



# The Swallow



**Volume 30, # 2**  
**Spring/Summer 2013**

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***Spruce Grouse*** - Algonquin Park (east side) (Photo: Chris Michener)

Membership in the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists is available by writing to: The PAFN, Box 1242, Pembroke, ON K8A 6Y6  
Dues for 2013/2014 are: Student \$10, Senior \$10, Individual \$15, Family \$20, Individual Life \$150, Family Life \$200.

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PAFN web site: [www.pafn.on.ca](http://www.pafn.on.ca) Webmaster, Mike MacDonald



***It's time to renew your membership for 2013!***

*Please print form below and mail it along with your cheque to:*

The Pembroke Area Field Naturalists  
Box 1242  
Pembroke, ON  
K8A 6Y6

**Pembroke Area Field Naturalists Membership Renewal Form**  
**April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014**

*The membership fees are:*

Seniors:	\$10.00
Students:	\$10.00
Individual:	\$15.00
Family:	\$20.00
Individual Life:	\$150.00
Family Life:	\$200.00

Names and ages of children:

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Please make comments or share suggestions (such as preferred activities, etc.)

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Check out our web page at: <http://www.pafn.on.ca>



## Events & Field Trips

*Note: Please be sure to check the PAFN web site for updates, notices, and details of all club events so you don't miss anything. [www.pafn.on.ca](http://www.pafn.on.ca) The general public is always welcome to attend PAFN events!*

**2013**

### **Owl Prowl (Owling Night)**

Date: **Saturday, April 6, 2013**

Time: 8:00 PM

Trip Leader: Christian Renault (613-735-8395)

Place: Wilberforce Township Park. Go south on Hwy 41 past intersection of Hwy 41 and Lake Dore Rd., cross the bridge, turn right after the bridge and go a short distance to the park.

This trip will involve a driving loop through varied habitat. We'll use a CD of owl calls to encourage a response. The expected species is Barred Owl, but other species are possible. We could hear American Woodcock and other night calling birds.

### **PAFN Annual Meeting**

Date: **Wednesday, April 10, 2013**

Place: Algonquin College, New Pembroke Campus, Room 339

Agenda: Doors open at 6:30 pm;  
7:00-7:30 PM - annual general meeting;  
7:30-8:00 PM - social with refreshments;  
8:00 PM - Guest speaker: **Michael Runtz**

Our speaker this year is Michael Runtz, one of Canada's most highly respected naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors. A birdwatcher since the age of five, he has lived, breathed, and worked with nature all his life. Professionally, Michael has worked as a naturalist in Canadian national and provincial parks, and has performed numerous biological surveys. A dynamic communicator, Michael Runtz is equally at home in a lecture hall or a wetland.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural History Day - Free Admission**

Date: **Saturday, April 20, 2013**

Where: Calabogie Community Center 574 Mill Street, Calabogie

Start Time: 8:30 AM

*Those planning to attend are requested to pre-register by calling: 613-732-5511 anytime after 28th March 2013.*

#### Agenda:

8:30 *Check-in* - Get comfortable and view displays

9:00 *Welcome* - Introductory remarks by Master of Ceremonies, Mark Stabb

9:05 *The Bear Facts* – What you need to know to live in Bear Country – Rick Stronks

9:45 *Break for Refreshments*. At this time a children's program will move outside, and allow children a chance to explore nature with expert adult leadership.

10:00 *Alvars* – Dan Brunton

10:40 *Dragonflies* – Harry Adams

- 11:20 *Salamanders* – Matt Ellerbeck  
 12:05 *Lunch and Networking (Don't forget to bring your bag lunch!)*  
 1:00 *Field Trips* (weather permitting) - To experience and discover the marvels of local flora and fauna on a guided walk. Please bring appropriate outdoor attire.

*Renfrew County Natural History Day 2013 is organized in partnership by Pembroke Area Field Naturalists, Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club, Renfrew County Stewardship Council, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources-Pembroke District; with support from Four Seasons Conservancy, Upper Ottawa Valley Nature Club, Friends of Bonnechere Provincial Park, Ontario Parks, Ontario Nature and Nature Conservancy of Canada.*

### **Bellows Bay Waterfowl Trip**

Date: **Saturday, April 27, 2013**  
Time: 9:00 AM  
Trip Leader: Manson Fleguel (613-732-7703)  
Place: Meet at the *Pembroke Marina* (at the mouth of the Muskrat River).

Car pooling will be offered. Bring rubber boots as mud and water will be encountered on the 1.5 km (total distance) walk. Migrant songbirds, ducks and friendly people are highlights. Spotting scopes are useful, binoculars essential.

### **Shaw Woods: Mothers' Day Wildflower and Nature Walk**

Date: **Sunday, May 12, 2013**  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Place: Due to limited parking at Shaw Woods, we will meet at Wilberforce Township Beach & Picnic Park. From here, we'll proceed to the Shaw Woods.  
Trip Leaders: Grant Bickel (613-687-4765), orchid and sedge aficionado and Robin Cunningham, forester and naturalist.

The focus of this outing will be to enjoy early spring in the beautiful Shaw Woods. We expect to see Blue Cohosh, Trout Lily, Trilliums, and several other species of woodland wildflowers. This walk is for all ages and is an introduction to the Shaw Woods, an old-growth forest. The walk is easy to moderate on well-maintained trails. The pace will be determined by the participants and will last about 2.5 hours.

### **A Walk in the Petawawa Terrace (Old Fish Hatchery)**

Date: **Sunday, May 25, 2013**  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Trip Leader: Robin Cunningham and Ken Hooles  
Place: Meet in the upper parking lot of the Terrace, on Laurentian Drive.

*(To get here, travel west out of Pembroke on Pembroke St. towards Petawawa, turn north on Laurentian Drive, watch for sign and parking area.)*

Some migrant songbirds and waterfowl can be expected. Good outing for children as Canada Geese will likely be present and, quite possibly, with young. This is an enjoyable, relaxed outing. Please bring rubber boots for there are some wet/muddy areas.

### **Garage Sale - Fundraiser**

Date: **Saturday, June 8, 2013**  
Time: 7:00 AM - 12 Noon  
Place: The Children's Garden Nursery School,  
375 Doran Street, Pembroke

This is a combined garage sale at The Children's Garden Nursery. Benita and other volunteers from the PAFN Club will be staffing the sale of all manner of goods with the proceeds going to both The Children's Garden Nursery School and the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists Club. Donations of goods are welcome during the week leading up to the sale.

*For more information, please call Benita Richardson at 613-735-2259.*

### **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Dore Butterfly Count**

Date: **Saturday, June 29, 2013**  
[Rain/Wind date is Sunday, June 30 ]  
Time: 9 AM  
Organizers: Jean Brereton (613-625-2263) and Ethan Anderman  
Place: Wilberforce Township Park (Beach & Picnic Area). Go south on Hwy 41 past intersection of Hwy 41 and Lake Dore Road, cross the bridge, turn right after bridge and go a short distance to park.

Bring: lunch, water, butterfly field guide, binoculars, rubber boots as we'll go to the bog after lunch, net (for catch & release). A map of the Lake Dore count circle will be made available. A participants fee of \$3 (under 13, free) is asked to cover publishing costs of the North American Butterfly Count Report. (North American Butterfly Association - NABA)

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hog Island Butterfly Count**

Date: **Saturday, July 13, 2013**  
[Rain/Wind date is Sunday, July 14 ]  
Time: 9 AM  
Organizers: Jean Brereton (613-625-2263) and Ethan Anderman  
Place: Meet at Mullen's Esso, Pembroke St. E., near the turn off to Quebec.

The count circle is half in Ontario and half in Quebec. In the past, some groups have gone to the Westmeath Park area; others have butterflyed on Allumette Island. You can choose the area you prefer. Maps of the circle and checklists will be made available. Bring lunch, water, butterfly field guide, binoculars, and net (for catch & release). A participants fee of \$3 (under 13, free) is asked to cover publishing costs of the North American Butterfly Count Report. (North American Butterfly Association - NABA)

### **The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Dore Odonate [Dragonfly] Count**

Date: **Saturday, August 3, 2013**  
[bad weather day Sunday, August 4, 2013]  
Time: 9 AM *(come for a half day (9-12) or a full day (9-5))*  
Organizers: Harry Adams (613-602-3141) and Christian Renault  
Place: Meet at the Wilberforce Township Park To reach the park go south on Highway 41 past intersection of Hwy 41 and Lake Dore Road, cross the bridge, turn right after bridge and go a short distance to park.

An excellent opportunity to appreciate this group of insects! We have fun with nets and encounter a good variety of damselflies and dragonflies. The idea is to search for “odes” within a 7.5 mile radius of Biederman Park, Lake Dore. Experienced observers will be available as well as picture guides. A large insect net, optional rubber boots, close focus binoculars, and lunch/drinks are suggested.

### **Pembroke Marina/Waterfront Bird Walk**

Date: **Saturday, August 24, 2013**

Time: 8 AM

Trip Leader: Ken Hooles (613-735-4430)

Place: Meet at the Pembroke Marina, by the mouth of the Muskrat River in Pembroke.

Ken will introduce us to migrant birdlife along the Pembroke waterfront. There are usually gulls, terns, ducks, geese, cormorants and songbirds such as vireos, warblers, sparrows and finches. Surprises usually occur and it's a good social outing... a chance to meet some very nice people!

### **18th Annual Renfrew County Outdoor Woodlot Conference**

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Location: Mapleside Sugar Bush, 166 Reiche Road, Pembroke

*Details will be posted on the PAFN web page closer to the date.*

<http://www.pafn.on.ca>



## **The Pembroke Christmas Bird Count, December 15, 2012**

by Manson Fleguel, Count Organizer and Compiler

It couldn't have been a better day for the Pembroke Count! The temperatures ranged from -17C (early morning hours for owling) to -6C (mid afternoon). Winds were light and the sun shone brightly all day. There was only 2 inches of snow, but it was covered with an icy crust, making walking noisy. No sneaking up on the birds! The Ottawa River was almost completely open, but smaller streams and ponds were frozen.

Count day was Saturday, December 15. Twenty five field birders drove the circle roads and walked back trails and 37 feeders were watched by 57 persons. For our efforts, 42 species were noted and 5713 individual birds were counted. No new count species were found. This was the lowest species count since 2002.

The six sectors were again in a friendly competition to be the sector with the highest species count. This year **Sector 1E**, piloted by Bruce and Ben DiLabio, and Susan Ellis had 33 species. Highlights included the only Common Mergansers, Rough-legged Hawk, Herring Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Hoary Redpoll and Red-bellied Woodpecker. The Red-bellied Woodpecker was only the third spotted on our count in 35 years of counting. Thanks to Glenda and Terry Duff's feeder.

**Sector 3E** had 28 species. They had the only Pine Siskin found (1 bird) and had 2 of the 4 Common Loons. Ken and Pat Hooles, Merv Fediuk, Ron Bertrand, Vic Harmer and Caley Jackson were this zone's field birders.

**Sector 3W**, had Myron and Evan Loback, Teresa Frechette, Benita Richardson and Leo Boland who found 27 species. They located the only Northern Shrike and Brown Creepers in this sector.

**Sector 1W** with Manson Fleguel and Martin Roncetti also had 27 species, finding the only Red-tailed Hawk, and Mallard.

**Sector 2S**, led by Jean Brereton had 24 species. On her team were Ole Hendrickson, and Dustin Ryckman. Also Christian and Andre Renault covered part of this sector. They found 3 of the record high count of Bald Eagles.

**Sector 2N** had Robin Cunningham and Elizabeth Link as well as Kyle and Marianne Bertrand in the field, ending the day with 20 species. They found 1 of the record high count of Barred Owls.

Some highlights:

Record high counts of Wild Turkey, 408 (up from 380 in 2010), Bald Eagle, 8 (up from 6 in 2010), Barred Owl, 4 (up from 3 in 2001) and Northern Cardinal, 33 (up from 29 in 2008).

Purple Finches were in low numbers, House Sparrows continue to be difficult to find, and even with the Ottawa River open, Gulls were surprisingly missing.

Feeder watchers put the icing on the cake for the count. Results would be much lower without their dedication and effort. Thanks to each feeder watcher who is listed below:

Jim Anderson, Nancy Armstrong, Barb and David Beimers, Ron and Lorraine Bertrand, Ray Brazeau, Sheila Bucholtz, Dan and Jean Callaghan, Daryl and Sabine Coulson, Dwight and Lucy Dickerson, Howard and Frances Doelle, Juanita, Michaella and Levi Dojczman, Terry and Glenda Duff, Tom and Dawn Farnel, Merv Fediuk, Judy Fleguel, Beth Guimond, Sheila Handke, Mary Lou Hansen, Pat and Vic Harmer, Ted and Nancy Hiscock, Ken and Pat Hooles, Jeremy Inglis, Marilyn Kruschenske, Carolyn Lance, Eric and Marg Leskie, Beth Loback, Erna Maves, Wendell McLaughlin, Alan Mills, Floyd and Attie Milton, Sandra Muir, Mac Nussey, Jill Renault, Bruce Schoof, Jack and Cecile Schreader, Mac and Dianne Thrasher, Gary and Sue Walton and Harold and Shirley Wirth.

Following the count, courtesy of our PAFN Club, pizza was served at the home of Manson and Judy.

Here is a listing of the birds counted:

Canada Goose 270; Mallard 3; Common Goldeneye 76; Hooded Merganser 6; Common Merganser 4; Ruffed Grouse 19; Wild Turkey 408; Common Loon 4; Bald Eagle 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk (Count Week), Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Herring Gull 1; Rock Pigeon 507; Mourning Dove 314; Barred

Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 48; Hairy Woodpecker 73; Pileated Woodpecker 18; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 316; Am. Crow 419; Common Raven 88; Black-capped Chickadee 716, Red-breasted Nuthatch 38, White-breasted Nuthatch 67, Brown Creeper 6, European Starling 699, American Tree Sparrow 58; Dark-eyed Junco 39; Snow Bunting 326; Northern Cardinal 33; Pine Grosbeak 126; Purple Finch 8; House Finch 27; Common Redpoll 666; Hoary Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 213; Evening Grosbeak 87; House Sparrow 11.

Thanks to my co-compiler Christian Renault and to everyone who took part. See you next year on December 14, 2013!



### **Emotions of a Rare Bird (Non) Sighting** by Manson Fleguel

I love birding. I love birding in the springtime when the birds in their finest feathers return to start their cycle over again. I love birding in the summer when the offspring of these early season romances begin to appear. I love birding in the fall when migration carries wave after wave of southward bound birds past our location. But I especially loved birding when I got an e-mail on Saturday evening, December 1, 2012 asking me “Is a Northern Parula common in the Pembroke area? I have one sitting in our tree over the past few weeks”. The e-mail specified no address, no phone number and was signed “William C”!

My first thought was that William C must be mistaken. Warblers are long gone and we had some pretty cold weather already. Why tease me like this? What on earth would a warbler eat at this time of year when their diet is almost exclusively insects? To make matters worse, my questioning e-mail in reply, wasn't answered for 2 days! It was now late Monday. Finally, the return e-mail came and provided a phone number for Bill Crogie, the manager at a local large furniture store. I immediately called and was invited up to the store to confirm the ID of the bird. Supper could wait!

Bill turned out to be a great photographer who knew little about us bird brained guys, but couldn't wait to show me his pictures.....on an 80 inch flat screen TV! The pictures confirmed an immature male Northern Parula in stunning, much-larger-than-life colour. The bird was eating small bits of frozen apples on the tree in his yard. I couldn't wipe the silly grin off my face as I anticipated actually seeing the bird in person. I shared my excitement with Bill, and hinted to him what a mega sighting this was. I hoped he would be willing to share his tree with the local birding world. I wanted his permission to proceed to get the word out. But who could I tell right now? I finally sent a brief note to Jean who filled in now that I didn't have Chris to tell.

Alas, my Tuesday involved a full day trip to Ottawa so, since Bill was off work that day, he would check out the Parula. I left Ken as an alternate contact if the bird showed up. Bill had now allowed that local birders could be notified, but he had some reservations on having a mob of out-of-town birders in his



yard, trying to get a warbler on their winter list. How could I let only a few birders in on such a find? What about someone like Bruce DiLabio?



**Northern Parula** (Photo: William Crogie)

The weather had turned milder on Tuesday (a new record high was recorded in the area) so I was sure the bird was going to be found again. On Wednesday morning, I visited Bill's home fully expecting the miracle, but luck wasn't on my side. The weather had turned colder again and a strong wind wasn't helping either. My high had now sunk to a low. How do I let the locals know? If I don't say anything, no one will know, but how do I get rid of the build up to such a great find?

Despite the disappointment, I sent an e-mail to those I felt would be happy to share the excitement, albeit prefacing my note with "There was" a Northern Parula around.

Unfortunately the Parula was not spotted again. This article was written in an attempt to express the roller coaster emotions I encountered over those couple of days. I expect that most diehard birders have experienced similar feelings.



**The Chris Michener Memorial Eganville Christmas Bird Count,  
Sunday, December 16, 2012**

by Jean Brereton, Count Organizer and Compiler

Count day weather definitely added to the annual CBC outdoor adventure. Morning temperature was -11C but rose to -4C by afternoon. Just warm enough for the morning snowfall to morph into ice pellets and rain. The snow

cover was between 2 - 3 inches, with moving water mostly open and still water, frozen. The southeast wind was blowing between 30 - 40 kph.

This year we had 15 field participants covering the six traditional count zones. At the end of the day the collective tally was **37 species** making up a total of **3,478 individual birds** seen. This was the lowest species count since 2007. The only ducks observed were 1 Mallard and 3 Goldeneye. Gull numbers were also low this year with only 5 Herring Gulls seen. Another 4 Large Gull species were spotted out on Lake Dore but too distant to be accurately identified. A record number of 11 Northern Cardinals were observed on count day.

**Golden Lake Zone** had the highest tally with a total of **27 species**.

**Golden Lake Zone:** Jean Brereton (zone coordinator); Chantal Hopkins; Claire Lepine; Ted Manto and Dustin Ryckman recorded a species count of **27**. One highlight was an unexpected Red-winged Blackbird spotted on the ground in the Village of Golden Lake beneath a feeder.

**Mink Lake Zone:** Christian Renault (zone coordinator), and son André Renault recorded **25** species which included the count's single Brown Creeper as well as the only Purple Finches.

**Augsburg Zone:** Bernd Krueger (zone coordinator); and partner Elizabeth Reeves, recorded a species count of **24**. This number included the only ducks found on the count: 1 Mallard and 3 Common Goldeneye.

**Micksburg Zone:** Robin Cunningham (zone coordinator), and Sheldon Davis, recorded a species count of **23**. This included 33 House Sparrows, a species that is becoming harder to find on our Christmas Bird Counts.

**Highway 41 Zone:** Ken Hooles (zone coordinator), and Margaret McLeod, recorded a species count of **22** and included 1 of the two Sharp-shinned Hawks located.

**Green Lake Zone:** Manson Fleguel (zone coordinator), and Myron Loback, recorded a species count of **20**. This team located the only Bald Eagle for the day.

The final tally of 37 species was made up of the following:

Canada Goose (150)	Black-capped Chickadee (466)
Mallard (1)	Red-breasted Nuthatch (14)
Common Goldeneye (6)	White-breasted Nuthatch (24)
Ruffed Grouse (6)	Brown Creeper (1)
Wild Turkey (81)	European Starling (205)
Bald Eagle (1)	Bohemian Waxwing (46)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (2)	American Tree Sparrow (55)
Coopers Hawk (1)	Dark-eyed Junco (85)
Herring Gull (5)	Snow Bunting (969)
Rock Pigeon (106)	Northern Cardinal (11)

Mourning Dove (59)  
Great Horned Owl (1)  
Downy Woodpecker (21)  
Hairy Woodpecker (25)  
Pileated Woodpecker (2)  
Northern Shrike (4)  
Blue Jay (152)  
American Crow (104)  
Common Raven (98)

Red-winged Blackbird (1)  
Pine Grosbeak (59)  
Purple Finch (8)  
Common Redpoll (461)  
Pine Siskin (2)  
American Goldfinch (167)  
Evening Grosbeak (37)  
House Sparrow (37)

Thanks to all the bird watchers who kept vigil by their feeders! A new species was added to the Eganville count's ongoing checklist by Hugh Howard who reported a Coopers Hawk roosting in the barn on his family farm near Eganville. The Great Horned Owl that had been coming with regularity to Mike and Heather Lett's feeder near Eganville thankfully showed up on count day and they were there to see it. Turned out to be the only owl reported on this count. Feeder-watcher Charlotte Lehmann witnessed the count's only Canada Geese flying overhead while she crossed her yard on the way to do chores.

**Feeder watchers:** Tom Adamchick; Rosemary Cammaert; Bob and Lauren Clarke; Margaret Conroy; Ernie and Vivian Freitag; Stephan & Judy Grasmuck; Hugh Howard; Brenda Jolicoeur; Charlotte Lehmann; the Lett family (Michael, Heather, Mitchell, and Deann); Harold & Audrey McKibbon; Kornil Mielke; Sandra Palmer; Margery Reinert; Norman Schiemann; John Stuart; Garry Swant; the Tamosetis Family (Pat, Larry, Jana, Sarah); and Candace Woolley

At the end of the day field participants gathered at the home of Bernd Krueger and Liz Reeves to enjoy a warm and hearty meal. Thank you Bernd and Liz for your generous hospitality. Thanks to everyone who participated this year in the *Chris Michener Memorial Eganville Christmas Bird Count!*



### Photo Quiz

A winter visitor to Myron & Beth Loback's feeder had some of us stumped.

What do you think?

*Sharp-shinned or Coopers Hawk?*

**Mystery Bird**

(Photo: Beth Loback)



Bats in the belfry! Gone batty! Blind as a bat! That bat is going to get tangled in my hair! In this edition, let's learn about one of our smallest furry friends, the Little Brown Bat, and we'll resolve some of these long-standing myths too.

The Little Brown Bat (aka Little Brown Myotis, *Myotis lucifugus*) is a mammal, and a member of the order Chiroptera which means "hand wing" and are the only mammals that can fly. Those flying squirrels try their best, but the best they can do is a glide.

This species is found all across Canada and the United States. They are resident bats, meaning that they don't migrate, but they do use different areas and habitats at different times of the year. During the winter (usually September through March), the Little Brown Bat hibernates in mines and caves where there are high humidity levels and temperatures that stay above freezing. Other

species of bat will often share the hibernation site. Spring through fall they will use a wide variety of areas that are dark, have shelter from the elements and are fairly warm, including trees, buildings, under rocks and other crevices. Females also form maternity colonies and nursery roosts, which are usually a little warmer than other summer roosts, and are used only by the females and their babies.



**Little Brown Bats** (Photo: Daryl Coulson)

How little is the Little Brown Bat? They weigh anywhere from 5 to 14 grams, depending on the time of year, and females are a little larger than the males. They are 6 to 10 cm long, and have a wingspan between 22 and 27 cm. They have soft, glossy brown fur, which can range from dark chocolate brown to lighter golden brown and even reddish. Their bellies are usually a little lighter in colour.



*Little Brown Bat*

(Photo: Daryl Coulson)

Let's have a quick look at a year in the life of a bat. Starting in later summer and early fall the bats begin to swarm around their winter hibernation site. This is important behaviour, as it shows the young bats where the hibernation sites are. Mating also starts to occur in the late summer, but will continue throughout the winter. Males will mate with many females, including those that are inactive (in torpor) during the winter. Torpor, when the bats' body temperature cools, and their bodily functions slow to a near stop, lasts until the outside weather conditions are warm enough for them to begin to feed again.

Female Little Browns can store sperm all winter until they ovulate and become pregnant. A 50-60 day gestation period begins. In the meantime, they move to maternity colonies where a single young (a pup), weighing a whopping 2 grams, is born in June/July. The young nurse from their mothers for about 3 weeks, and are able to fly and feed on their own after about a month. By August, the young are feeding and flying and following the females to the hibernation sites.

Bats are nocturnal. Little Brown Bats can fly as fast as 35 km/h as they zip around looking for food using echolocation. Their main food source is flying insects - moths, beetles, mayflies, caddisflies and mosquitos - and they can eat more than 100% of their body weight every night!

This myotis can live for a long time - we think on average six to seven years - but bat banding projects have recorded some Ontario bats that have lived over 30

years! Males usually live longer than females, probably because females are more vulnerable to predators when they are raising the young. Cats, mink, fisher, hawks/owls, and raccoons are just some of predators that will feed on bats.

Bats in general are hugely important to people for insect control, as well as for seed dispersal and pollination. Recently, the Little Brown Bat and two other of our resident bat species were listed as threatened species in Canada. This is due to a devastating fungus called white-nose syndrome, which attacks bats during hibernation. Mortality at some hibernation sites has exceeded 90% and Renfrew County bats have been greatly impacted.



*Little Brown Bat* (Photo: Daryl Coulson)

Stay tuned for the next *Species in Focus* article which will feature *Geomyces destructans* - white-nose syndrome, written by local mycologist and all around "fun-gi" George White.

Oh yes, to end on a more uplifting note! Let's debunk some of those bat myths, shall we?

*Bats are blind:* Nope! Bats have eyes and can see fairly well, they just use echolocation to find their food. Random factoid - some visually impaired people are taking the principles of echolocation and using it to help them "see". Check it out:

<http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/news/newshowblindpeopleseeecholocation>

*Bats get tangled in your hair:* If a bat ends up in your house, it doesn't want to be there anymore than you want it there. Their echolocation doesn't work well in an enclosed area because it bounces off all the walls and as a result they get very confused and may run into you. They don't build nests and they certainly don't like hair, they're just trying to find a way out so open the doors and windows!

*All bats have rabies:* Like all animals, bats can carry diseases. Less than 1% of bats have rabies and most die from it. Treat them as any other wild animal and don't handle them.

*Bats are dirty:* Wrong again! Bats spend as much time grooming and cleaning themselves as your cat does.

*Bats are pests and we should get rid of them:* I think you have a whole article's worth of information here to debunk this one! Remember, they eat more than their body weight in insects each night! Let's learn to appreciate what they do for us!



*A note from **Species in Focus** columnist, Lauren Kruschenske:*

On February 13th, 2013 I got to check off a new "**Lifer**" on my list... Andrew Kruschenske arrived at 11:41 a.m. He is excited to be part of PAFN and will come on some fun field trips with mom this summer!

***Introducing our newest PAFN member, Andrew Kruschenske***

*(Photo: Lauren Kruschenske)*



## **The Renfrew County Biotabase Project** by Jean Brereton

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." - John Muir

Chris Michener (1949-2011), founding member of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists Club, had a deep appreciation of *biodiversity*. A fervent naturalist, he was pulled at his core by the thread that hitched everything to everything else in nature. Chris, I suspect was hopeful that his vision, the *Renfrew County Biotabase*, might inspire people to tug a little on this thread and in so doing, deepen their relationship with nature and enjoy a greater appreciation of the biodiversity of Renfrew County.

The *Biotabase* is a public participation project that offers *citizen scientists* the opportunity to record and share field observations on an ongoing basis. This on-line database is a record of *what* species we have in Renfrew County and indicates *when* and *where* they can be found.

Participation is easy and registration, straightforward. A tool (located on the site) allows you to detect your survey location and automatically record its latitude and longitude.

Go to: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/birdmon/rcb/main.jsp>

- To register click on: "Create New Login"
- To download field checklists and participant's manual, click on *Resources*.
- This short video will take you through the step of registering and using the Renfrew County Biotabase:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9awNxxzhMpU&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

*The Pembroke Area Field Naturalists, The Ottawa River Institute, and Bird Studies Canada* are collaborators on the biotabase project which received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

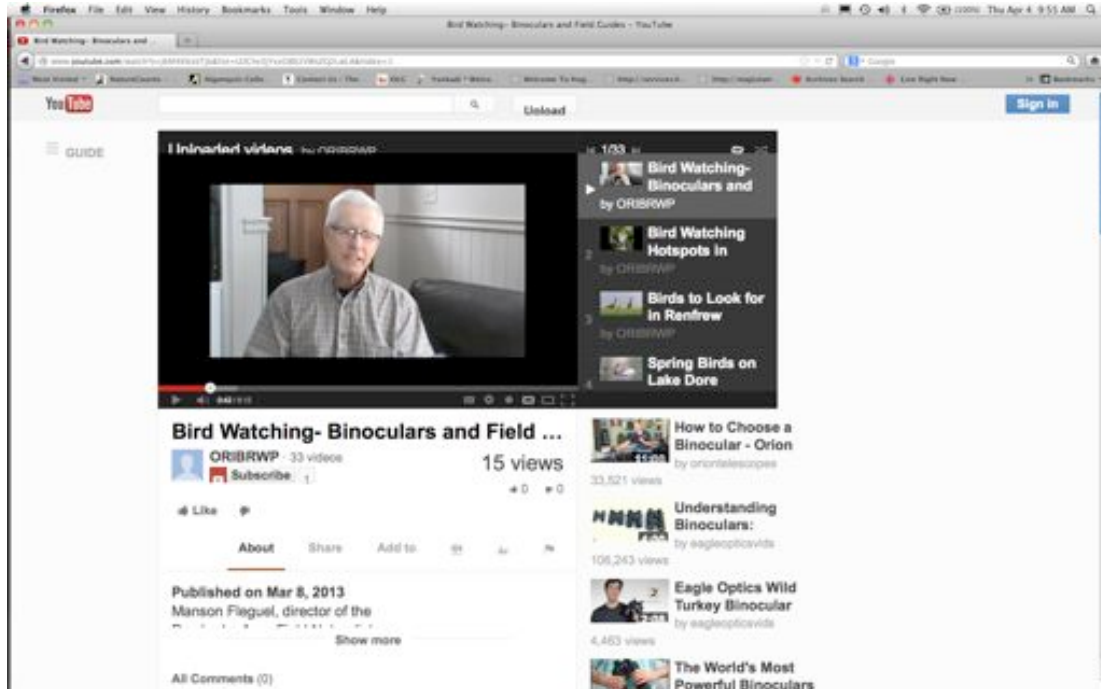
### **On-line Videos Featuring PAFN Members**

To support and encourage citizen scientist/naturalists, the Biotabase Project has made a number of short videos to help with the identification of various bird species and includes some tips on hot birding spots in Renfrew County. Some videos on butterfly identification will be added soon.

Thanks to Cheryl Keetch for her great work as videographer and editor! Also thanks to PAFN Directors Manson Fleguel and Christian Renault for sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge in these videos.



To watch the videos just click on the underlined links given below which should automatically open your browser and take you to the YouTube channel (per screenshot shown immediately below). Alternatively, you can copy the links and paste them into your browser application.



### Video Links:

**Manson Fleguel**, director of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists discusses ways to enhance your bird watching experiences with the use of binoculars and field guides.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbM4K6xbTjk&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA&index=1>

**Manson Fleguel** talks about some of his favourite birding locations in Renfrew County, and what you might find there

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaAExWTt2h0&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Manson Fleguel** discusses some of the birds that one might find in Renfrew County during fall migrations.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vxqdp-9YoF4&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Manson Fleguel** discusses the types of ducks that one might see on Lake Dore during spring migration.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSYijPh7BrI&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Manson Fleguel** talks about some of his birding experiences and some of the birds that can be seen on and around Lake Dore, near Eganville.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPDLDRrtxHU&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Christian Renault**, director of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists discusses some of the owls that we might find in Renfrew County.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMP4LRoJxig&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Christian Renault** discusses the characteristics of the various birds that can be found around your winter bird feeder in Renfrew County.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_rKvhcDSbU&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_rKvhcDSbU&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA)

**Christian Renault** discusses the characteristics of the various sparrows that can be found in Renfrew County.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KmAqy1-aG3U&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

Members of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists tell stories of exciting bird sightings in Renfrew County.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_DNXXT5wp\\_U&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DNXXT5wp_U&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA)

Members of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists and other birdwatchers find plenty of waterfowl and shore birds in and around Lake Dore.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6aBomr-\\_BI&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6aBomr-_BI&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA)

## **Videos about the Renfrew County Biotabase**

**Ole Hendrickson**, President of The Ottawa River Institute and member of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists.  
In this short video Ole takes you through the steps of registering and using the Renfrew County Biotabase.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9awNxzhMpU&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Christian Renault** describes what the Renfrew County Biotabase is, how it works, and its value as a monitoring tool.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wO6MTk6kVgk&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

**Jean Brereton**, director of the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists and committee member of the Renfrew County Biotabase Project, describes how Chris Michener's work inspired and initiated the Renfrew County Biotabase Project.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txVEXIKkIBc&list=UUChc0jYxzO8X2VWsZQ2LwLA>

## **The ORI-BRWP (Ottawa River Institute-Bonnechere River Watershed Project) YouTube Channel**

These and many other videos, including some from the “Nature in Your Neighbourhood” series, can all be found on the ORI-BRWP YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/ORIBRWP>