

# The Orchid

#### Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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

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First record of Worm-eating Warbler in Peterborough County. See page 7 for more information on the sighting. Photographs by Dave Milsom.

	Coming Events							
Sundays in May 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Start from the Ptbo Zoo parking lot	PFN Outings: "Spring Wildlife Walks"  Our popular Spring wildlife walks will continue until May 26th, with the exception of 5th May, when a number of Jane's walks will be available instead. Walks will start at 8am and we will 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. Leaders:  5 May  Please see details of the Jane's Walks taking place  12 May  Walter Wehtje  19 May  Martin Parker  26 May  tbc							
Sunday May 5 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Jane's Walk – Islands of Green The True Citizen The Movers & Shakers (Transportation) The Activist This walk doubles as the Peterborough Field Naturalists' Sunday morning Wildlife Walk. We'll have a leisurely walk around the South Drumlin, one of Trent University's Nature Areas. We'll talk about the historical land uses in the area and how the land is used today. Location: Meet at corner of Nassau Mills and Armour Road. <a href="http://janeswalk.net">http://janeswalk.net</a>							
Wednesday May 8 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Library	PFN Monthly Meeting: "Bird Tracks and Signs in the Kawarthas"  Don McLeod is a new member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists and a recently retired Professor from Fleming College. Don will present a slideshow featuring bird tracks and sign from the Kawarthas. While mammal tracks are more frequently observed, being at the right place and time will often snag a bird track photo. Signs of birds include scat, nests, tree cavities, feathers and kill sites. All of these observations add to the naturalist's toolbox in the quest to identify and study birds.							
Sunday June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 8:00-10:00 a.m.	PFN Outing: Sunday Morning Bird Walk at Beavermead Park Join us for a Sunday Morning Bird Walk around Beavermead Park. This popular camping location surrounded by Little Lake and Meade Creek is home not just to tents and trailers – it is a haven for local bird and wildlife species. Campers are being invited to join with PFN members to discover the wild side of the park and Little Lake. Experienced members are invited to make themselves available as co-hosts/guides. Meet at the Chip Truck within the Beavermead parking lot at the corner of Ashburnham and Marsdale Roads for an 8.00a.m. start.							
Sunday June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 7:30 a.m. (all day outing)	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 Landsdowne Street West at 7:00 a.m.							

## Coming Events continued

#### Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00 a.m.

#### **Butterflies and Birds of Ingleton-Wells KHC Property**

This whole-day outing will be to the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, inland from the North Shore of Stony Lake. The purpose of this outing is to acquaint PFN members to this protected area and to determine what animals are present. There will be a special emphasis the butterflies in the open meadow on the property and the breeding birds of the adjacent wetland and woodland area. The trip is being led by Martin Parker and a representative of the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. Meet in the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 8:00 a.m. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Binoculars, camera, and butterfly net would prove to be handy.

#### **The Geology of Dummer Moraine**

Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>

1:30 p.m.

The geomorphology of any region influences the natural environments and human uses of the area. This outing will focus on the features and landforms of this site which resulted in it being unsuitable for agriculture. The leader will be Fritz Heilingbrunner, who was President of the Peterborough Nature Club, now the Peterborough Field Naturalists, in the early 1960's. He has taken a special interest in the geology and geomorphology of the Peterborough Region. Meet at the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 1:30 p.m. for an interesting afternoon.

#### Junior Field Naturalists

#### **Exploring a Pond @ Camp Kawartha**

When: Sunday, May 12, 1:45 p.m.

This JFN outing will be held at Camp Kawartha outside Lakefield off Birchview Road. We will put books on and head to the pond to see what we can find. Bring your boots or old shoes. Nets and buckets will be supplied. See you then!....Neil



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Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	TBD	
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	292-6185
Local Planning Committees	Jim Cashmore	



### Other Events of Interest

Visit the Peterborough Museum & Archives this spring to see *Hands on Nature* and get a deeper understanding of the importance of biodiversity and the impact that we have on our environment. *Hands on Nature* was produced and is circulated by the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and will be on display at the Peterborough Museum & Archives until June 16, 2013. The Peterborough Museum & Archives is located in Ashburnham Memorial Park on Museum Drive, 300 Hunter Street East, in Peterborough. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 12 noon to 5pm. Admission is by donation, with free parking and barrier-free access.

**PLANT SALE** - The Peterborough Horticultural Society will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, **May 4th, 9 am - 11 am**, at Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St. W. (just west of Woodglade Blvd). A variety of plants, garden magazines, and 'New to You' garden decor items. Come early for best selection.

Jane's Walk - Contentious Ribbon of Green: Exploring the Parkway Corridor, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. We will enjoy a 4 km walk along the most beautiful and biologically-rich section of the Parkway Trail and learn about its flora and fauna, history and present-day recreational use. The Parkway Trail is controversial because of the very real possibility that it may become an arterial road. <a href="http://janeswalk.net">http://janeswalk.net</a>

Native Plant Sale. The North American Native Plant Society is holding their annual sale of wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges, as well as trees and shrubs. Our sale showcases hundreds of native species and introduces thousands of native plants into GTA gardens. Also books on related topics. See our displays and chat with knowledgeable experts to help you make the right choices for your planting project. All plants come from ethical growers and are locally sourced. Visit <a href="www.nanps.org">www.nanps.org</a> see the plant list. For more info email <a href="info@nanps.org">info@nanps.org</a> Location: Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham (Warden & Hwy 7) free parking <a href="Date: Saturday May 11">Date: Saturday May 11</a>, 2013, 10am to 3pm

MEETING - The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on Wednesday, May 22nd at Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer St. 7:30 PM meeting start, doors open at 7 PM for socializing. Speaker, Ken Brown's subject "There Are No Houseplants". All welcome! \$15 annual membership. More info see www.peterboroughgardens.ca

Ontario Nature's 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting. Saturday June 8, 2013, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve, Bathurst St. *(east)* entrance. For further details and to register <a href="http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/annual\_general\_meeting.php">http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/annual\_general\_meeting.php</a>

#### Aerial Warfare: Dragonflies and Damselflies, Saturday, June 15: 9am – 3pm

Meet the fighter aircraft of the bug world! Deceptively pretty but murderously accurate, even without radar. The world of dragonflies is aerial combat at its best. Find out how these flying jewels emerge from their watery nursery to transform into four - winged wonders. At this time of year we hope to catch a variety of species in the different habitats around the park. Meet these colourful insects in the company of one of Ontario's keenest odonatists David Bree. Discover Presqu'ile's rich biodiversity all year round through our popular NatureWorks courses. Experienced naturalists will guide you, first in the classroom, then out in the field. These courses fill up quickly ... so book early. The modest workshop fee of \$15 per person, \$35 per family, includes free Park entry! Workshops are suitable for children over 10yrs. Confirm dates and make reservations at 613 475-1688 extension 2. More details at www.friendsofpresquile.on.ca

**FABULOUS FALL FUNGI**. Discover the wonderful world of mushrooms and other fungi in this three-day workshop. Hands-on identification, plus discussions on ecology, uses and etymology. Dates: Oct 1-4, 2013. Cost: \$350. Includes 3 nights' accommodation, meals, instruction, use of lab space & microscopes. Small class size (max 12 students). Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Details: www.queensu.ca/qubs.

#### Rhea Gwyneth Bringeman

-by Martin Parker

On April 14, 2013 long term volunteer with the Peterborough Field Naturalists, Rhea Gwyneth Bringeman passed away.

Rhea has a long history of volunteerism with the Peterborough Field Naturalists. A review of past issues of 'The Orchid' gives a glimpse of the efforts Rhea made on behalf of her friends in the naturalists community. From 1972 to 1978 Rhea summarized natural history observations in the region for a column called 'The Orchid Diary' which appeared in the monthly newsletter of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. In 1977 she was the Vice-President of the organization. From 1990 to 1995 Rhea was the Secretary of the Board. From 1990 to 2009 she represented the Peterborough Field Naturalists on the Board of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, now called Ontario Nature.

At her service friends and former neighbors commented on her love of nature, especially birding. An interest that developed for her years as a child on Main Duck Island off Prince Edward County, where her father was the lighthouse keeper.

In 1986 Rhea was awarded the Lola Leach Memorial Award in recognitions of her loyal club service. She was the second person to be recognized. She continued to volunteer with the club.

Several members of the PFN noted that Rhea's greatest achievement was organizing and hosting the 1995 Annual Meeting and Conference of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in Peterborough with her partner Stan Reiten. Stan was also a Lola Leach award recipient.

The current PFN Treasurer Don Pettypiece commented 'that when he and his wife Emily arrived in Peterborough in December 1999 they were looking for something to do. They decided to attend the Annual Meeting of the PFN. At the dinner they decided to sit with a more experienced appearing couple – Rhea and Stan. They had a very interesting conversation over supper. Rhea and Stan got the Pettypieces involved in the club and Amateur Radio.

Drew Monkman recalled Rhea's great interests in birds and the club.

Geoff Carpentier, a former President, e-mailed 'I met Rhea almost 40 years ago when I first moved to Peterborough and joined the Peterborough Field Naturalists. I will always remember her kindness and generosity. To this day, the positive impact of having known her has stayed with me. She will be remembered by all as a caring and king person'. (from Taiwan)

Rebecca Zeran, editor of the Orchid, remembers that Rhea used to personally deliver hand-written submissions for the newsletter to her when she lived in Bridgenorth – 'I'd often come home and find an envelope with my name on it from Rhea.'

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will miss Rhea.



#### ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the June issue: Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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

#### **Trip Report: First Spring Wildlife Walk of 2013**

-by Sean Smith

Eight intrepid folks, not intimidated by the ominous forecast, were rewarded by reasonable weather and a vanguard of early bird migrants for PFN's 2013 inaugural edition of the Sunday morning wildlife walks. It being early spring, we stuck mostly with the birds. Flybys at the zoo meeting area included Wood Duck, Osprey and Common Goldeneye. At Little Lake Cemetery singing Eastern Phoebes, Am. Robins, White-throated, American Tree and Dark-eyed Junco Sparrows, besides the usual chickadees and cardinals, counted as the current spring chorus, but could not drown out the nesting Merlins. The latter gave spectacular shows, twice perching within 50 feet of us. On the Otonabee were Am. Coots, Pied-billed Grebes, a Cm. Loon (present Sat.), and several duck species, but numbers are much reduced – Redheads absent, for instance- but we may have been guilty of lax scanning, as we did not see a reported Red-necked Grebe. A Belted Kingfisher made sure he was noticed. Tree Swallows, as they have been for about a week now along the river corridor, sometimes in the scores, were high overhead. The Mathers Corner's ephemeral pond has considerably dried up, although there was a Northern Shrike farther south.

Along a meandering route, to and from Garden Hill, including a mandatory stop for butter tarts and cookies in Baileboro, we observed another shrike, kestrels, an Eastern Meadowlark and a female Northern Harrier. Ospreys, at least 9 on the trip, and many on nests, have arrived. Killdeer were heard at almost every stop, but no other shorebirds could be dredged up. The main Garden Hill Pond had a Trumpeter Swan, (another pr. was in a nearby cornfield), but a small roadside pond just east of there had Wood Duck, American Wigeon and a drake Green-winged Teal. At Mill Road Pond we added a Gadwall. In less than 4 hours birding and depending on who was counting, we saw or heard about 45 species. Thanks to Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg for assistance. A Fox Sparrow was at my feeder when I returned home.







PFN Vice-President Gina Varrin birding at City Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland. Birds observed: Greylag Goose, Whooper Swan, Eider, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Black-headed Gull. Photos by Gina Varrin.

#### Worm-eating Warbler: New for Peterborough County

-by Mike Burrell

#### Observation details

On April 22, 2013 Don Sutherland, Simon Dodsworth, Cathy Darevic and Mike Burrell made a lastminute decision to spend their lunch hour birding at Beavermead Park (44.294229,-78.302826). At 13:10, after a relatively slow 45 minutes of just a few expected migrants for the time of year the group was heading for the car when a small passerine in a row of Eastern White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis) caught MB's attention. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts to view the bird in his binoculars the bird sat still long enough to identify it as a Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitheros vermivorum). The other members of the group quickly got on the bird in question and watched it for approximately 2 minutes before it moved further into the cedars and temporarily disappeared. The cell phones quickly came out to start spreading the word and once that was complete the bird obligingly reappeared and spent the next 15 minutes feeding on the ground of a campsite beside the row of cedars. By this time the finders had to return to work but shortly after others began arriving in search of the bird. Many observers (22 people reported seeing it on eBird and many more also saw it) were lucky enough to find the bird exactly where the finders had left it. It spent much of its time feeding on the ground of the campsite, but also working through the cedars and a strip of deciduous woods behind the campsite – often probing clusters of dead leaves as the species is often noted to do (Vitz et al. 2013). From posts to eBird (www.ebird.ca) and Peterborough Sightings it appears that the bird cooperated until sometime between 15:30 and 16:30 when it disappeared.

Much to the relief of several observers who were yet to see it, Greg Rand re-found the bird in Ecology Park just after 18:00, approximately 250m from where it was originally found. Here the bird was observed until at least shortly after 19:00 where it spent much of its time feeding in leaf litter and in dense underbrush of raspberries (*Rubus* sp.). The following day, despite several observers looking, no one could successfully relocate the bird. This represents the first record of Worm-eating Warbler for Peterborough County.

#### Statusin Ontario and elsewhere

In Ontario, Worm-eating Warbler is generally considered a "spring overshoot" (Heagey and Sutherland 2007). Most birds are found in spring and while there have been several cases of evidence suggesting this species has bred in southern Ontario (i.e. territorial males) there is no confirmed evidence to support this (Heagey and Sutherland).

The first record of Worm-eating Warbler in Canada was a male collected by W. E. Saunders near London, Ontario on May 28, 1908 (Saunders 1908). Since then, over the last half century this species has been considered an "occasional visitant" to southern Ontario with sight records north to Ottawa and additional records from Quebec, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan (Godfrey 1986). Breeding solely to the south of Ontario (Vitz et al. 2013) it is not surprising that this species is most expected along the north shore of Lake Erie, where Ontario's traditional "migration hotspots" of Point Pelee, Rondeau and Long Point all receive records annually (pers. obs.). Point Pelee, for instance has received between 4 and 9 records per year for the last three years (Wormington 2011, 2012, 2013). As one moves north in Ontario the Worm-eating Warbler becomes less frequent: Black (2010) lists 7 records (all from spring) for the Niagara area, Curry (2006) considers it a "very rare spring visitant" to the Hamilton and surrounding area with 24 records between April 15 and June 7), Weir (2008) lists 20 records for the Kingston 50 mile circle (which includes American records) and our neighbouring county to the south, Northumberland, has 8 reports (Clive Goodwin, pers. comm.).

#### Discussion

While seeing the relatively high numbers of records from other areas to our south in Ontario one might consider Worm-eating Warbler to be anexpected addition to Peterborough's bird list. However, most of the many records to our south occur at migrant traps along the Great Lakes which concentrate migrants and there appear to be very few records inland from Lake Ontario (only one record for Ottawa mentioned by Godfrey 1986). Curry (2006) noted that this species had shown an increasing trend by decade but that trend dipped in the 2000s. The early date at which this bird was found is perhaps less of a surprise as the species arrives in number to Pennsylvania and New York states in the third week of April (eBird 2013).Regardless, this was an exciting bird to add to Peterborough's bird list and it was enjoyed by many.

#### References

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Worm-eating Warbler. April 22, 2013. Photo by Dave Milsom.

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#### From the Archives - Special Bird Walks Proving Very Popular!

- submitted by Martin Parker. From 'The Orchid', May 1960, Volume 5, Number 5

At the time of 'going to press' there has been two special Bird Walks for Beginners held to assist any interested persons in learning to identify and increase their knowledge in this particular aspect of nature.

The first walk, held Sunday, May 1st at 7:30 a.m. in Little Lake Cemetery, provided a wide variety of birdlife in spite of the bitter cold wind which blew and the threatening rain. Species identified include: Horned Grebe, Bufflehead, Scaup spp., Barn, Tree, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, Chipping, White-throated, Song and House Sparrows, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, European Starling, Rock Pigeon, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rusty Blackbird, Black-capped Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chimney Swift and Purple Martin.

On Wednesday May 4th, 35 persons attended the walk at 7 p.m. starting from the Lift Locks, on a very beautiful spring evening. Species recorded on this occasion included Song and Swamp Sparrow, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Brownheaded Cowbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Killdeer, Yellowlegs spp., American Crow, Northern Harrier, American Black Duck, Great Blue Heron, American Robin, White-throated Sparrow, Virginia Rail (heard), Barn and Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Waterthrush, and a flock of Canada Geese (on way home). (Editor Note: Bird names updated to current nomenclature)

Schedule for Remaining Bird Walks: May 1969

Sunday May 8 – Jackson's Park

Wednesday, May 11 – Sherbrooke St W at Highway 133 (Cavan)

Sunday, May 15 – Gate at Burnham Provincial Park

Wednesday, May 18 - Lily Lake

Sunday, May 22 – corner of Erskine Avenue and Crawford Drive

Wednesday, May 25 – north end of Fairbairn Street

Sunday, May 29 – Powerhouse at Nassau (now Trent University)

The Peterborough Field Naturalists still schedule a series of outing each Sunday morning in April, May, September and October to discover nature in the region. The trips now include all aspect of nature.



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PFN Sunday outing at the Old Grist Mill, Campbellcroft, Ontario, April 21, 2013. Photo by Tony Bigg.





Peterborough Museum & Archives on Museum Dr. 300 Hunter St., E. Peterborough, ON K9J 6Y5 www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca





#### The ORCHID DIARY for April 1 - 30, 2013

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

The cool weather continued on for most of the month but migrants started arriving in larger numbers. The most noteworthy sighting was the Worm-eating Warbler found by Mike Burrell, Don Sutherland, Simon Dodsworth, and Cathy Darevic in Beavermead Park, Peterborough. This was anew species for Peterborough County. Because of the large number of reports of new arrivals at this time of the year only the first one or two reports of most birds are included in this diary.

- Apr 01 Along the southeast shoreline of Oak Orchard on Buckhorn Lake, Bryan Wyatt counted about 120 **Common Mergansers**, 80 **Hooded Mergansers**, and a few **Buffleheads.** Toni Sinclair heard a **Common Loon** calling in the wee hours of the morning from Buckhorn Lake. Terry Hunter reoprted that A **Turkey Vulture** is in his barn at Hwy 28 and Division Rd, where it nested last year
- Apr 02 Sean Smith (SS) saw a 2nd spring **Great Black-backed Gull** on Little Lake. A **Great Blue Heron**, a **Redhead**, a **Lesser Scaup**, several other more common ducks, and a few **Tree Swallows** were seen by Tony Bigg (TB) by the Lakefield Marsh.
- Apr 04 Rick Stankiewicz (RS) reports that a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** were feeding on the Otonabee River just west of Campbelltown. Ernie Bassman saw his first **Great Blue Heron** in a flooded field bt Hwy 7 east of Peterborough. TB saw an **Eastern Bluebird** at Flynn's Corners. Together with Bob Prentice, TB listened to the **American Woodcocks** calling from the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary car park starting at 8:05 pm.
- Apr 05 A **Pied-billed Grebe** and twelve **Wood Ducks** were seen by Luke Berg (LB), in the bay at Lock 23 on the Otonabee River. He also saw at least eight **Great Blue Herons** near the heronry in the wetland on University Rd. Driving around the county TB noted the following new arrivals three **Eastern Meadowlarks** on David Fife line between Hope Mills Rd and Nelson Rd, an **Eastern Bluebird** at the intersection of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT) and Settlers Line, several **Killdeer**, eight **Green-winged Teal** at Mathers Corners, four **Northern Pintail** at Mathers Corners, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** on Drummond Line just north of Mathers Corners, approximately 50 **Tree Swallows** north of Lock 23, a **Barn Swallow** in with the latter, and many **Turkey Vultures**.
- Apr 05 As reported by Chris Risley and Erica Nol, Kevin Chan and the ecology class from Trent University discovered a **Red-necked Grebe** on Little Lake opposite Beavermead Park It was in breeding plumage and seemed to be hanging around with two **Pied-billed Grebes** and an **American Coot**. Lots of other waterfowl were on the lake including **Ring-necked Duck**, **Redhead**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Common Merganser**, **Hooded Merganser** and **Mallard**. SS saw a **Double-crested Cormorant** on Little Lake.
- Apr 06 Bill Snowden (BS) reports that the **Osprey** pair are back at the nesting Platform at the corner of Emerald Isle Rd and Herrington Line in Ennismore. LB also had the **Osprey** on the platform on the Trent campus. He also saw **Eastern Meadowlark**, at least one **Sandhill Crane** on Douro 9th Line north of Cty Rd 4, a **Blue-spotted Salamander** in a flooded ditch on Camp Line Rd north of Cty Rd 6, and four **Cackling Geese** at the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary.
- Apr 07 On today's Ontario Field Ornithologists trip led by Dave Milsom (DM), the group saw a total of 61 species. they birded the Otonabee River, Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, the Nephton and Petroglyphs area, Burleigh Falls, Young's Point Road, Orange Corners and Morton Line. Highlights included 15 species of waterfowl, 2 Bald Eagles at the nest on Lake Katchewanooka and 2 Ospreys at the nest at Trent University, Fox Sparrow, Common Redpoll, Killdeer, Horned Lark, 4 Eastern Meadowlarks, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Northern Shrike, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Harrier, and Cedar Waxwing. At day's end LB and DM saw 4 Cackling Geese at Briar Hill Sanctuary. The group also found: River Otter, White-tailed Deer and Blue-spotted Salamander.
- Apr 07 On Little Lake JB Jaboor saw the **Red-necked Grebe** and an **American Coot**. He also sae six **American Black Ducks** and two **Northern Pintail** at Mathers Corners. In the woods northeast of Cavan, Scott McKinlay found two **Fox Sparrows**. Nearby fields had lots of **Mallards**, several **Wood Ducks**, a couple of **American Black Ducks**, and one **Northern Pintail**. He heard a **Belted Kingfisher** over the creek and watched a male **Pileated Woodpecker** excavating a nest hole. Several **Turkey Vultures** were sailing low over the fields. SS also had a **Fox Sparrow** at his feeder near TASSS.

- Apr 07 The first of the PFN's 2013 Sunday outings led by SS started at the zoo where **Wood Duck, Ospre**y and **Common Goldeneye** were seen. Little Lake Cemetery had **Eastern Phoebes, White-throated Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow** and **Dark-eyed Junco**. The **Merlins** gave a spectacular show, twice perching within 50 feet of the group. On the lake were **American Coot, Pied-billed Grebes**, a **Common Loon**, and a **Belted Kingfisher**. **Tree Swallows** were high overhead. A **Northern Shrike** was fseen south of Mathers Corners. Along a meandering route, to and from Garden Hill, another **Northern Shrike, American Kestrels**, an **Eastern Meadowlark** and a female **Northern Harrier** were seen. At least nine **Ospreys** were seen on the trip, and many were on nests. **Killdeer** were heard at many stops. The Garden Hill Pond had a **Trumpeter Swan**, (another pair was in a nearby cornfield and a Mute Swan added on Mill St). A small roadside pond just east of there there had **Wood Duck, American Wigeon**, and a drake **Green-winged Teal**. At Grist Mill Rd pond a **Gadwall** was added. About 55 species were seen or heard.
- Apr 08 On an evening drive LB counted over 200 **Leopard Frogs** on University Rd. And on Birchview Rd north of Lakefield he found 76 **Blue-spotted Salamanders**, 14 **Spotted Salamanders**, 5 **Wood Frogs**, 30 **Spring Peepers**, and two more **Leopard Frogs**. RS noticed a lone **Sandhill Crane** on the north side of Cty Rd 2 between Crowley line and Cty Rd 35. Jerry Ball (JB) found a **Greater Yellowlegs** in a pond on Nicholson Rd in the south of the county.
- Apr 09 TB saw a **Sandhill Crane** in a field on Oke Rd north of Warsaw. It was feeding close to a flock of **Wild Turkeys**. He saw four **Eastern Phoebes** including one in his back yard. He heard **Evening Grosbeaks** in two places, one from the woods on South Beach Rd, and the other right by Camp Kawartha on Birchview Rd. Jim Watt saw a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** heading for the spot they nested in last year near Gannon's Narrows.
- Apr 10 JBand TB heard a **Field Sparrow** singing on Zion Rd towards the west end.
- Apr 12 BS had fifty or more **Common Redpolls** at his niger feeder on this stormy icy day. A **Hermit Thrush** was feeding below his feeders. Gangs of **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Common Grackles** and **European Starlings** descended and scared the thrush away.
- Apr 15 A **Fox Sparrow** was feeding under BS's silo feeder. TB also had a **Fox Sparrow** under his feeder. He also saw a Trumpeter Swan (L97) in Lakefield Marsh, then heard and saw a **Sandhill Crane** flying over. JB, TB, and Bob Prentice found a **Compton's Tortoiseshell** on Beaver Lake Rd, a **Mourning Cloak** on Cedarwood Rd, and four more on Pencil Lake Rd. They also had a good close look at a **Red-shouldered Hawk** on Beaver Lake Rd. They noted that **Coltsfoot** was in bloom in several places. Robert DiFruscia also reported a **Mourning Cloak** at his farm on Heritage Line at Base Line. BS found five **Greater Yellowlegs** at a spring pondin the fields on Herrington Line.
- Apr 16 TB heard a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** singing in the cedars in Lakefield Park, and he also heard a **Greater Yellowlegs** calling from the marsh. A large number of **Barn Swallows** were flying by the marsk with an even larger number of **Tree Swallows**. BS noted that many **willow, Quaking Aspen**, and **Speckled Alder** were in bloom.
- Apr 17 In the morning SS saw a **Hermit Thrush**, a **Field Sparrow**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** on the trail between Nassau Mills and Dafoe Dr. At noon he saw two **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, three **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, and a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in the Ecology Park at Beavermead. DM walked the area around his home on Scollard Drive (south of Trent University) and saw amongst may other species two **Caspian Terns**, one **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, ten **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, one **Field Sparrow**, two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, three **Purple Finches**, 25 **Common Redpolls**, and a **Ruffed Grouse** drumming. Don Sutherland, Cathy Darevic, and Simon Dodsworth found a **Boreal Chickadee** by the Gannons Narrows Marina on Gallivan Dr. Andrew Lipscombe had a flock of **Cedar Waxwings** in his yard on Pinewood Drive.
- Apr 17 TB found a **Brown Thrasher** at the junction of Division Rd and Jermyn Line, a **Wilson's Snipe** in a cattail marsh north of Hwy 7 on Blezard Line, a least six **Swamp Sparrows** in the same marsh, five **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**, east and south of Peterborough, a pair of **Blue-winged Teal** in a wet meadow on Blezard Line just north of the TCT with about fifty other ducks which included a dozen **Northern Pintails** and four **American Black Ducks**, an **Eastern Comma** butterfly on the TCT, a flock of **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, two male **Northern Harriers**, one of which was doing its display flight, looping up and down and occasionally somersaulting at the top of its loops, and a **Greater Yellowlegs** in a large pond at the junction of Division Rd and Indian River Line. LB walked the trail northwest of Lily Lake and saw about twenty **Rusty Blackbirds**, thirty **Bohemian Waxwings**, a **Swamp Sparrow**, five **Wilson's Snipe**, and ten **Wood Ducks**.
- Apr 18 TB saw two flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds** on the Bridgenorth Trail. Andrew Lipscombe saw a pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** at the Keystone Golf Club.

- Apr 19 TB saw a **Beaver** on the bank of a pond on Douro 8th Line. **Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs, Leopard Frogs**, and **Chorus Frogs** were singing in the south of the county.
- Apr 20 Around his cottage on Chandos Lake, King Baker counted twelve **Fox Sparrows**, and also saw **White-throated Sparrows** and **Purple Finches**. LB had an adult male **White-crowned Sparrow** and an adult male **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at his feeders
- Apr 21 At Julia's Creek on Stony Lake Karen Peckan had pairs of **Wood Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers**. At the Petroglyphs PP she also saw about eight **Fox Sparrows**, two singing male **Pine Warblers**. In the Lakefield sewage lagoons Travis Cameron saw **Redheads**, and **Gadwalls**.
- Apr 22 Mike Burrell, Don Sutherland, Cathy Darevic and Simon Dodsworth found a **Worm-eating Warbler** in Beavermead Park in Peterborough. This is a first of the species for Peterborough County. Many other people were able to see the bird later in the day. A male **Black-throated Green Warbler** was singing outside the house of LB on Benson Ave. Martyn Obbard added two pairs of **Northern Shovelers**, approximately 150 **Bufflehead**, and five pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** to those seen by Travis Cameron yesterday in the Lakefield sewage lagoons.
- Apr 25 BS saw an **Eastern Towhee** on Herrington Line in Ennismore.
- Apr 21 Leading the PFN Sunday morning outing. Eleven participants saw 65 species of birds. The route covered the marsh on University Rd, Drummond Line, a flooded field and cattail marsh on Keene Rd south of Assumption, Cty Rd 2, Nicholson Rd, unsuccessful attempt to find the Snowy Egret in Campbellcroft, Garden Hill, Zion Line from South Monaghan to the west boundary of the county and back to Peterborough via Morton Line. Bird sightings included Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Redtailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Wild Turkey, Virginia Rail, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Caspian Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Thrasher, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Finch.
- Apr 21 On the way to and from the meeting area TB also saw **Double-crested Cormorants** (eight over Lakefield Park), **Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Loon, Common Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane** (heard from Lakefield Marsh), **Sharp-shinned Hawk** (on the ground with wings spread and a grackle in its talons), **Spotted Sandpiper** (flying over the river south of Lakefield), **Ruffed Grouse**, and **Field Sparrow.** Toni Sinclair saw a male **Eastern Bluebird** at Flynn's Road, Lakehurst, west of Buckhorn.
- Apr 24 A **Pine Warbler** and **Purple Finches** were seen by TB in Lakefield Park.
- Apr 25 TB saw his fourth butterfly species for the year, a **Grey Comma** on the TCT between Cameron Line and Cty Rd 38. By this date last year he had recorded his fifteenth species. Also noted **Marsh Marigold** and **Bloodroot** in bloom along the trail.
- Apr 26 TB saw a **Palm Warbler** in Lakefield Park, an **Eastern Towhee** and **Broad-winged Hawk** on Hubble Rd, and an **American Bittern** walking across Anderson Rd near Round Lake.
- Apr 27 This morning LB walked his dogs on the Pensier trail at the Trent Nature Area. Highlights were: White-throated Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush (1), Winter Wren, Ruffed Grouse drumming, Yellow-rumped Warbler (10), Wood Duck, Caspian Tern, Swamp Sparrow, Common Loon, American Wigeon (pair on canal), Common Merganser, Pileated Woodpecker, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. In the evening, a Moose was seen by Anke Blaiklok on a cottage property near Hillcrest Road which runs south from Northey's Bay Road on the north shore of Stony Lake.
- About 25 participants enjoyed the beautiful weather today and overall found 65 species. The highlight stops were the wetland on Douro 9<sup>th</sup> Line just south of Cty Rd 4 where we saw/heard half a dozen **Wilson's Snipe**. Going east along Division Rd we heard several **Northern Waterthrush**, all of which arrived in the last couple of nights. **Rusty Blackbirds** were seen/heard on Division Rd near Douro 7<sup>th</sup> Line. **Field Sparrows** were heard in at least three spots. One **Purple Finch** was seen on this stretch. A **Sandhill Crane** flew over the cars, a **Brown Thrasher** and a **Great Crested Flycatcher** were heard calling. Half of us had a good close-up of a **Pileated Woodpecker**. We stopped on Cty Rd 38 south of Division Rd looking for Upland Sandpipers which unfortunately have not yet arrived, but there were five **Lesser Yellowlegs** there, and about a dozen **Wilson's Snipe**. Both a male and female **Northern Harrier** were also seen in this area. Many **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** were in evidence. On a flooded field on Asphodel 3<sup>rd</sup> Line south of Westwood had at least 20 mixed **Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs**, and 21 **Green-winged Teal**.

On River Rd the **Hepatica** were in full bloom but the other wild flowers the area is noted for were not showing.

Driving north from River Rd up Birdsall Line a pair of **Blue-winged Teals** and a pair of **Wood Ducks** were seen in a pond. Finally at another flooded field on Blezard Rd there were about 16 **Northern Pintails**, and more Yellowlegs. We all agreed that we have never seen so many Yellowlegs in one day in the County. After the Blezard stop we each made our own way home. Those that stayed with me were lucky enough to have Luke Berg pick out an **Eastern Kingbird**. Also Luke and I saw the two **Caspian Terns** on the rocks by Auburn Park on Water St. On his way back to Lakefield TB stopped to check the **Cliff Swallow** colony under the bike footpath bridge over the canal. They were back in numbers and busy rebuilding their nests. A **Northern Roughwinged Swallow** was sitting on the hydro wires beside River Rd. Early in the day, at 7:00 am, TB heard a **House Wren** singing in Lakefield Park.

Apr 28 RS reports hearing an **American Bittern** calling for the last few mornings near Campbelltown.

Apr 29 Tim Dyson reports that this afternoon an immature **Peregrine** Falcon put up a small ball of clinking starlings as it passed quickly overhead at treetop height near where the Crowe River enters the north end of Belmont Lake n/e of Havelock. He looked up when he heard the starlings, as it was usually one of the local Cooper's Hawks or Merlins that cause said reaction from the starlings in this area. It headed out over the lake, but not before alarming every now-nesting pairs of crows as it passed along the way. It was heading in a s/e direction.

Apr 30 TB heard an **American Bittern** calling from the Lakefield Marsh at 7 a.m. At about 5 p.m. there was a single **Chimney Swift** flying over LB's house on Benson Ave.



Early Eastern Phoebe, Young's Point, April 9, 2013. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Spotted Salamander, Birchview Road, April 9, 2013. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Signature:

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

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CONTACT													
Name (a)	,							Home Te	el:	l:			
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1. Single Adult \$25													
4. Family (co	uple or family	wi	th children <sup>*</sup>	<sup>k</sup> ) \$30									
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													
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MAIN INTER	ESTS												
o Birds	o Butterflies/insects						otany (W	ildflo	wers/trees/	shrubs)			
o Astronomy	Astronomy o Aquatic Li					o G	o Geology			o Field Trips			
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AGE GROUP													
This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult													
o Under 20	o 20-29	0	30-39	o 4	0-49	o 5	0-59	o	60-69	o 70-79	0	80< over	
DONATIONS													
Membership fees cover the general operating costs of he 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.													