



## Woodlands Observer, January 2021

### Membership Renewal Notice

If you have not already paid your 2021 Nipissing Naturalists Club membership fee it is time to renew and Great News!

In addition to the regular annual membership, we are pleased to again offer 2-year memberships at a discount. This is a time limited offer only for memberships renewed or purchased between October and the Club's Annual General Meeting in January 2021.

*One Year Single membership* \$ 20, *Two Year Single membership* \$35

*One Year Family membership* \$ 30, *Two Year Family membership* \$50

*Renewal for Bird Wing* can also be included with your NipNat renewal.

*One Year Single Bird Wing* \$ 5, *Two Year Single Bird Wing* \$ 10

So, take advantage and renew ASAP, saving on your cost and continuing your membership in this great club dedicated to nature and its enjoyment.

An e-mail transfer can be sent to [sturge@sympatico.ca](mailto:sturge@sympatico.ca) or a cheque can be sent to our Club Treasurer, Connie Sturge at 537 Hwy 534, Powassan P0H 1Z0. If you send a cheque, please make the cheque payable to "**Nipissing Naturalists Club Inc.**". If you are also paying for Bird Wing by cheque, please send a separate cheque for that payable to "**Bird Wing**".

*Keith Pearson*, Membership Director

### Winter Photo Contest

Just a reminder the Nipissing Naturalists Club is currently running a photo contest and will be accepting entries from members until April 30, 2021. Voting, using an emailed Google Form, will be open during the first week of May. The winners will be announced at the May meeting and the winning photos will be published in the May 2021 Woodland Observer.

You may submit one photo per category for each member, including each member of family memberships. Please identify who took the photo and in which category to enter the photo. There is no age limit. If you later take a better photo, submit that to replace your original entry. You may send substitutions as often as you like.

Send your entries to [nipnatsphotos@gmail.com](mailto:nipnatsphotos@gmail.com)

Here are the categories:

**Wildlife**

**Scenery**

**People Enjoying Nature**

**Photographers' Nature Choice**

We cannot wait to see your photos!

*Keith Pearson* - Director

## January Schedule

### January 12

Club Annual General Meeting. Zoom meeting details will be emailed out prior to the meeting

### January 17

**Topic:** Snowshoe Hares

**Speaker:** Victoria Reimer <[victoriareimer@trentu.ca](mailto:victoriareimer@trentu.ca)>

**Presentation:** Victoria will share details about the life history of snowshoe hares, as well as the powerful dynamics behind their populations and their relationships to other plants and animals within their environment. She will discuss how she is using citizen science to answer important questions about snowshoe hares, and she will also provide information on how you can help her efforts.

**Speaker:** Victoria Reimer is a bachelor's student in her fourth year of a biology degree at Trent University. She is working on an internship project which explores the fur colour change and range of snowshoe hares in Ontario, as well as the connection between fur colour change and snow cover throughout the province. Victoria loves to look at science in creative ways that are accessible to everyone, and she hopes to eventually work as a science communicator.

If anyone has any questions about her project you can check out her website at <https://reimervictoria.wixsite.com/snowshoehare> for more information, or you can email her at [victoriareimer@trentu.ca](mailto:victoriareimer@trentu.ca).

If anyone is new to iNaturalist, you can visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started> for help getting started with the app.

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In response to the membership renewal notice in November, I received this email from Beverly Kingdon. I have her permission to share it with all of you.

“Hi Keith

The nasty time in my life has arrived.

I am too old and not well enough to enjoy my membership with the club.

Was the most amazing time to be a part of the club when my project, Ontario trumpeter swan restoration was new. We all had so much fun together.

Please say hi to the long-term members who may still remember me.

Also, thanks to past and present executive for the amazing work they do and did.

Be safe and well

Bev Kingdon

Burlington Ont.”

Beverly spent the last 30 years working with other volunteers to restore trumpeter swans to Ontario. It was a labor of love. Beverly raised young Trumpeter swans to maturity and then released them into the wild. It must have felt like sending her children out into the world. Some of our Nipissing Naturalists Club members reminisce about joining Beverly at an official 'release' of swans.

Trumpeter swans were hunted to near extinction in Canada and the lower 48 states for the better part of a century. We now see more than 1,000 trumpeter swans in Ontario and many US states have also been successful in restoring these magnificent birds.

Beverly is quite sad about coming to the end of her involvement with our club, but she should be immensely proud of her accomplishment.

The Nipissing Naturalists Club wishes Beverly well. I know when I see trumpeter swans, I will think about how that was made possible.



(Ava and Beverly reunion) by Renee Leveque

Keith Pearson

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/09/science/trumpeter-swans-ontario-canada.html#:~:text=Now%2C%20these%20majestic%20birds%20are,to%20raise%20their%20next%20brood.>

<https://www.hww.ca/en/wildlife/birds/trumpeter-swan.html>

## OTHT Friday Lake/Cliff Lake loop

On Oct 24 Karl Dittmann and I drove to the Friday lake boat launch on Roosevelt Bush road just north of Temagami. It was about an hour and a half drive. It would have been shorter, but we overshot the boat launch, which was at the end of a little road we passed. Roosevelt Bush road is full of potholes and was slow going. There is lots of parking at the boat launch and along the road.

We set out on the trail at 8:30 and got back to the car at 4:30 after walking about 14 km. I would rank the trail as moderate with a few long steady hills to climb. There were several beautiful streams and lovely scenes of lakes



and forest from high vantage points. The crevasse that splits Rib Mountain was interesting. The trail is well marked with white and blue blazes on trees and is wet and slippery in spots. Trekking poles were appreciated.



We took the blue trail which goes along Friday lake and returns along the crevasse. Another option would be to return along Cliff Lake but that would have taken a bit longer and we did not want to risk getting back after dark. We took the whole day, but a nice excursion would be to just walk up to the Cliff Lake lookout and return. I would estimate that would be a half day trip.



It was between 3 and 7 degrees and there was snow on the ground most of the day. We dressed warm, took a lunch, emergency kit, including flashlights, matches, knife, rope, medical supplies, rain gear, lots of water and cell phones. There was cell coverage on most of the trail.

Keith Pearson

A few Photos from the Christmas Bird Count held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

A familiar sight to all of us during these times!

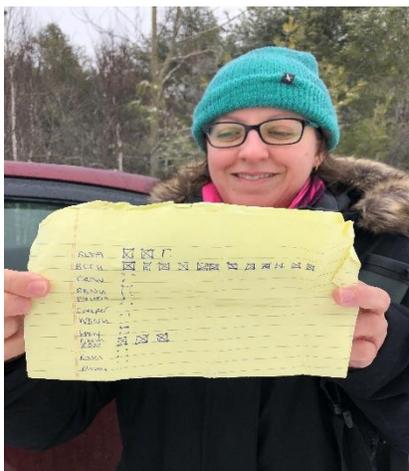


© Renee Levesque



© Stephen O'Donnell

This is a southern Hoary Redpoll exilipes which is darker than *Acanthis hornemanni* the very pale frosty looking Redpoll from Baffin Island and Greenland.



Rachel Sturge in her natural environment, holding up the count for her area. (Photo by Sarah Wheelan)

## Christmas Bird Count

By Lori Anderson, North Bay's Christmas Bird Count Coordinator

2020 was a more difficult count for field surveyors who, in some cases had to survey alone. Three incidents were reported. One couple narrowly missed hitting a moose while driving into the count area with their eyes on the sky. One lady got turned around in the woods north of the city while surveying on foot (also with eyes in the sky). She then followed a snowshoe trail which brought her out of the woods, but at a great distance from the parked car! She and her husband eventually were happily reunited. Another young lady, surveying alone on a rural road, gently sunk into a deep ditch when pulling her car over to park. After some initial shock, to her relief, helpful local residents volunteered their efforts and equipment to get the car back on the road. Surveyors did not meet in person following the count. Instead, they met virtually for an evening "Tally without Potluck" by Zoom. It served the purpose, and in the end, turned out to be quite fun and entertaining due to the efforts of participants who provided Christmas music and shared photos. Renee Levesque even composed a Christmas poem to commemorate the Count. It can be sung as a song to the music of John Lennon's "So this is Christmas". The group did indeed join together in song at conclusion of the meeting - the result was no less than spectacular! Feeder Watchers, 28 in total this year, made a huge contribution to the count. Cumulatively they watched feeders for 62 hours, counting 29 species for a total of 582 birds! I very much enjoyed tallying these results; so variable from year to year and from feeder to feeder. Some very unusual species have remained at feeders here in North Bay this winter. Ignoring the science which says they should migrate south; these birds seemingly prefer our city. And, if you have read the little article by Dave Dale, you will already know that two of our feeders were hit by Northern Shrike on Count Day. In both cases, our participants actually witnessed the Shrike take down its prey.

Congratulations to everyone who was able to contribute to the count, part of the largest citizen science project in the world.

#### **North Bay Christmas Bird Count, December 19, 2020 - Preliminary Results**

**Most Abundant Birds Observed:** Black-capped Chickadees were abundant; woodpeckers and nuthatches frequent; many Mallards; grosbeaks were well counted, with 74 Pine and 62 Evening Grosbeaks; and Redpolls numerous

**First Time on Count Species:** 2 Wild Turkey and 1 Peregrine Falcon

**Specialty Birds Observed:** 1 Ring-necked Duck and Common Goldeneyes - scoped in a small remaining area of open water on Trout Lake; 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Gray Catbird and Northern Cardinals - wintering comfortably near feeders; Canada Jays - proud to be listed as Canadian once more; 1 Song Sparrow and 1 injured Red-winged Blackbird taken by Northern Shrikes; American Tree Sparrows, 1 Dark-eyed Junco and 1 White-crowned Sparrow wintering near feeders.

**High Count:** Barred Owl at 3

**Misses and Poorly Represented:** most gulls - too much ice; most waterfowl; hawks - none observed; kinglets - 0; waxwings - 0; Snow Bunting - 0; Purple Finch - 0; Pine Siskin - 0; American Goldfinch - only 6.

**Count Week Species:** Carolina Wren

**Totals:** 38 species and over 2200 individuals

## Banff Mountain Film Festival

Lefebvre's Source for Adventure  
Presents

The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival in the comfort of your home.

Click to view: <https://filmfest.banffcentre.ca/?campaign=WT-166249>

Proceeds go to Nipissing Naturalists and The Canadian Ecology Centre.

A reminder of some Virtual Viewing basics:

- Individual programs: \$15 USD (3-day rental period)
- Bundle (2 programs): \$28 USD (14-day rental period)
- The rental period begins immediately upon viewing (as soon as the customer presses play).
- Films can be re-watched within their rental period.
- On the website, customers will need to have an internet or Wi-Fi connection to view the films, and they are available only through online streaming (not download).



## Board of Directors 2020

Fred Pinto, President [fredpinto1@gmail.com](mailto:fredpinto1@gmail.com) 705-476-9006

Rick Tripp, Vice-president  
Connie Sturge, Treasurer

Allison Bannister  
Alexander Gomm  
Irene Kasch

Grant McKercher  
Keith Pearson  
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## Past Presidents

Dick Tafel  
Angela Martin

Ted Price  
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Steph Romaniuk  
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## Bird Wing

Dick Tafel, Chairman [rtafel@sympatico.ca](mailto:rtafel@sympatico.ca) 705-472-7907  
Gary Sturge, Treasurer  
Renee Levesque, Coordinator

Monthly Bird Wing and Bird Bash reports are sent to members by e-mail and posted on the Nipissing Naturalists Club's website: <https://www.nipnats.com/bird-wing/bird-wing-meetings-outings/> and <https://nipnats.com/bird-wing/bird-bash-reports/>.

## The Woodland Observer

The Club's newsletter, *The Woodland Observer*, is published electronically September to June, and sent to members by e-mail and posted in date order on the Nipissing Naturalists Club's website: <https://nipnats.com/newsletters/>.

Alexander Gomm, Editor [alexgomm@gmail.com](mailto:alexgomm@gmail.com) 705-475-8235

**Contributors to this issue:** Lori Anderson, Keith Pearson, Fred Pinto

## Membership Fees

|   |        |         |
|---|--------|---------|
| Annual Nipissing Naturalist Club membership fees are: | Single | \$20.00 |
|   | Family | \$30.00 |

There is an **additional annual \$5.00 membership fee for Bird Wing.**

Nipissing Naturalists Club is a member Ontario Nature: <http://www.ontarionature.org/>.

