## Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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Know

Appreciate •

Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



This American Toad might be pondering the best location to dig itself below the frost line to hibernate for the winter. Photo: Joanne Sutherland

Will Natural Places Be Protected in the New Official Plan? Inside:

Book Review: The Anthropology of Turquoise

Nature Almanac for November

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre Update

Winter Finch Forecast

#### In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
Volunteer Corner: Outing Leaders	4
2022 Membership Renewals	4
Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre Update	5
Nature Almanac for November	6
PFN Member Discovers Ghastly Site	8
Giving Tuesday	8
Book Review: The Anthropology of Turquoise	99
Lang-Hastings Rail Trail Outing Report	10
Announcements	10
Winter Finch Forecast 2021-2022	11
From the Archives	13
Fall and Winter Scavenger List	14
Poem: Dragonfly Dreaming	16
Will Natural Places Be Protected in the New	
Official Plan?	16
The Orchid Diary	18
PFN Membership Application	20

#### Welcome new PFN members!

- Kaitlyn Fleming and Riley McGillis
- Aidan Curran
- Ruth Mead
- Hannah Brouwn
- Anita Erschen-Pappas
- Ellen Lueck
- Judy Jordan
- Candice Talbot









Clockwise from left: Pink corydalis/Rock harlequin at Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park on October 2 (Maggie Eaton); Monarch fuelling up at Maggie Eaton's pollinator garden on Tamblin Way on Sept. 28; Wood ducks at Lakefield sewage lagoons in September (Cathy Douglas); and Ross's Goose at Peterborough landfill wetland project pond on October 22.

### **PFN Coming Events**

# Thursday, Nov. 11 7:30 p.m.

# PFN Meeting: Canyon Valleys to Mountain Peaks: In Search of Arizona's Herpetofauna

## Virtual meeting on Zoom

Speaker, Joe Crowley, will be describing his travels in the southwestern USA, specifically the state of Arizona and his encounters with the herptiles (reptiles and amphibians) in this region.

Joe is a professional biologist with expertise in herpetology, species at risk conservation and policy development. He has worked as a species at risk specialist for the Ontario government since 2010, first with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and now with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

## Saturday, Nov. 13

#### **Exploring The Boundary Layer through Mosses & Hornworts**

Rain day: Nov. 14 1 to 3:30 p.m. 14 participants Join Leila Grace and Sue Paradisis on an afternoon walk exploring mosses, liverworts and hornworts. Discover the special niche they occupy as they continue to flourish in the cold earthy rock faces and fallen trees of our forests. What life continues to thrive on the forest floor as the frost sets in? All participants are encouraged to bring their own hot beverages and snacks, and dress with layers, including a wool layer and a wind breaker or raincoat if the air is damp. A hand-held microscope or magnification lens and bryophyte identification guide would also come in handy. Be sure to bring a mask. Registration will begin November 5 by contacting leilagracemaher@hotmail.com Details on the meeting place will be sent when your registration is confirmed. Accessibility: Easy to Moderate

### Sunday, Nov. 28

#### **Wave Riders of Rice Lake**

1:00 p.m. until late afternoon 15 participants Join Martin Parker for this traditional late November afternoon exploration of sites along the northwestern shore of Rice Lake. We will be looking for the later migrating ducks and other birds. Highlights will be the rafts of ducks riding the waves of Rice Lake and the scenic vistas overlooking the lake. Bring binoculars, telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day. The trip will last until the late afternoon. Register after November 5 by email to mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750. Accessibility: Easy

#### Thursday, Dec. 9

#### **PFN Meeting: Slideshow Night**

7 p.m.

It's getting close to that time of the year again! Our second, online members slideshow night builds on a long and enjoyable annual PFN tradition, and we're looking for presenters. This event is currently scheduled for Thursday December 9 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. If you are interested in participating, please contact Reem Ali: reemest@hotmail.com. Reem will then email you with further details about preparing your slideshow and will schedule a test-run via Zoom with each participant closer to the day of the event. She will also provide you with logistical support during your presentation. Please note that you will need to have your slideshow prepared and ready by no later than November 29 in order to allow for enough time to schedule test-runs

PFN Coming Events			
	with all of the participants. We look forward to your participation and submissions and hope that you'll be able to join us then.		
Sunday, Dec. 19	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count		
	Reserve this date for the longest operated citizen-science wildlife survey in Peterborough and an annual tradition for area birders and naturalists. Preregistration with the count compiler Martin Parker (mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750) is required to assemble the field parties in advance of the count day. More details in upcoming issues of <i>The Orchid</i> .		

Note: Recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ under the playlist menu.

#### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

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



#### **Volunteer Corner: Outing Leaders**

#### Submitted by Sue Paradisis

Thank you to the new outings volunteers that have come forward. Rachel Baehr led a fungi outing in October, Leila Grace is leading an outing exploring mosses and hornworts in November and a group of Trent University grad students are planning a winter tree identification walk in January.

I'm always looking for more volunteers so contact me if you are interested. I am particularly keen on finding someone with a knowledge of lichens. I can be reached by phone at 705-559-2061 or email at sueparadisis@hotmail.com

#### 2022 Membership Renewals

#### Submitted by Ted Vale

The PFN is now accepting membership renewals for 2022. There are two ways to renew your membership:

- *The Old-Fashioned Way*: Fill out the Membership Form at the back of the Orchid and mail it along with your cheque to PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7
- The New-Fangled Way: Go online to the PFN website (www.peterboroughnature.org), and click on "Join Today," and then "Join Online". Fill out the form, submit it, and then click on "Donation." Your payment can be made through PayPal or credit card to Canada Helps, which will forward it to us.

We are in the process of setting up payment by e-transfer and will let you know when this is available. Membership fees are Student/Youth - \$15, Single - \$30.00, and Family- \$40. We look forward to having you with us in 2022, when hopefully we can return to a fuller range of programming.

#### **Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre Update**

#### From Summer/Fall 2021 Newsletter

While we continue to plan the construction of our new facility, life in the hospital has continued on at our present location, as busy as ever. With 1200 turtle admissions to our hospital so far, from all over the province, and almost 5,000 eggs retrieved from these turtles, currently hatching, we have been kept on our toes!

As the only turtle hospital accredited by the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, we help to support other rehabilitation centres that may not have veterinarians on staff. We help them become more familiar with treating turtles, and we provide consultations as well as acting as a surgical referral centre. It's all about collaboration and partnership so as many turtles receive help as possible! We provide this support free of charge to all other centres across the province, and even help to transport the turtles to us, through our turtle taxi program!

We see all types of injuries and illnesses in the turtles admitted to our hospital. Some examples include:

- A map turtle that had swallowed a fish hook
- A Blanding's turtle crushed by a car
- A snapping turtle hit by a boat propeller
- Several map turtles with signs of infectious disease
- A wood turtle with a leg that had been chewed by a predator
- A spotted turtle injured on the road
- A painted turtle positive for ranavirus a globally emerging disease.

Some injuries require extensive surgeries. The snapping turtle shown to the right was hit by a boat propeller. The first photo shows him after a few weeks of treatment. The second photo shows him recently with wounds healing well (and you'll notice he's a bit plumper!)





Photos showing a snapping turtle's wounds healing.

Eggs from injured or deceased turtles are collected, incubated and hatched, with babies released back to the mother's home wetland. All of these eggs (almost 5,000!) would have been lost to their populations otherwise. Below left: one of many newly-hatched map turtles; below middle: a healthy clutch of snapping turtles are now ready to go to water; below right: a painted turtle leaves his egg!







Our hospital has a staff of highly qualified veterinarians but is funded by donations. We could not achieve the scope of our work without supporters such as you! *Thank you from OTCC and from the turtles of Ontario.* 

## Nature Almanac for November - A Hush Upon the Land By Drew Monkman

As we enter November, a pre-winter stillness is settling upon the natural world. The calls of migrating sparrows and kinglets cease, most robins bid us farewell and the last crickets surrender to the cold. Damp, often cloudy weather, leafless trees and faded grasses and flowers create a world of greys and browns, punctuated only by the dark green of conifers. Yet some years late fall's typical bleakness is pushed aside by a lingering Indian Summer that gently eases us into winter.

Like the first red-winged blackbirds in March, the arrival of the birds of winter marks the approaching change of season. In addition to shrikes and tree sparrows, bald eagles will return in the coming weeks to spend the winter in the Kawarthas. They are joined most years by several species of northern finches. At the same time, however, loons are departing for the Atlantic seaboard and taking with them the last vestiges of summer. For lakeside residents, it is a melancholy event.



Chicken of the Woods fungus. Photo: Joanne Sutherland

A walk on a November day seems uneventful, with seemingly little of interest to catch our attention. Still, the relative scarcity of plants and animals allows us to focus on the commonplace - the leafless trees reduced to their elemental form, the intricacy and diversity of the mosses and evergreen ferns, and the beauty of a milkweed pod spilling its last seeds. But, other than the occasional call of a chickadee or woodpecker and the steady rustling of squirrels and mice foraging for seeds, the woods are nearly devoid of animal sounds. With colder weather, nature's kaleidoscope of smells is also reduced to a minimum. Apart from the scent of decaying leaves or the smoke of a wood stove, there is little to stir our sense of smell. Yet the cold of late fall brings renewed appreciation for the warmth and comfort of our homes and growing anticipation – among those of us who enjoy winter at least – for the new season just around the corner.

- 1. Most of our loons and robins head south. However, a small number of robins regularly overwinters in Peterborough, especially in years like this when wild fruit is plentiful.
- 2. A few hardy field crickets may still be heard on warm days.
- 3. Oaks, tamaracks and silver maples are about the only mature deciduous trees that are native to the Kawarthas that may still retain their foliage in early November. A particularly attractive stand of red oak can be seen at the south entrance to the village of Bridgenorth.
- 4. Non-native trees such as weeping willows and Chinese elms are often still green and stand out like sore thumbs against the late fall landscape. Unfortunately, they take away from our "sense of place."
- 5. Bird feeder activity tends to slow down as migrant sparrows have now left. With any luck, however, northern finches such as pine siskins and common redpolls will fill some of the void.
- 6. With the arrival of the breeding season, white-tail bucks are now in rut. Today also marks the beginning of the annual deer harvest by rifle and shotgun. Car accidents involving deer are very common this month. Be careful, especially at night.
- 7. The last dragonflies of the year may still be active. The most common species to watch for is the yellow-legged meadowhawk. This is a small red or yellow dragonfly.

- 8. The seeds and fruits of a wide variety of trees, shrubs and vines attract birds and provide some rare November colour. The red berries of winterberry holly, a shrub of wetland borders, are especially attractive.
- 9. It is not uncommon to see mourning cloak and Compton tortoiseshell butterflies on warm November days. Both of these species overwinter as adults.
- 10. Watch for migrating ducks such as goldeneyes and buffleheads along the Otonabee River near Lakefield and on Lake Katchewanooka near the bridge at Young's Point. Also, a good selection of diving ducks can almost always be found in the first pond of the Lakefield sewage lagoons, located on the south side of Block Road (County Road 33), just south of the village.



Mourning Cloak butterfly. Photo: Rene Gareau

- 11. Frogs opt for one of two options to get through winter. Some, like the green frog, settle into the mud at the bottom of ponds and wetlands. Others, like the gray treefrog and the spring peeper, spend the winter as frozen "frogsicles" in the leaf litter of the forest floor. Glycerol, acting as an antifreeze, inhibits freezing within the frogs' cells.
- 12. Toads, as well as salamanders and snakes, retreat to below the frost line as their overwintering strategy.
- 13. Striped skunks, raccoons and black bears retreat to their winter quarters but will come out on warm days. They are not true hibernators.
- 14. Mosses, club-mosses, lichens and several species of evergreen ferns stand out against the brown leaf litter of the forest floor and deserve close observation.
- 15. Surprisingly enough, November's average number of days with rain is no more than during the summer months.
- 16. Monarch butterflies are arriving now in large numbers on their wintering grounds in the Sierra Madre mountains west of Mexico City. This year monarchs are expected to cover around 6.5 hectares of forest which is well below the average of nine hectares. This is mostly because of dry conditions over much of the butterfly's mid-western range this summer.
- 17. In our woodlands, the only trees still clinging to some of their foliage are young American beech, sugar maple and ironwood. Many will retain some leaves all winter.
- 18. Hard corn is still being harvested this month and green fields of young wheat stand out noticeably. The smell of manure is often in the air as farmers spread it to fertilize their fields in the fall.
- 19. Most red-tailed hawks leave the Kawarthas for more southern climes. On a good day, hundreds can be seen migrating along the north shore of Lake Ontario. Some will actually spend the winter along the lake shore and are a common sight along the 401.
- 20. The Pleiades (Seven Sisters) star cluster adorns the eastern sky in the evening.
- 21. Muskrats build cone-shaped lodges and feeding platforms of cattails, rushes and mud. The lodges are only about a metre in height. These animals are easy to observe this month.
- 22. Ball-like swellings on the stems of goldenrod plants become quite visible. These are galls that contain the larva of the goldenrod fly.
- 23. Walleye begin to move upstream along large rivers such as the Otonabee. They remain in the rivers over the course of the winter in anticipation of the early spring spawn.

24. Our local bald eagle population expands with the arrival of birds from northern Ontario. These magnificent raptors will spend the winter in the Kawarthas.



Bald Eagle. Photo: Reem Ali

- 25. A taste of winter comes in November. The first significant snowfall usually occurs and permanent snow cover is sometimes with us by month's end.
- 26. Male great horned owls stake out breeding territories and become quite vocal. A useful mnemonic to remember their call is "who's awake...me, too."
- 27. Frost is recorded an average of 20 days this month.
- 28. The sound of coyotes calling is typical of November nights.
- 29. As long as there is open water, diving ducks and small numbers of loons will continue to linger on local bodies of water including Little Lake in Peterborough.
- 30. The Orion constellation's arrival in the southeast adds to the enjoyment of an evening's walk in late November.

#### **PFN Member Discovers Ghastly Site**

#### Submitted by Sue Paradisis

Editor's Warning: The following photo contains a scene that might provoke disturbing visions of the zombie apocalypse!

Dead Man's Fingers, xylaria polymorphism, is a very bizarre and well named fungus. Although not uncommon, it is easily overlooked in its preferred habitat. Dependent on dead beech trees, it is usually growing next to black, rotting wood and just blends in. The saprobic fungus plays an important role in the forest by consuming the compounds that hold wood fibers together. This allows countless insects to consume the rest of the tree more readily.

Right: Dead Man's Fingers fungus in Burnham Woods on September 26. Photo: Sue Paradisis



## **Giving Tuesday**

Tuesday, November 30 is "Giving Tuesday", which has become an increasingly well-recognized day of giving to charities, following the popular shopping events known as Black Friday and Cyber Monday. If you are in a position to do so, we would encourage you to consider making a donation to the Peterborough Field Naturalists. (Once again, a big "thank you" to those of you who have already made donations during the course of this year!)

Some of the factors that have affected our finances this past year include:

- The impact of our 2021 "membership fee holiday" for current PFN members (approx. \$4,000);

- A loss of profit normally realized at our traditional Annual General Meeting event from the bucket draw, silent auction, etc. (approx. \$700 - \$900)

In addition to this, the PFN has made a donation to the Kawartha Land Trust this year towards the acquisition of natural areas such as the Jones Wetland and Emily Creek Wetlands projects, as well as the stewardship agreement for the Bruce Kidd property in Douro Dummer. We have also incurred normal recurring expenses for the publication and mailing of our Orchid newsletter (\$3,100) as well as costs relating to insurance, ecology park bird feeders, and a number of other items.

On-line donations to the PFN can be made through Canada Helps at: https://peterboroughnature.org/donate/

General donations can be made by mailing a cheque to: Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7

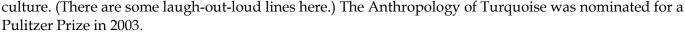
Thank you for your consideration.

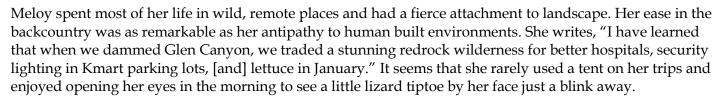
Rene Gareau - President, Peterborough Field Naturalists

## Book Review: The Anthropology of Turquoise by Ellen Meloy Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

I love deserts. I love the light, the colour, the space, the smells, the way plants and animals have adapted to living in harsh conditions. I love the lack of humans. I love how fast laundry dries in the arid air. I've spent time in deserts from Peru to Alberta to Israel including many visits to the US 4 corners region of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. This is the landscape of writer Ellen Meloy.

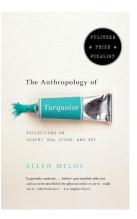
Sadly, Meloy died in 2004, age 58. I just discovered her and now I'm missing her. With an MA in environmental studies and a BA in Fine Arts, she combines astute environmental observations with wry comments on human foibles and American





This book is a series of lyrical, almost poetic, essays connected by geography, history, the people native to the desert and, of course, the plants and animals that inhabit it. I enjoyed being able to pick up the book, read a section and then go on with the rest of my day feeling satisfied, my head full of images and smells. Meloy often combines description with a quirky take as in here: "About fifty white-faced ibis land on a sandbar...Their curved, curlew-like bills are so long you could pick one up by this its handle and dust your furniture." and here: "The canyon already blazed with heat. Sleeping bag and clothing felt like tools of the Inquisition."

On one of my trips to the American southwest, my family decided to visit slickrock country to try out the then new craze of slickrock mountain biking. (I hated it! "Give me my hiking boots," I railed. "I need to



slow down and see!") Meloy nails why I needed to pause: "In the driest of lands, slickrock is the geography of water. Water resides in the shape memory of ancient seas pressed against one's bare back."

As I write this, I'm gazing at a poster I bought on that trip. It's a photo of a bunch of glowing red Indian Paintbrush growing out of a crack in turquoise and pink slickrock. The poster is now so old that it's fading but it still feeds my memories.

I take hope in Meloy's words from the book: "Despite the obliteration of the natural world by environments entirely of human invention, despite the preponderance of lives now spent in artificial light, the human eye evolved in daylight...Although we may be... trying with all our might to surrender our sensory intelligence to technology and massive artifice, it will take time for these million-years-old senses to atrophy. In the meantime, here we are staggering about the diminishing wilds, greedy to feed those ossifying lobes with light."

Now I'll shut down my computer and go outside!

## Lang-Hastings Rail Trail Outing Report Submitted by Sue Paradisis

Sunday, September 26 was a beautiful, warm sunny day and after all the rain we had that week, it was perfect for a morning birding walk. Fourteen people had registered so Cathy Douglas agreed to help Sue Paradisis and the group was split so physical distancing could be maintained. Our destination was the Lang Hastings Trail at Technology Drive, the section closest to Peterborough. This well-maintained rail trail is a favorite birding location as it passes



Photo of Green Heron by Marilyn Hubley

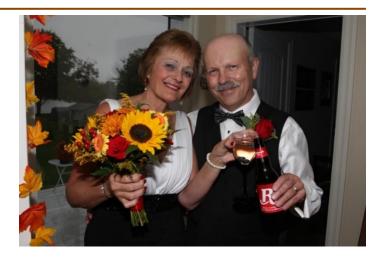
through all kinds of habitat between Peterborough and Hastings. The trail can be picked up at numerous spots where it crosses country roads and provides many picturesque views of the countryside. This particular section travels mostly through thicketed wetland with two marshes separated by forest. By late September most of the marsh birds had left so our two groups each walked a short distance south or north of Technology drive and then switched. We were fortunate to see quite a variety of birds, a total of 34 species between the two groups. Although Cathy's group saw the most birds, Sue's group got a really close look at a Green Heron fishing for his breakfast.

#### Announcements

Colleen Lynch and Don McLeod are happy to announce their marriage on September 22, 2021!

They look forward to a beautiful life together with lots of birds, butterflies, tracking and great PFN friends!





#### Winter Finch Forecast 2021-2022

#### By Forecaster Tyler Hoar

Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. To learn more, subscribe and follow the blogs, news and updates at The Finch Research Network. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird.

The year's flight should not be an irruption year, but some southward movement should be into their normal southern wintering areas in Southeastern Canada and Northeastern United States. However, there will be movement of most finches varying by species and location in the boreal forest. So you will be able to find most species, but it won't be like last year when they came to so many people's backyards. This year you'll very likely need to go search for them.



White-winged Crossbills photographed last winter by Cathy Douglas

Extreme weather this summer has played a significant part in this winter's forecast. With over 2000 forest fires stretching from northwestern Ontario to British Columbia, record-setting high temperatures across much of western Canada (up to 49.6 °C in Lytton British Columbia), and severe droughts in wide areas westward from Lake Superior, food sources have been significantly impacted.

There is a cone crop this year from Lake Superior eastward in the boreal forest. It is, however, mostly a mosaic of poor to average crops. Along the southern edge of the boreal forest, a belt of good to bumper food crop is reported from Lake Superior eastward through Central Ontario, southern Quebec Atlantic Canada to Newfoundland, southward to Northern New England, and New York state.

This should be a good winter to see finches in traditional hotspots such as Ontario's Algonquin Park, Quebec's Laurentian Mountains, New York's Adirondack Mountains, Atlantic Canada and the northern New England states.

**PINE GROSBEAK**: There is a widespread good to excellent crop of mountain ash berries Lake Superior eastward. This should keep most Pine Grosbeaks closer to home this winter.

Drought has most impacted mountain ash and other berry crops west of Lake Superior, with many berries shriveling on the stem. The mountain ash crop in this area westward through the boreal forest generally appears poor with some areas of excellent crops. Areas in the upper Midwest states and cities in western Canada may see flocks of hungry Grosbeaks searching for fruiting ornamental trees and well-stocked feeders with black oil sunflower seeds.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: With very poor cone crops reported from northwestern Ontario westward into Alaska, two visible movements of White-winged Crossbills have already been seen this summer. In Western North America, White-winged Crossbills moved south into southern British Columbia/Alberta, and Pacific northwestern states with a few reported recently as far south as Utah.

During late June into July, there was an eastward movement into the robust spruce crop areas in eastern North America, particularly in Maine, Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. This winter, expect to see White-winged Crossbill from Central Ontario eastward to Newfoundland and southward into northern New York and New England, visiting traditional winter finch hotspots. We may even see White-winged Crossbills away from the forests using heavy crops on planted native and ornamental spruces within urban environments.

Crossbills remaining in the boreal forest will move around in search of food and, thus, some movements may be seen this fall/winter into areas like the upper Midwest states as they look for suitable cone crops.

The crossbills in areas with good spruce crops are likely breeding this winter so expect to encounter streaked juveniles in the flocks.

RED CROSSBILL: There is a good spruce and hemlock crop throughout Central Ontario to southern Maritimes and northeastern states. Red Crossbills are in their usual conifer haunts, and this should continue through much of the winter. Red Crossbills will also be found south of the boreal zones where there are good Norway spruce forests. Don't expect to see much in the way of any irruption from the west (Type 2 being maybe a wild card), but expect to continue to see some Type 10s in Great Lakes, Algonquin, Maritimes, Adirondacks, Northern New England and the usual areas of Maine, and very small numbers of Types 1, 2 and 3 mixed in here and there. Type 1 Red Crossbills are more common in western Berkshires of Massachusetts and southern New York into Pennsylvania and the Appalachians. Types 2 Red Crossbills, and maybe a few Type 4s, should be slightly more common in the western Great Lakes states again.

The types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with a smartphone and identified to type. Matt Young (info@finchnetwork.org) will identify types if you email him your recordings or upload them to an eBird checklist. Recordings uploaded to eBird checklists are deposited in the Macaulay Library.

**PURPLE FINCH**: Most years, Purple Finches migrate south out of Canada. This year, the majority of birds should leave, but we anticipate some will remain in central Ontario to the Maritime provinces.

Between one observer reporting "a crazy number of purple finches" in mid-August and L'Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac having even stronger movements southwestward in Quebec this year than 2020, this species appears to continue to benefit from an abundant food source during the breeding season in the four large Spruce Budworm outbreaks in eastern Canada.



Purple Finch. Photo: Enid Mallory

At feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

**COMMON AND HOARY REDPOLLS**: Given the seed crops on birches, alders and spruce are average to good most redpolls will likely stay in the north Lake Superior eastward. As the winter progresses, some trickling down of flocks into southern Canada and neighbouring border states may occur.

To the west, the weather has impacted the tree species preferred by redpolls in northwestern Ontario to Alaska. Therefore, there should be some movement southward into areas with some tree seed crops and weedy fields.

At feeders, redpolls prefer nyjer seeds served in silo feeders. Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls.

**PINE SISKIN**: With the excellent spruce, hemlock and eastern white cedar crop across southeastern Canada and northeastern border states, most Pine Siskins in the east should remain in this area for the winter.

Pine Siskins should move south along mountain ranges similar to the White-winged Crossbills with the poor spruce crop in western North America. There should also be a southeastward movement through the boreal forest in search of food. Expect some of this movement to bring Pine Siskins into the upper midwestern states and possibly beyond searching for food. This entertaining species prefer nyjer seeds in silo or sock feeders.

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** In the fall of 2020, we experienced a generational irruption of Evening Grosbeaks southward. With that, we may experience an echo flight this fall. This year there is the "belt of food" between the four large Spruce Budworm outbreaks and where they irrupted too last winter.

In the east, expect some birds to remain in the boreal forest and others to move south into central Ontario, southern Quebec, the Maritime provinces, New England states, New York, and maybe Pennsylvania for the winter. Evening Grosbeaks in northwestern Ontario westward towards Alberta should move out of the boreal forest looking for feeders in towns or suitable food sources further south. Evening Grosbeaks in the mountains of western Canada may move southward as well.

At platform feeders, Evening Grosbeaks prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Away from feeders, Evening Grosbeaks will look for maple and ash trees still holding seeds.

**THREE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES**: Movements of these three passerines are often linked to the boreal finches.

**BLUE JAY**: There will be a moderate flight along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie. Oak, beechnut and hazelnut crops are variable in central and southern Ontario, ranging from none to good. Insect defoliation has damaged many seed crops. A good number of Blue Jays should visit feeders this winter in southern Canada.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH**: While there currently appears to be a small "echo flight" of this species, most Red-breasted Nuthatches in the east should remain in the food belt in the northeast. Birds west of Lake Superior should be moving looking for food this fall. At feeders, this species prefers black oil seeds, suet, and peanuts.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: Most Bohemian Waxwings in eastern North America will remain in the boreal forest this winter because mountain ash berry crops are good to excellent from Lake Superior to Newfoundland and Labrador. West of Lake Superior, there should be more movement of flocks in search of areas with mountain ash crops. If some move south, this species will forage on buckthorn and planted European mountain ash berries and ornamental crabapples.

For the full report, which includes reference links and summary of contributors, go to http://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2021-2022-by-tyler-hoar

For a commemorative Winter Finch Forecast shirt where proceeds will go towards the study and conservation of finches and their habitats globally see here: https://finchnetwork.org/shop

### From the Archives -- Highlights of October 28, 1992 Board Meeting

From The Orchid, Vol. 58, Number 9, November 1992

- We have 206 club members to date and a bank balance of \$2,327.67.
- Junior Naturalists are going to have a meeting to discuss how to interest older children in the Junior Naturalists programme. The number of children over 9 years of age has been decreasing. We will advertise the Junior Naturalists in the Examiner and other local papers
- Ted Boote, one of our club members, is part of a liaison committee for choosing a waste management site.
- We have received \$325 from the Baillie Birdathon -- thanks to many of our hard-birding members.
- The club had sent a letter to Lakefield Village opposing a proposed development on the edge of the Lakefield Marsh. The developer met with Clayton Vardy to urge us to withdraw the letter. Since it is clear that the development encroaches on the flood plain, the PFN Board will not withdraw the letter.

Beaver dam

Fall and Winter Scavenger List			Bird's-foot trefoil seed pod		
Sub	mitted by Susan Chow		Blue-spotted salamander		
Whe	en the winds and cold of late fall and winter		Brachiopod fossil		
	re, a lot of people hibernate and miss great		Bumblebee		
	re finds easily overlooked during the warmer ths. Susan Chow, a Biology Department		Camel		
Dem	nonstrator/Technician at Trent University has		Canker in a tree		
	eloped a Scavenger Hunt Challenge to evate visits to the woods and parks. Some are		Carp		
easy	and some a real challenge. She has also		Cedar waxwing		
	ched a list of good places to go. A list like this d be adapted for children of various ages that		Chickadee nest		
pare outd	nts or grandparents can use to enhance loor time with young ones. There are some		Chipmunk winter food stash (Do no disturb it)		
	y beautiful things on the list if you are lucky 19th to find them. Send your photos to the		Christmas fern		
	nid (orchid@peterboroughnature.org).		Cirrus clouds		
Llina	u Doscowski any unika ayyn itama kafara using		Close up of a snowflake		
Hint: Research any unknown items before using the checklist. No collecting allowed.			Club moss		
	e Checklist. Two confecting allowed.		Cluster of wild grapes		
	A "bum-up" bird		Crayfish		
	A clone of trembling aspen		Crinoid		
	A cold bird with fluffed up feathers		Cup lichen		
	A flooded limestone mine		Dormant cedar rust		
	A flowering strawberry plant		Drumming of a grouse		
	A rush		Eastern Red-backed salamander		
	A sedge		Eelgrass		
	A whistling deer		Erratic rock		
	Acorn of Bur Oak		Esker		
	Alpaca		Fish jumping		
	American bittersweet fruit		Frazil ice		
	Amethyst Aster (New England x Heath)		Frost on a fallen leaf		
	Amphipod		Glacial striation on bedrocks		
	Any coral fungus		Goldenrod galls (3 different types)		
	Any discarded feathers		Green ash		
	Any owl hooting		Heath Aster		
	Bald eagle		Highbush cranberry berries		

Icicle

Ironwood		Snowdrift (west to east direction)
Isopod		Snow flies on a warm winter day
Kettle hole		Snow track of a grouse taking flight
Minnow  Mint smalling native plant		Spider with 8 legs arranged into 4 pairs in a cross formation
Mint smelling native plant  Mist rising out of a river		Spring peeper call (I know it is not spring)
Mist rising out of a river		Tamarack tree
Moss with spore capsule still intact Mudpuppy		Three types of trees with opposite
Musky smelling native plant	_	branching
Névé		Trilobite
New England Aster		Turkey footprint
Northern Leopard frog		Turkey tail mushroom
Northern light		Very red sunset
Nostoc		Walking fern
Oriole nest		White rabbit or hare
Pappus of milkweed		Wind speed at Beaufort scale of 3 (direction east to west)
Pine needles in a bundle of 2		Winter star circle - Capella, Aldebaran,
Pine needles in a bundle of 5		Rigel, Sirius, Pollux, and Caster.
Poison ivy		Youngest plant in a sumac clump
Porcupine		
Rainbow	Nati	ure & Wildlife Areas in Peterborough and
Reindeer lichen	the l	Kawarthas
Ripple marks on snow		planetrocks.utsc.utoronto.ca/ kawarthasnorthumberland.ca/trip-
Rock cut with folds and faults		idea/natural-wonders
Rockpile along a farmer's field		www.otonabeeconservation.com/camping- outdoor-recreation/
Rock tripe		www.dourodummer.ca/en/activities-and-
Sapsucker holes		recreation/parks-trails-and-
Sedimentary Gneiss		campgrounds.aspx kawarthalandtrust.org/
Sensitive fern spore head	•	www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-use-
Shooting star		policy-atlas www.kawarthaconservation.com/en/index.a
Skunk		spx
Slippery jack (bolete mushroom)	•	www.tripadvisor.ca/Attractions-g9463750- Activities-c57-t68-
Snow Bunting hanging out with another species		Peterborough_the_Kawarthas_Ontario.html

#### **Dragonfly Dreaming**

If you could still a quiet stream, what might you see? Dazzled by its sparkling, lumpy surface I saw shallowly Ripple over bright pebbles in a rivulet reduced by drought, With a digital camera and telephoto lens, I tried to find out.

A dragonfly can see movements, each separated by three Hundredths of a second, like still pictures you can see In flipbook animation, composed by compound eye and brain. Oh, the dreamy shapes and colours woodland reflections contain!

Can the dragons capture the rich wonder of shifting, abstract shapes? Or is their visual timing not quick enough before it escapes? It's thought dragonflies, masters of the air, also exceed Other insects' and our colour recognition, flight agility and speed.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2021

#### Will Natural Places Be Protected in the New Official Plan?

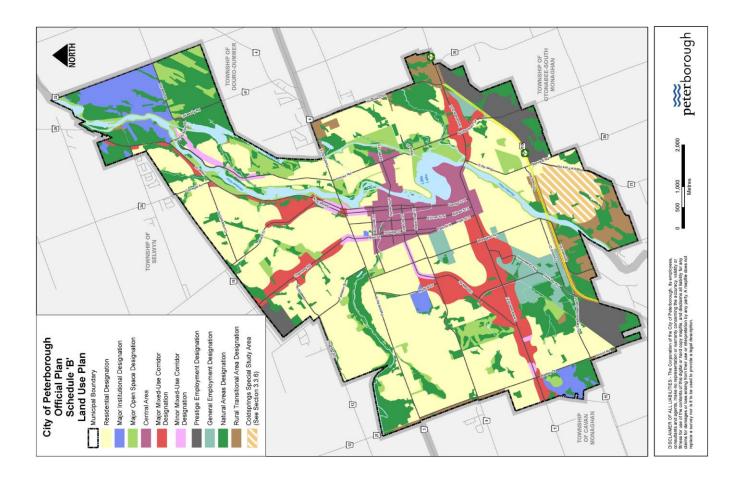
#### by Ian Attridge, Reimagine Peterborough

The City's new Official Plan (www.connectptbo.ca/official-plan-update) is going to City Council for approval in November. Will it truly protect the natural places that PFN members know and love? That is a question that a few naturalists considered recently, after following the process for over 10 years. They noted some positives for tree cover, land acquisition and Harper Park. Yet, based on experience, they raised some lingering concerns: wishy-washy language that could allow encroaching development, reliance on often weak environmental studies, counting on Trent University for major contributions to natural areas, degradation in parks without developing stewardship plans, and less than effective public engagement on projects.

An Official Plan is the overarching framework for protecting natural places and how and where to plan for housing, community facilities, transportation, heritage, arts and other forms of land use. PFN participated on the City's OP Working Group and Natural Heritage Task Force, but questions remain. So PFN's team is reviewing the OP maps (see below). It has also made some important recommendations for changes to the OP before Council considers approving it on November 29:

- 1. Along with wetlands, the City will inventory, evaluate and designate those natural features within its responsibilities (significant woodlands, valleylands and wildlife habitat)
- 2. For less significant Level C areas, state a clear priority on avoiding and mitigating impacts before a decision is made to replace and gain net habitat areas elsewhere
- 3. Require peer review of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and add a natural heritage subcommittee and review function to the Peterborough Environmental Advisory Committee (PEAC)
- 4. Commit to developing stewardship plans for major natural parks, along with the positive proposed Restoration and Enhancement Strategy
- 5. Enhance public engagement quality and effectiveness to better hear community (and PFN) voices in planning processes

PFN will be presenting such changes to the City at the public meeting on November 1 and encourages Councillors, PFN members and other groups to get behind these recommendations. For more information, please see the Reimagine Peterborough website (reimaginepeterborough.ca/resources) or email Chris Risley at: risleych@gmail.com



PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	705-741-4560	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
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Board Intern	Maela Kaminski	maelakaminski@trentu.ca	<b>639</b> -571-4638	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					







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

Sep 16	Black-crowned Night Heron near the Pagoda Bridge in Jackson's Park.  The <b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> reported in the previous report from the area of Lang Pioneer
3cp 10	Village was still present according to Sascha Dho.
	Sue Paradisis & Marilyn Hubley had a late departing <b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b> in Beavermead Park.
Sep 17	Cathy Douglas & others had a difficult-to-find migrating <b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> in Ecology
	Park.
Sep 18	Cathy Douglas & Dave Milsom separately reported up to 2 Black-bellied Plovers at the western
	end of the Chemong Lake causeway.
	Late-departing species reported this day include an Alder Flycatcher in Selwyn Twp by Gord
	McQuade and Baltimore Oriole in Bridgenorth by Judith Amesbury.
	A Carolina Wren was located in the Rotary Park area by Matthew Gavin in general area where
	one was present last winter still present on Sept 25 by multiple observers.
Sep 20	•
	Travis Cameron had a late-departing <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> near his home in Lakefield still present
	on Sept 26.
	Rene Gareau & Cathy Douglas had another <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> at the Oakland Greens Golf Course.
	Bill Crins had a late-departing <b>Yellow Warbler</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.
Sep 21	Donald Sutherland reported a <b>Chukar</b> , an escaped exotic grouse, with a group of <b>Wild Turkeys</b> in
	the area of the Lakefield Lagoon. He had 1 <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> as well.
	Donald Sutherland & Cathy Douglas had a <b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon - still
	present on Sept 26 by multiple observers.
6 22	Laurie Healey reported a late-departing <b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.
Sep 22	Lesser Yellowlegs still present at the Lakefield Lagoon by multiple observers.
	Tim Haan had a <b>Least Sandpiper</b> in the Otonabee Gravel Pits CA.
Sep 23	Donald Sutherland located a <b>Red Phalarope</b> in the Lakefield Lagoon before day was over it was
	observed by 16 other observers on eBird. Daniel William observed the phalarope being chased
	twice by a <b>Merlin</b> . Was not present the next day. According to eBird, this is the third time this
	species has been recorded at the Lakefield Lagoon previous records were Sept 1, 2014 and
	September 10, 2018. There are no records in the PFN publication Our Heritage of Birds by Doug
0 21	Sadler, 1983.
Sep 24	,
	multiple observers also reported these birds on eBird multiple reports until September 28.
	In same area Mike Burrell, Matthew Gavin & Scott Gibson had 3 <b>White-rumped Sandpipers</b> seer
	during day and next day by multiple observers.
	Donald Sutherland & Laurie Healey had a <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> in field along Crowley Line.
0 25	Luke Berg had a <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b> in the Otonabee Gravel Pits Conservation Area.
Sep 25	Olivia Maillet & Andrew Brown had a <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b> along Tara Road, Ennismore still
	present on September 27 & 28 by Donald Sutherland.
	Trevor MacLaurin had a <b>Great Egret</b> along Settlers Line - observed by others during day.
Sep 26	Olivia Maillet & Andrew Brown found a <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> along Tara Road.

	Luke Berg had a late <b>Least Flycatcher</b> and <b>Carolina Wren</b> along the Lang-Hastings Trail between Villiers and Blezard Lines.						
Sep 27	Ronald Vanderbeek had an <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> in area of Lock 20.						
3cp 27	Luke Berg had a <b>Bobolink</b> in the Trent Nature Area.						
	Mike Burrell had a very late <b>Northern Waterthrush</b> in his yard in Douro Twp.						
	Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet had a <b>Wilson's Warbler</b> on the Rotary Trail at Trent U.						
	Robert Stairs reported on Drew Monkman's Sightings website the finding of several Giant						
	Puffballs at the Kawartha Golf and Country Club.						
Sep 28	Donald Sutherland had a <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon one still present at this						
1	location on Oct 8 by Donald Sutherland and others.						
	First <b>American Tree Sparrow</b> of the fall was seen by Ronald Vanderbeek along Crowley Line.						
	Laurie Healey had another <b>American Tree Sparrow</b> along the Keene Road.						
Sep 29	Carol Horner had a late-migrating <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b> in Meadowvale Park area.						
1	Tim Haan had an arriving <b>Fox Sparrow</b> on the Corrigan Hill area.						
	Jeff Stewart recorded a Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Millbrook area.						
Oct 1	Ian Sturdee had a <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b> at Cordova Lake.						
	Tim Haan reported a <b>Least Flycatcher</b> in the Corrigan Hill area.						
	Carol Horner reported a <b>Philadelphia Vireo</b> in Rotary Park.						
	Tony Barrett had a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in the Millbrook Conservation Area.						
	Dave Milsom had a late <b>Black-and-white Warbler</b> in the Thompson Bay area of the city.						
Oct 3	Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet had 2 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> off O'Connor Drive, Ennismore.						
	Steve Paul & Laurie Healey had a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in the Keene Road area.						
	Deryck Robertson reported a late <b>Yellow Warbler</b> along the Omemee Trail west of city.						
Oct 5	Donald Sutherland & Dave Milsom observed a <b>Canvasback</b> on Pigeon Lake off Edenderry Line.						
	Carol Horner had a late-departing <b>Northern Parula</b> in the Meadowvale Park area.						
Oct 6	Dave Milsom found another <b>Northern Parula</b> in the Thompson Bay area.						
Oct 7	Mike Burrell & Erica Barkley had an American Golden Plover fly over their property in Douro						
	Twp. They had an <b>American Redstart</b> in their yard as well.						
	Bill Crins had a late <b>Red-eyed Vireo</b> in Otonabee Gravel Pit CA.						
	Donald Sutherland had a late <b>House Wren</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.						
2	Luke Berg had a <b>Gray-cheeked Thrush</b> in his yard in the city.						
Oct 8	Sandra Caswell reported observing a grouse which she identified as a <b>Spruce Grouse</b> along the						
	snowmobile trail east of Round Lake first report of this species in the County for over three						
	decades and needs confirming.						
	Donald Sutherland had a late departing <b>House Wren</b> at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake.						
	Jeff Stewart's NFC station at Millbrook recorded flyover of a <b>Swainson's Thrush</b> .						
	Northern Parula reports include one at Beavermead Park by Bill Crins & Natasha Car-Morrill and						
Oat 10	another at Thompson Bay by Dave Milsom.						
Oct 10	Luke Berg had a <b>House Wren</b> along the Lang-Hastings Trail between David Fife & Settlers Lines.						
Oct 11	Jeff Stewart heard a <b>Wood Thrush</b> near Millbrook. Gill Holmes had a <b>Northern Parula</b> along the Rotary Greenway Trail.						
Oct 12	Kristy Maguire reported two <b>Ospreys</b> were still present on Jacks Lake, Apsley.  Cathy Douglas had a <b>Swainson's Thrush</b> along South Bay Road, Stoney Lake.						
Oct 12	Donald Sutherland had an <b>American Golden Plover</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.						
OCt 13	Luke Berg heard a <b>House Wren</b> in the Trent University Wildlife Area.						
	Mike Burrell heard a <b>Swainson's Thrush</b> calling in the evening in the west end of the city.						
Oct 14	A <b>Moose</b> was photographed east of Havelock by Lily Goode on Monkman Sightings.						
OCI 14	Martin Parker observed a <b>Swainson's Thrush</b> in the Otonabee Gravel Pits CA.						
	martin and observed a swamison's linush in the otoliable Glavel 1 lis CA.						

## **Membership Application Form**

Memberships may be obtained by mailing this completed form to:

**Signature:** 

Peterborough Field Naturalists

PO Box 1532

Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



Completed form to.						
Contact Information:						
Name(s):				Phone(s):		
Address:				Email(s):		
I would like to receive The Or	rchid by (nick one):	☐ Mail De	elivery	☐ Email ☐ I	Both	
Membership type and fee sch		- Wan Be	Cirvery	Lineir . 1	5011	
Notice: Membership fees provide		the funds re	equired to	o operate the	I have included a donatio	n with
Peterborough Field Naturalists. De	onations from member	ers like you	help us	offer a diverse	my membership fees:	
range of programming for everyor		_		•	$\square$ Yes or $\square$ No	
membership so that we can contin make cheques payable to Peterb	•		rougn co	ommunity. Please	If yes, amount: \$	
1. Single Adult \$30	0 □ 2. Si	ingle Studer	nt or Yo	outh \$15 🗆	3. Family \$40* □	
* Please give the na	mes and ages of ch	ildren wish	hing to	enroll in the Juni	or Field Naturalists:	
Name		Age				Age
	444 New	Member	r Infor	rmation >>>		
Main interests:					How do you hope to pa	rticipate?
☐ Natural Environment	☐ Reptiles and An	nphibians	$\Box$ B	Botany	☐ Outings	
□ Birds	☐ Aquatic Life		$\Box$ G	eology	☐ Citizen Science	
☐ Insects	☐ Astronomy		$\square$ N	<b>J</b> ammals	☐ Meetings	
Other:					☐ Junior Naturalists	
Volunteers are always needed.	Are you interested i	in any of the	ese activ	vities?		
☐ Join the PFN Board	☐ Sit on r	research or c	conserva	ation committees	☐ Lead an outing	
☐ Assist with meetings	etings   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						

Date: