven years and was the coordinator of our successful outings program. He organized an average of 35 field events annually. The work involved recruitment of leaders, preparing the announcements for The Orchid, and leading some outings. He also assisted in other initiatives of the PFN including writing the chapter on bats in *Nature in the Kawarthas*, selling copies of the book at Trent University, staffing the PFN booth at various events and creating our original display board. In his professional life, Paul has instructed many student teachers in aspects of our natural world and how to introduce young people to it.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Randy Beacler

That the 79th Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists is now adjourned.

Carried

Dylan Radcliffe, President

Martin Parker, Secretary



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Treasurer's Report for 2020

Statement of Income and Expenditures

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2020

Income

Membership Fees	\$ 4,085.00
Donations	\$ 4,188.00
AGM Revenue	\$ 5,162.00
Sales	\$ 609.00
Bank and Investment Income	\$ 2,801.00
Legacy Fund Grant	\$ 2,230.00
HST Rebate	\$ 269.00
Total Income	\$ 19,344.00

Expenditures

Membership Programs	\$ 416.00
AGM Expenditures	\$ 4,113.00
Orchid Printing and Mailing	\$ 2,379.00
Club and Community Projects	\$ 1,389.00
Legacy Fund Projects	\$ 2,230.00
Communication/Publicity/Promotion	\$ 1,028.00
Administration	\$ 2,663.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 14,218.00

Result of Operations	\$ 5,126.00
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Statement of Financial Position

Dec. 31, 2020

Assets

Bank Balance	\$ 6,474.00
Inventory	\$ 192.00
Cash on Hand	\$ 210.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 300.00
Investments	\$ 14,745.00
Total Assets	\$ 21,921.00

Liabilities and Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 963.00
Prepaid Memberships	\$ 450.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,413.00

Equity

Restricted Net Assets	\$ 5,000.00
Opening Equity - Other	\$ 10,381.00
Total Opening Equity	\$ 15,381.00
Net Operating Surplus	\$ 5,126.00
Total Equity	\$ 20,508.00

Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 21,921.00
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Notes to the Financial Statements

The deferral method is used to recognize revenues. Revenue is deferred when received in advance of fiscal period when the service is provided.

Memberships received after August 31 are treated as memberships for the following year and the revenue is deferred accordingly.

A contingency fund of \$5,000 was established in 2017 to be used for unanticipated emergencies. This is an internally restricted asset under the control of the Board of Directors.

The PFN's investments are held in an investment fund administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This fund is valued in the financial statements as of the end of the previous fiscal year.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists is the sole beneficiary of The PFN Legacy Fund which is held by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. Because it is held by the Community Foundation, the Fund is not shown in the Annual Financial Statements. By law, this Fund generates a minimum annual grant of 3.5% of the total monies in the Fund as of the end of the previous fiscal year. This is referred to as the "Legacy Fund Grant" in the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures. The Legacy Fund was valued at \$44,600 at the end of 2019.

Membership Application Form

Memberships may be
obtained by mailing this
completed form to:

Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Contact Information:

Name(s):

Phone(s):

Address:

Email(s):

I would like to receive The Orchid by (pick one): ☐ Mail Delivery ☐ 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: _____