

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Yellow spotted salamander at Kawartha Highlands Signature Site on November 4.
Photo: Sharon Hill

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Clockwise from top: British Soldiers, Cumberland Rock Shield and Reindeer Lichen seen on lichen outing (Sharon Hill)



The first two immediately above are lichens that most of us would have come across during a hike but might not have paid much attention to. The third, British soldiers, is one you have to get down on your knees to see well.

Left: A rare sighting of a female Summer Tanager in Peterborough on November 10 (Don McLeod)



Welcome new PFN members!

- Wendy Marrs
- Ruth Bishop
- Chris & Catherine Pageau
- Natalie Sopinka

PFN Coming Events	
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> 
Dates and times to be announced	<p>Nature Appreciation Walks</p> <p>One of the main reasons for attending outings is spending time with like-minded individuals. Getting out in the fresh air, exercising, and socializing while appreciating nature never gets old. With winter coming, it is more difficult to find "topics" to offer for outings. That doesn't mean we can't get together. 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 e-mail I send out. To register, e-mail sueparadis@hotmai.com or call 705-559-2061</p>
<p>Saturday, Dec. 2</p> <p>9:30 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>20 participants</p>	<p>Give Yourself the Gift of Nature</p> <p>Join Beth McKinlay at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre and experience the relaxing and healing impact of Forest Therapy (a.k.a. Shinrin Yoku/Forest Bathing). In this two hour program, you will be invited to engage in several mindful nature connection practices which can help us to slow down, de-stress, and connect with the natural surroundings. These practices are accessible for all. They are not physically strenuous (there will be options for walking and/or sitting) and a knowledge of the natural world is not required as the focus is on using our senses and curiosity to connect with and explore our surroundings. Participants often comment that a Forest Therapy program leaves them with a greater sense of well-being and an appreciation of their interconnection with the "more than natural world." Insights may arise during mindful nature connection practices that empower our efforts to live in a more conscious relationship with ourselves, each other and with nature. We will begin and end the program indoors. Dress for the weather as we will be moving slowly when we go outdoors. Bring a mug if you would like to enjoy some warm tea. For more information on Beth's approach to using mindful nature connection</p> 

PFN Coming Events	
	practices in a Forest Therapy program, visit sites.google.com/view/mindfulnatureconnection To register after November 4, contact Beth at beth_mckinlay@yahoo.ca Accessibility: easy
Tuesday, Dec. 12 7:30 p.m. Publican House	Conservation Café: Insect Farming, Green Protein, and the Promise of AI A talk by Lee Bess, Ph.D., Chief Insect Officer, Bug Mars
Thursday, Dec. 14 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road	Monthly Meeting: Holiday Season Members' Slide Show Night A long-time annual tradition in the PFN is the members slide show night. We will be treated to several short presentations from our members of photos they have taken. Try to attend in person as we also hope to be treated to some festive baking as well. Please don't feel shy about bringing a goodie or two. Sharing some holiday baking is also part of the December PFN tradition. Friendly reminder... the Environment Centre is a nut-free facility.
Sunday, Dec. 17 All day	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count - A Christmas Tradition Please see article further on for more information.
Monday, Jan. 1 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. 20 participants	First Day 2024 Start your New Year with nature and fellow nature lovers! Ontario Parks has been encouraging people to visit a park on New Years Day for several years and the PFN has taken up the challenge. There are several close to Peterborough and all are beautiful places to visit. We have been to Silent Lake, Burnham Woods and last year to the Trent Nature Sanctuary. Our destination will be decided closer to the date when we know about snow conditions and weather. Regardless, with a group of PFN people, we should find lots to discover and appreciate in addition to fresh air, exercise, and the beauty of nature. To register email sueparadisis@hotmail.com or call 705-559-2061. Accessibility: easy to moderate
Saturday, Jan. 6 1:30 to 3pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 2505 Pioneer Rd., Peterborough	ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NATURALISTS Save this date for the KIDS' CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT! Join us for an important opportunity to help with scientific research and learn more about the birds who winter in Peterborough. To register, contact Shelley King at juniors@peterboroughnature.org . This event is FREE for members and is suitable for ages 5 to 12 (plus interested siblings). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Numbers are limited, so please register early!
Thursday, Jan. 11 Door open 7 p.m.	Monthly Meeting: Presentation by David Beresford David Beresford is a professor at Trent University where he teaches entomology. The topic of his presentation is yet to be announced but it



PFN Coming Events

Hybrid meeting: Zoom and Camp Kawartha	surely will be about insects and it surely will be fascinating. <i>Warning:</i> David's enthusiasm and natural curiosity are contagious. Masks won't save you!
Note: Most 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.	

Other Events of Interest

Saturday, Dec. 2 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ken Reid C.A.	Christmas at Ken Reid Details about this fun-filled, free, family event in Lindsay can be found at: www.kawarthaconservation.com/festivals
Thursday, Dec. 21 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Camp Kawartha on Pioneer Road	Winter Solstice Night Hike Welcome the winter solstice with a night hike followed by a hot drink and an opportunity to warm yourself by a fire. Enjoy and embrace darkness and the longest night of the year. We will create smaller groups to explore the trails for those who are interested in walking. There is also the option to simply sit by the fire and enjoy the beauty of the night. To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/event/winter-solstice-night-hike



Volunteer Corner

Please think about contributing to the PFN as a volunteer. The PFN needs volunteers to help keep the club running so that it can continue to provide the benefits that members enjoy such as outings, monthly meetings, *The Orchid* newsletter and online content.

Currently, the club is looking for outing leaders, members for the advocacy committee, Zoom/tech support for hybrid meetings, and helpers for the City Nature Challenge. These volunteer roles were described in October's *Orchid*.

If interested, Sue would *love* to hear from you. Contact Sue at sueparadisis@hotmail.com



Update on Hybrid Monthly Meetings

Submitted by Fiona McKay

Thanks to those who provided feedback regarding the continuation of the hybrid format for our monthly meetings. Based on that, and with the oncoming winter weather, we have decided to continue with hybrid meetings up to, and including, the Annual General Meeting in March. However, we are continuing to seek tech support for these meetings. Realistically, we need two people to work during a session, and should have 3 to 4 individuals available so that folks can work alternate meetings. The role requires someone(s) with the knowledge to work with laptops and connected devices, the ability to troubleshoot, and be able to multitask during the meeting (monitor the Zoom waiting room, adjust video, respond to chat room

questions/ comments, etc.). It includes getting the speaker and their presentation set up on the laptop being used for the presentation. While not difficult, it does have a lot of moving parts and requires someone comfortable with technology. If you would like to see the Zoom portion of meetings continue and are able, or know someone, to volunteer, please contact us ASAP. We'd also like to hear from you. Is the Zoom offering still important to people? Please send your feedback and/or expression of interest ASAP to Fiona at fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org.

Christmas Gift Ideas from the PFN

Nature in the Kawarthas

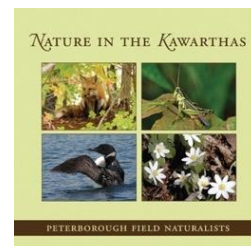
If you are looking for a Christmas gift which focuses on the natural history of our region of the province, *Nature in the Kawarthas* is the book to purchase. *Nature in the Kawarthas* was written by PFN members and published in 2011 by Dundurn Press. It contains articles on the landforms of the region and how they were formed, along with chapters on various groups of plants and animals. There is a summary of places to visit in the region. The book contains multiple colour photographs taken primarily by PFN members. It makes a memorable gift to someone new to the region. This PFN book can be purchased from the following retailers in Peterborough:

- Avant-Garden Shop, 165 Sherbrooke Street
- Green-Up Store, 378 Aylmer Street

NOTE: There is *very limited stock* left of this book. No second edition is being planned at this time, so get yours before they are all gone.

As well, limited quantities of three other PFN publications are available. Please contact Cathy Douglas at cddouglas77@gmail.com if interested.

- *Mammals of Peterborough County* by Geoff Carpentier, 1987
- *Birds from the Ground: The Record of Archaeology in Ontario* by Douglas C. Sadler and Howard G. Savage, 2003
- *Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas* by Douglas C. Sadler, 1983



President's Message

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



To all our members and friends who have generously donated their time in 2023, I wish to extend my gratitude. The PFN would not exist without you. It is through your efforts that members enjoy outings, meetings, The Orchid and online content. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their tireless work. The PFN is stronger because of you.

Wishing you all the happiest of holidays

~ Sue Paradisis, President

Monthly Meetings and Winter Weather Watch

With the onset of winter, we know that hazardous driving conditions can occur at any time. With the continuation of hybrid meetings over the winter, if the weather looks like it will be poor for the meeting, we will cancel the in-person portion of the meeting and move to 100% virtual. This decision will be made the

Wednesday before the meeting (20 to 36 hours prior to the meeting). This will be posted on our website (<https://peterboroughnature.org/>) and social media (Instagram or X (Twitter): @PtboNature). Be sure to check before you trek!!!

2023 PFN Legacy Fund Grants Awarded

Submitted by Martin Parker

The PFN has two annual grant programmes, which are funded by the annual revenue from the PFN Legacy Fund managed on behalf of the PFN by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

This fall, the PFN received six grant applications which were reviewed by the Grant Committee consisting of President Sue Paradisis, Chris Risley and Martin Parker. The Grant Committee submitted a recommendation to the Board. At its October meeting, the Board awarded the following grants:



From left: Mia Bohbot, Alexander Robertson, Sue Paradisis, Beck Bugeya, Autumn White, Selena Kirkland, Martin Parker, and Jade Gorman.

PFN Community Grant

This grant is to a PFN member or community group. A grant of \$200 was awarded to Autumn White who is doing a study of bird's nests to determine the amount of plastic in the nests. She picked up approximately 100 nests from people who volunteered to donate nests to the project.

PFN Research Grant

This grant programme is to assist Trent students with their fourth-year thesis project. A total of five grants were awarded. Grants of \$200 each were awarded to:

Jade Gorman who is examining the benthic diversity in storm water ponds within the City of Peterborough, to determine the important hotspots for diversity and make recommendations regarding management practices.

Alexander Robertson who will determine if annual cicadas have tree preferences through sampling at sites within the City of Peterborough with special emphasis on determining the impact of the decline of ash trees.

Selena Kirkland who will be determining the importance of moths as pollinators for flowers and will be determining the variation between garden types and moth populations

Mia Bohbot who will be determining the extent to which nocturnal mammals are selecting processed food over natural foods. The results will be related back to the mammals' life histories and phenologies, and will further our knowledge of the effect of humans on their scavenging behaviour.

Beck Bugeya who will focus her project on the endangered small-mouthed salamander and the invasive White River crayfish on Pelee Island. This project is being funded through generous donations by several PFN members.

All grant recipients will be invited to a future PFN meeting to present their results to the members and also make a submission to *The Orchid*.

Donations and/or bequests to the PFN Legacy fund to enhance the grant programme are most welcome. Please contact the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

2024 PFN Annual General Meeting Online Auction!

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO CLEAN YOUR GARAGE!

PFN is again hosting its online auction event in conjunction with our 2024 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.

2024 Membership Renewals

The PFN is now accepting memberships and renewals for 2024. You can join or renew by mail or online. To subscribe 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 subscribe online, go to the PFN website, click on "Join Today", then "Join Online". Fill out the form, submit it, and then click on "Donation". 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 (to: payments@peterboroughnature.org) 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 2024.

Strategic Plan Update

Share your ideas! The Peterborough Field Naturalists are creating a new strategic plan and we want to hear from you. PFN members, community partners and the public are invited to participate in our strategic planning process. Your ideas and experiences are important to us as we determine our focus and priorities for the coming years. Complete the short survey by December 8th, 2023 to help us shape the future together. The online survey link (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFN_SP) is also available on the PFN website.

Funded by the
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Community Services Recovery Fund



Community
Foundation
of Greater Peterborough



Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Fall Meeting

Submitted by Fiona McKay

The 2023 Ontario Nature fall regional meeting was held on October 28, in Oshawa. The meeting was hosted by Friends of Second Marsh and attended by 27 individuals representing 17 clubs, of which PFN is one.

Friends of Second Marsh gave two interesting presentations on issues of relevance to their organisation and the work they do. The first presentation described their efforts to control phragmites spread in the McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve (zone 1), and the second discussed how stewardship can be done in a meaningful way using volunteers.

In this issue, I'll provide an overview of those presentations. Next issue, we'll update you on what's going on with Ontario Nature at this time.



Let's De-Phrag the Marsh Project

Wioletta Walancik, Administrative & Program Director of Friends, gave a very interesting presentation on their efforts to control phragmites (a.k.a common reed, common reedgrass, giant reed) within the marsh and wildlife reserve as a whole. It's a multi-year project to eradicate invasive phragmites from Second Marsh and the McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve and the surrounding areas. The presentation gave an overview of the life history of the species and why it is of concern. (It grows and spreads quickly into very dense monoculture stands, can reach heights of up to 5 metres (16 feet), outcompetes native vegetation for water and nutrients, displaces native vegetation and decreases biodiversity, and provides poor habitat for wildlife).

Their 2019 management plan identified phragmites management as a high priority requiring attention. In 2020, they consulted with the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC) to identify and prioritize actions for infected areas at Second Marsh and the surrounding properties. Long-term project objectives included: elimination of invasive phragmites from Second Marsh, nearby natural areas, and contamination sources; increased protection of productive habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species including species at risk; education of the community on the nature of invasive phragmites and the necessary management actions, and; raising community and stakeholder awareness of unique natural experiences and features at Second Marsh and the surrounding areas.



Dominant introduced *Phragmites australis* sub-species *australis* in McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve before management actions by Friends of Second Marsh. Photo: Karen Arbour

They are using the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF) (<https://www.greatlakesphragmites.net/pamf/>) to guide their activities. To date, they have created a post card, organized a webinar, organized a hike, and installed temporary signage, as part of their education outreach. In June 2021, they mapped the phragmites distribution in Zone 1. Monitoring of the distribution and spread took place in July of 2021, 2022 and 2023. A variety of management actions have also taken place: "spading" (a technique to damage the roots) occurred during October 2021, June and September 2022 and May and June 2023; herbicide applications took place in September of 2022 and 2023; and finally, mowing and mulching took place in November 2022 and 2023.

The actions of Friends of Second Marsh were recognized by the Durham Environment & Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC). They were a 2023 Durham Environmental Achievement Award Recipient. As well, they received the Dr. J. Murray Speirs Restoration Award for the restoration of the natural environment and supporting climate adaptation by restoring one acre of natural habitat in the Oshawa Second Marsh and McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Preserve and for raising community awareness of natural features.

Meaningful Plant Stewardship with Volunteers

The second presentation was given by Susan Ellis, board member and Treasurer of Friends of Second Marsh. It was a thoughtful presentation on how we view plant stewardship, intent, meaningful terminology, approaches, and philosophy. The philosophy that this approach tries to teach is as follows: treat all human and non-human beings with respect, express gratitude, reflect on stewardship, pay attention to our words, and most importantly, listen, learn, collaborate, and teach. For example, they stopped using terms like "invasive" and started using words like "preferred", etc.

In concert with other organizations (Toronto Nature Stewards, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Invasive Species Council), and in recognition of the amount of work to be done and the size of the volunteer base, the group considered the importance of "thoughtful planning" and developed an algorithm to identify and

prioritize plants for management activities. This algorithm, which works using spreadsheets, helps to develop plant management seasonal calendars. The calendars prioritize and display in a visual way what plants should be managed (what), at what time of year (when) and by whom (volunteer stewards, plant stewardship leads, municipality or contracted specialists). Thoughtful planning reinforces intent, builds community, creates impactful stewardship and enables green fulfillment.

People interested in more information on this can visit the Friends of Second Marsh website at <https://www.secondmarsh.ca/plant-stewardship/>

Outing Report: MNRF Fishing and Recreation Area, Millbrook Valley Trails

Submitted by Lynn Smith

On Sunday, October 29, a cold morning greeted us as four participants and leader, Lynn Smith, gathered at the entrance to the Millbrook Valley Trails and trout pond area. We started along the trail taking note of two well-established invasive plants: Common Buckthorn and Autumn Olive. Both species are prolific seed producers, thrive in a variety of habitats, form dense thickets, and ultimately outcompete native species thereby reducing plant species diversity.



Group at Baxter Creek. Photo: Don McLeod

The two trout ponds along the trail are managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Each year the ponds are stocked with Brook Trout which provide recreational fishing. We observed a large school of minnows but the Brook Trout were in hiding.



An unusually extroverted Hermit Thrush. Photo: Don McLeod

We continued along the Grand Trunk Pathway to the historic stone railway bridge with Baxter Creek flowing through. A picturesque moment! Baxter Creek is a cold-water stream with headwaters in the Oak Ridges Moraine and it empties into the Otonabee River. It is home to two cold-water fish species: the native Brook Trout and non-native Brown Trout. A quick history lesson revealed that around 1857 a wooden railway trestle once crossed the Millbrook Valley which spanned several hundred feet. By 1865 it was filled in, creating a berm. The stone bridge was built to accommodate Baxter Creek.

We then headed up the hill to walk along the railway berm, over the valley, and continue our loop back to the cars.

The forest floor was covered with leaves with few left on the trees. Our goal was to identify a leaf and then find the tree that it belonged to. We distinguished between Bur Oak and Red Oak; three poplar species: Eastern Cottonwood, Bigtooth Aspen, and Trembling Aspen; American Beech and White Birch.

Twelve bird species were identified. Of note was a flock of 20 Purple Finches, many feeding on catkins. A Hermit Thrush put on a show flitting back and forth along the trail. Other species included Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, American Robin, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Northern Cardinal.

It was a leisurely walk with everyone sharing their knowledge of nature. It was an enjoyable walk with friends. It was another successful PFN walk.

Outing Report: Miniature World of Lichens

Submitted by Sharon Hill

On Saturday, November 4, a lucky group of nine of us were treated to a wonderfully informative and fun lichen adventure at Kawartha Highlands Signature Park by Lou Smyrlis. Thanks to Lou, augmented by his son Jason and some very knowledgeable members of our group, we learned about, searched for and examined a wide variety of crustose, fruticose and foliose lichen (see, I learned something). Twenty-two species were identified, some of which included reindeer lichens, mealy pixie cups, bristly beard, smooth and lessor rock tripe and dog pelt lichen. The most sought after were red tipped and we found both Lipstick Powderhorn and British soldiers.

Due to the expansive knowledge of Lou and Jason, they also identified various mosses, ferns and fungi that live in harmony with the lichen. Thanks to Amy we were treated to a yellow spotted salamander that was tucked under an oak leaf. Kathy shared the trick of photographing



PFN members checking out the lichens. Photo: Sharon Hill



Photo of mealy pixie cup lichen by Sharon Hill

lichen by turning your cell camera upside down to get an underside perspective, which set off a flurry of photos by those of us trying to get a decent shot. The weather was perfect; the park was spectacular in its understated way, and our eyes feasted on little treats everywhere we looked. We actually made it to the rapids, which was a miracle given that we inched our way along focusing on and sharing our discoveries of the mini world of lichen. Thanks Lou. It wouldn't have happened without you!!

Lichen can be found and enjoyed everywhere, year-round, so remember to also focus on the small stuff when you are outside, even in your backyard.

PFN Juniors Report: Pollinator Power

The sun was shining as the PFN Juniors gathered at the Riverview Park and Zoo during the first P.A. day of the school year on September 29. The group



Fun and games during Pollinator Power at Riverview Park & Zoo. Photo: Jennifer Lennie

explored the pollinator gardens spread throughout the zoo and had a chance to see some pollination in action at several plants in bloom such as goldenrod, asters, and *Rubus* [a large and diverse genus of flowering plants in the rose family]. Everyone enjoyed planting some flower seeds that are popular among pollinators, including black-eyed susans and Echinacea, taking them home to boost habitat throughout Peterborough. We would like to extend a great big thank you to Meredith Carter and Candace Clark from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, and Trent University placement student, Noah, for leading the event and sharing their expertise with us!



PFN Juniors planting seeds. Photo: Jennifer Lennie

PFN Juniors Report: Turtle Encounters - Up Close and Personal

Submitted by Jennifer Lennie

The Juniors were in for a treat with a tour of the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC) on October 21. All participants got to meet and greet many of the resident turtles at the centre, including Andrea the blanding's turtle, Mr. D the snapping turtle, and Rusty the wood turtle. The kids learned about the eight species of turtles found in Ontario, how OTCC



PFN Juniors meet the OTCC resident turtles. Photo: Jennifer Lennie

is helping to rehabilitate injured turtles, and how Juniors can help turtles they come across in the great outdoors. It was very exciting to check out the hatchery where over 3,000 turtles have hatched this year. A highlight was watching snapping turtles hatch from their eggs right before our eyes! We are grateful to Lisa Browning, the Education Coordinator, for giving a fun-filled tour of the facility, and helping Juniors and grown-ups alike gain an appreciation for these special creatures.



Newly hatched turtles are shown to the PFN Juniors. Photo: Jennifer Lennie

White Pine: A Symbol of Perseverance Against Disastrous Logging Practices

Submitted by Jason and Lou Smyrlis

The eastern white pine, Ontario's official tree, is a link to the vast forests that once covered Ontario, the ill-advised practices that almost destroyed them, and the determination that is bringing them back.

The tallest of the northeastern conifers, the white pine grows to about 30 m (98 ft) and 100 cm (3 ft round). Its canopy spreads over a 12 m (39 ft) area. The tallest known white pine in Ontario, near Ottawa, is 47 m (154 ft) tall. The white pine is also one of the longest-lived tree species. Initially thought to live for at least 400 years, tree ring analysis in Algonquin Provincial Park has revealed white pines can live over 500 years.

Before the arrival of European settlers, stands of eastern white pine dominated the landscape of central and southern Ontario. Its straight, light and easily worked wood, however, became highly prized in the 18th century for building material, furniture and the masts of British Royal Navy ships. After two centuries of intense logging, it's estimated that current white pine coverage in the Great Lakes forest region is only half of what it used to be and only about a third of what it used to be in the boreal forest regions.

The clear cuts of white pine in many areas caused the topsoil to blow away. Nothing could grow in the sandy layer that was left exposed, creating desert-looking areas called blowsands. Even in harvested areas that still supported plant life the white pine did not grow back. The over-harvesting significantly reduced seed sources, making it difficult for the white pine population to bounce back. White pines don't produce good seed crops until the trees are 20 to 30 years old. The largest white pines produce the most seed and



Rising to 100 feet, the eastern white pine towers above all other trees in Kawartha's forests. Photo: Lou Smyrlis

only every seven to 10 years. Yet the dominant harvesting practice of the time was to cut the biggest pines first. White pine seedlings also do well in areas regenerated by fire, which exposes the mineral soil they prefer and reduces competing plants and the overhead shade they create. Yet fire in our forests is suppressed.

In the 1920s, however, the Ontario government started the Agreement Forest Program, a partnership with counties and municipalities to plant white pines in the blowsand areas. As the conifers grew, their roots stabilized the soil, reducing erosion. The needles and branches they shed enriched the forest floor with organic matter and nutrients while their spreading canopy shaded the soil, creating the cool, moist conditions that other species needed to grow.

It took 100 years but the damage was eventually reversed and the blowsand areas are now once again supporting a diversity of life, teeming under the protective canopy of the iconic eastern white pine.

Winter Finch Forecast

By Forecaster Tyler Hoar, of the Finch Research Network (FiRN)

This year's Winter Finch Forecast will be a mosaic of movements differing in intensity and area across the species.

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, and explore finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird.



Male Pine Grosbeak. Photo: Don McLeod

The boreal forest has generally a poor to below average cone crop this year that is bookended with bumper cone crops in Alaska and Newfoundland. Coastal areas to the south on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts have above-average cone crops, which seem to quickly drop in quality as one progresses inland. Large areas of the boreal forest across interior Canada have a very poor to poor cone crop. Only the Alder crop appears to be above average across the boreal forest.

The southern edge of the eastern boreal forest from Lake Superior eastward to the Atlantic coast and southward to the northeastern states has extensive areas of bumper Eastern White Pine crop. This area also contains an above-average deciduous tree seed crop and excellent fruiting crop.

PINE GROSBEAK: There is a widespread good crop of Mountain Ash berries from Lake Superior eastward. However, areas in Labrador appear patchy away from the coast. Most Pine Grosbeaks should remain in the eastern boreal forest with some flight into their traditional wintering areas in southeastern Canada and northern New England states.

West of Lake Superior, the Mountain Ash crop through the boreal forest westward generally appears below average with some areas of good 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.

PURPLE FINCH: The movement of this species is one of opposite extremes this fall. Strong southward flights have been seen by mid-September at the Hawk Ridge Hawkwatch near Duluth, Minnesota. While to the east at Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac, Quebec, there has been very little movement. Northwest of Duluth into northwestern Ontario and Manitoba, the pit fruit and cone crop is below average, with

reported areas of absence of food. While east of Lake Superior, the pit and deciduous fruit crops are above average and widespread.

In the east, many Purple Finches are expected to overwinter in southern Canada and the northeastern United States. Meanwhile from the upper Midwest states westward, there should be a stronger flight southward through the middle of the United States. Don't be surprised if, as winter progresses, a late movement in January and February occurs into the Carolinas as eastern crops are depleted.

At feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

COMMON AND HOARY REDPOLLS: Across the whole boreal forest, a good Alder crop has been reported. However, in the same areas, the spruce and birch crops are poor to below average. Expect a moderate flight south out of the boreal forest. Watch for redpolls on birches, in weedy fields and at bird feeders offering nyjer® and black oil sunflower seeds. Watch for Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls. See the link below for photos and identification marks of Common and Hoary Redpoll subspecies.



Common Redpolls. Photo: Rene Gareau

PINE SISKIN: Significant numbers of siskins have started to leave the boreal forest in mid-September, with 1000s reported daily at migration monitoring stations from Duluth, Minnesota eastward to Tadoussac Quebec. With the poor White Spruce crop in much of the boreal forest, there should be a moderate to possibly strong flight of siskins southward this fall. This entertaining species prefers nyjer® seeds in silo or sock feeders.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: With poor to absent cone crops reported across the interior boreal forest away from Alaska and Newfoundland, noteworthy movements of White-winged Crossbills have already occurred eastward to the Maritime Provinces and northeastern states since June. The excellent spruce crops in Alaska and Newfoundland have drawn many crossbills away from the interior. As remaining crossbills exhaust the below-average cone crop within the boreal forest, expect nomadic movements of small flocks of crossbills to come south during the winter in search of food.

Thus, additional movements may be seen this winter into areas like southeastern Canada and the northeastern states, and westward into upper Midwest States and southern Manitoba as they look for suitable cone crops.

We may even see White-winged Crossbills away from forests, using heavy crops on planted native and ornamental spruces within urban environments.

RED CROSSBILL: As written above there is an excellent and widespread Eastern White Pine cone crop in place, and Type 12s have been around in their usual areas in the northeastern states since June-July.

During the middle of July however, Types 2 and 4 started invading the Great Lakes area, Ontario, Maritime provinces, and the northeastern states from across the continent, and there are growing subtle signs that Type 3 might be coming eastward as well. These types will all be hitting the bumper Eastern White Pine crop until it is exhausted (the White-winged Crossbills will probably hit it too). Birds will also be found in the remaining Red and White Spruce crops through fall and into early winter.

Once the calendar flips to 2024, will the Eastern White Pine crop be enough to hold birds and possibly initiate breeding, or will they be on the scramble looking here there and everywhere for food? As we get into the heart of winter, be sure to check your local patch of pitch, red, jack and Japanese black pines (aka the "hard pines") for Type 12 and likely other types like large-billed Type 2 that will come south into coastal

area pitch pine. Overall, expect crossbills to turn up in widespread areas in the east as winter progresses and turns into spring. Type 1 will be in the mix in interior areas as well.

The Red Crossbill 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. See the link below for Red Crossbill call types.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Eastward from Lake Superior is a bumper crop of fruit on Chokecherry, and above-average berry and deciduous seed crops. With this diverse and widespread food source available in the east, expect most birds to remain in the boreal forest and adjacent areas of Central Ontario, southern Quebec, the Maritime provinces, New England states, and New York this winter.

Evening Grosbeaks in northwestern Ontario westward 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. Evening Grosbeaks will look away from feeders for maple and ash trees still holding seeds. See the links section below for Evening Grosbeak call types eBird article and The Evening Grosbeak Road to Recovery Project.

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

BLUE JAY: In eastern North America, the deciduous tree crop appears above average, so expect a small to maybe moderate flight this fall. With the poorer crops west of Lake Superior, there should be a moderate flight of Blue Jays southward.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Populations in the boreal forest should have small flights this year. Balsam Fir in the boreal forest, which is not infested with Spruce Budworms, has a good cone crop. This crop should hold many nuthatches closer to home this winter.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Most Bohemians will likely stay in the north because native Mountain Ash berry crops are good, and other berry crops range from fair to good across the eastern boreal forest.

Lake Superior westward should see more widespread movements of waxwings. In the east, small numbers will probably arrive mid to late winter in traditional areas from Central Ontario eastward into the Maritime provinces and northern New England as winter progresses and food resources dwindle. If some move south, this species will forage on buckthorn and planted European Mountain Ash berries and ornamental crabapples.



Bohemian Waxwing. Photo: Don McLeod

For the full report, which includes reference links and a summary of contributors, go to <https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2023-2024>

December Nature at a Glance

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

Small numbers of loons and ducks linger on area lakes until freeze-up. On lakes such as Buckhorn and Stoney, eagles are often seen sitting on the ice near open water. Watch for hawks and sometimes Snowy Owls in open fields. Between mid-December and early January, Christmas Bird Counts are held.

The coat of the Red Squirrel becomes a brilliant russet. Muskrats continue to build piles of vegetation in holes they have broken in the ice. Before the snow gets too deep, try identifying and interpreting mammal tracks and various signs such as "nip twigs."

With a little practice, all conifers and most mature hardwoods can be identified by shape alone. Pines shed their cones in the late fall and early winter. Choosing a Christmas tree? Consider a Balsam Fir.

The winter solstice marks the beginning of winter. The Kawartha Lakes are frozen most years by December 12. Average daily temperatures for the month are a maximum of -1 °C and a minimum of -10 °C. Snowfall averages 42 centimeters. For the Kawarthas, the chances of having a white Christmas are over 80%. In mid-December, the sun rises at about 7:20 a.m. and sets around 4:35 p.m.

Clear December evenings make for excellent stargazing. Cassiopeia looms high in the north sky and resembles an "M." In the southeast, look for the Winter Six: Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga, Canis Major and Canis Minor. The Big Dipper is low in the north.

Books on Ontario's natural history make great Christmas gifts. A family outing to a Christmas tree farm provides a welcome break from the rush of the holiday season. Ice and snow this month offer up all sorts of photographic possibilities.



Red squirrel photo by Laurie Healey

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

It has been pretty quiet around the Peterborough area this summer. The main pair of Trumpeter Swans seen the most has been the untagged, unbanded (UTUB) pair that have stayed around all year. They were seen many times at the Television Road ponds, and I have also seen them along the Lang-Hastings Trail on my morning walks. They never settled on a nesting site, nor had any cygnets, so likely they are still young (around the three-year-old mark), and hopefully next year they will come into maturity.

As for X66 Sadie and her UTUB partner Chip, they have only been seen a couple of times since they abandoned their old nesting site this spring. Not sure what happened. With Sadie still being young they have many good nesting years ahead of them. They were spotted at the Thompson Bay Dam area once this summer (where they spent pretty much all 2021), and were also seen on a couple of different lakes, the last time being November 10 on Chemong Lake. Erin Shannon posted a photo on the Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario Facebook group after she spotted them, and soon after we connected and I have shared all the



Sadie and Chip on November 10 on Chemong Lake. Photo: Erin Shannon

wonderful information I know about them. Anytime I can help educate people about the positive effects of Trumpeter Swan conservation I am always happy to do so.

As we move into the colder weather, Trumpeters are known to gather on areas like Pigeon Lake and Sturgeon Lake to the North, and Rice Lake to the South, where they have access to lots of food being shallow waterbodies. We will see with the prediction of this being an El Nino winter. If they have access to open water and food longer then there will be no reason for them to move. Time will tell. As always, please report sightings through eBird or iNaturalist, especially if you see yellow/black tags on their wings, so that this information can be recorded into the TSCO database. You are welcome to send me information about tagged swans to stevepaul70@gmail.com as I love to follow tagged swans as well.

Rare Bird in Area: Summer Tanager

Submitted by Don McLeod

A rare bird sighting that attracted many local birders was the lone female Summer Tanager. It appeared in the city of Peterborough around Leslie Ave and Gilmour St and was observed during November 9 & 10. Peterborough County, which includes the city, has only two eBird reports for this species. The first report was April 20, 1995 and now 28 years later, we have this recent cluster of observations. Normally a bird found in the southern USA, this bird was clearly off course and faced a long trip back home. In the meantime, it had a good feed on berries and wasps. Thanks to Chris Risley who first discovered this Summer Tanager at his home and for guiding folks as they recorded a lifer for the county.



Summer Tanager feasting on wasps in Peterborough on November 10. Photo: Don McLeod

Local Nature Artist Honoured

Submitted by Martin Parker

Local artist, Buckhorn area resident and supporter of the PFN, Michael Dumas, was awarded the Simon Combes Conservation Award by the organization 'Artists for Conservation' for his paintings which promote and raise funds for a wide range of conservation groups around the world.

Michael Dumas created the current design of the logo of the PFN as well as the orchid on the masthead of PFN's newsletter. In the past, Michael has donated artwork to the PFN to help raise money to assist in the projects of the PFN.

Congratulations are extended by the PFN to Michael for receiving this special recognition.



Michael Dumas, right, receives his award from Guy Combes, the son of artist Simon Combes. From Marlys Kerkman's article in The Peterborough Examiner on Nov. 6.

Peterborough Christmas Bird Count - A Christmas Tradition

PFN Citizen Science Project: Sunday, December 17 - all day

The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 72nd year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. Organization of this year's Peterborough count has commenced, and members and friends of the PFN are invited to participate. If you are unable to participate in one of the field parties you can still assist by registering your feeder and counting the birds that visit during the day. Some participants will contribute by walking their neighbourhood. Others walk unopened road allowances. There are many ways to participate and learn more about our winter birds.



The Peterborough CBC participants cover an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometers, centered on the intersection of Chemong Road and Sunset Boulevard. There are ten areas within the count circle, each of which will be covered by a specific group of participants. The count area will be subdivided by the area leader in order to enhance coverage. A map showing the count circle and areas is available on the PFN website: peterboroughnature.org/resources

The areas and confirmed Area Leaders are as follows:

Chemong/Bridgenorth.....	Don McLeod
Miller Creek/Selwyn.....	Drew Monkman and Brian Wales
Lakefield/Otonabee East	Dave Milsom
Douro Wedge.....	Bill Crins & Mike Oldham
Burnham	Warren Dunlop & Janet Kelly
Stewart Hall/Landfill	Joan DiFruscia & Pam Martin
Airport	Matthew Tobey
Cavan Swamp	Chris Risley & Erica Nol
Jackson Park	Jerry Ball & Scott Gibson
Downtown.....	Martin Parker

Plan now to register and participate in this Peterborough birding tradition and citizen science project. To register contact Martin Parker (count compiler) as soon as possible by phone 705-745-4750 or by e-mail mparker19@cogeco.ca.

This is the 123rd year Christmas Bird Counts are being held across North America. Join this Christmas birding tradition.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, December 21.

Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at 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.



The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from eBird's rare bird sightings, Drew Monkman's Sightings website and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org

Oct 12	Drew Monkman's Sightings website records an interesting report by Stephanie Armstrong of Warsaw who observed a very late hatching of a Snapping Turtle nest between October 8 and 12. Hatching usually occurs late August early September!
Oct 22	<p>A flock of 9 and another of 30 Brant were spotted at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake by Dave Milsom, Don Sutherland. Later in the day, a huge flock of 248 was seen by Jake Nafziger.</p> <p>Black Scoters (4) were also seen on Pigeon Lake by Dave and Don, while Andrew Brown and Sarah Bonnett saw another in the Selwyn Beach Conservation Area with a flock of Surf Scoters.</p> <p>A Semipalmated Sandpiper was seen at the Yankee Line pond by Drew Monkman, Dave Milsom and Don Sutherland.</p> <p>Sue Paradisis and Marilyn Hubley spotted a Northern Goshawk in a field on Eagleson Line, Cavan, while Cathy Douglas, Dave Milsom and Leo Weiskittel saw one on Nephton Ridge.</p> <p>Dan Chronic saw an Eastern Phoebe at the Otonabee Gravel Pits.</p> <p>Marilyn Hubley observed 2 Savannah Sparrows on Smithson Road, and a Lincoln's Sparrow on Hutchison Drive, Cavan.</p> <p>A Palm Warbler was seen by Scott Gibson on Creamery Road.</p>
Oct 24	Two Trumpeter Swans flew over Marilyn Freeman while she was kayaking on Thompson Bay. Reem Ali reported seeing approximately 10 Dark-eyed Juncos in her backyard near the zoo and Rene Gareau noticed a flock at his cottage on Stoney Lake.
Oct 25	Dave Milsom saw a Red-necked Grebe at Sandy Point on Pigeon Lake.
Oct 26	Gord McQuade observed a White-eyed Vireo , which was later seen by many, at Avery Avenue Ponds.
Oct 27	<p>The Marsh Wren originally seen in mid-October is continuing at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, according to a sighting by Don Sutherland.</p> <p>Luke Berg and Angela Mattos each reported a continuing Eastern Phoebe in their yards in Peterborough and Douro.</p>
Oct 29	<p>Red-shouldered Hawks were seen by Angela Mattos on Cedar Cross Road and by Matthew Tobey on the Lang Hastings Trail near River Road.</p> <p>Lynn Smith observed Bohemian Waxwings at Mississauga Lake, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the Millbrook Ponds.</p> <p>At Ecology Park, Paige Brunelle noted Cedar Waxwings, Dark-eyed Juncos and a Brown Creeper.</p> <p>Sue Paradisis noticed House Finches and a Raccoon in a tree in her Peterborough yard.</p>

Oct 30	Jake Nafziger spotted a late Osprey along the shoreline at Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted by Iain Rayner on Maria St.
Nov 1	Cathy Douglas saw a Gadwall and a pair of American Wigeon on Fothergill Isle Causeway. A Spotted Sandpiper was seen by Kale Worman at the Promise Rock Nature Area. Luke Berg saw a flock of 11 Dunlins flying overhead on the Lang Hastings Trail near Drummond Line. A Pectoral Sandpiper was seen by Mike Burrell in his yard in Douro. Angela Mattos observed 2 Golden Eagles soaring from her yard on Cedar Cross Rd. A Long-eared Owl was heard, then seen by Tim Haan at Corrigan Hill.
Nov 2	A flock of 6 Ruddy Ducks was seen at Pengelly Landing by Trevor MacLaurin, Andrew Brown and Jake Nafziger, and a single bird was seen by Trevor at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Chris Risley and Ben Taylor spotted a pair of Red-necked Grebes at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake. An American Goshawk was seen in Douro by Angela Mattos, Drew Monkman, Cathy Douglas and Sue Paradisis. Cathy later saw another at McCracken's Landing Road.
Nov 3	A flock of 17 Dunlin were observed by Drew Monkman at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Additional Dunlins were noted between Lock 22 and 23 by Andrew Brown and Olivia Maillet and at Scriven Rd by Dave Milsom and Jake Nafziger.
Nov 4	Jake Nafziger noted 4 Eastern Meadowlarks flying together near Scriven Rd. Paige Brunelle observed that there were still 2 Common Loons on Chandos Lake.
Nov 5	A Brant was seen by Jessica Abernethy at Crystal Lake. Angela Mattos observed a Turkey Vulture , a Golden Eagle a Red-shouldered Hawk from her yard on Cedar Cross Rd, Douro. Other Golden Eagles were seen at Nephton Ridge (1) by Dave Milsom and Jake Nafziger and at Chemong Rd Walmart (1) by Angela Mattos. Red-shouldered Hawks were also noted at Nephton Ridge and Scriven Rd by Drew Monkman and others. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard in Thompson Bay area by Dave Milsom. Ian Sturdee and Brad Xamin reported an Eastern Phoebe and a Gray Catbird at Cordova Lake. Paul Elliott reported a pair of late Red-winged Blackbirds in his yard at University Heights.
Nov 7	Fox Sparrows were observed in many locations over the week: by Mike Burrell in his Douro backyard (1); by Drew Monkman on Maple Cres, Peterborough (2); by Tony Barrett at his feeder on Whitfield Rd (2); by Sue Paradisis on Tudor Cres (1); by Patrick Kramer at Otonabee Gravel Pits (4); by Dan Chronowic in Jackson Park (2). Late Common Grackles have been seen at feeders by Laurie Healey in her yard on Keene Rd and by Wendy Hogan at her Mississauga Lake yard. Large flocks of Sandhill Cranes were observed flying overhead by Cathy Douglas at Petroglyphs Provincial Park and Fiona McKay near Lindsay.
Nov 9	Marie Duchesneau noted a Broad-winged Hawk with a squirrel on Connor Ave.

	<p>A very late Red-eyed Vireo was seen by Luke Berg on Gilmour St.</p> <p>Patrick Kramer saw a Chipping Sparrow with a flock of Dark-eyed Juncos on the Rotary Park Trail.</p> <p>Chris Risley and Erica Nol noticed an amazing female Summer Tanager on Leslie Ave, which was seen by many over the next few days!</p>
Nov 10	<p>A large flock of Redheads was observed by Cameron Rogers and Marilyn Hubley and others at Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake. These were later accompanied by 4 Canvasbacks and continuing Ruddy Ducks. This mixed flock continued here at least until November 20.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas saw a Northern Pintail at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p> <p>Scott Gibson saw a Golden Eagle from his office window in downtown Peterborough. Cathy Douglas saw one at Buckley Lake, Douro, Ben Taylor noted one near Bensfort Corners and Laurie Healey saw one on Keene Rd.</p> <p>Rob Pratten saw a flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings feeding on winter berries on Anstruther Lake, along with Dark-eyed Juncos, Blue Jays, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch.</p>
Nov 12	<p>A Long-eared Owl was seen by Angela Mattos in her Douro yard.</p> <p>Pam Martin found her first Northern Shrike of the season freshly dead and partially eaten on the Lang Hastings Trail near Drummond Line.</p> <p>Matt Garvin noticed a young Chipping Sparrow in his East City yard and Marilyn Hubley saw one on Best Rd.</p>
Nov 13	<p>Laurie Healey had an immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker visiting feeders in her Keene Rd yard. This bird continued here until at least November 19.</p>
Nov 14	<p>4 Killdeer were observed by Dan Chronowic and Kale Worman between Locks 22 and 23 on the Otonabee River. At least one of these birds continued until at least November 20.</p>
Nov 15	<p>A Cackling Goose was seen by Don Sutherland on the Otonabee River south of Lakefield.</p> <p>Luke Berg noticed a pair of Sandhill Cranes fly over the Lang Hastings Trail near Drummond.</p> <p>A Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake, by Drew Monkman.</p> <p>A Common Grackle continued to be seen near Keene Rd by Steve Paul.</p>
Nov 16	<p>A late Yellow-rumped Warbler was spotted by Don Sutherland at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p> <p>Luke Berg noticed a Fox Sparrow in a flock of juncos on the Lang Hastings Trail and 3 more the next day near Blezard Line.</p>
Nov 18	<p>A Black Scoter was seen by Dan Riley on Pigeon Lake.</p> <p>American Goshawks were seen at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake by Kim Bennett and Mike Coyne, by Angela Mattos at her yard on Cedar Cross Ave, Douro and by Chris Lemieux on the Lang Hastings Trail near Nelson Rd.</p>
Nov 19	<p>Andrew Brown noticed a Horned Grebe at Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake.</p> <p>A Wilson's Snipe was seen at the Airport Ponds by Matt Tobey.</p>

	A Spotted Sandpiper was observed on the Otonabee River between Locks 22 and 23 by Zach Peck.
Nov 20	Matt Tobey noticed an immature Tundra Swan amongst a flock of Trumpeter Swans at Herkimer Point, Rice Lake. While there, he also observed an American Wigeon and a Yellow-rumped Warbler . Another American Wigeon was seen at the Hilliard Bridge near the dam, by Trevor MacLaurin.
Nov 22	A Cackling Goose was heard flying with a flock of Canada Geese by Jax Nasimok. Camryn Vestry noticed a hen Wood Duck sitting amongst a flock of Mallards .

More Birds in Anishnaabemowin

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

Cardinal: Amesikoowabineshiinh - Meskwa refers to the colour red. Bineshii is the word for birds. This name literally means red bird and that makes sense because the colour is the most distinguishing aspect of this bird.

Blue Jay: Diindiisi

Goldfinch: Aginjibagwesi

Mallard: Aninishiip - Literally means "common duck." (Although the mallard is not a 'winter' bird, it certainly knows how to hang around Ptbo! The prefix "nini" is applied to all things that are unique and ubiquitous. The mallard is both.)

And with winter on the horizon, can goon (snow) be far off?






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JUNIOR NATURALIST NEWS



peterboroughnature.org email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org

December 2023

Mark Your Calendar!

It's almost time for the KIDS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!

DATE: Saturday, January 6th, 2024

TIME: 1:30 to 3pm

LOCATION: Camp Kawartha Environment Centre

2505 Pioneer Road, Peterborough

REGISTRATION: Contact Shelley King at

juniors@peterboroughnature.org.

This event is FREE for members and is suitable for ages 5 to 12 (plus interested siblings).

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Numbers are limited so please register soon!

What is a Christmas Bird Count?

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is North America's longest-running Citizen Science project and now includes more than 2000 locations and tens of thousands of volunteers just like you! It started way back in 1900.

The results from each CBC event in Canada are compiled and submitted to **Birds Canada** and are used by conservation biologists, environmental planners, and naturalists to track population trends and distribution of birds. This is an important opportunity to help with scientific research and learn more about the birds who winter in Peterborough. It's also lots of fun! For more information, check out

<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count-for-kids>.

Bring your binoculars & dress warmly. There will be some extra kids' binoculars for anyone who doesn't have their own.

**We'll wrap up our time together with hot chocolate and hot apple cider!
We hope to see you there!**

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: _____