



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

"Know ♦ Appreciate ♦ Conserve Nature In All Its Forms"

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Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of the month in the downstairs auditorium of the Peterborough Public Library at 345 Aylmer Street N.

COMING EVENTS

<p>Sundays April 8th to May 20th</p>	<p>Spring Wildlife Walks Our popular Spring wildlife walks will commence of Sunday April 8th and continue until May 20th, unless otherwise advertised. Most walks will start at 8am and we will normally car pool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases the leaders will confirm the destination on the day.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>8 April</td><td>Tony Bigg</td></tr> <tr> <td>15 April</td><td>Jerry Ball</td></tr> <tr> <td>22 April</td><td>Drew Monkman</td></tr> <tr> <td>29 April</td><td>TBC</td></tr> <tr> <td>6 May</td><td>Jane's Walk (a walk in memory of Jane Jacobs – see separate entry)</td></tr> <tr> <td>13 May</td><td>Martin Parker</td></tr> <tr> <td>20 May</td><td>Tony Bigg</td></tr> <tr> <td>27 May</td><td>Jerry Ball, all day trip to the Carden Plain, 7a.m. start (see separate entry)</td></tr> </table>	8 April	Tony Bigg	15 April	Jerry Ball	22 April	Drew Monkman	29 April	TBC	6 May	Jane's Walk (a walk in memory of Jane Jacobs – see separate entry)	13 May	Martin Parker	20 May	Tony Bigg	27 May	Jerry Ball, all day trip to the Carden Plain, 7a.m. start (see separate entry)
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<p>Wednesday April 11th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Arctic Tern Nesting in the High Arctic" Kelly Boadway spent four summers on a small, remote island in the High Arctic of Nunavut studying Arctic tern breeding biology and diet. She will be telling us about her research, complete with anecdotes about hosting Jim Balsillie, former CEO of RIM, and polar bear visitors in camp.</p>																
<p>Saturday April 14th 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: "An Evening of Frog Song" Join Martin Parker in this evening outing to listen to the spring chorus of frogs. The chorus will be dominated by Spring Peepers. We will also be listening for Chorus Frogs, Northern Leopard Frogs, and Wood Frogs. The outing will start from the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo, Water Street North, at 8:00 p.m. The main destination will be the Miller Creek Conservation Area. This outing will last for a couple of hours.</p>																

COMING EVENTS continued

<p>Saturday April 21st 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Outing: “The Sky Dance of the Timber-Doodle” A spring tradition of many naturalists is to venture out at dusk to listen to the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-Doodle. This bird has an elaborate courtship display which consists of a distinctive call made while on the ground, followed by the spiral flight into the sky and then a fluttering flight back to the ground. With leader, Martin Parker, we will travel to the Trent University Nature Sanctuary to watch this spring display. Meet in the north parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo on Water Street North at 8:00 p.m. This outing will conclude by 10:00 p.m. Bring a Flashlight</p>
<p>Saturday May 5th 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Fleming College, Brealy Campus (meet at the 1st driveway on the left)</p> <p>Walk lasts 1.5 – 2 hours</p>	<p>Jane’s Walk: On the first weekend of May 2012, Peterborough Ontario will once again participate in Jane’s Walk – the international event to commemorate Jane Jacobs and promote walkable neighbourhoods, urban literacy, cities planned for and by people. The PFN organized the first Peterborough Jane’s walk three years ago, and once again one our members are participating by leading one of the walks. For more information on Jane’s Walk, and to find walks in Peterborough (or around the world) visit http://www.janeswalk.net/</p> <p>Title: Suburban Connections: How rooftops and roadways impact local streams Walk Leaders: Kim, Gina & Jessica. Kim is a member of the Harper Park Stewardship Initiative and the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Gina Varrin is on the board of the PFN. Jessica Kroes is a third year Environmental Science student at Trent University and a member of the Harper Park Stewardship Initiative.</p> <p>Walk Description: The trails through Stenson Park all lead to the stormwater management pond that has become a haven for wild plants and animals capable of living in close proximity to suburban neighbours. The Stenson Park pond is a central feature of our community, putting people in touch with the natural environment and each other. But the pond is also an engineered structure, connecting the runoff from rooftops and roadways to our local stream, Harper Creek. Join our walk to discover and explore a suburban creek, and discuss the challenges that the built environment presents to streams and wetlands, and how we can make a difference!</p>
<p>Wednesday May 9th 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: “Windmills & White-nosed Syndrome” Did you know that 2011-2012 has been declared the Year of the Bat? At this month’s meeting Paul Elliot will discuss some of the threats that are leading to declines in bat populations, including the latest research on the devastating fungal infection responsible for White Nose Syndrome and the toll taken by wind turbines.</p>
<p>Sunday May 27th 7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Meet in the Sobey’s Parking lot (Lansdowne)</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) An all-day visit to the Carden Plain, an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will guide us through this globally rare habitat is only 65km from Peterborough. The trip offers the chance of seeing such birds as the Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-wing warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Blue Bird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher. Bring some lunch, water and binoculars. Meet at Sobey’s parking lot on Lansdowne Street West at 7a.m.</p>

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

Flight Extraordinaire

When: Sunday, April 22nd, 1:45 p.m.

Where: Camp Kawartha Environment Centre (located along Pioneer Road at Trent University)

Ever wondered how the smallest hummingbird to the largest eagle flap, soar and take off? Come to the next Junior program and learn about bird flight and other air borne wonders at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre Sunday Apr. 22nd at 1:45. Be ready to flap your wings, play some games and make your own gliding apparatus. Hope to see you there!...Neil



Other Events of Interest

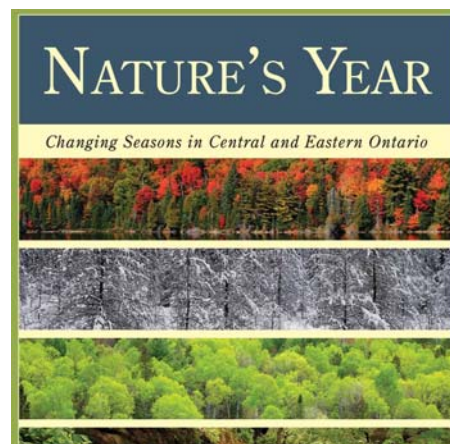
Peterborough Garden Show	The Peterborough Horticultural Society, Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners, and Northumberland Master Gardeners invite you to the 2012 Peterborough Garden Show . The 2011 show was a great success with nearly 8000 visitors and 175 booths of vendors and exhibitors all with gardening-related products and services spread over two arenas. Prestigious garden lecturers and demonstrations. Also a children's garden. Proceeds of the show are used for scholarships and beautification projects.
April 5 th to 7 th	
Evinrude Centre	The Show takes place on Easter weekend. Thursday, April 5 th , 5 pm - 9 pm, Friday, April 6 th 10 am - 6 pm, Saturday, April 7 th 10 am - 4 pm. Admission is \$6 per day (children 14 & under free when accompanied by an adult.) Free coat check. There will be free parking and shuttle bus service every 15 minutes Friday and Saturday to and from the Kinsmen Centre, Sherbrooke St. W. and Clonsilla Ave. For more information visit www.peterboroughgardens.ca
911 Monaghan Road	

Come out to a celebration of the publication of
`*Nature`s Year: Changing Seasons in Central and Eastern Ontario*`
by Drew Monkman

Saturday, April 7th, 2:00 p.m.

Titles Bookstore

379 George St North, Peterborough
For more information call 705-743-9610



Introducing Our New Website!

From static to dynamic, PFN's online presence evolves

-by Chris Gooderham

This club is a savvy group. In addition to publishing yet another fantastic book, the PFN has been managing a website for over a decade. You might take this for granted, but keeping up with the technical times is a great accomplishment for any club, especially when using the ever-evolving internet. Our latest digital achievement is an impressive team effort, and it is my pleasure to highlight some of the nifty new features on our website. But first, I thought I would briefly reflect on the history of our online presence.



In the early years, Jim Young published our website through his personal Sympatico account as a one man show, and he did a fine job posting information and current events. I think he posted sighting reports as far back as 1998! This was still at the beginning of the internet, and only a select few likely used the site regularly. In 2005, the directors realized the growing need to facilitate club outreach and to formally join the online community by registering a domain name. In the fall of 2005, peterboroughnature.org was born. It was the President at the time, Heather Smith, who convinced me to join the board of directors as the official webmaster. This not only relieved Jim to perform his Treasurer duties (now director of membership), but it prepared the club with a strong marketing and communications tool for hosting the Ontario Nature 2007 AGM at Trent University. (I remember Roger Jones et. al. were very busy at that time!) Since then, I have continued as the club's volunteer web developer securing affordable and reliable hosting, happily performing updates (most of the time!), facilitating the club's outreach, and adopting new web technologies as they emerge. As a web developer by day, I am constantly keeping up with the rapid pace of this industry.

This winter, I performed a complete overhaul of our website. Behind the scenes, it is now powered by a content management system (CMS) called Wordpress. With this CMS comes many new capabilities. For starters, we now have multiple contributing authors. This has two great advantages. First, I won't be so lonely now that other directors are helping to publish content! Second, the site will have richer, more diverse content with greater coverage and more frequent updates. It is a collaborative team effort by the Board, with directors taking ownership of entire sections of their own. In fact, Martin created a whole section called "Nature Studies" to highlight all of the "other stuff" that the club participates in throughout the year. Sounds good, hey? There's more.

For the web audience, the site functionality has changed significantly. First, on the homepage you'll notice the calendar of events. As our monthly meetings and outing details are known, they are posted as events and linked on the calendar. The shaded days on the calendar are linked event postings, and clicking these boxes launches the event summary on the right. Click the title to read more details, or click the "previous event" or "next event" buttons under the calendar to scroll through the event summaries. The cool thing about this calendar tool is the "ADD TO CALENDAR" button for each event. You web savvy readers can click this button to download an individual event right into your own digital calendar. It works for Outlook, iCal, or Google calendars and is great for quickly saving the date. Cool, hey?

Another nifty thing – after clicking an event title to view the post details – is the optional social sharing tool at the bottom of each post. (By the way, on the CMS an event or article "post" is like a database record with several fields or attributes, like "date published", "category", and "tag". The post attributes are archived for later retrieval in optional cross-referenced searches. This navigation style will already be intuitive for you regular "blog" surfers.) For you users of social networks, like Facebook, or Twitter, you can click the social sharing buttons to share an event or news item of interest on your own social network. If you are so inclined, this is a great way to help us promote club events beyond our immediate membership, so please go ahead and share the news. Along these lines, you can also "subscribe by email" by clicking the words in the top navigation to receive an email from Feedburner whenever we publish a new website post. RSS feeds are yet another way to keep our members and extended community informed.

Below the calendar on the homepage is a features section, which is currently featuring our new book. Any event or news post with the tag, "Nature in the Kawarthas" shows up here to draw deserving attention to this wonderful new publication. John and Martin have already posted items here. Below the features section is our latest "Blog" posts, and to the right, the Categories navigation menu. Our member at large, Lynn Smith, will be posting to "Regional News", and Paul, Gina and others will post to the "Indoor / Outdoor Program" sections and more. With all these contributors, I couldn't be more delighted!

Finally, with the dynamic capabilities of our new site we can eventually build registration and payment gateways to receive membership renewals or event registration fees online. Sounds big, hey? If you're not comfortable with online payments or web banking, don't worry – we will always take your cash or cheque! But to the many members who are familiar with shopping online and using PayPal, an online payment gateway for the PFN might just be around the corner as another way you can update your membership and stay in the good books. With any luck, Don, Jim and I will activate this powerful feature before our next AGM.

The website will be constantly evolving, so do stay tuned. We hope you enjoy exploring the pages. It is a great group effort indeed. Please feel free to contact me with any of your comments or ideas. Of course, you'll find that contact info online at <http://peterboroughnature.org/contact>. You can also comment on our blog posts by registering as a user. More about that next time. Until then I'll keep you posted.

Chris Gooderham, Webmaster, Board of Directors
webmaster@peterboroughnature.org

Chris is a Freelance Web Developer, Urban Ecologist, and Dad living in Peterborough.

Ontario Turtles Need Your Help!

-submitted by Kate Siena, Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

Located here in Peterborough, ON, Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre (KTTC) is the only wildlife rehabilitation centre in Ontario dedicated solely to the rehabilitation and conservation of Ontario's eight turtle species. In 2011 alone, we provided medical care to over 300 adult turtles; most were nesting females hit by cars. As well, we hatched and housed over 350 hatchlings from 4 different turtle species through our hatch and release program. We currently have 200 turtles in our care that are awaiting a spring release.

Turtles, both in Ontario and around the world, are an important part of our ecosystem. They eat vegetation, insects and snails, helping to control their populations; help keep water clean by scavenging dead vegetation and animals; and contribute to healthy fish populations by eliminating weak or unhealthy individuals through predation. Seven of the eight species of turtles in Ontario are now listed as a Species at Risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The reasons for their population decline are varied, but one of the most serious threats is the fragmentation of their habitat by roadways. Turtles must cross these roads in search of mates, nesting sites, or new territory, and are therefore at great risk of being struck by vehicles.



Injured Blanding's Turtle laying eggs.

You may think, what's one individual out of a big population? In the case of turtles, it takes anywhere from 8 to 25 years for an individual to reach sexual maturity (depending on species), and less than 1% of laid eggs survive to maturity. It would therefore take up to 25 years and 200 eggs to replace one mature female who is taken from the population by road mortality. So, with turtles, one individual out of a big population is the future of the species. One turtle saved really does make a difference.

Turtle care volunteers needed!

KTTC relies primarily on the work of volunteers to help with all aspects of running the centre, especially in the area of turtle care. Turtle care volunteers work directly with our patients, providing basic care, cleaning enclosures, weighing and feeding, as well as eventual releases! Each shift is 2-3 hours long, and occurs once a week, with a minimum commitment of 3 months. Turtles take a long time to heal and often remain in our care for a full year. The best medical care available would have no effect if the quality of the ongoing care is poor. Join our team and make a difference!

If this is something you are interested in helping with, please contact Kate Siena at info.kttc@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping us help turtles!
For more information about KTTC and the work we do, please visit www.kawarthaturtle.org



Injured Painted Turtle. Photo by Stewart Stick.

Night of the Amphibians

-by Martin Parker

On the evening of Thursday, March 22, Tony Bigg announced it was raining in the Lakefield area. This was a light rain after a period of record high temperatures. Jerry Ball and Martin Parker, in response decided to cruise some of the roadways north of Lakefield in search of amphibians especially salamanders.

On warm wet evenings in late March and April salamanders will journey to their ancestral breeding pools to mate and deposit the eggs for the next generation. The layer of water on the roadways permit them to traverse roads which have isolated the ponds. Recently in the Hamilton region a roadway has been closed to traffic during this spring migration period to protect a population of the Jefferson's Salamander, a species at risk in Ontario.

We finally decided to travel Birchview Road eastward from Highway 28 in search of salamanders and frogs. This is the roadway which leads to Camp Kawartha. This road was paved and on this evening was wet. We then travelled south on Camp Line Road to Peterborough County Road 6 and ended the surveying there.

We were not disappointed as we were able to located four species of salamanders and six species of frogs along these two roads.

The first observation was a red eft stage of the Eastern Newt, followed by lots of Spring Peepers . At one location where there was a pond on the south side of the road we encountered our first Blue-spotted Salamander, then another and another. Before the evening was over we had located a total of 11. Next was a Spotted Salamander, the one with the large yellow spots. A total of four were found, unfortunately all had been struck by vehicles. A surprise was the finding of a Four-toed Salamander, unfortunately it was dead as well. On Camp Road we found some of the Blue-spotted Salamanders and an adult Eastern Newt.



Eastern Newts. Adult (right) and red eft stage (left), Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer Township, Peterborough County, March 22, 2012. Photos by Martin Parker.

While travelling the road we were accompanied most of the time by a chorus of Spring Peepers. Many were observed on the roadway. Along with the peepers there were calling Wood Frogs at a number of locations. Individuals of both of these species were found dead on the roadway.

Other early emerging frogs found were Green Frogs and Leopard Frogs. The frog surprise of the night

was the finding of one Gray Treefrog on Camp Road. This frog normally does not emerge from hibernation in our region until mid to late April. Two American Toads were also found, having emerged from hibernation several weeks early.

The final frog of the night was Western Chorus Frogs. We did not find any on Birchview and Camp Road but heard them calling at others locations while travelling to this area.

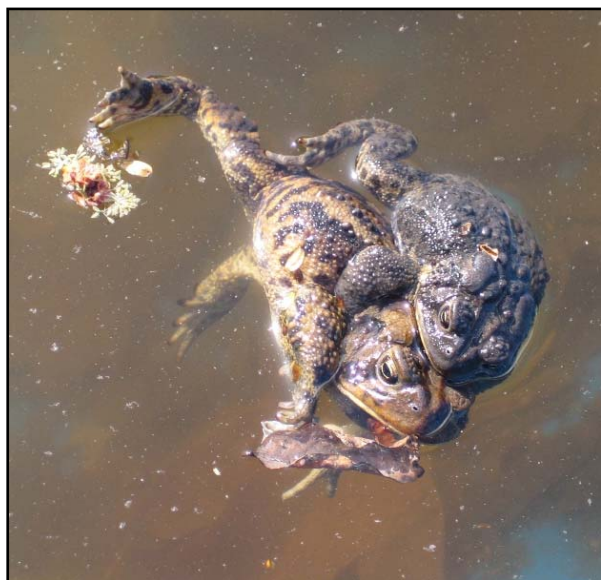
On Wednesday March 21 and 22 there were American Toads were calling in the Westbrook Drive area of the City of Peterborough. This is an extremely early, if not record early date for this species to be calling in our region. It does not normally call until there are frost-free nights.

This year is an exceptional year for early emergence of amphibians. March was the ninth consecutive month, commencing July 2011, where the average temperature is well above the long-term average. One can only speculate if this will be the new norm. Recording annually when the first frog sings, ice leaves the lakes, emergence of spring wildflowers, is a means by which field naturalists can record the changing in the annual cycles of the natural world.

On a wet and warm evening in April consider doing a cruise along a rural road looking amphibians migrating to their breeding pools.



Spotted Salamander (left) and Blue-spotted Salamander (right), Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer Township, Peterborough County, March 22, 2012. Photos by Martin Parker.



American Toads observed in amplexus in a backyard in Peterborough on March 26. The male toad grasps the female so that he can fertilize her eggs as they are laid. Photos by Gina Varrin.

Island for Owls

-by Martin Parker

On Sunday, March 25, twelve members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists joined leader Kurt Hennige and members of the Kingston Field Naturalists for a tour of Amherst Island. The purpose of the trip was to look for owls. Amherst Island is well known for its concentrations of wintering and breeding owls. After arriving on the island via the ferry we travelled eastward and encountered our first owls - 1 Snowy Owl and 3 Short-eared Owl.

The owls were present in a field dominated by long grass, a prime habitat for Meadow Voles which the owls eat. Short-eared Owls are known to remain and breed in this field.

The next destination was Owl Woods where a pair of Long-eared Owls was located. This pair will probably be nesting shortly. WE also had the opportunity to hand feed some Black-capped Chickadees. Ring-necked Pheasants could be heard calling throughout our walk through Owl Woods.

The final destination on the island was the Kingston Field Naturalists' Nature Reserve on the eastern end of the island. Another two Snowy Owls were found here. Other predators observed on the island were Northern Shrike, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel and Northern Harrier. Spring migrants were present including Song Sparrow, Brown Creepers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Tree Swallows, which were laying claim to nest boxes.

The fog started to roll in from the lake reducing visibility. Both groups departed the island on the 2:00 p.m. ferry. The PFN participants then proceeded along Highway 33 eastward to the Glenora Ferry and crossed over into Prince Edward County. While in the county they stopped at Lake On The Mountain and then proceeded to sample and purchase some of Prince Edward County's cheese and wine. The group returned to Peterborough in the early evening.

Several members of the Kingston Field Naturalists expressed a desire to have a return trip to the Peterborough Region this summer. Hopefully something can be arranged.



Snowy Owl (above) and Long-eared Owl (right), Amherst Island Owling Trip. March 25, 2012. Photos by Emily Pettypiece.

Observing Raptors and Pigeons

-by June Hitchcox, courtesy of the Apsley Voice

A question came in from Martin, living south of Apsley, concerning his hobby of 12 years - keeping Homing and Fantail Pigeons. At first, these birds were let out all year but then the hawk populations began to increase rapidly and Martin lost birds to them. The only solution, at that time, was to allow his birds to fly only during the winter. Now he is losing birds even in the winter time. He has been keeping a sharp eye but has never seen a raptor but Drew Monkman, of the Peterborough Naturalists, replied to Martin that the most probable explanation is that a raptor has moved in and is taking the birds. It may be a Cooper's Hawk, Goshawk or even a Barred Owl - "they are present in the winter and very capable of killing pigeons". Martin is planning an enclosed area which would also house his laying hens because a coyote has found them, too. Any comments or advice from our readers would be most welcome.



*American
Woodcock,
Sandy Lake
Road,
March 21,
2012.
Photo by
Tony Bigg*



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the May issue: Friday, April 27th, 2012

Please send all submissions to: **Rebecca Zeran, PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7** or via e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca

PFN Officers and Directors

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Other Volunteers

Bird Feeders	Sean Smith & Dan Finigan	
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	292-6185





The ORCHID DIARY for February 23 - March 23, 2012

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

The bird migration is well under way. The first five species of butterflies have already shown themselves. Reptiles and amphibians put in early appearances throughout the county. On the flora side, many trees (maples, elms, willows, aspens) are already in bloom and Coltsfoot is colouring the roadside verges. The run-off pond at Mathers Corners was a an area of particular interest for the month.

- Feb 24 Sue Paradisis had a busy back yard, in Ashburnham, with a crab apple tree full of **American Robins**, **European Starlings**, and **Cedar Waxwings**. A **Northern Flicker** fed on the ground.
- Feb 26 Rob Tonus saw an adult **Bald Eagle** flying over downtown Peterborough around noon today.
- Feb 29 A **Song Sparrow** was heard singing by Sean Smith, near Thomas A. Stewart School. John Bottomley saw an **American Kestrel** on the wires just south of Bailieboro on Hwy 28. Bruce Kidd had his first **Red-winged Blackbird** of the year at his feeder on his farm East of Duoro. A **Cooper's Hawk** was seen surveying the feeders in Sue Paradisis' Yard in Ashburnham
- Mar 01 At least five **Hooded Mergansers** were seen by Sean Smith in Little Lake. Don Finigan's wife observed a flock of several hundred **Bohemian Waxwings** sitting in a tree along the Parkway Trail behind Walmart.
- Mar 03 Tony Bigg had a pair of **Purple Finches** at his feeder on Cty Rd 29 just north of Lakefield. Bruce Kidd also reported **Purple Finches** had been at his feeders for several days
- Mar 04 Randy Smith had a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** in his yard on Gifford Dr in Ennismore. **Purple Finches** were seen at Tori Buchanan's feeder on Heritage Line. Sean Smith saw his first of the year **Red-winged Blackbird** singing at the junction of Armour Rd and Francis Stewart St. Brendan Boyd saw about 60 **Bohemian Waxwings** at 1877 on the Smith 6th Line off Lakefield Road.
- Mar 06 Tony Bigg reported that **Red-winged Blackbirds** went from zero yesterday to twenty this day in the Lakefield Marsh. Colin Jones saw a single **Common Grackle** flying over the Public Library on Aylmer St in downtown Peterborough. Sean Smith watched a **Merlin** plucking prey in a tree near Beavermead Park. Jerry Ball found three **Wood Ducks** in Campbelltown on the Otonabee River.
- Mar 07 Two **Common Grackles** were seen by John Bottomley flying over the junction of Charlotte and Monaghan Sts in the morning. Bill Logan saw several small groups of **Red-winged Blackbirds** on the utility wires between Bailieboro and Fraserville on Hwy 28. Chris Risley heard and saw a **Merlin** in the top of a Spruce tree at the corner of Gilmour and Park Sts. Mary Jane Parker had seven or eight **Common Grackles** and a **Red-winged Blackbird** on a platform feeder in her yard near Lakefield. She also had a **Mink** investigating her back porch. Mike Burrell found an **Iceland Gull** on Little Lake with about forty **Herring Gulls** and thirty **Ring-billed Gulls**. He also saw about twenty **Ring-necked Ducks** and five **Hooded Mergansers**
- Mar 08 Checking Little Lake at noon today Scott Gibson reports a good assortment of ducks - in addition to numerous **Mallards**, **Common Mergansers**, **Hooded Mergansers** and **Common Goldeneyes** there were good numbers of **Ring-necked Ducks** (60+), **American Black Ducks** (4), **American Wigeon** (9), **Scaup sp.** (8), **Redhead** (1), and one **Pied-billed Grebe**. He also reports that Mathers Corners had five **Northern Pintails**. Martin Parker had his first **Eastern Chipmunk** of the year under his feeder. A 2nd year **Glaucous Gull** was seen on Little Lake by Sean Smith. The first **Killdeer** of the year was reported by Jerry Ball - seen in Keene.
- Mar 09 A small flock of twelve **Tundra Swans** was seen by Tony Bigg on the ice just north of the Lakefield Marsh. He also saw at least six **Cackling Geese** amongst the hundreds of **Canada Geese** on the Otonabee River between Lakefield and Trent University. Also on the river were four **Wood Ducks**, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Common Mergansers**, **Common Goldeneyes** and **Buffleheads**. Martin Parker added **American Wigeon** to the list of ducks on the river today.
- Mar 10 Two **Bohemian Waxwings** with 35 to 40 **Cedar Waxwings** wherein the neighbourhood of Scott McKinlay's home in Cavan on Cavan Wood Dr. An **Eastern Chipmunk** was seen by Sean Smith at his home on Ashdale Crescent West.
- Mar 11 Albam Guillaumet about ten **White-winged Crossbills** feeding on conifers just west of Brookdale Plaza. A **Killdeer** was seen by Sean Smith at his home on Ashdale Crescent West.

- Mar 12 Mike Burrell checked Little Lake at noon and found a **Horned Grebe** in with a flock of about fifty **Hooded Mergansers**. He also saw an adult **Glaucous Gull** on the lake. Behind Harvey's on Water St there was an **American Coot**. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found by Tony Bigg sitting in a tree on Division Rd near the Indian River bridge. Ken Rumble found an **American Kestrel** on Brown Line, a **Merlin** in Little Lake Cemetery, and probably the same mixed flock of waxwings in Cavan as reported earlier.
- Mar 13 Frank Millard saw a flock of 24 **Tundra Swans** on Brealey Drive just north of the airport. They were flying south.
- Mar 14 A male **Northern Harrier** was seen by John Bottomley, patrolling the field north of Kawartha Downs on Hwy 28. A **Northern Flicker** was seen by Sean Smith at his home on Ashdale Crescent West. Brendan Boyd reports that this morning at about 10:15 a.m. a **Red-shouldered Hawk** circled over the Lakefield Sewage lagoons being harassed by an **American Crow**. A flock of about 55 **Snow Buntings** also flew over and two **Song Sparrows** were singing. On the 3rd Line of Douro at Cedar Crossroad he heard 5 **Eastern Meadowlarks** singing as well as many **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles**.
- Mar 15 Sue Paradisis saw and heard a **Chipping Sparrow** trilling in her yard in Ashburnham. Ken Rumble had a **Pileated Woodpecker** at his suet feeder in Cavan, and also saw two **Merlins** in Little Lake Cemetery and a **Killdeer** in Highlands Park Cemetery.
- Mar 16 Sean Smith found a drake **Long-tailed Duck** on Little Lake along with **Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Horned Grebe, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks**, and a **Common Loon**. Jerry Ball also saw the **Long-tailed Duck**, and also saw fourteen **Redheads**. Mike Burrell and Simon Dodsworth found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** in the Briar Hill pond on Cty Rd 21 just west of Hwy 28. In the evening Don Sutherland and Lori heard their first **Chorus Frogs** of the year along the Rotary Trail north of Trent University.
- Mar 17 Both Don Sutherland and Jerry Ball separately checked the run-off pond at Mathers Corners. Between them the maximum noted number of each species were 492 **Canada Geese**, 104 **Mallard**, 16 **Northern Pintail**, 28 **Green-winged Teal**, 10 **American Black Duck**, 3 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Gadwall**, and 3 **Wood Duck**. Don also found an estimated 750 **Canada Geese** in a cornfield of Brackenridge Dr in the SW of the county. Jerry Ball saw three **Great Blue Herons** at the heronry at the south end of Drummond Line, and at the south end of Scriven Line Jerry saw eight **Tundra Swans** swimming in Rice Lake. Tony Bigg watched a flock of about 100 **Wild Turkeys** spread all over a field on the west of Hwy 28 just south of the junction with Cty Rd 33. In the evening he also heard the first **American Woodcocks** calling on Nassau Rd, at the TWS car park, and south of the marsh on University Rd.
- Mar 18 Tore Buchanan and her family flushed an **American Woodcock** just off the railway tracks west of Hwy 28. Dave and Sherry Hambly Saw two **Midland Painted Turtles** basking in the sun in a wetland NE of the junction of Lakeview Rd and Cty Rd 2 near Rice Lake. In the same area they heard and saw an **Eastern Meadowlark** and the another one, and a **Killdeer** of Hwy 28. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball went searching for the first butterflies of the season and were successful. On Charlie Allen Rd and the Galway-Cavendish Forest Access Rd they found 18 **Eastern Commas**, 1 **Compton's Tortoiseshell**, and 1 **Mourning Cloak**. In the same area they also noted several flocks of **Pine Siskins**, a soaring **Red-shouldered Hawk**, about a dozen **Brown Creepers** in full song, and a flock of a dozen **Bohemian Waxwings**. Jerry also saw three **Northern Shovelers** at Mathers Corners early in the morning. Yesterday, Michael Gillespie saw a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** near the mouth of the Indian River where it empties into Rice Lake. They were calmly walking around , enjoying the great sunshine and probably establishing a nesting site.
- Mar 18 contd Luke Berg saw a number of new spring species for him. They included six species of woodpecker (**Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker**), **Eastern Phoebe, Killdeer** and **Brown-headed Cowbird**. Today Joanne O'Heron heard the male **American Woodcock**'s "peents" and the wing whistling. She saw one flying overhead, heard the first splash of a **Beaver**'s tail, a couple of **Spring Peepers** – and not so nice, saw the first **Blackflies**.
- Mar 19 Tony Bigg had an **Eastern Phoebe** singing in his backyard just north of Lakefield this morning. At Mathers Corners together with Jim Cashmore and Clayton Vardy, he saw a **Snow Goose**, about 20 **Northern Pintails**, a few **American Wigeon** and **Green-winged Teal, Mallard** and **American Black Duck**. Tony later watched an **Eastern Bluebird** singing near the rail trail just west of Settlers Line, and a **Northern Shrike**, also singing just east of Base Line. Several **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were seen/heard. A **Mourning Cloak** was seen west of Settlers Line. **Chorus Frogs** and **Spring Peepers** were calling in the wet areas. A second **Northern Shrike** was hunting from the wires on Jermyn Line just north of Hwy 7.

- Mar 19 contd Jerry Ball visited Mathers Corners later in the day and counted 76 **Northern Pintail**, 28 **American Black Ducks**, and 31 **Green-winged Teal**. Robert DiFruscia found 17 **Eastern Commas** in a clearing in a wooded drumlin near his home on Heritage Line. In Little Lake Cemetery Ken Rumble saw a **Belted Kingfisher**, and an **Eastern Phoebe**, in Cavan he had a **Turkey Vulture**, and in Highland Park Cemetery he counted six **Killdeer**.
- Mar 20 Four **Great Blue Herons** were seen by Tony Bigg at the heronry behind the marsh on University Rd. In the evening he also saw three **Turkey Vultures** sitting atop a dead tree by the bridge over the canal on Nassau Rd. Mike McMurtry visited Mathers Corners and saw the **Snow Goose**, **Northern Pintail**, **American Wigeon**, **Green-winged Teal**, a **Northern Harrier**, **Killdeer**, and **Eastern Meadowlark**. Further south on Drummond Line he saw a **Northern Shrike**, an **Eastern Phoebe**, and a **Northern Flicker**. Drew Monkman saw his first **Cabbage White** butterfly of the year.
- Mar 21 A trip by Jerry Ball, Drew Monkman, Tony Bigg, and King Baker up to the North-east of the county found two **Gray Commas** on Hubble Rd, one **Gray Comma** on Devil's 4 Mile Rd, one **Mourning Cloak** on Sandy Lake Rd, and one **Mourning Cloak** on FR84. They also watched, and photographed an **American Woodcock** in the centre of Sandy Lake Rd. A truck passed within two metres of the bird and it didn't move. **Coltsfoot** was in full bloom in several locations as were **American Elms**, **Speckled Alder**, many of the **Trembling Aspen**, **Pussy Willows**, and **Silver Maples**.
- Mar 22 Walking his dog in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary in the morning, Tony Bigg heard and saw a **Field Sparrow** and a **Fox Sparrow**. He also heard a **Winter Wren** there, five **Brown Creepers**, and saw an active late flock of **Dark-eyed Juncos**. **Leopard Frogs** and **Wood Frogs** were calling from the wet woods on the south side. On Drummond Line between Cty Rd 4 and Division Rd, Tony counted five **Wilson's Snipe** in the wet fields. At Mathers Corners he noted that the **Snow Goose** was still there and joining the crowd were two **Cackling Geese**. A **Horned Lark** was singing in the field beside the pond, and a **Cooper's Hawk** flew overhead. In late afternoon Scott Gibson saw a **Gadwall**, 45 **Buffhead**, **Mallards**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, a **Turkey Vulture**, and an **Eastern Meadowlark** at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Carrie Sadowski heard a couple of **American Toads** calling in the old fields south of the Lakefield Fairground, over the chorus of **Spring Peepers** and **Chorus Frogs**. Martin Parker also heard **American Toads** calling in the vicinity of Westbrook Dr in Peterborough.
- Mar 22 contd In the evening, Jerry Ball and Martin Parker spent a few hours looking for amphibians crossing roadways. They cruised Birchview Rd east of Hwy 28 south of Young's Point, eastward to Camp Road, and then south to Cty Rd 6. The diversity of species was impressive -- 4 species of salamander and 7 species of frog. Seen were eleven **Blue-spotted Salamanders**, four **Spotted Salamanders**, two **Eastern Newts**, one **Four-toed Salamander** (DOR), **Spring Peepers**, **Chorus Frogs**, **Wood Frogs**, **Green Frogs**, **Leopard Frog**, **Gray Tree Frog**, **American Toad**.
- Mar 23 On his drive to work, Mike Burrell had a very early **American Bittern** fly over his car at Hwy 28 and the Eel's Creek picnic area. He also had three **Wood Ducks** fly over just south of this area. Mike Burrell, Colin Jones, Rob Craig and Simon Dodsworth visited Mathers Corners. They reported that the **Snow Goose** and the two **Cackling Geese** were still present along with good numbers of other waterfowl, including many **Northern Pintail**. They also identified a "**Brewer's Duck**", a male hybrid of **Gadwall x Mallard**. Tony Bigg saw four **Tree Swallows** flying over the Lakefield Marsh. Luke Berg went out to look for salamanders along Birchview and Camp Line roads. Frogs were: **Spring Peepers** everywhere, **Chorus Frogs**, **Leopard Frogs**, **Green Frogs**, **Wood Frogs**, and 1 **American Toad**. Salamanders were: **Blue-spotted Salamander** (30), and **Spotted Salamander** (12). There was an **American Bittern** calling along Camp Line road.
- Mar 24 Andrew Jobes reports the **Merlin** is back in his area of Peterborough at Park St North and Bonnacord St. Heathyr Francis found a juvenile **Five-lined Skink** hiding under a rock in the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site, Mississauga Dam Road, north of Flynn's Corner this morning.
- Mar 25 Bryan Whitfield and Mary saw across from their house on Johnston Drive, a pair of **Northern Shovelers** and about 8 **Green winged Teal**.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to

Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:	
		Work Tel:	
Address:		Receive Orchid by:	<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please
		Email(s):	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10 ☐
4. Family (couple or family with children*) \$30 ☐

*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Birds | <input type="radio"/> Butterflies/insects | <input type="radio"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs) | |
| <input type="radio"/> Astronomy | <input type="radio"/> Aquatic Life | <input type="radio"/> Geology | <input type="radio"/> Field Trips |
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking | <input type="radio"/> Conservation | <input type="radio"/> Other (specify) | |

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following areas _____ and would be prepared to

- ☐ lead an outdoor session ☐ give a presentation ☐ prepare an article for The Orchid

I am interested in the following:

- ☐ Joining the PFN Executive ☐ Sitting on research or conservation committees ☐ Working on field projects
☐ Helping with refreshments at meetings ☐ Please have a member of the executive call me

AGE GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Under 20 | <input type="radio"/> 20-29 | <input type="radio"/> 30-39 | <input type="radio"/> 40-49 | <input type="radio"/> 50-59 | <input type="radio"/> 60-69 | <input type="radio"/> 70-79 | <input type="radio"/> 80 < over |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|

DONATIONS

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER

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 of my underage children.

Signature: _____