

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Long-tailed Weasel Checking Out a City Neighbourhood on Nov. 28. Photo: Donald Sutherland

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Welcome new PFN members!



- Tamara Brown
- Clare Duffy
- Jessica Finley





Clockwise from above: Northern Shrike on Dec. 8 at Scriven & Highway 2 (Dave Milsom); male Eastern Bluebird on Dec. 8 on Hannah Rd. (Dave Milsom); female Mountain Bluebird on Nov. 27 at 3rd Line & Scriven (Marilyn Hubley); and Bohemian Waxwings near Buckhorn on Nov. 21 (Ken McKeen)

| PFN Coming Events | |
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| Dates and times to be announced | <p>Nature Appreciation Walks</p> <p>With winter coming, it is more difficult to find “topics” to offer for outings. That doesn’t mean we can’t get together. For many of us who have been PFN members for a long time, we have found friends to go for walks with regularly. If you are interested in joining others for nature walks, send me an e-mail. If there are topics you are very interested in, mention that in your response. I will keep a list and when the weather is kind, will send out an invitation. The time and day of the week will change as will the location and degree of difficulty. Sometimes there will be a theme depending on the leader I am able to recruit. Sometimes it will just be a nature appreciation walk. When you can attend, just respond to the email I send out. To register, e-mail sueparadis@hotmai.com</p> |
| Dates and times to be announced | <p>Wildlife Tracking Outings</p> <p>PFN member, Don McLeod, will once again lead members on one or more outings during the months of December to March focusing on tracks and other wildlife sign. These outings will be scheduled when weather conditions permit. The place and time will be announced by e-mail shortly before each outing. Anyone interested in attending should send an e-mail to Don McLeod at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com so he can add you to an e-mail distribution list. If you signed up for previous outings, you would automatically receive an e-mail to confirm.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.</p> |
| <p>Thursday, Jan. 12 7:30 p.m. Location: TBA</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Understanding and Conserving the Endangered Small-mouthed Salamander Complex on Pelee Island</p> <p>Thomas Hossie is an Assistant Professor in Biology at Trent University, broadly interested in population and behavioural ecology. His research focuses on two areas: the ecology and evolution of predator-prey interactions, and amphibian ecology and conservation. He is currently a member of the Amphibians and Reptiles Specialist Subcommittee for COSEWIC. Since 2015, he has led a long-term study of an endangered Ambystoma salamander complex on Pelee Island which continues to provide exciting new insights into the population and behavioural ecology of this unique system.</p> <p>The salamanders on Pelee Island are unique in many ways, but until recently we knew very little about this population. The island is home to Canada's only population of the small-mouthed salamander (<i>Ambystoma texanum</i>), as well as blue-spotted salamanders (<i>A. laterale</i>), and a third kind of salamander known as unisexual <i>Ambystoma</i>. Unisexuals are an all-female lineage that are reproductively-dependent on sperm from males of other <i>Ambystoma</i></p>  <p>Small-mouthed Salamander on Pelee Island in March 2022. Photo: Thomas Hossie</p> |

PFN Coming Events

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| | <p>salamander species in order to reproduce. On Pelee Island, they have DNA from both small-mouthed and blue-spotted salamanders and may have anywhere from 2 to 5 sets of chromosomes, although they are not 'hybrids' in the traditional sense. Small-mouthed salamanders, and the associated unisexuals on Pelee Island, face a number of significant threats on the island and are now listed as endangered under federal and provincial legislation. Until recently, conservation efforts have been limited by insufficient data, however, our research has helped to fill in these gaps while also learning about the peculiar ecology and evolution of these unisexual complexes. In this talk, Thomas will share some of what he has learned about these amazing animals, and how he and others are working to help ensure their long-term persistence.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, Jan. 14 11 a.m. Jackson Creek Trailhead East</p> | <p>A Celebration of the Jackson Creek Trail/Trans Canada Trail Revitalization</p> <p>Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, with the help of PFN, is holding a celebration of birds and the official re-opening of the popular Jackson Creek Trail. Community members and supporters will be invited to attend activities at the east trailhead and along the trail including Birdwatching led by Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN), family-friendly Bird Bingo and refreshments and warm drinks. The meeting point is at the East Trailhead Sign, located by the cement bridge where the trails from Parkhill/Monaghan Rd. and Fairbairn/Parkhill Rd. intersect with the Trans Canada Trail. If you click the hyperlink, it will take you to a map showing the exact location: <u>Jackson Creek Trailhead East</u> Participants can use the parking area at the Parkhill Rd./Monaghan Rd. entrance and then walk down the hill to the cement bridge, or use the Fairbairn Street/Parkhill Rd. parking lot and walk over the Pagoda bridge to the cement bridge just past the pond. The other option would be to park on Bonaccord Street and follow the trail into the park. The event is open to the public, so registration is not needed.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p> |
| <p>Sunday, Jan. 22 2 to 3:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. 2505 Pioneer Road, Peterborough</p>  | <p>Christmas Bird Count for PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5 to 12)</p> <p>To register, e-mail juniors@peterboroughnature.org and indicate the name and age of each Junior Field Naturalist participant. Additional information will be shared with the parents of registered participants prior to the event by reply e-mail.</p> <p>The PFN Junior Field Naturalist activities are geared for ages 5 to 12, but kids of all ages are welcome (parents stay and participate). Events are led by PFN members and individuals from other organizations in our community who volunteer to share their knowledge and skills with us.</p>  |

| PFN Coming Events | |
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| <p>Thursday, Feb. 9 7:30 p.m. Location: TBA</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Conserving Caribou - It's About Time, Space, and Scale</p> <p>Jim Schaefer is Professor of Biology at Trent University, where he teaches ecology, conservation biology, and communicating science. He is founding Director of the Trent Centre for Communicating Conservation, a member of the International Boreal Conservation Science Panel, and a Fellow with the Leopold Leadership Program, dedicated to conveying science to the public. In his presentation, Jim will talk about caribou - one of the most mobile pedestrians on the planet, and one of the most daunting challenges in conservation. Across much of the North, caribou are declining. This animal has disappeared from one quarter of its historic range. In this talk, Jim Schaefer will explore the natural history that makes caribou so fascinating, as well as the features that make caribou so challenging to conserve. At its core, keeping caribou means dealing with vast scales, in both space and time. For conservation success, the starting point is to think big — to adopt "a caribou's eye view."</p>  |
| <p>March Date & Location: TBA</p> | <p>PFN Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Details to follow in the March Orchid and on the PFN website.</p> |
| <p>Thursday, Apr. 13 7:30 p.m. Location: TBA</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Where do all the dead birds go? An investigation into the fate of birds killed by window collisions.</p> <p>Emma Byers is a fourth year undergraduate student studying Conservation Biology at Trent University who is a recipient of a research grant from the PFN. This window strike project is her honours thesis. It is being supervised by Dr. Sarah Jamieson.</p> <p>Millions of birds die from window strikes each year in Canada, but it can be difficult to estimate how many since their carcasses are removed by predators. Therefore, the objective of Emma's study is to determine which predator species remove dead birds under windows, how long it takes for a dead bird to be scavenged, and whether different urban habitat types may influence these data. To collect this data at each site she places a songbird carcass under a large window and sets up a trail camera to capture images of species that visit the carcass. The results from her study will help improve estimates of how many birds die from window strikes each year in Canada, and support conservation plans for bird-proofing buildings.</p>  |
| <p>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.</p> | |

Other Events of Interest

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| <p>Wednesday, Jan. 18 (Ontario Invasive Plant Council)</p> <p>Wednesday, Jan. 25 (Ontario Phragmites Working Group)</p> | <p>Register for the upcoming OIPC Conference and OPWG Meeting!</p> <p>Want to learn more about projects that foster coordinated action towards the control and management of invasive plants? Attend the 2023 OIPC (Ontario Invasive Plant Council) Conference and OPWG (Ontario Phragmites Working Group) meeting which will highlight people working towards healthy ecosystems and biodiversity in a changing climate! Register here:</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2023-oipc-conference-opwg-meeting-registration-451979371467</p> |
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Volunteer Corner

Call for Board Members

The Board of Directors is responsible for making all the good things happen that you enjoy as a PFN member. We organize meetings, outings and programs; and carry out advocacy to protect the environment that we love.



Are you interested in helping to manage the PFN as it faces the challenges of the next year, which include:

- a return to live services after the COVID-19 epidemic fades;
- continuing our transition to the world of digital communications;
- advocating to protect our natural environment in the face of pressures from development and climate change;
- involving more young people in PFN objectives and activities.

If so, the Board is looking for new members to join our group of volunteers committed to the PFN. We are anticipating two vacancies this year and would like to bring the Board up to full complement. If you are interested, please contact Ted Vale, the Chair of the Nominating Committee at treasurer@peterboroughnature.org.

Call for Outing Volunteers

Do you have a strong interest in a particular aspect of our natural world with an above average knowledge? Outing leaders are needed and there are members wanting to learn while meeting others from the PFN. Training is provided as is a comprehensive manual. If you would prefer to ease in gradually, you could assist an experienced leader. For those new to our club, this is an excellent way to meet other members.

If you have a property that you know well and would be willing to take us on a tour accompanied by another leader, please consider volunteering. I can be reached by phone at 705-559-2061 or e-mail at sueparadisis@hotmail.com

2023 Membership Renewals

The PFN is now accepting membership renewals for 2023. You can now renew by mail or online.

To renew by mail, fill out the form on the back of The Orchid (or download it from the website) and mail it along with your cheque to PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7.

To renew online, go to the PFN website, click on "Join Today", then "Join Online". Fill out the form, submit it, and then click on "Submit".

Membership fees are: Student/Youth \$15, Single \$30, or Family \$40. You may pay by credit card or PayPal through Canada Helps, or by e-Transfer through your financial institution. Please be sure to fill out and submit the membership form as well as the payment as we need this information to stay in touch with you and send you your copy of The Orchid. We look forward to having you with us in 2023.

2023 PFN Annual General Meeting Online Auction!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ITEMS TO AUCTION

Due to the success of last year's online auction, PFN will again be hosting this event in conjunction with our AGM. Do you have any nature-related/outdoors or otherwise items in your attic, bedroom, basement, or garage that need a new forever home? We are seeking new or gently used items. Help us make this auction another great success. All proceeds go towards supporting the PFN in its operations and sponsorship/granting programs. For more information, contact Fiona McKay at fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org.



Another view of the long-tailed weasel from the front cover showing its characteristic black tail tip. Donald

Sutherland took the photos near Weller St. and Fair Ave. in the west end of the city on Nov. 28. He wrote: "The Long-tailed Weasel is probably widely distributed in the county, but we really don't have any idea about its status insofar as it is rarely seen (or at least well enough to distinguish it from its smaller cousin, the Ermine). In [the above image] you can see that the tail length is >50% of the body length (head plus body), while in Ermine the tail length is generally 40% or less. This individual (likely a male) is in transition into its white winter pelage."

2020 PFN Research Grant Results Published

Submitted by Martin Parker

The Peterborough Field Naturalist (PFN) Research Grant initiative was created to support Trent University Undergraduate Students in a research project which will add to our knowledge of the natural environment in Peterborough and the Kawarthas. In 2020 a grant was awarded to Bradley E. Howell to assist in his study of impact of Electrofishing of Brook Trout on embryo survival.

The results of this study were published in the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, Volume 42, pages 228 to 235 in 2022. This journal is published by the American Fisheries Society. The funding support of the Peterborough Field Naturalists was acknowledged in this published paper. According to Howell's supervisor, the results of this study are being utilized by others in North America.

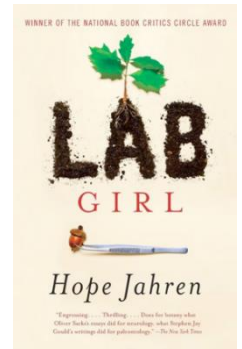
The PFN Research Grant provides small grants to undergraduate students at Trent University to assist in their 4th year thesis projects. Projects which investigate the natural history of the Peterborough region are supported. These grants would not be possible without the generous bequests and donations from our members which have been deposited in the PFN Legacy Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This is an endowment fund which provides an annual income for the PFN. The Board has allocated part of the annual income to support undergraduate students in their thesis project. Additional donations or bequests to the PFN Legacy Fund are welcome.

Book Review: Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

Reviewed by Marilyn Freeman

"Science has taught me...that being able to derive happiness from discovery is a recipe for a beautiful life."

Hope Jahren is a geobiologist, a remarkable award-winning scientist *and* a remarkable writer. Some people are great writers. Others live lives of adventure. Some become important. Hope Jahren does it all. This powerful memoir is divided into three sections: Roots & Leaves, Wood & Knots, Flowers & Fruit. These sections are straightforward in their science but also represent stages of Jahren's life and career.



Being a research scientist is not an easy thing. Being a woman in science is much harder. At one point Jahren gets thrown out of her own lab at Johns Hopkins because the boss men didn't want to see a very pregnant woman! The politics of science, academia and the difficulty of obtaining funding for pure research can be soul destroying. Being "paid to wonder" is a hard job to get or maintain.

It's Jahren's vivid writing that got me hooked. Following are three small examples. In Roots & Leaves she writes about how seeds know how to wait. A cherry seed can wait for 100 years with no problem. When scientists opened the coating of a lotus seed, they discovered through carbon dating that the seedling they'd grown had been waiting in a Chinese peat bog for 2,000 years!

Cotyledons are "two tiny ready-made leaflets, inflatable for temporary use. They are as small and insufficient as the spare tire that is not intended to take you any further than the nearest gas station. Once expanded with sap, these barely green cotyledons start up photosynthesis like an old car and a bitter winter morning." (Jahren knows bitter winters; she grew up in Minnesota.)

Since plants are the only things that can make sugar out of nonliving inorganic matter, all the sugar we've ever eaten was first made by a leaf. "Without a constant supply of glucose to your brain, you will die. Period...At this very moment within the synapses of your brain, leaves are fueling thoughts of leaves."

Jahren's PhD work centred on the hackberry tree, a native to North America. The coating around the berry is harder than oyster shells and it was Jahren who discovered that opal was the mineral that fortified each hackberry seed.

In *Lab Girl*, science and story are interspersed. This keeps the pace going and is sometimes laugh-out-loud. "You may think a mushroom is a fungus. That is exactly like believing a penis is a man." Or innovative: "Soil is the naturally produced graffiti that results from tensions between the biological and geological realms."

Central to Jahren's work and life is her lab manager, co-conspirator and fellow scientist, Bill. The relationship that developed through 20 years of working together was quirky and tight. As she writes, "Along the way we also managed to become adults without ceasing to be children."

With Jahren's deep, deep connection to the plant world she also mourns how humans have reduced the plant into three things: food, medicine and wood. Four hundred-million-year-old life forms have been devastated by the human goals of higher volume, potency and profit. A few failed experiments taught Jahren a new mindset. She tries to visualize "a new environmental science that was not based on the world that we wanted with plants in it, but instead based on a vision of the plants' world with us in it."

This is a joyous book. I laughed, I wondered at all the facts about which I knew nothing, I nodded my head in agreement at the political hassles...it made me wish I had become a scientist!

Editor's note: This book will be part of the online PFN auction.

The Latest from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre

From a message from the Executive and Medical Director, Dr. Sue Carstairs, in the Fall/Winter 2022 edition of *The Turtle Times* newsletter

As the 2022 season finally winds down, a huge THANK YOU to all of our Team, both on- site and off, for their amazing work in enabling us to admit over 1800 turtles to our hospital this season!

From the Good Samaritans who found the injured or ill turtles and called our Hotline, to the Turtle Taxi Drivers who helped to transport the turtles from anywhere in Ontario, to the First Responders who helped to get those turtles immediate care, and then to the OTCC Staff who ensured that the turtles received the ongoing surgery and nursing they needed. You are all amazing!

In addition to our hospital admissions, we collected and incubated almost 8,000 eggs from 7 different species of Ontario's turtles - These are still hatching as of writing this!

...And an equally huge THANK YOU to our supporters, who make all this possible. As a registered charity, we couldn't carry out our vital conservation work without their help.

With about 2,000 releases carried out in 2022, the logistics of all the comings and goings can get very complicated, and yet our Team manages it all with calmness and professionalism, and always with a sense of humour. I am extremely proud of each one of them, for their passion and dedication.

The highlight of this year has to be reaching the stage of site development for our new conservation centre and hospital "Where Community and Conservation Connect" (see depiction at left by Wilk Associates Landscape Architecture Ltd). They will be breaking ground imminently! It's a race against the weather at this point, but we hope to have it completed for next season!

Our Capital Campaign is still ongoing, but we have raised funds so far to enable our dream to come true, and for construction to commence. We still hope to raise additional funds, however, to enable it to reach its full potential. Visit ontarioturtle.ca/donate to find all the different ways to help.

I know you'll be excited to hear all that has been going on this season, so read on to learn about our programs and all they have accomplished this season! [Go to <https://ontarioturtle.ca/>, click on "Publications", and then "Newsletters & Mailings"]



JB Jaboor and his helpers, the Young family grandchildren (future junior members), top up the Ecology Park feeders (left, last March) and help bring in the bird seed by sled (right, this past December) to help see our birds through to spring. JB and Kathryn Sheridan share the long-standing PFN commitment to feed the birds in the park in the winter.

Lake Ontario North Fall Regional Meeting Report Part 2 – Ontario Nature Updates



Submitted by Fiona McKay

Ontario Nature's Nature Network is comprised of over 155 dedicated local conservation groups that help bring local issues across Ontario to the attention of the province. The Nature Network is Ontario Nature's eyes and ears on the ground, creating a powerful collective voice for conservation. According to Ontario Nature (ON), many of their conservation initiatives would not be possible without the help of the Nature Network member groups, of which the PFN is but one in the Lake Ontario North Region.

In news, ON introduced a new Nature Network Organizer: Lesley Rudy. Lesley started in March and looks after the insurance and membership of the Nature Network.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Youth Summit for Mother Earth

This year, 31 member groups, including the PFN, sponsored youths across Ontario to attend a gathering of the Youth Summit for Mother Earth. Held from September 24 to 25, the summit brought together 36 young leaders and 4 youth mentors live or in-person to one of 4 hubs in the areas of the four partners of the Youth Circle for Mother Earth project. Participants had the opportunity to network with each other, learn about important topics such as cultural humility and discussed environmental issues in their communities.

Youth Circle for Mother Earth

ON's Youth Circle for Mother Earth project aims to create and support a cross cultural network of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous environmental leaders looking to honour their responsibilities and relationship with Mother Earth. These leaders act as ambassadors for her land, air, and waters, which includes the natural world and its conservation, protection, and restoration.

The project is led by the Indigenous Environmental Institute at Trent University, Plenty Canada, Walpole Island Land Trust, and Ontario Nature. The four partner organizations have a successful history of collaborating to address environmental issues which the project will build on and complement.

This year, the project held four online workshops and presentations with YCME members and partners, one traditional medicine and pollinator planting held in Vaughan, and planned a land-based learning guide to be created by YCME Coordinating Circle members.

Nature Guardian Youth Program

The Nature Guardians Youth Program brings youth together through nature-based experiences and leadership opportunities to inspire and grow the next generation of conservation leaders in Ontario. It aims to support high-school aged youth by: Offering hands-on opportunities for meaningful engagement and community involvement through outdoor events and campaigns; Developing the knowledge, tools and networks youth need to create lasting, positive change through conservation action, and; Providing insight on volunteer, education and career opportunities to help youth grow the skills, experience and confidence needed to make a difference.

This year, it held an Introduction to Ontario Wildflowers workshop, two Special Spaces events held in Whitby and Peterborough, hosted Youth Council-led birding outings and piloted a Birding Backpack Program.

NATURE NETWORK CALENDAR

Ontario Nature wants to bring awareness to their Nature Network Calendar. This is a web-service for clubs and groups that highlights upcoming events. As well as ON events, it also shows public events held by other clubs and groups in the province. Clubs can submit their events to make them available to a wider audience. If you are interested in attending hikes, talks, activities related to nature, especially outside of the PFN local area, be sure to check out this free calendar: <https://ontarionature.org/events/>

ACTION FOR WETLANDS

ON has hired a new wetland conservation intern to increase their capacity and further engage on wetland conservation initiatives. Blogs were posted throughout the summer (x3) (<https://ontarionature.org/blog/>), articles have been written for their magazine, *ON Nature*, and support for local efforts has included supporting Nature Network and other community groups fighting to protect local wetlands – most recently, groups in Ancaster and Kingston.

CONSERVATION AWARDS - NOMINATION DEADLINE MARCH 24

Celebrating Nature's Heroes

Ontario Nature is accepting nominations for its annual conservation awards, that recognize the hard work of naturalists across the province. Whether organizations, companies or individuals, the recipients of these awards made exceptional contributions to the protection of wild species and wild spaces. There are nine award categories including:

1. Ontario Nature Conservation Leadership Award
2. Ontario Nature Natural History Award
3. Ontario Nature Education Award
4. Ontario Nature Media and Conservation Award
5. Ontario Nature Public Service Award
6. Ontario Nature Corporate Award
7. Ontario Nature Youth Leadership Award
8. Lee Symmes Municipal Award
9. The Steve Hounsell Greenway Award

If you are interested in nominating a well-deserved individual, group or organization, or simply want to know more, check out the Ontario Nature website at: <https://ontarionature.org/take-action/conservation-awards/>.

SPRING 2023 MEETING

The next meeting of the Nature Network Lake Ontario North Region will take place in April (date to be confirmed). It will be hosted by the Durham Region Field Naturalists, Thickson's Wood Land Trust and Pickering Field Naturalists with a field trip to Thickson's Woods. PFN members are welcome to attend. This meeting will also include an election for the Lake Ontario North Regional Director (2-year term for a total of 3 terms). Regional Directors also sit on the Ontario Nature Board of Directors. If anyone would like to nominate a candidate for this position, please contact Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia (barbaraw@ontarionature.org).

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**Stay Informed.** Join the Ontario Nature community so you can stand with us to speak up whenever and wherever nature needs us most. Subscribe at [ontarionature.org/take-action/stay-informed/](https://ontarionature.org/take-action/stay-informed/)



## January Nature At a Glance

### From the Book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas* by Drew Monkman

Bald Eagles winter in the Kawarthas. Small numbers of Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers spend the winter here, as well. Great Horned Owls are becoming increasingly vocal. A flight of "winter finches" occurs most years, and northern owl species are always a possibility.

A number of species including beavers, foxes and coyotes mate during January. Male Moose and White-tailed Deer lose their antlers. Deer "yard up" in northern parts of our area. Black Bears give birth to two cubs.

Amphibians and reptiles are in hibernation. Occasionally you will see a mink, otter or duck surface with a hibernating frog in its mouth.

Many fish such as bass, bullheads and carp are essentially dormant and may even partly bury themselves in the lake bottom. Species that remain active such as Yellow Perch and Walleye provide great ice fishing.

Insects can be found overwintering in all stages of their life cycle: as eggs, larvae, pupae (cocoons) and adults. Blackfly larvae, for example, are easy to find in open sections of winter streams. The galls of the Goldenrod Gall Fly are a common sight.

Herbaceous evergreen plants such as Wintergreen and Christmas Fern stand out in snow-free areas. Pines are shedding their cones. This is a good time to learn how to identify trees by the characteristics of the twigs and buds.

The daily maximum temperature averages about -4°C and the minimum about -15°C. At mid-month, the sun rises around 7:45 a.m. and sets at about 5:00 p.m. We quickly become aware of the increased daylight in late afternoon.

The Winter Six – Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga, Canis Major and Canis Minor – rule the January sky. The Big Dipper is upright, low in the northeast. Watch for the Northern Lights. They are most impressive in winter.



Ruffed Grouse feeding at dusk.  
Photo: Drew Monkman

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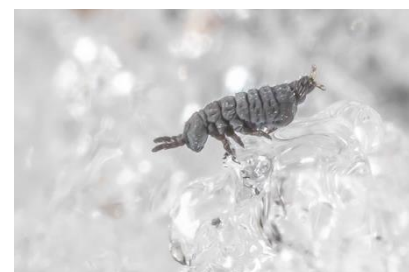
## February Nature At a Glance

### From the Book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas* by Drew Monkman

Horned Larks and American Crows return to the Kawarthas. They are traditionally the first migrant arrivals of the year and mark the coming of "pre-spring." Great Horned Owls are calling and sometimes on their eggs by month's end. Bird song begins once again with cardinals and chickadees leading the chorus.

Male skunks emerge from their dens to find a mate. Their tell-tale scent is one of the first "datable" events of the new year. Male White-tailed Deer reform their bachelor groups. Deep snow can make this the most difficult time of year for deer. Mating time begins for squirrels, wolves, raccoons and minks, and will last until the end of March.

Burbot, also known as Ling, spawn under the ice in "writhing balls."



Snow Flea (a.k.a. springtail).  
Photo: Michael Runtz

Snow Fleas can be common on woodland snow on mild, sunny days. Watch for what looks like spilled pepper!

Winter is a great time to become acquainted with lichens; on mild days, they actually photosynthesize and grow. The tan, papery leaves still clinging to young American Beech trees are a common winter sight.

Groundhog Day, February 2, marks the mid-point of winter. The first week of the month is, on average, the coldest week of the year. The average daily temperatures for the month are a maximum of -2°C and a minimum of -14°C. The increased daylight becomes very noticeable in February. In mid-month, the sun is up by about 7:15 a.m. and sets by about 5:40 p.m. Days now are almost as long as in October.

Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga, Canis Major and Canis Minor continue to dominate the southern and southwestern sky. The Big Dipper stands upright, low in the northeast.

## 2022 Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake Area

### Excerpts from a report submitted by Steve Kerr of the Jack Lake Association

The Jack Lake area is known to support six different species of turtles. Members of the Jack Lake community have participated in the Ontario Turtle Tally since 2014.

As in previous years, most turtle observations occurred during June when turtles were moving to search for nesting sites and lay their eggs (Table 1). In several instances, turtles were moved off the road. In one instance (June 7), eggs were removed from a Blanding's turtle, which had been killed on the road, and were taken to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough for incubation.



Blanding's Turtle, (New York State, Dept. of Environmental Conservation photo)

Table 1. Temporal distribution of adult turtles observed during the 2022 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake.

| Species/<br>Month   | Blandings | Midland<br>Painted | Snapping | Unidentified | Monthly<br>Total |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|
| April               | 0         | 0                  | 0        | 0            | 0                |
| May                 | 0         | 0                  | 1        | 0            | 1                |
| June                | 9         | 15                 | 7        | 1            | 32               |
| July                | 0         | 1                  | 0        | 0            | 1                |
| August              | 0         | 0                  | 0        | 0            | 0                |
| September           | 0         | 0                  | 0        | 0            | 0                |
| October             | 0         | 0                  | 0        | 0            | 0                |
| <b>Season Total</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>16</b>          | <b>8</b> | <b>1</b>     | <b>34</b>        |

Only four turtle nesting activities were observed in 2022. For the first time, there were observations of young turtle hatchlings leaving their nest. On the morning of September 5, at least thirty snapping turtle hatchlings were observed (and photographed) leaving their nest on the south shore of Sheeps Island and entering Jack Lake (Mary Derks, pers. comm.)

Compared with recent years, there were fewer participants and turtle observations in 2022 (Table 2).

Table 2. A comparative summary of turtle observations from Jack Lake, 2014-2022.

| Year | No. Participants | Blandings | Eastern Musk | Midland Painted | Northern Map | Snapping | Spotted | Unidentified |
|------|------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|---------|--------------|
| 2014 | 5                | 2         | 0            | 32              | 0            | 12       | 0       | 0            |
| 2015 | 6                | 3         | 0            | 58              | 0            | 20       | 0       | 0            |
| 2016 | 17               | 5         | 0            | 14              | 0            | 16       | 0       | 0            |
| 2017 | 31               | 6         | 0            | 60              | 2            | 21       | 0       | 0            |
| 2018 | 33               | 7         | 0            | 43              | 6            | 34       | 0       | 0            |
| 2019 | 30               | 11        | 1            | 51              | 4            | 17       | 1       | 0            |
| 2020 | 20               | 4         | 1            | 48              | 3            | 13       | 0       | 0            |
| 2021 | 40               | 6         | 0            | 64              | 0            | 22       | 0       | 0            |
| 2022 | 14               | 9         | 0            | 16              | 0            | 8        | 0       | 1            |

## Results of the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count Held on December 18, 2022

Submitted by Martin Parker, Count Compiler

### Highlights

**New Species:** none

### **New Highs**

- Trumpeter Swan: 13 - previous high was 6 on 2021 count
- Cooper's Hawk: 15 - previous was 12 on 2017 count
- Mourning Dove: 1,376 - previous high was 1,356 on 2020 count
- Red-bellied Woodpecker: 27 - previous high was 25 last year
- Merlin: 4 - previous high was 3 on the 2020 count
- Common Raven: 52 - previous high was 34 in 2020
- European Starling: 4,155 - previous high was 3,400 on 2011 count

### **Notable Records**

- Green-winged Teal: 1 single individual was the second time on this count
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6 - tied previous high from the 2018 count
- Eastern Screech-Owl: 7 - tied the previous high from last year
- Downy Woodpecker: 118 - one less than the previous high of 119 in 1974
- Merlin: 3 - tied previous high from the 2020 count
- Eastern Bluebird: 4 - only second time on count, previous was 4 on 2016 count
- Brown Thrasher: 1 - only second time on count, previous was 1 on 2016 count

The Record High and # of Times on a Peterborough CBC were taken from the National Audubon Society (NAS) summary of all Peterborough Counts conducted in accordance with the standard protocol. Counts in the early years were not registered with the NAS thus are not in their data summary.

Thanks to all 89 participants in this year's Peterborough CBC. It would not have been possible without you. A special thanks to the Area Leaders who organized the coverage of their area of the count.



One of many flocks of Bohemian Waxwings on Count Day. Photo: Una Jermilova



| 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 Times on Peterborough CBC |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Canada Goose             |        |        | 343    | 53     | 140    | 65     | 5      |        | 8      | 80      | 694   | 3,795 in 2015 | 41                             |
| Trumpeter Swan           |        |        | 13     |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | 13    | 6 in 2021     | 2                              |
| Am. Black Duck           |        |        | 1      | 2      |        | 8      | 2      |        |        |         | 13    | 30 in 1974    | 50                             |
| Mallard                  |        |        | 273    | 254    | 74     | 179    | 66     | 10     |        | 198     | 1,054 | 1,264 in 2012 | 53                             |
| Mallard (domestic type)  |        |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |         | 1     | 18 in 1987    | 5                              |
| Green-winged Teal        |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | 1     | 1 in 1995     | 1                              |
| Bufflehead               |        |        | 5      |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | 5     | 13 in 2015    | 18                             |
| Common Goldeneye         |        |        | 56     | 4      | 2      | 26     | 18     |        |        |         | 106   | 292 in 2001   | 56                             |
| Barrow's Goldeneye       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |       | 1 in 2003     | 1                              |
| Hooded Merganser         |        |        |        | 1      | 4      |        |        |        |        |         | 5     | 40 in 2021    | 36                             |
| Common Merganser         |        |        | 18     | 3      | 4      | 5      | 2      | 6      |        | 1       | 39    | 255 in 2012   | 47                             |
| Ruffed Grouse            | 1      | 1      | 1      | 2      |        |        | 7      |        | 2      |         | 14    | 82 in 1979    | 61                             |
| Wild Turkey              | 37     | 15     | 5      |        | 55     | 76     | 25     |        | 16     |         | 229   | 306 in 2014   | 18                             |
| Golden Eagle             |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | cw    | 2 in 2021     | 2                              |
| Northern Harrier         |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | 1     | 6 in 2006     | 19                             |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk       | 1      |        | 2      | 1      |        | 1      |        |        | 2      |         | 7     | 6 in 2018     | 46                             |
| Cooper's Hawk            |        | 2      | 1      | 3      |        | 3      |        | 2      | 2      | 3       | 16    | 12 in 2017    | 45                             |
| Northern Goshawk         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |       | 4 in 1983     | 26                             |
| Bald Eagle               | 1      |        | 1      |        |        | 1      | 1      |        |        |         | 4     | 13 in 2017    | 16                             |
| Red-tailed Hawk          | 1      | 2      | 4      | 4      | 11     | 5      | 3      | 1      | 5      |         | 36    | 64 in 2014    | 58                             |
| Ring-billed Gull         | 6      | 2      | 26     | 7      | 9      | 2      | 1      | 8      | 3      | 12      | 76    | 399 in 2015   | 37                             |
| Herring Gull             | 13     | 9      | 35     | 22     | 149    | 115    | 22     | 18     | 6      | 13      | 402   | 1,302 in 1998 | 43                             |
| Iceland Gull             |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |       | 3 in 2020     | 18                             |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | cw    | 1 in 2016     | 4                              |
| Glaucous Gull            |        |        |        |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |         | 1     | 5 in 2004     | 22                             |
| Great Black-backed Gull  |        |        |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |         | 1     | 32 in 1994    | 28                             |
| Rock Pigeon              | 84     | 104    | 90     | 165    | 319    | 147    | 31     | 69     | 379    | 421     | 1,809 | 2,072 in 2020 | 48                             |
| Mourning Dove            | 104    | 39     | 101    | 118    | 315    | 187    | 129    | 163    | 195    | 65      | 1,416 | 1,356 in 2020 | 54                             |
| Eastern Screech-Owl      |        |        |        |        |        | 6      | 1      |        |        |         | 7     | 7 in 2020     | 31                             |
| Great Horned Owl         | 1      | 2      | 2      |        |        | 1      | 2      |        | 1      |         | 9     | 40 in 1992    | 55                             |
| Barred Owl               |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | 1      |        |        |         | 2     | 5 in 2020     | 22                             |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl    |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |        |         | 1     | 4 in 1993     | 7                              |
| Belted Kingfisher        |        |        |        | 1      |        |        | 1      |        |        |         | 2     | 5 in 2021     | 37                             |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 2      | 2      | 1      | 2      | 6      | 3      | 2      | 4      | 5      |         | 27    | 25 in 2020    | 18                             |
| Downy Woodpecker         | 10     | 15     | 18     | 11     | 18     | 20     | 10     | 27     | 2      | 4       | 135   | 119 in 1974   | 62                             |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | 12     | 8      | 10     | 6      | 12     | 10     | 10     | 5      | 9      |         | 82    | 84 in 1975    | 62                             |
| Northern Flicker         |        | 1      |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |         | 2     | 5 in 2016     | 30                             |
| Pileated Woodpecker      | 2      | 1      | 6      | 5      |        |        |        | 1      | 2      | 1       | 18    | 28 in 2020    | 59                             |
| American Kestrel         | 1      |        |        |        |        | 2      | 1      |        | 2      |         | 6     | 14 in 1979    | 56                             |
| Merlin                   | 1      |        | 1      |        | 1      | 1      |        |        |        |         | 4     | 3 in 2020     | 25                             |
| Peregrine Falcon         |        |        |        | 1      |        |        |        |        |        |         | 1     | 2 in 2019     | 13                             |
| Northern Shrike          | 1      |        | 1      | 1      |        |        | 3      |        |        |         | 6     | 29 in 1986    | 60                             |

| 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 Times on Peterborough CBC |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blue Jay                       | 70           | 49           | 29           | 28           | 97           | 47           | 20           | 43           | 44           | 8            | 435           | 563 in 2020       | 62                             |
| American Crow                  | 40           | 49           | 98           | 45           | 44           | 151          | 29           | 26           | 41           | 49           | 572           | 956 in 2020       | 59                             |
| Common Raven                   | 3            | 6            | 7            | 7            | 9            | 10           | 7            | 1            | 5            |              | 55            | 34 in 2020        | 21                             |
| Black-capped Chickadee         | 248          | 299          | 298          | 249          | 261          | 185          | 124          | 226          | 213          | 89           | 2,192         | 3,123 in 2020     | 62                             |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch          | 1            | 1            | 7            |              | 7            | 3            | 1            | 12           | 3            | 8            | 43            | 74 in 2020        | 50                             |
| White-breasted Nuthatch        | 14           | 14           | 50           | 13           | 38           | 30           | 18           | 26           | 18           | 25           | 246           | 335 in 2020       | 62                             |
| Brown Creeper                  | 1            |              | 4            |              | 2            |              | 12           |              | 1            |              | 20            | 21 in 1982        | 58                             |
| Winter Wren                    |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1            |              |              |              | 1             | 6 in 2006         | 13                             |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet         |              |              | 3            |              |              |              | 1            | 1            |              |              | 5             | 47 in 1982        | 48                             |
| Eastern Bluebird               |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 4            |              |              | 4             | 4 in 2016         | 1                              |
| American Robin                 | 39           | 103          | 126          | 38           | 22           | 12           | 42           | 95           | 47           | 4            | 528           | 1,943 in 2016     | 45                             |
| Brown Thrasher                 |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1            |              | 1             | 1 in 2016         | 2                              |
| European Starling              | 707          | 283          | 91           | 206          | 110          | 850          | 199          | 535          | 452          | 761          | 4,194         | 3,400 in 2011     | 62                             |
| Bohemian Waxwing               | 317          | 408          | 596          | 1            | 1            |              | 18           | 236          | 150          | 29           | 1,756         | 2,180 in 1983     | 24                             |
| Cedar Waxwing                  | 31           | 36           |              |              | 5            | 3            | 52           | 10           | 76           |              | 213           | 737 in 1989       | 48                             |
| Snow Bunting                   |              |              |              | 2            |              | 1            |              |              |              |              | 3             | 1,683 in 1989     | 53                             |
| Am. Tree Sparrow               | 42           | 75           | 60           | 27           | 38           | 176          | 38           | 68           | 72           | 1            | 597           | 589 in 1974       | 61                             |
| Chipping Sparrow               |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |               | 2 in 1987         | 6                              |
| Dark-eyed Junco                | 63           | 31           | 100          | 37           | 122          | 94           | 71           | 92           | 89           | 77           | 776           | 1,097 in 2021     | 60                             |
| White-throated Sparrow         |              |              | 1            |              |              |              |              | 2            |              | 2            | 5             | 18 in 2002        | 37                             |
| Song Sparrow                   |              |              |              |              |              |              | 4            | 1            |              |              | 5             | 27 in 1982        | 39                             |
| Swamp Sparrow                  |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2            |              | 2             | 5 in 1982         | 17                             |
| Northern Cardinal              | 30           | 28           | 38           | 16           | 45           | 32           | 19           | 26           | 23           | 16           | 273           | 457 in 2020       | 55                             |
| Red-winged Blackbird           |              |              |              |              |              | 1            |              |              |              | 1            | 2             | 13 in 2011        | 16                             |
| Pine Grosbeak                  | 14           |              |              | 34           |              |              |              | 3            | 1            |              | 52            | 196 in 1993       | 30                             |
| House Finch                    | 2            | 29           | 50           | 11           | 10           | 21           | 2            | 9            | 4            | 35           | 173           | 1,197 in 1991     | 39                             |
| Purple Finch                   |              |              |              |              | 1            |              |              |              |              |              | 1             | 60 in 2015        | 37                             |
| Common Redpoll                 |              |              |              | 1            |              | 1            | 1            |              |              |              | 3             | 1,736 in 1993     | 43                             |
| American Goldfinch             | 31           | 76           | 106          | 55           | 55           | 112          | 67           | 56           | 52           | 42           | 652           | 941 in 2006       | 62                             |
| House Sparrow                  | 6            |              | 43           | 45           | 77           | 31           | 10           | 7            |              | 50           | 269           | 2,209 in 1981     | 62                             |
| <b>Unidentified Species</b>    |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |               |                   |                                |
| accipiter spp                  |              |              | 2            |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 2             | 3 in 1985         | 9                              |
| hawk spp.                      |              |              | 1            |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 1             | 2 in 1979         | 5                              |
| gull spp                       |              | 1            |              | 2            |              |              |              |              |              | 8            | 11            | 286 in 1997       | 17                             |
| woodpecker spp                 |              |              |              |              | 1            |              |              |              |              |              | 1             | 9 in 1981         | 22                             |
| waxwing spp                    |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              | 50           | 50            | 150 in 1999       | 4                              |
| unidentified species           |              |              | 31           |              |              |              |              | 10           | 3            |              | 44            |                   |                                |
| <b>Total Individuals</b>       | <b>1,937</b> | <b>1,691</b> | <b>2,758</b> | <b>1,485</b> | <b>2,065</b> | <b>2,625</b> | <b>1,079</b> | <b>1,803</b> | <b>1,936</b> | <b>2,053</b> | <b>19,432</b> |                   |                                |
| <b>Total Number of Species</b> | <b>35</b>    | <b>29</b>    | <b>45</b>    | <b>37</b>    | <b>34</b>    | <b>41</b>    | <b>42</b>    | <b>33</b>    | <b>36</b>    | <b>26</b>    | <b>65</b>     | <b>71 in 2021</b> |                                |

cw = count week bird (seen three days before or after count but not on count day)

|                        | Area 1 | Area 2 | Area 3 | Area 4 | Area 5 | Area 6 | Area 7 | Area 8 | Area 9 | Area 10 | Total |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| Kilometers in Car      | 120    | 146    | 94     | 119    | 122    | 167    | 120    | 101    | 101    | 40      | 1128  |
| Kilometers on Foot     | 7      | 11     | 59     | 28     | 15     | 12     | 16     | 20     | 20     | 13      | 200   |
| Kilometers Owling      |        | 10     |        |        |        | 26     | 1      | 3      | 3      |         | 43    |
| Hours in Car           | 14.5   | 16.0   | 9.0    | 5.6    | 11.8   | 14.0   | 8.0    | 7.3    | 7.3    | 7.0     | 100   |
| Hours on Foot          | 3.2    | 6.0    | 30.0   | 14.9   | 17.3   | 7.0    | 14.0   | 12.4   | 12.4   | 5.0     | 122   |
| Hours at Feeder        | 7.0    | 1.0    |        |        | 1.3    |        |        | 6.8    | 6.8    | 7.0     | 30    |
| Hours Owling           |        | 1.0    | 0.3    |        |        | 2.9    | 1.0    | 0.5    | 0.5    |         | 6     |
| Start Time             | 8:00   | 6:00   | 6:45   | n/a    | 7:30   | 7:30   | 7:07   | 7:45   | 7:45   | 8:00    |       |
| Finish Time            | 15:30  | 15:00  | 17:00  | n/a    | 15:30  | 15:30  | 17:10  | 15:15  | 15:15  | 16:15   |       |
| Number of Participants | 5      | 9      | 12     | 9      | 8      | 7      | 5      | 12     | 11     | 12      | 89    |
| Minimum # of Parties   | 3      | 3      | 3      | 5      | 4      | 3      | 3      | 5      | 5      | 3       |       |
| Maximum # of Parties   | 5      | 3      | 3      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 3      | 6      | 5      | 4       |       |

| #  | Area                          | Participants                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Chemong/Bridgenorth           | Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch, Amy Semple, and Dan Riley. Feeder: Robyn McKinlay                                                                                                                         |
| 2  | Miller Creek/Selwyn           | Drew Monkman, Brian Wales, Mitch Brownstein, Dan Chronowic, Court Brown, Maxwell Stewart, Colton Johnstone, and Una Jermilova. Feeder: Finn Morrison                                                 |
| 3  | Lakefield/Otonabee River East | Dave Milsom, Liz Milsom, Kathryn Sheridan, David Britton, Bruce Kidd, Iain Rayner, Travis Cameron, Carrie Sadoski, Susan Chow, Carol Horner, Eileen Nolan and Scott Gibson                           |
| 4  | Douro Wedge                   | Bill Crins, Mike Oldham, Donald Sutherland, Martyn Obbard, Timothy Haan, Ben Taylor, Natasha Carr, Emma Carr, and Helen Bested.                                                                      |
| 5  | Burnham                       | Warrren Dunlop, Janet Kelly, Cathy Douglas, Anda Rungis, Al Sippel, Philip Shaw, Sue Paradisis, and Fiona McKay.                                                                                     |
| 6  | Stewart Hall/Landfill         | Scott McKinlay, Joan DiFruscia, Robert DiFruscia, Steve Paul, Laurie Healey, Pam Martin, and Tim Haan.                                                                                               |
| 7  | Airport                       | Matthew Tobey, Lynn Smith, Larry Smith, Rene Gareau, and Antje Gareau.                                                                                                                               |
| 8  | Cavan Swamp                   | Chris Risley, Erica Nol, Ed Addison, Gary Heuvel, Anne Ausems, Marilyn Hubley, Jane Kroes, Andrew Brown, Olivia Maillet, Rose Addison, Melissa Rose, and Peter Addison.                              |
| 9  | Jackson Park                  | Jerry Ball, Kathy Parker, Dave Heuft, Anne Heuft, Colin Jones, Scott Gibson, Mike Burrell, Matthew Garvin. Feeders: Don Pettypiece, Marie Duchesneau, and John Fautley.                              |
| 10 | Downtown                      | Martin Parker, King Baker, Erin McGauley, Sandy Garvey, Linda Sunderland, Ian Attridge, Susan Sauve, Maureen McGauley, and Ken Morrison. Feeders: Nuala Murnane, Michelle Monkman, and Jim Cashmore. |

## Steve's Swan Sightings

### Submitted by Steve Paul

Since the last Swan Sightings report, local Peterborough pair X66, a.k.a. Sadie, and her untagged, unbanded (UTUB) mate, Chip, were seen on Chemong Lake several times before the lake started to freeze over. They only had two cygnets with them, which means that since first hatching in June they have lost three out of their five cygnets. We should learn where they have chosen to over-winter shortly, and I will continue to monitor them. Let's hope the other two cygnets stay strong and make it through their first winter.

I have also been involved in two more rescue attempts that I wanted to share with everyone. On November 7, Laurie and I drove up to Bobcaygeon to capture a lethargic cygnet on a beach on Pigeon Lake. Unfortunately, by the time we arrived, the cygnet moved out of sight back onto the lake and - although there were quite a few people looking for it - two days later it was found deceased. On December 22, I headed out to Port Perry to attempt a rescue on the



Three swans in water including Y43, and local residents, Carrie and Denise, who helped with the rescue attempt. Photo: Steve Paul



shores of Lake Scugog. An adult male, Y43, has been grounded over a week with either a fishing hook or lure caught up under his right wing. He had other plans and moved out onto the ice out of reach, and Toronto Wildlife Centre will now perform an ice rescue on him in the coming days. I look forward to seeing him get back to 100% and freely move around again.



Y43 out of reach on the ice on Lake Skugog. Photo: Steve Paul

Here are a few important stats to pass along, shared by Gary Lane from Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (TRUSCO):

- There have been about 32,000 sightings reported so far in 2022. This is just under the 34,000 sightings reported in 2021.
- There have been 610 cygnet births reported so far in 2022. This number will certainly change, as many Trumpeter Swan families nesting in unknown or remote locations will start showing up at familiar over-wintering locations like LaSalle Park, Tommy Thompson Park, Washago, or even Marmora. All family groups, especially ones with the familiar yellow/black wing tags, will be recorded into a master database for future reference.

For those who are new to following my Trumpeter Swan sightings, there are many different ways you can get involved and report your sightings and observations. They include: reporting Trumpeter Swans on eBird; sending an e-mail to Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (TRUSCO) members like myself; using the Nature Counts app or the Breeding Bird Atlas 3 website or reporting sightings on iNaturalist; using various social media channels (including the TRUSCO Facebook page); reporting sightings directly to Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre or directly to the Trumpeter Swan Society (a USA-based group but they will direct data to TRUSCO).

If you have any additional questions, or would like to get more involved with monitoring Trumpeter Swan activity in 2023, please let me know. I am always looking to expand the network of Swan Spotters in Peterborough and the Kawarthas. We need to do everything we can to help protect the future of this beautiful, magnificent species, the largest native waterfowl species in North America!

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## From the Archives - Historic Christmas Bird Count Results

### Submitted by Martin Parker

The following has been taken from the annual summary of Christmas Bird Counts as published in 'American Birds' by the National Audubon Society.

#### 1970 Count - held on December 26

Total of 36 species of birds with 2,873 individuals. There were 11 participants in 8 field parties. Highlights were one Northern Hawk Owl and two Eastern Screech-Owl (first time on count). There were only six Northern Cardinals. A total of 297 Evening Grosbeaks were reported.

#### 1971 Count - held on December 28

Total of 41 species of birds with 4,734 individuals. There were 19 participants in 9 field parties and two people at feeders. Highlights included 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 3 Snow Geese, 6 Snow Geese (blue form), 1 Ring-necked Pheasant, 1 Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, and 1 Horned Lark. There were only 8 Northern Cardinals and a total of 353 Evening Grosbeaks.

Compare this to the results of the 2022 CBC.



## The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from e-bird, Drew Monkman's Sightings website, PTBO Sightings and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to [orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org) (Note: new address)

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 23 | 1 <b>Mountain Bluebird</b> , Scriven Rd b/w 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Line, Otonabee – South Monaghan, seen by Luke Berg.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Nov. 24 | 1 <b>Short-eared Owl</b> , County Rd 2, Asphodel-Norwood, seen by Alexandra Israel & Brendan Boyd.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Nov. 26 | 1 <b>American Wigeon</b> , O'Connor Drive, Ennismore, seen by Andrew Brown.<br>11 <b>Cackling Goose</b> , Little Lake, Peterborough, seen by Rob Stavinga.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Nov. 27 | 73 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> , Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by David Britton.<br>1 <b>American Wigeon</b> , Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by David Britton.<br>1 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> , Pigeon Lake – Sandy Point, Peterborough, seen by Daniel J. Riley.<br>1 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> , Pigeon Lake – Blind Channel, Peterborough seen by Iain Rayner.                                    |
| Nov. 28 | 6 <b>Tundra Swan</b> , Pigeon Lake – West of Kerry Line, Peterborough, seen by Cathy Douglas.<br>400 <b>Redhead</b> , Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Lynn Smith.<br>1 <b>Gadwall</b> , Little Lake, Mark Street Boat Launch, Peterborough, seen by Dan Chronowic.<br>1 <b>Fox Sparrow</b> , Allandale yard, Peterborough, seen by Pam Martin.                                                    |
| Nov. 29 | 1 <b>Common Grackle</b> , Scriven Road, Peterborough, seen by Ben Taylor.<br>2 <b>American Wigeon</b> , Fothergill Isle Causeway – Pigeon Lake, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.<br>2 <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> , Sandy Point – Pigeon Lake, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.<br>1 <b>Common Grackle</b> (Bronzed), Riverview Park and Zoo, Peterborough, seen by Olivia Maillet & Andrew Brown. |
| Nov. 30 | "Large flock of 20 to 30-plus <b>Evening Grosbeaks</b> regularly visiting our cottage feeders at the east end of Stoney Lake (McNaughton's Bay) over the past few weeks. Great to see them back here after several years' absence in our area." Seen by Rene Gareau.<br>1 <b>Common Grackle</b> , Carveth Drive, Millbrook, Peterborough, seen by Jeff Stewart.                                                      |
| Dec. 1  | 1 <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> , Scriven Road, Bailieboro, Peterborough, seen by Phyllis McNally.<br>1 <b>Double-crested Cormorant</b> , Auburn Reach Park, Peterborough, seen by Emma Long.<br>2 <b>Snow Goose</b> , Bensfort Road N of Landfill site, Peterborough, seen by Natasha Carr-Morril and Bill Crins.                                                                                                     |
| Dec. 4  | 40 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> , Pengelly Landing – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Steve Paul.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Dec. 5  | 1 <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> , Pigeon Lake – West end of Edenderry Line, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.<br>4 <b>Tundra Swans</b> , Pigeon Lake – West end of Edenderry Line, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| Dec. 6  | 1 <b>Redhead</b> , Little Lake (Mark Street Board Launch/Rogers Cove), Peterborough, seen by Dan Chronowic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Dec. 7  | 1 <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> , Pigeon Lake – Sandy Point, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas.<br>3 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> , Pigeon Lake – Blind Channel, Peterborough, seen by David Milsom & Cathy Douglas.<br>2 <b>Ring-necked Duck</b> , Katchewanooka Lake – end of Stenner Road, Peterborough, seen by David Milsom and Cathy Douglas.<br>9 <b>Lesser Scaup</b> , Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Dec. 8  | 25 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> , Pengelly Landing – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas.<br>25 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> , Hall Landing – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Dec. 9  | 15 <b>Redhead</b> , Pengelly Landing – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Trevor MacLaurin & Andrew Brown.<br>2 <b>Canvasback</b> , Pengelly Landing – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Andrew Brown & Trevor MacLaurin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Dec. 10 | 1 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> , Birdsalls Wharf – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.<br>2 <b>Redhead</b> , Hall Landing – Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Donald A. Sutherland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Dec. 11 | 1 <b>Red-winged Blackbird</b> , Westbrook Drive, Peterborough, seen by Martin Parker.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dec. 12 | 2 <b>Sandhill Crane</b> , Allandale Forest, Peterborough, seen by Pam Martin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Dec. 13 | 1 <b>Hermit Thrush</b> , Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Area, Peterborough, seen by Zach Peck.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Dec. 14 | 1 <b>Hermit Thrush</b> , Zion Line, Millbrook seen by Marilyn Hubley.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dec. 17 | 2 <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> , Little Lake (Mark Street Boat Launch/Rogers Cove), Peterborough, seen by Andrew Brown.<br>“I’d like to share a wonderful experience I had with bird visitors to my backyard on December 17. Sitting in my living room which faces south, I was aware of a lot of activity in the trees. I went to the windows and was treated to the sight of dozens of <b>Bohemian Waxwings</b> resting and flitting from branch to branch. They stayed about an hour and then moved on. Their numbers were quite impressive! Not many vocalizations at all. My home is in the north end of Peterborough, in a 10-year-old subdivision, and has a few trees separating it from a large wide open school playground. It was a fascinating hour for me.” Seen by Sandy Campbell. |
| Dec. 18 | 4 <b>Eastern Bluebird</b> , Hooton Drive, Cavan Monaghan, Peterborough, seen by Chris Risley & Erica Nol.<br>1 <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> , Christmas Bird Count Area 3, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom.<br>1 <b>Green-winged Teal</b> , Christmas Bird Count Area 3, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |



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| Dec. 20 | 1 <b>Golden Eagle</b> , Sandy Lake Rd. Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Dec. 21 | 1 <b>Golden Eagle</b> , Lakefield, Ontario, Peterborough, seen by Mike Coyne & Kim Bennett.<br>1 <b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> , Little Lake, Peterborough seen by Dave Milsom.<br>3 <b>Eastern Bluebird</b> , County Road 28, Asphodel-Norwood, seen by Kim Bennett & Mike Coyne. |
| Dec. 22 | 1 <b>Red Crossbill</b> , Trent University Canal Nature Area, Peterborough, seen by Alexander Phippen.                                                                                                                                                                                |

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, February 22

Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)  
or mail submissions via post to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7






Submissions can be articles, photos, anecdotes, nature book reviews, poems, outing reports, nature news, recommendations, interesting things you've learned or observed about nature etc.

### PFN OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### KEY CONTACTS

|                     |                                    |                                                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Membership          | Jim Young                          | 705-760-9397                                                                               |
| Outings Coordinator | Sue Paradisis                      | <a href="mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com">sueparadisis@hotmail.com</a>                     |
| Zoom Meetings       | Reem Ali                           | <a href="mailto:reemest@hotmail.com">reemest@hotmail.com</a>                               |
| Ontario Nature Rep  | Fiona McKay                        | <a href="mailto:fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org">fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org</a>         |
| PFN Juniors         | Activities on hold due to COVID-19 | <a href="mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com">pfnjuniors@gmail.com</a>                             |
| Social Media        | Marilyn Hubley                     | <a href="mailto:media@peterboroughnature.org">media@peterboroughnature.org</a>             |
| The Orchid          | Kathryn Sheridan                   | <a href="mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org">orchid@peterboroughnature.org</a>           |
| Orchid Diary        |                                    | <a href="mailto:orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org">orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org</a> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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# 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.** For E-Transfer go to <https://peterboroughnature.org/membership/join-online/>

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: \_\_\_\_\_