

The Orchid



January/February 2024

Volume 70, No. 1

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly. Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



A female Northern Cardinal in winter. Photo: Laurie Healey

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Welcome new PFN members!

- Ruth Mead
- Dinny Biggs
- Kate Kitchen & David Powell
- Janet Loudon
- Carly Davenport
- Kale Worman
- Kirk Kuipers
- Sarah Hendry
- Noella Koshul & Michael Cannon
- Nick LeBlanc



An assortment of interesting sightings from 2023. Clockwise from top: Two male Eastern Bluebirds doing battle at Carden Alvar on June 4 (Ken Morrison). A melanistic coyote on the Lang-Hastings Trail near Keene Road on Oct. 16 (Steve Paul). A leucistic Mallard near the Holiday Inn on Apr. 17 (Shelby Cohen). A probable four-toed salamander at Earl Chase Memorial Park on April 13 (Michelle Young).

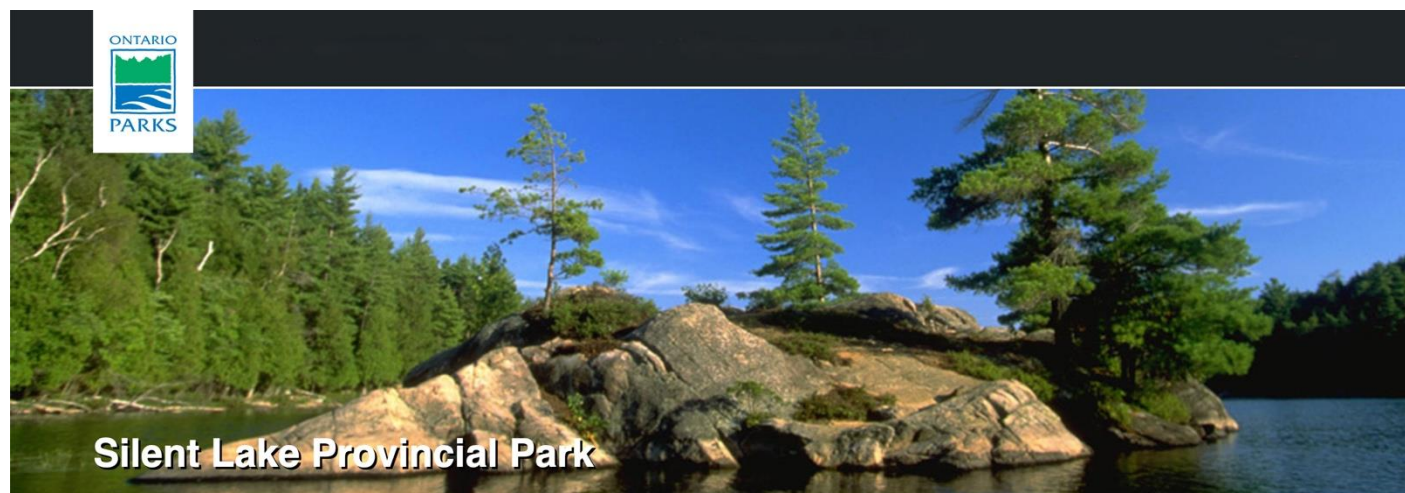


PFN Coming Events	
Dates and times to be announced	<p>Wildlife Tracking Outings</p> <p>PFN member, Don McLeod, will once again lead members on one or more outings during the months of December to March focusing on tracks and other wildlife sign. These outings will be scheduled when weather conditions 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>Short Notice Nature Appreciation Walks</p> <p>With winter here, it is more difficult to find “topics” to offer for outings and to schedule very far in advance. Leaders will be approaching me when they have some time available and a destination in mind. If you are interested in joining others for nature walks, send me an e-mail and I will add your name to a list. You will be contacted when something is planned. The time and day of the week will change as will the location and degree of difficulty. When you are able to attend, just respond to the e-mail I send out. To register, e-mail sueparadisis@hotmail.com or call 705-559-2061</p>
Monday, Jan. 1 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. 20 participants	<p>First Day 2024</p> <p>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</p>
Saturday, Jan. 6 1:30 to 3pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 2505 Pioneer Rd., Peterborough	<p>ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NATURALISTS! Save this date for the KIDS’ CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!</p> <p>Join us for an important opportunity to help with scientific research and learn more about the birds who winter in Peterborough.</p> <p>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!</p> 

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Thursday, Jan. 11</p> <p>Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hybrid meeting</p> <p>Camp Kawartha</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Deer Flies and Horse Flies, Friends or Foes</p> <p>This presentation by David Beresford is about the family of blood-sucking “True Flies” in the family Tabanidae.</p> <p>David Beresford teaches entomology and sustainable agriculture at Trent University. His research includes integrated pest management on beef and dairy farms, and insect conservation at local farms as well as northern Ontario in the Hudson Bay and James Bay regions. His taxonomic focus includes biting flies, blow flies, and burying beetles.</p> 
<p>Saturday, Jan. 27</p> <p>2 pm to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha</p> <p>Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Nature Journaling for the Junior Naturalists</p> <p>Anyone who loves animals, plants, fungi or bugs, or just being outdoors can have fun with their own nature journal. Together we will learn how to use the power of observation to discover the nature that is all around us. We will be doing a variety of hands-on activities to see the different ways we can keep track of what we experience. All kids get a free journal to personalize and continue journaling on their own.</p> <p>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.</p> 
<p>Thursday, Feb. 8</p> <p>Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hybrid meeting</p> <p>Camp Kawartha</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: The Evolution and Ecology of Plant Reproduction</p> <p>Marcel Dorken will present an overview of some of the research conducted in his lab at Trent. The main themes will include evolutionary transitions in reproductive systems, sexual selection, and evolutionary processes in invasive plants.</p> <p>Marcel has been a professor of biology at Trent University since 2008. His research group at Trent examines the ecology and evolution of reproduction in plants. Before 2008 he was a junior fellow and post-doctoral researcher at St. Hugh's College and the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Oxford. Marcel has a PhD from the UofT, a MSc from Queen's and a BSc from U of Guelph.</p>
<p>Date, time, and location TBA</p>	<p>PFN Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker in March</p> <p>Please check the PFN website and social media for announcements.</p>
<p>June 24 to 27</p> <p>Silent Lake P.P.</p>	<p>PFN's Second Annual Camping Trip</p> <p>Please see advertisement below.</p>
<p>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.</p>	

Other Events of Interest

<p>Saturday, Feb. 3 1 to 3 p.m. KLT's Cation Wildlife Preserve near Coboconk</p>	<p>Reflecting on Black Excellence in Conservation</p> <p>In celebration of Black History Month, Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) and Diverse Nature Collective (DNC) will host an informative guided hike through the snowy terrain. The guided hike will shine light on Black contributions to the environmental movement both past and present and give insight into what the future of conservation will look like with more diverse voices at the table.</p> <p>To register, go to https://kawarthalandtrust.org/event/reflecting-on-black-excellence-in-conservation</p>
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PFN's Second Annual Camping Trip Will Take Place June 24 to 27 at Silent Lake Provincial Park

Silent Lake Provincial Park offers a quiet, non-motorized lake (Silent Lake) with a rocky shoreline, great canoeing & kayaking, sandy beaches for swimming, scenic walking trails and mountain biking! Nature observations are plentiful and include birds, wildflowers, ferns, etc. Birders will be contributing to the Breeding Bird Atlas Count.

- Arrival: Monday, June 24 after 2 p.m.
- Depart: Thursday, June 27 before 2 p.m.
- Granite Ridge Campground



Each member is responsible for booking their own campsite. You should book 5 months in advance to get a site (e.g., plan to make your booking on January 24 at 7 a.m.)

Both tents and trailers (RVs) are welcome. This park also offers roofed accommodation (yurts and cabins) on site for rental. Visit the Ontario Parks Silent Lake website for information:

<https://www.ontarioparks.com/park/silentlake>

Reservations website: <https://reservations.ontarioparks.com/>

Leaders: Colleen Lynch & Don McLeod

E-mail Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com or call /text Colleen at 705-868-4262 with your intention to attend and then you will be kept up to date on details and bookings. Accessibility: moderate



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

Looking for volunteers to help with the planning of our Annual General Meeting in 2024.

Do you have some good ideas or time to share with the planning of our AGM? Please let us know as soon as possible as the planning has begun! (Stay tuned for date and details). You can contact Cathy Douglas cddouglas77@gmail.com or Sandy Garvey sandy.l.t.garvey@gmail.com.



All help is welcome.

City Nature Challenge 2024

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

In April 2023, for the first time, the City of Peterborough with the Peterborough Field Naturalists, participated in the City Nature Challenge (CNC). This global event is meant to encourage people to pay attention to the biodiversity in their communities. Despite horrible weather that weekend, those who participated enjoyed the event.



The next City Nature Challenge is being held April 26-29, 2024, when citizens will be encouraged to share their observations of flora and fauna to iNaturalist in a friendly challenge to outdo other communities of the same size.

There are 17 weeks until CNC 2024. Through our social media, we will be encouraging people to look for the biodiversity around them throughout the year and to post to iNaturalist. To date there are 4,566 species on the City's project page. You can help by sending some photos of what you find to media@peterboroughnature.org. We will then share with the community to encourage others to explore what is around them.

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!!!

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

Submitted by Anda Rungis

The Board of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) participated in a visioning and reflection exercise in late October which kicked off the engagement period. In November, our consultants, Arising Collective, reached out to PFN members, partners, and the broader Peterborough community for input to our strategic plan.

We are grateful to past PFN directors and their partners for participating in key informant interviews and PFN members who shared their thoughts at a focus group session. Over 100 PFN and community members provided their input to the strategic planning survey. Thank you! This is the response we were hoping for. A big thank you is also owed to the PFN member volunteers who helped with communications: Marilyn Hubley (social media), Chris Gooderham (webmaster) and Jim Young (membership).

A summary of the PFN Strategic Plan Engagement Findings is available on the PFN website. Please check out the Strategic Plan page for the summary and other information about the PFN.

<https://peterboroughnature.org/about/strategic-plan/>

The winners of the draw for a membership renewal or nature outing of their choice were announced by "Santa Sue" at the December PFN Members' meeting. Congratulations to PFN members: Jennifer Lennie, Steve Kerr, and Sharon Hill!

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund



Community
Foundation
of Greater Peterborough



Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Fall Meeting

Submitted by Fiona McKay (with excerpts from ON meeting notes)



In this issue, we cover the business portion of the Nature Network regional meeting, held in late October. For a summary of the presentations made at this gathering, see the report in the last issue of *The Orchid*.

2023 Annual Gathering and AGM

Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia, Regional Nature Network Coordinator, provided highlights of their 2023 Annual Gathering/ 92nd AGM & 2023 Conservation Awards. The dual event was held at College Boreal in Sudbury on June 9-11, 2023. One hundred and forty people attended, including members, staff, board members and non-members. Outings and workshops were conducted throughout the weekend, including a tour through the underground mine shafts of Sudbury, and 5 different field trips taking participants to different areas that showcased the incredible work done to bring wild species and wild spaces back to the area. Saturday offered two keynote speakers (morning and evening) along with workshops featuring specific local projects. Following the AGM business portion, the Conservation Awards ceremony took place. The following winners were announced:

- Steve Hounsell Greenway Award: Mark Schwarz (Woolwich Township)
- Ontario Nature Public Service Award: Blu and Douglas Mackintosh (Thousand Islands)
- Ontario Nature Natural History Award: The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association
- Ontario Nature Media and Conservation Award: The Narwhal
- Ontario Nature Education Award: Margaret 'Marg' Paré (Waterloo)
- Ontario Nature Corporate Award: rare Charitable Research Reserve (Waterloo/Wellington)
- Ontario Nature Conservation Leadership Award: Bernie VanDenBelt (London)
- Lee Symmes Municipal Award: The City of Windsor, Parks and Recreation Department

Nominations for 2023-24 open December 1 and close March 25, 2024. If you would like to nominate someone, visit <https://ontarionature.org/take-action/conservation-awards/>

The **2024 Annual Gathering** will be held at the Evergreen Resort on Red Bay, Lake Huron, 10 minutes from Wiarton. A focus will be visiting Ontario Nature's Bruce County Nature Reserves and enjoying the biodiversity of the Saugeen Shores. Mark your calendars for May 31 to June 2, 2024. Registration information will be posted on the Ontario Nature website.

In the future, the Ontario Nature AGMs will be conducted separately by ZOOM instead of being part of the Annual Gathering, as attendance numbers seem to be higher in a virtual setting.

Protected Places Program Update/Advocacy

Over 100 organizations signed the letter urging the Government of Ontario to implement expert recommendations to expand protected areas: <https://ontarionature.good.do/PA-strategy/email>

Ontario Nature continues to seek support, urging the government to expand protected areas (<https://ontarionature.good.do/PA-strategy/email/>) and to protect Temagami's Wolf Lake (<https://ontarionature.good.do/protect-wolf-lake/email/>).

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Project

Ontario Nature (ON) is working on a large multi-year project to permanently protect over 1 million hectares of land in Ontario, through Forest Stewardship Council certification. Forestry companies would identify and set aside 10% of their managed forests to become protected areas, then to be known as "designated conservation lands." These lands would ultimately contribute towards Ontario meeting its 30x30 federal

targets to protect 30% of lands and inland waters by 2030. In building the case for permanent protection, ON has conducted multiple analyses, including parameters such as: i) carbon storage (see https://view.publitas.com/onnature/validating_carbon_storage_datasets_w_field_samples/page/1); ii) economic analysis (see <https://view.publitas.com/onnature/economics-of-protecting-fsc-dcls/page/10-11>), and iii) policy analysis (report pending release). If you are interested in the details of this campaign, please follow the links to the ON website. From here, ON will continue to engage with industry, Indigenous communities, local organization and ENGOs to discuss the benefits of permanent protection, the policy options available for protection, any concerns or needs related to permanent protection, and the preferred options for moving forward. Eventually, they will bring what they've learned to government officials, to support the policy and consultation required to permanently protect designated conservation lands.

Community Science

Third Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

- Data collection complete for year: 3,925+ participants submitted 454,921 records of 276 species

Long-term Monitoring Protocol for Ontario's Snakes

- Protocol implemented at over 40 sites across the province.
- Used to document the impact of prescribed burns on habitat used by at-risk snakes in Norfolk County.
- Over 400 snakes found in 2023, approximately 30 of which were species at risk.
- LTMP training event with Niagara College attended by 25 participants.
- Planned training events for 2024 in Waterloo Region, Norfolk County, and Frontenac Arch (pending funding).

Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

- After more than 30 years of data collection, starting with the Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary in 1984, key results and trends will soon be published in the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas.
- Data collection efforts from more than 12,000 volunteers.
- The publication will be available online free of charge; limited hardcopy prints available by pre-order. Contact Jenna Quinn at jennaq@ontarionature.org for more information and to pre-order your copy!

Wetlands Campaign

- ON published a report about wetland offsetting in Ontario, highlighting risks involved and the wise practices being employed by municipalities across the province to maximize success. The report was co-written by Ontario Nature staff and an expert municipal planner, and ON received extremely valuable feedback from two Indigenous colleagues. ON feels they are well positioned to respond to any proposed offsetting policies, including those of the provincial government.
<https://view.publitas.com/on-nature/wetland-offsetting-policies-for-local-planning-authorities/page/1>
- The Ontario Nature Youth Council was engaged in wetland initiatives via presentations, self-led activities, and an in-person event exploring wetlands in and around the Holland Marsh in mid-May, to learn about their immense value from scientific and Indigenous perspectives. Two new resources - an online primer and a brochure - were created with input from Youth Council members, highlighting the value of Ontario's wetlands as nature-based solutions to climate change through their carbon storage, flood mitigation, and biodiversity values. These resources can be accessed through the following links:

Online primer: <https://ontarionature.org/campaigns/wetlands/ontarios-wetlands-a-nature-based-climate-solution/>

Brochure: <https://view.publitas.com/on-nature/protecting-ontarios-wetlands-nbcs/page/1>

Outing Report: Forest Therapy

Submitted by Lucie Blouin

Have you ever wondered what Forest Therapy aka Forest Bathing is all about? I certainly did and enjoyed learning more about it at the PFN outing on December 2. Beth McKinlay met with 12 participants at the Camp Kawartha Environment Center on a peaceful, lightly snowing Saturday morning. After introducing us to a few of the concepts of mindful nature connection in the relative warmth of the indoors, we then ventured outside to try out some of the techniques. As field naturalists we are accustomed to getting out in nature and observing. Forest therapy introduces us to observing nature in a different way, using our senses to notice colours, lines, shapes, sounds, light and shadow, scents and textures. It asks us to notice the impact of our surroundings on our thoughts, emotions and body. We used the 5-4-3-2-1 grounding technique as our gateway to this mindfulness practice which also incorporates acknowledgement of gratitude. Personally, I tried the twenty-minute sit spot and the slow reveal for me was that a barren tree that I originally thought was filled with debris or gypsy moth [a.k.a. spongy/LDD moth] nests, was actually filled with birds! I didn't have my binoculars with me to sort out what type of birds they were, but a flash of red at one point indicated to me that there was a cardinal in the group and a soft tapping indicated a woodpecker. It was a wonder to me that there were so many birds perched there unprotected on that snowy morning. Many in the group remarked that using a "soft (unfocused) gaze" allowed them to see things they would never have noticed otherwise. I truly believe that it was a transformative experience for most of those present.



If you would like to learn more, check out Beth's website: sites.google.com/view/mindfulnatureconnection

Outing Report: Trails Near Jackson Park

Submitted by Anne Elliot

The PFN's first occasional winter outing took place on Wednesday December 6, a frosty afternoon with ice glittering on branches and snow lingering underfoot. Six members met on Parkview Drive to explore a little-known trail network above Jackson Park. It was in a mixed woodland area bordered by the top of Jackson Creek ravine to the southwest, Lily Lake Road to the north and Fairbairn backyards to the east. Marilyn Freeman guided us on a variety of open paths and more intimate tracks through the forest. Walking together, admiring the ice sparkling in the trees and snow on the various evergreens: juniper, cedar, yew, red and white pine, was a pleasure. Companionable chickadees were the only birds we sighted but even at this quiet time of the year there were natural wonders to appreciate: the abundant galls of the willow pinecone gall midge; the tracks of a red squirrel in the snow; a clear view of the path a small mammal had taken through the subnivean zone under the ice; and ancient cedars arching overhead to create a cathedral grove. Getting out into nature in the winter does wonders for the spirit!



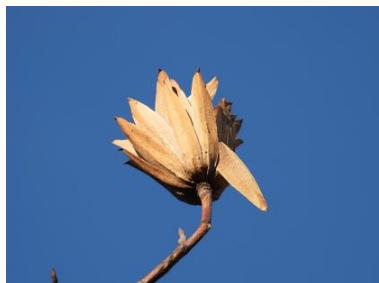
Photo of red squirrel by Marilyn Hubley

If you would like to receive information about short notice PFN 'pop up' winter walks, please email Sue Paradisis: sueparadisis@hotmail.com

Outing Report: Exploring Ecology Park

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

On a beautiful, warm and sunny day, I was joined by ten naturalists for a stroll through Ecology Park. Living nearby, I regularly visit the bird feeders that the PFN maintains and have been paying more attention lately to the wide variety of trees in the park, including many Carolinian species. As always, there were lots of birds especially around the feeders. We counted 11 species and 81 individuals.



Flower of Tulip Tree. Photo: Don McLeod

Before our walk, I chatted with Vern Bastable, Director of GreenUP Ecology Park and manager of the tree nursery. He told me they are attempting to showcase a wide variety of trees much like an arboretum - and with climate change, Carolinian trees are doing well. We were able to find Ohio Buckeye, Kentucky Coffee tree, American Sycamore, Sassafras, Redbud, Black Gum, Honey Locust, and Tulip Tree. We also found Witch Hazel with flowers and, thanks to Anda, a dried flower of the Tulip Tree high up in the tree.

There were other trees of note including Black Maple, Ginkgo and a Sugar Maple offspring of the famous Comfort Maple of Pelham, Ontario. Estimated to be around 500 years old, the Comfort Maple is believed to be the oldest sugar maple in Canada and was designated a heritage tree in June 2000. Today, the tree stands about 24 metres tall at its crown, with a twisted trunk that's about six metres in circumference.

On our way back to the parking lot, we had our highlight observation. An American Mink was swimming down the creek and loping along the bank. It appeared to be unafraid of our group watching from the bridge and was equally unconcerned with all the noisy mallards seemingly voicing displeasure.

It is expected that there will be numerous "short notice" walks like this throughout the winter so be sure to email sueparadisis@hotmail.com to get your name on the list if you wish to be kept informed.



Flowers of Witch Hazel.
Photo: Sue Paradisis

PFN Juniors Report: Amazing Bats!

Submitted by Jennifer Lennie



A game about echolocation.
Photo by Jennifer Lennie

This month, on Sunday, November 19, the Juniors congregated at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre to learn about the world of bats. PFN member Paul Elliott shed some light on these fascinating mammals and helped everyone discover all sorts of interesting things about Ontario's bats. Participants also had a chance to act like a bat in an active game about echolocation. Many thanks to Paul for sharing his wealth of knowledge with the Juniors!



A Junior volunteer helps Paul demonstrate some key characteristics that all bats share. Photo by Jennifer Lennie

2023 Turtle Observations from the Jack Lake Area

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

For the tenth consecutive season, residents and visitors of Jack Lake participated in the Ontario Turtle Tally. This report has been prepared to summarize observations which were reported during the 2023 season.

Individual turtle sightings are summarized in Table 1. As expected, the majority of the sightings were reported during the nesting season in May and June.



Map and painted turtles basking in sun. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

Table 1. Temporal distribution of adult turtles observed during the 2023 Turtle Tally on Jack Lake.

Species/ Month	Blandings	Northern Map	Midland Painted	Snapping	Unidentified	Monthly Total
April	0	0	10	0	0	10
May	1	13	24	2	23	63
June	7	0	14	5	5	31
July	0	0	23	2	0	25
August	0	0	6	1	0	7
September	0	0	3	0	0	3
October	0	0	0	0	0	0
Season Total	8	13	80	10	28	137

Several turtle nesting activities were observed in 2023 (Table 2). All of the reported nesting activity occurred during the month of June.

Table 2. Observed turtle nesting activity observed during 2023 in the Jack Lake area.

Date	Species	Activity Observed
June 2	Snapping Turtle	Turtle laying eggs
June 9	Snapping Turtle	Turtle laying eggs on side of road
Early June	Not identified	Nesting activity in driveway by two different turtles
June 10	Snapping Turtle	Turtle laying eggs on side of road
June 15	Not identified	Turtle was laying eggs near lawn. Most were predated by birds.
June 25	Midland Painted Turtle	Turtle was observed laying eggs

In late June-early July, five midland painted turtle hatchlings were released in a Jack Lake wetland. These eggs had been recovered from the parent turtle which had been killed on Jack Lake Road in 2022. The eggs were reared at the Ontario Turtle Conservation Center in Peterborough.

Four dead turtles (3 midland painted and one unidentified) were reported during the 2023 season. All had been killed on the road. In five reported instances people stopped to assist moving turtles off the road.

Turtle observations for the Jack Lake area over the past ten years are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. A comparative summary of turtle observations from Jack Lake, 2014-2023.

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
2023	30	8	0	80	13	10	0	28

Peeling Back the Misconceptions About Tree Bark

Submitted by Jason and Lou Smyrlis

To most people bark is simply the protective layering worn by every tree; a series of patterns and textures, mostly in drab hues of gray or brown, too ubiquitous to warrant a second glance.

But there is a lot more to bark than first meets the eye. To understand bark is to comprehend a tree's plumbing and defensive systems. Winter, when the low-riding sun shining through the forest highlights the diversity of bark found in our woods, is the perfect time to give bark closer attention.

It's a common misconception that bark is a single type of tissue. In fact, bark encompasses four different types of tissue surrounding the heartwood, the central supporting pillar of a tree.

The outer bark is how the tree protects itself from temperature extremes, moisture loss and attacks from disease, animals, and insects. Many trees have chemicals in their bark – sticky resins, toxic tannins – to help them fight off fungi and insects. Some trees have even developed bark thick enough to protect them from brush fires. It's not just the searing temperatures of fire that can injure a tree; any rapid temperature change can cause damage. During winter, bark must withstand, without cracking, the impact of direct sunlight warming it to temperatures higher than the surrounding air followed by rapid cooling when the sun sets.

The inner bark, or "phloem", is the next layer right below the surface bark and acts as part of the tree's plumbing. It carries sugars from the leaves down to the rest of the tree. Phloem doesn't live long and when it dies it becomes part of the outer bark.

The sapwood or "xylem" is the layer closest to the tree's heartwood and is the other part of the trunk's plumbing system. The tubes within the xylem carry water and minerals in the opposite direction, up to the leaves. Xylem cells also don't live long because they get blocked and need to be replaced. The blocked xylem cells add to the heartwood of the tree.

Sandwiched between the phloem and the xylem is the cambium cell layer, whose job it is to produce new cells. Responding to hormones called auxins which stimulate cell growth, the cambium will either produce more xylem cells on the inside or more phloem cells on the outside.



As a tree grows, its wood thickens and pushes against the bark surrounding it as it has with the white pine pictured here. How each tree species adapts to this pressure is what creates the many distinctive bark patterns in our woods. Photo: Lou Smyrlis

Those are the common elements of bark and they're hidden from our view. On the outside is where the commonality ends. As a tree grows, its wood thickens and pushes out against the bark surrounding it. The outer bark adapts to this pressure in different ways. It either expands to match the growth pushing against it or splits open and reforms in overlapping sections of varying sizes, shapes, and thickness. This is what gives each tree species its own distinctive bark – a distinction that does capture our attention.

Winter Nature Almanac

By Drew Monkman

Excerpts from article originally published in the Peterborough Examiner on December 24, 2014

January

In the first week of January, sunrise is later than at any other time of the year. In fact, the sun doesn't peek over the horizon until 7:49 a.m. Compare this to June 20 when the sun rises at 5:29 a.m.

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

Small numbers of common goldeneyes and common mergansers can be seen all winter long on the Otonabee River, at Young's Point and at Gannon Narrows.

White-tailed deer shed their antlers between late-December and early March. Antlers are temporary projections of bone, which are grown and discarded each year.

Coyotes are quite vocal during their January to March mating season. The young are born 60-63 days later, usually in a ground den.

If you're walking in the woods, you'll notice that some of the smaller trees have retained many of their leaves. These are usually beech, oak, or ironwood.

Bass lie dormant under logs, weeds or rocks until the light and warmth of spring restore their energy and appetite.

Honeybees are the only insects to maintain an elevated body temperature all winter. They accomplish this by clustering together in a thick ball within the hive, vibrating their wings to provide heat and eating stored honey for the necessary energy.

Barred owls sometimes show up in rural backyards and prey on feeder birds or mice and voles that are attracted at night by fallen seeds.

The cones of red and white pine drop to the ground all winter long. The seeds, however, were released in the fall.

In late January, black bears give birth to cubs no larger than chipmunks. Generally, two cubs are born, although there are sometimes as many as four or five.

February

We begin the month with about 9 ¾ hours of daylight and end with 11, a gain of about 75 minutes. The lengthening days are most notable in the afternoon.



Eastern Coyote on the ice of lower Chemong Lake on March 18, 2023. Photo: Don McLeod

Groundhog Day, February 2, marks the mid-point of winter. However, our groundhogs won't see their shadow – or light of day, for that matter – until mid-March at the earliest. In case you were wondering, no animal or plant behaviour can portend upcoming weather beyond a few hours.

Although tentative at first, bird song returns in February as pair bonds are established or renewed. Black-capped chickadees, northern cardinals, and white-breasted nuthatches are several of the birds that usually start singing this month.

Gray squirrels mate in January or February and can often be seen streaming by in treetop chases as a group of males chases a half-terrorized female. Amazing acrobatics are usually part of the show.

Lake trout eggs hatch in February but the fry remain in the lake bottom for about six weeks and survive on energy stored in their yolk sac.

The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place February 16 - 19. This citizen science event engages bird watchers of all levels of expertise to create a real-time snapshot of the whereabouts and relative abundance of birds in mid-winter. Anyone can participate. Go to www.birdcount.org for details.

Watch for river otters in winter around areas of flowing water. Their trough-like, snow-slide trails are often seen on embankments or even flat ground.

Late February is courtship time for ravens. Males engage in aerial nuptial displays, diving and twisting like corkscrews over Canadian Shield country.

The male common goldeneye puts on an elaborate courtship display in late winter. He thrusts his head forward and then moves it back towards his rump. With his bill pointing skyward, he utters a squeaky call.

Testosterone-charged male skunks roll out of their dens any time from mid-February to early March and go on nocturnal prowls looking for females. The smell of a skunk on a damp, late winter night is a time-honoured sign of "pre-spring."



Snow flea (*Hypogastrura nivicola*). Photo by Pfhewi (Wikimedia Commons)

On mild, sunny, late winter days, check the snow along the edge of woodland trails for snow fleas. What looks like spilled pepper may begin to jump around right before your eyes!

By month's end, spring has sprung for overwintering monarchs in the mountains of Mexico. As lengthening days trigger the final development of the butterflies' reproductive system, male monarchs begin zealously courting females.

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

I wanted to start off 2024 by recognizing an amazing organization that does so much to help educate, advocate, and support Trumpeter Swan conservation efforts across the province. I first connected with Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario almost four years ago, and I have learned so much about their focus on tagging and banding initiatives, tracking and research projects, and their rescue and rehabilitation work. Their motto is "Ensuring the continued existence of wild Trumpeter Swans in Ontario for generations to come". I take pride in being an ambassador for TSCO in our area, and I always look forward to sharing what I learn with our PFN membership.



Photo of Trumpeter Swan and cygnet by Gary Lane

I asked Gary Lane, who has been instrumental in managing their research and tagging database for years (now shared with Joy Poyntz, another very dedicated and knowledgeable member), to share some of the highlights of all the data they collected in 2023. Here is what he provided:

1. There were 140 nests in known locations (monitored), and 14 nests in unknown locations across the entire Province.
2. They recorded just under 600 cygnets that hatched across the entire Province.
3. In Peterborough County there were a total of 5 cygnets recorded as hatching.
4. As of Dec 1st, 2023, there were just under 700 total sightings recorded for Peterborough County.
5. As of Dec 1, 2023, there were 83 new Trumpeter Swans tagged and banded in the province.

The recorded number of nests and cygnets is lower than the actual number of nests and cygnets. This is because birds are missed due to birds nesting in remote locations away from people or because sightings are not reported. As I have mentioned many times in previous articles, sharing your sightings of Trumpeter Swans is super important in helping conserve and protect this species. Please consider reporting all sightings of Trumpeter Swans that you see. There are many different ways to do this:

- Report using eBird
- Report using iNaturalist
- If you are registered for Atlas-3 (just finished year three of five), you can report using the NatureCounts app or the Atlas website.
- Report through Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario page on Facebook.
- *NEW* Report through Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario website.
- <https://www.trumpeterswanconservationontario.com/>
- Report through the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. (Google "Wye Marsh Swan Sightings")
- Report through the Trumpeter Swan Society. (USA-based but will direct data to the TRUSCO).
- You can also report them to me via e-mail, and I will pass that information along.

Please send as much detail as possible: date and time, the specific location where you saw them (with GPS coordinates if you have them), and definitely report if you see yellow/black wing tags, which are used for identification and tracking. Confirmation photos are very helpful as well.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to me at stevepaul70@gmail.com.

2023 Christmas Bird Count - Green and Rainy

By Martin Parker, Count Compiler

The 72nd annual Christmas Bird Count was held on a wet and rainy Sunday, December 17. Typically, on a Peterborough CBC, the temperature is below zero and snow is everywhere. The 2023 count was the warmest ever held in Peterborough. Another aspect was the lack of ice cover on the waterways in the area, especially Chemong Lake which is normally ice-covered. The warm conditions and lack of snow resulted in fewer birds at feeders as more wild food was available. The total number of species counted was 68.

This year's count had a record number of participants - a total of 98. Most spent part of the day in the field enduring the wet conditions. The participants who walked the trails, pathways and unopened road deserve special thanks for their efforts during the day. Another group of participants monitored their feeding stations in their yard



A Greater White-fronted Goose standing next to a Canada Goose at the Peterborough Rowing Club on Count Day. Photo: Dave Milsom

and neighbourhood during the day, and their results were added to the overall results. The Peterborough CBC is the largest annual citizen-science project in the region and all the participants should be proud of their accomplishments.

New Species: Due to the mild conditions four species of birds were reported on the CBC for the first time ever. They were:

- **Greater White-fronted Goose** -- One individual was observed and photographed by Dave Milsom at the dock of the Rowing Club at Trent University.
- **Tundra Swan** -- Three (two adults and one young) were observed on the south shore of Chemong Lake east of the causeway by Iain Rayner.
- **Canvasback** - One individual was spotted on Chemong Lake by Iain Rayner.
- **Spotted Sandpiper** - The individual present along the shore of the Otonabee River between Locks 22 and 23 on the days leading up to count day was observed on count day as well. According to Mike Burrell, count coordinator for Ontario, this species had only been recorded on six prior counts in Ontario.

Others Highlights:

- A total of 14 species of waterfowl were spotted due to the open water conditions.
- Lesser Scaup - The 6 on Chemong Lake at the west end of the causeway is a record high. One individual had been recorded on four previous counts.
- Common Merganser - The 880 surpasses the previous high of 255 on the 2012 count. The majority were on Chemong Lake.
- Red-breasted Merganser - The count of 9 individuals is a new high. This species has been recorded on nine previous counts, a single individual each time.
- Ring-billed Gull - The 430 individuals exceeds the previous high of 399 in 2015.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker - This species continues to increase in our area with new record high of 32 birds.
- Merlin - The 7 individuals exceeds the previous record of 4 on the 2020 count.
- Winter Wren - The 7 recorded exceeds the previous high of 6 in 2006.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - The 79 individuals exceed the previous high of 47 in 1982.
- Gray Catbird - The 1 individual was the second record for the count; the previous was 1 in 2014.
- Eastern Bluebird - A total of 8 were recorded, exceeding the previous high of 5 in 2016.
- American Robin - Not a record year but this species is becoming a regular winter resident.
- House Finch - Only 43 were recorded - a lower count considering the record high was 1,197 in 1991 a few years after they expanded their range into Ontario.
- Evening Grosbeak - none were recorded on this year's count.

A complete summary of this year's count follows:

#	Area	Participants
1	Chemong/Bridgenorth	Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch, Amy Semple, Dan Rildy and Debbie Byrne. Feeder: Iain Rayner and Robyn McKinlah.
2	Miller Creek/Selwyn	Drew Monkman, Brian Wales, Dan Chronowic, Ken McKeen, John McKeen, Una Jarmilova, Geoff Andrews, Dylan Rasmus, Cara Rasmus, Court Brown and Iain Rayner. Feeder: Betty Morrison
3	Lakefield/Otonabee River East	Dave Milsom, Liz Milsom, Kathryn Sheridan, David Britton, Kale Woorman, Jax Nasimok, Bruce Kidd, Carrie Sadowski, Carol Horner, Susan Chow, Carly Davenport and Scott Gibson
4	Douro Wedge	Bill Crins, Mike Oldham, Ben Taylor, Natasha Carr, Emma Carr, Louis Chora, Tim Haan, Patrick Kramer, and Donald Sutherland.
5	Burnham	Warren Dunlop, Janet Kelly, Cathy Douglas, Anda Rungis, Al Sippel, Philip Shaw, Sue Paradisis, and Fiona McKay.
6	Stewart Hall/Landfill	Pam Martin, Joan DiFruscia, Robert DiFruscia, Steve Paul, Laurie Healey, Sascha Dho, Tim Haan, and Serina Tourangeau.
7	Airport	Matthew Tobey, Tony Barrett, Lynn Smith, Larry Smith, Rene Gareau and Anjie Gareau.
8	Cavan Swamp	Erica Nol, Chris Risley, Gary Heuvel, Anne Ausems, Marilyn Hubley, Jane Kroes, Ed Addison, Andrew Brown, Olivia Maillet, Ed Addison, Rose Addison, Melissa Rose, Peter Addison, Gillian Holmes, Ali Giroux and Nancy Morow.
9	Jackson Park	Jerry Ball, Scott Gibson, Colin Jones, Matthew Garvin, Mike Burrell, Dave Heuft, Ann Heuft, Kathy Parker, and Leo Weiskittel.
10	Downtown	Martin Parker, King Baker, Gerry Bird, Sandy Garvey, Martha Lawrence, Erin McGauley, Ian Attridge, Susan Sauve and Stephanie Melles. Feeders: Michelle Monkman, Nuala Murname, Jim Cashmore, Ken Abraham and Rob Moos.

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Total	Record High
Greater White-fronted Goose			1								1	none
Canada Goose	143	108	226	10	281	52	104	275	285	216	1,700	3,795 in 2015
Trumpeter Swan	2										2	13 in 2022
Tundra Swan		3									3	none
Mallard	38	28	218	147	129	53	79	30	42	123	887	1,264 in 2012
Mallard (domestic tyle)					1						1	18 in 1987
Canvasback		1									1	none
Greater Scaup	7										7	2 in 1966
Lesser Scaup	6										6	1 in 2010
Bufflehead			4								4	13 in 2015
Common Goldeneye	104	13	6		5		4				132	292 in 2001
Hooded Merganser	1		2	2	12						17	52 in 2022
Common Merganser	65	775	17		5			18			880	255 in 2012
Red-breasted Merganser	3	1			5						9	1 in 2018
Ruffed Grouse	1						8		5		14	82 in 1979
Wild Turkey	70	49	71	18		2	18		10		238	306 in 2014
Common Loon	1										1	2 in 2001
Great Blue Heron					1	1					2	4 in 1973
Northern Harrier					2	2					4	6 in 2006
Cooper's Hawk		1	1	1	1		1	1		2	8	16 in 2022
Bald Eagle	2		3			1	1				7	20 in 2021
Red-tailed Hawk	4	3	1	7	5	7	3	2	5		37	64 in 2014
Spotted Sandpiper			1								1	none
Ring-billed Gull	8	4	42	128	13	102	10	47	48	28	430	399 in 2015
Herring Guil	52	137	73	98	4	1	239	25	13	9	651	1,302 in 1998
Great Black-backed Gull	1										1	32 in 1994
Rock Pigeon	103	84	122	82	126	253	137	36	123	346	1,412	2,072 in 2020
Mourning Dove	33	10	32	82	43	106	73	46	54	33	512	1,416 in 2022
Eastern Screech-Owl	1					3	2				6	8 in 2020
Great Horned Owl			1				1		1		3	40 in 1992
Barred Owl						1			1		2	5 in 2020
Belted Kingfisher			2	1			1				4	5 in 2021
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	2		4	6	4	6		6		32	27 in 2022
Downy Woodpecker	6	6	12	10	15	18	6	6	10	6	95	119 in 1974
Hairy Woodpecker	6	1	3	8	1	5	7	4	10	2	47	84 in 1975
Northern Flicker		1									1	7 in 2021
Pileated Woodpecker	2	4	1	3			3	2	5		20	28 in 2020

Species	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Total	Record High
American Kestrel		1						1			2	14 1979
Merlin			1		2	1			3		7	4 in 2020
Northern Shrike			2	1		3	1		1		8	29 in 1986
Blue Jay	35	28	52	34	38	45	44	5	30	16	327	563 in 2022
American Crow	45	82	52	66	59	72	27	25	76	44	548	956 in 2020
Common Raven	2	2	1	3	8	20	3	3	6		48	70 in 2021
Black-capped Chickadee	159	317	336	338	193	153	168	187	347	106	2,304	3,123 in 2020
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3		5	7	2			8	4	2	31	74 in 2020
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	13	14	21	27	9	10	9	22	10	144	335 in 2020
Brown Creeper	1	1	3		2		3	4			14	21 in 1921
Winter Wren				4					3		7	6 in 2006
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	2	12	21	4		9	6	11		79	47 in 1982
Eastern Bluebird				2				6			8	4 in 2022
American Robin	17	37	59	102	106	25	98	26	29	6	505	1,943 in 2016
Gray Catbird							1				1	1 in 2014
European Starling	104	157	11	11	540	959	106	174	376	560	2,998	6,485 in 2021
Bohemian Waxwing	1						4				5	2,180 in 1983
Cedar Waxwing		276	53	2	50	117	138	97	66	18	817	737 in 1989
Snow Bunting							1	1	2		4	1,683 in 1989
American Tree Sparrow	20	28	38	21	35	68	46	11	19	1	287	589 in 1974
Dark-eyed Junco	26	50	98	92	53	63	113	91	62	138	786	1,097 in 2021
White-throated Sparrow	1	1					2	3			7	18 in 2021
Song Sparrow				1							1	27 in 1982
Swamp Sparrow				1							1	5 in 1982
Northern Cardinal	14	17	27	24	11	9	22	16	20	26	186	457 in 2020
Red-winged Blackbird			1						1	1	3	13 in 2011
House Finch		6	10	6	2	2		5		11	42	1,197 in 1991
Purple Finch				1		4					5	60 in 2015
Common Redpoll			1								1	1,736 in 1993
Pine Siskin	1		2	2	10		2		12		29	750 in 1986
American Goldfinch	88	157	156	73	61	164	126	69	142	129	1,165	1,397 in 2021
House Sparrow			12	19	27	22	15	2	2	68	167	2,209 in 1981
Unidentified Species												
duck spp.								3			3	40 in 2017
hawk spp.						1					1	2 in 1979
gull spp.				1	220					19	240	286 in 1997
finch spp.								1			1	30 in 2006
Total Individuals	1,203	2,406	1,785	1,454	2,105	2,348	1,642	1,245	1,852	1,920	17,960	
Total Number of Species	41	37	43	39	37	34	39	33	35	25	68	



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

Nov 24	At Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake, a flock of at least 65 Redheads was seen amongst other diving ducks by Leo Weiskittel on his PA day! Leo also spotted 3 Bonaparte's Gulls amidst a mixed flock of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls .
Nov 25	Kale Worman noticed the Spotted Sandpiper that is continuing from earlier in November under the dam at Lock 23 on the Otonabee River. This bird continued in this location and was seen again on December 17. A Golden Eagle was seen between Locks 23 and 24 by Kim Bennett and Mike Coyne. Tim Haan saw a Northern Saw-whet Owl being mobbed by chickadees on Corrigan Hill.
Nov 26	Two Ruddy Ducks were spotted by Jake Nafziger at Pengelly Landing, where he also saw a large flock of 40 Bonaparte's Gulls and a Cackling Goose . The gulls were last reported December 4; the ducks continued to be seen here until at least December 15. Don Sutherland heard a Sandhill Crane flying over at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
Nov 27	A Wood Duck was seen at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Chris Lemieux. What is presumably the same bird was last spotted here on December 14. Laurie Healy and Steve Paul continue to see the juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at their peanut feeder on Keene Road. This bird continued to be present most days but was conspicuously absent on Christmas Bird Count day (Dec 18)!
Nov 28	Three Sandhill Cranes were spotted field-feeding near the Otonabee Gravel Pits by Zach Peck and Serina T.
Nov 30	Cathy Douglas saw two Cackling Geese on Little Lake, Crescent St., with Canada Geese. At least one of the cacklers was last spotted in this location on December 16. A pair of Lesser Scaup were noticed in a large mixed flock on Buckhorn Lake, O'Connor Dr., by Andrew Brown and Olivia Maillet. Jeff Stewart continued to see a male Eastern Towhee (now named Pippy) near his feeders in Millbrook until at least December 19.
Dec 1	Coyotes were heard howling in the Hilliard St. area by Ted Vale.
Dec 3	Don Sutherland reported another 5 Sandhill Cranes flying over the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon. Drew Monkman observed a flock of 10 Bonaparte's Gulls on North Shore Dr, Rice Lake. A Wood Frog was spotted hopping very slowly through the light snow by Pam Martin on the Lang Hastings Trail near Heritage Line.
Dec 4	Andrew Brown reported an assortment of late waterfowl on Buckhorn Lake from O'Connor Dr., including two male American Wigeon , a lone male Canvasback , a flock of 40 Ring-necked Ducks , 5 Greater and 12 Lesser Scaup . A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard at dusk by Colin Jones on the Towerhill Trails. Al Sippel saw a Northern Flicker at Fleming College.

Dec 6	Two first winter Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed by Jake Nafziger on Little Lake, Crescent St, and later seen by many. At least one of these birds continued to be seen until at least December 14. Jake also saw an Iceland Gull (<i>thayeri/kumlieni</i> intergrade), which also continued to be spotted until at least December 16.
Dec 7	Ken McKeen spotted 2 Snow Buntings at the Buckhorn Berry Farm.
Dec 9	Andrew Brown and Olivia Maillet observed 3 Lesser Scaup on Chemong Lake near the causeway and 2 Greater Scaup were later observed there by Chloe and Shaun Devlin.
Dec 10	<p>A flock of 5 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at Little Lake, Crescent St., by Drew Monkman, Jake Nafziger and many others. These birds continued in this location until at least December 19.</p> <p>A Herring x Great Black-backed Gull hybrid was identified by Jake Nafziger at that location. Steve Paul noticed a male Red-winged Blackbird under his feeder on Keene Road which continued for many days. Another young male was seen by Bruce Kidd on County Road 8.</p> <p>A Pileated Woodpecker was spotted by Esther Paszt on the Hilliard-Chemong Trail.</p> <p>A family of Beavers was seen at Sawyer Creek, Douro, by Deb Mills.</p> <p>Reem Ali observed a Red-tailed Hawk at the Peterborough Airport.</p> <p>A Cooper's Hawk was seen with a Rock Pigeon as prey in the Peterborough Hospital Area by Steve Ogilvie.</p>
Dec 11	<p>A subadult Golden Eagle was spotted by Luke Berg at the Peterborough Municipal Airport Pond.</p> <p>Three River Otters were observed at Hope Mill Conservation Area by Pam Martin.</p>
Dec 12	<p>Shelley King reported a close encounter with an Eastern Screech Owl in broad daylight at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre.</p> <p>A White-crowned Sparrow was seen by Dave Milsom on Scollard Drive, Peterborough.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas noticed 2 River Otters at Nephton Ridge.</p>
Dec 14	<p>A Northern Flicker was seen by Cathy Douglas on Duncan's Line.</p> <p>Don McLeod noted a Golden-crowned Kinglet at Chemong Lake.</p>
Dec 15	Anda Rungis observed an American Mink in Meade Creek at Ecology Park
Dec 16	<p>Jake Nafziger and Trevor MacLaurin saw a female Wood Duck in the Lakefield Marsh.</p> <p>Don Sutherland heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl calling on Weller St. mid-afternoon.</p>
Dec 17	<p>A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen by Dave Milsom and Kale Worman near the Rowing Club at Trent University.</p> <p>Iain Rayner saw 3 Tundra Swans on Chemong Lake, Selwyn Rd. He also noted a lone Canvasback hen and a Red-breasted Merganser at that location, as well as 7 Greater Scaup and 6 Lesser Scaup on Chemong Lake at the west end of the Causeway.</p> <p>Amy Semple observed a winter plumage Common Loon at Chemong Shores Marina.</p> <p>Two Eastern Bluebirds were seen near Harold Town Conservation Area, feeding on sumac berries, by Don Sutherland.</p> <p>David Britton saw a male Red-winged Blackbird at Camp Kawartha Environmental Centre.</p>

	A flock of 6 Eastern Bluebirds was seen on fenceposts on Hooton Dr., Cavan, by Erica Nol, Chris Risley and others participating in the Christmas Bird Count.
Dec 18	A Killdeer was seen at Roper Park by Nancy Morrow. A flock of 7 Eastern Bluebirds was seen in shrubs along E Fourth Line, Bailieboro, by Marilyn Hubley.
Dec 20	Michael Gillespie has been enjoying as many as 11 Eastern Bluebirds showing up regularly in his orchard on David Fife Line each afternoon. He also spotted a flock of approximately 100 Red-winged Blackbirds in his yard. Drew Monkman and Angela Mattos heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl on Douro First Line.
Nov-Dec	Red-bellied Woodpeckers are becoming more common in urban areas of Peterborough. In particular, Marie Duscheneau reported one consistently around the Teacher's College neighbourhood. Sue Paradisis reports the presence of many Eastern Gray Squirrels in her East City yard!


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Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, February 22.

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.



Junior Naturalist News

peterboroughnature.org

email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org

January 2024

NEW EVENT!

NATURE JOURNALING

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2024

Time: 2pm to 3:30pm

Location: Camp Kawartha
Environment Centre, 2505
Pioneer Road

Registration: Contact Shelley 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. Spots are limited.



Anyone who loves animals, plants, fungi or bugs, or just being outdoors can have fun with their own nature journal.

Together we will learn how to use the power of observation to discover the nature that is all around us. We will be doing a variety of hands-on activities to see the different ways we can keep track of what we experience. All kids get a free journal to personalize and continue journaling on their own.

"New to Me" Nature Resources for the Whole Family

While looking for gift ideas in December for my grandchildren & their parents, I came across an excellent website called "Childhood by Nature: A Child & Nature Reunion" with an amazing selection of great resources, activities, books, curriculums, trainings, and studies for the whole family to enjoy nature together! Check it out at:
<https://www.childhoodbynature.com/>

2024 Nature Challenge

16 minutes per day is the average amount of time children spend outdoors. Challenge yourself & all your family members to increase their time outdoors by an additional 5 minutes per day per month. "Nature Journaling is a great way to do it!"

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: _____