

The

Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Red-headed Woodpecker ~ Submitted by Don & Emily Pettypiece ~ River Road, May 15, 2014

INSIDE: Bird Studies Canada Surveys
 Volunteer at Miller Creek Work Days
 News from the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre
 Nature Festivals, Fabulous Fall Fungi, and more!

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Indigo Bunting
~ Submitted by Laura Irving, Peterborough, May 17



Brown Thrasher nest
~ Submitted by JB Jaboor, Keene, May 23

Welcome New Members!

Ed Karch

David and Barbara Lillico

Kathy MacMillan-Jones

Gillian Trowbridge

Brian Wales



Clay-coloured Sparrow ~ Submitted by Matthew Tobey
~ Peterborough, May 11

Coming Events

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Wednesday June 11</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Ptbo Library</p> | <p>Monthly Meeting: An Introduction to the Native and Wild Bees of Ontario</p> <p>This presentation will give an overview of the native bees found in Ontario, their natural history and interesting habits, and will give tips on identifying several types of bees and other insects that mimic bees, using photographs and drawings. Helpful resources for learning how to identify bees will also be presented.</p> <p>Susan Chan is an advocate for native pollinators and is the author of A Landowner's Guide to Conserving Native Pollinators in Ontario. She has an academic background in agriculture (McGill University) and education (U.W.O.), including a Master of Science degree in pollination biology from Guelph University. Susan is manager of the Native Pollinators Program at Farms at Work and the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee Project. She is an active gardener, beekeeper, and lover of local food.</p> |
| <p>Saturday June 21</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Ptbo Zoo North Parking Lot</p> | <p>Butterflies and Birds of Ingleton-Wells KLT Property</p> <p>This outing will travel to the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Land Trust, 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 on 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.</p> <p>Meet in the parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 8:00 am. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Binoculars, camera, and butterfly net would prove to be handy.</p> |
| <p>Saturday July 5</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Peterborough Information Centre</p> | <p>Breeding Birds and Herptofauna of Harper Park, Peterborough</p> <p>Harper Park is a natural area in the southwest corner of the City of Peterborough. This outing will be an opportunity to discover the breeding birds and reptiles and amphibians which are present in this island of green. The leaders will be Martin Parker and Mathew Tobey. At the end of the outing a summary of the species observed will be provided to the Harper Park Initiative, a local group attempting to maintain the natural attributes of the area.</p> <p>Meet in the parking lot on the Peterborough Information Centre off at the southern end of the Parkway (south of Costco) at 8:00. This outing will last until noon. Footwear suitable for wet conditions is essential. Bring binoculars and camera.</p> |

Coming Events continued

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Fall 2014 | <p>Fall Monthly Meetings</p> <p>September – Guest Speaker Tyler Wheeldon will be discussing coyotes</p> <p>October – Colin Jones of the Natural Heritage Information Centre will be the guest speaker</p> <p>November – Guest Speaker will be Dr. Chris Kyle of Trent University and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre</p> <p>More details will be posted on the PFN website, and in the September issue of The Orchid.</p> |
|-----------|--|

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Our June 1 outing was the last of the season. Thanks to all of the Juniors for a great year! Have a fun summer of natural exploration, and we will see you in the fall! ~Neil

Other Events of Interest

| | |
|---|--|
| Saturday and Sunday June 7 and 8 Lake Dalrymple | <p>Carden Nature Festival</p> <p>The 8th Annual Carden Nature Festival will be held on June 7 and 8, at the Carden Recreation Centre in Lake Dalrymple. This is your backstage pass to one of Ontario's natural wonders, the Carden Alvar. Visit www.cardennaturefestival.ca for details.</p> |
| Saturday June 21 Hors d'oeuvres and Auction Viewing at 4:30 pm Supper at 6:30 pm | <p>Silver Anniversary Surf n' Turf Dinner and Auction for Camp Kawartha</p> <p>Camp Kawartha is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to providing children and youth with magical experiences in the natural world. They strive to foster an appreciation and knowledge of the outdoors through their Summer Camp and Outdoor Education programmes. They are supportive of the programmes of the PFN Junior Naturalists and member organization of the PFN. Supper is a steak and lobster. Procedures assist children in attending camp.</p> <p>Tickets are \$175 per person with a tax receipt for \$85. For tickets contact Martin Parker or Paul Elliott, PFN Directors, who are also Directors of Camp Kawartha or the Camp Office at (705) 652-3860.</p> |

Other Events of Interest

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Saturday June 28</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Thicksons Woods</p> | <p>Dog-Strangling Vine Eradication at Thickson's Woods</p> <p>Arrive earlier than 8:00 am if you wish to listen to the dawn chorus in the woods and meadow. Yellow warblers, catbirds and willow flycatchers will be nesting. Bring a small, sharp, sturdy garden spade to dig up the underground stems, which will then be separated and spread in the sun to dry. Bring sunscreen, water, and a lawn chair if you have one. Meet at the gate to the meadow. For more information, email nature@thicksonswoods.com or phone 905-725-2116.</p> |
| <p>Various Dates</p> <p>GreenUP Ecology Park, Ashburnham Road, Peterborough</p> | <p>GreenUP Ecology Park Seasonal Events & Workshops</p> <p>* Please note all workshops require pre-registration by email to: workshops@greenup.on.ca unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>June 8 - Beginner Bonsai workshop, 10am - 1pm, \$35</p> <p>June 15 – Father's Day Tree ID Workshop & Tour, 1 – 4pm, \$25/family & \$10 individual</p> <p>Thursdays from July 10 to August 14 – Family Nature Nocturnes, 6:30 - 8pm. Discover the wonders of the natural world through family friendly activities with our park educators! By donation, no registration required.</p> <p>July 14 to 18 – Earth Adventures Summer Camp (ages 5- 8yrs) \$190</p> <p>July 19 – Wild Edibles Walk & Tasting, 10:30am – 12pm, \$15</p> <p>August 4 to 8 - Earth Adventures Summer Camp (ages 9-12) \$190</p> <p>August 21 - GreenUP Ecology Park Appreciation Night & Lantern Walk, 6 to 8:30pm . By donation, no registration required.</p> <p>October 12 – Autumn "Little Tree" Sale, 10am – 12pm</p> |



*Sandhill
Cranes
~Submitted by
Rene Gareau
~ County
Road 6,
May 19*

Other Events of Interest

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday September 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thickeson's Woods</p> | <p>Birds, Beavers and Butterflies Nature Festival at Thickson's Woods</p> <p>Mark your calendars to attend this fall festival. For details, please visit www.thicksonswoods.com , or phone 905-725-2116. You can also email nature@thicksonswoods.com .</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday September 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Port Whitby Marina</p> | <p>Durham Festival of Birds</p> <p>Durham Regional Field Naturalists is hosting this day-long event at the Port Whitby Marina, 310 Watson Street in Whitby. For more details, visit www.drfn.ca .</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, September 30 (8:00 pm) to Friday, October 3 (4:00 pm)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Queen's University Biological Station, Lake Opinicon, north of Kingston</p> | <p>Fabulous Fall Fungi</p> <p>Now in its fifth year, this popular 3-day workshop introduces participants to the astounding diversity of mushrooms and other fungi growing in Southern Ontario. Each day consists of collecting fresh specimens, working in the classroom to identify our finds, and insightful discussions about fungal ecology, natural history, uses, and etymology. You can also expect one or more evening presentations, plus an opportunity to see a bioluminescent mushroom in action. If edibles are found, our chef is always amenable to cooking up samples for us to try. Suitable for all levels, this workshop is a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with the mysterious world of fungi.</p> <p>Cost: \$350 (all inclusive), includes 3 nights accommodation, all meals, instruction, and use of classroom space. Several microscopes will also be on hand. Small class size (max 12 students). Register early to avoid disappointment as each year there is a waiting list. Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Details: www.queensu.ca/qubs.</p> |



*Left:
Purple Finch
~ Peterborough,
April 27*

*Right:
Hairy Woodpecker
~ Peterborough,
May 16*

~Submitted by Matthew Tobey



PFN Officers and Directors

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| President | Martin Parker | mparker19@cogeco.ca | 745-4750 |
| Vice President | Gina Varrin | gina.varrin@gmail.com | 761-7787 |
| Secretary | Kelly Boadway | kjboadway@gmail.com | 775-0756 |
| Treasurer | Don Pettypiece | donem.pettypiece@bell.net | 750-1145 |
| Membership | Jim Young | jbyoung559@gmail.com | 760-9397 |
| Program (indoor) | Phil Shaw | pshaw78@hotmail.com | 874-1688 |
| Program (outdoor) | Paul Elliott | paulelliott@trentu.ca | 740-0501 |
| Fisheries Council | Kim Zippel | kzippel@cogeco.ca | 740-0587 |
| Webmaster | Chris Gooderham | webmaster@peterboroughnature.org | 740-2081 |
| FON Rep | Ted Vale | tedandmarion@sympatico.ca | 741-3641 |
| Special Projects | Lynn Smith | smithfam@nexicom.net | 944-5599 |

Other Volunteers

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------|
| Ecology Park Feeders | Sean Smith & Don Finigan | 745-4750 |
| Orchid Diary | Tony Bigg | 652-7541 |
| Orchid Mailout | Michelle and Emily Young | |
| Orchid Editor | Marla Williams | 874-5653 |
| Jr. Naturalists | Neil Fortin | 292-6185 |
| Miller Creek Management Area | Jim Cashmore & Jim Young | |
| Ad-hoc on Lily Lake Planning | Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker | |
| Local Planning Committees | Jim Cashmore | |



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Deadline for submissions for the September 2014 issue: **Friday, August 15**

Send submissions to Marla Williams via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org or post mail to: **PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7**

**** NOTE:** There are no monthly meetings or Orchid newsletters in July and August. Please join us when monthly meetings resume in September. The September issue of The Orchid will be distributed in late August.

In the meantime, wishes for a warm and wonderful summer are extended to all!

Local Birder and PFN Member Finds Spring Birding Highlight at Pelee

The following e-notice was posted on Ontbirds, the electronic birding notice board of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, by Bob Cermack on April 29.

“At approximately 10:30 am today Jerry Ball found 2 Smith's Longspurs, 1 male near full breeding plumage and a duller bird. Also seen by Ron Tozer, Mike Nelson, Ed and Neeltje Leblanc and myself. Flew after 20 minutes and not yet re-found. Were seen east of Hillman Marsh, on the east side of Road 21, about 300 metres north of Road 2, close to the road. Flew southeast with Lapland Longspurs.”

Fortunately the birds were relocated and up to six individuals were present for over a week. According to Jerry these birds were observed by hundred of the birders who visited Point Pelee National Park this spring. This species normally occurs in the central part of the continent.

Congratulations to Jerry!

*Smith's Longspur, Female
~ Point Pelee, May 2
~ Submitted by Josh Vandermeulen*



Carden Nature Festival

Submitted by Arni Stinnissen, Ontario Field Ornithologists

The 8th Annual Carden Nature Festival will be held on June 7 and 8, at the Carden Recreation Centre in Lake Dalrymple. This is your backstage pass to one of Ontario's natural wonders, the Carden Alvar.

There is a lot to do and see at the Festival! There are events on birding, botanizing, paddling, hiking, biking and much more. Many new and returning events are scheduled this year, led by our group of enthusiastic, experienced experts. Visit the List of Activities webpage to learn more. We are happy to have many fun family events, as well as a special evening with David Phillips, Senior Climatologist from Environment Canada.

The Festival is a great opportunity for nature lovers of all ages to explore the outdoors. This area is familiar to many naturalists across Ontario for its variety of bird species, and has been designated by Birdlife International as an "Important Bird Area." The Carden Plain is a globally-rare alvar, so there is unique plant life, bird habitat and beautiful landscapes.

Registering online for the Festival is easy. There are three passes to choose from:

- Weekend Pass with Dinner (\$65 per person - best value!) gives you access to any event on June 7 and 8, as well as the June 7 dinner and Guest Speaker (David Phillips from Environment Canada from 6:00 until 9:00 pm).
- Weekend Pass (\$45 per person) gives you access to any event on June 7 and 8.
- Dinner and Guest Speaker Pass (\$30 per person) gives you access to the June 7 dinner and guest speaker (David Phillips).

Learn more about the Festival and register at www.cardennaturefestival.ca.

A few glimpses of flora and fauna viewed at the June 1st PFN trip to the Carden Alvar, led by Jerry Ball, and viewed by Martin Parker earlier in May:



*From left to right:
Painted Cup, Balsam Ragwort, Prairie Smoke
~ Submitted by Marla Williams
~ Carden Alvar, June 1*

*Wilson's Snipe
~ Submitted by
Martin Parker
~ Carden Alvar,
May 15*



*Upland Sandpiper
~ Submitted by Don Pettypiece
~ Carden Alvar, June 1*



An Incredible, True Story About a Crow

**Submitted by June Hitchcox, via the author, Brian
Courtesy of the *Apsley Voice***

My mom, God rest her soul, came from a family who lived in old York (early Toronto) - 1 of 8 kids...all born in the 1930s and 1940s. My gramps, their dad, a very highly decorated vet (more medals than skin, WW1, WW2 and Korea) invented sharecropping, was not only a soldier, but a medic. He was doing yard work one day in the 1940s when he came across a damaged crow. His wing was ajar...backwards, and bleeding. He took it in, enforced his medical knowledge...put medication, bandages and a sling on him...wrapped him in gauze and pampered, fed, and loved him like his wounded soldier buddies.

Four weeks passed...removed said bandages, gauze etc., and the crow flew off. Minutes later the crow came back to the garage...his home. He never left grampa or his family again! They named the crow Sammy. Sammy adopted the 8 children, woke them up like an alarm clock for school...pecking at 4 different bedroom windows...waited patiently till they all went to the Queen Street streetcar stop to get to school.... followed the vehicle to the school and stayed outside, on the windowsills of the kids various classrooms...all day! When

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recesses came, he would swoop down to anyone wearing a hat, take it, put it on the edge of the school roof and when the recess was over the bell would ring, he would return the hats! When school got out he would guide/follow/protect them to the streetcar stop, make sure they got on board, and then board himself for the 3-minute ride, mingling with everyone, especially the driver who opened and closed the folding doors for Sammy.

My gramps and the 8 kids were his family. They erected a special tall pole out front of their house where he was fed, petted, and talked to and adored by "everyone" for miles around. He consistently followed one of gramps' sons, my uncle, who was sick with cancer, to his doctor once a week-- wait for him, as if he knew he was sick. He died before Sammy. A policeman parked down the street from their house one day...surveillance... a violent dog attacked his car...Sammy saw it and "attacked"! He pecked and gnawed at the bulldog and drove it off and was given a commendation! He was very loyal. When he died...over 150 people attended the funeral my gramps gave him. This entire letter is NOT fiction! Rest well, Sammy.

Thanks so much, Brian - a wonderful story. It will be difficult for anyone to top this! It proves that crows certainly are smart. – June Hitchcox

Miller Creek Work Days

The PFN has been cooperating with the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority in the maintenance of the trails system at the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area. A small group of volunteers regularly trim the grass along the trails, maintain the bird houses, inspect the viewing tower, pick up litter within the property, etc. In the past the PFN has been instrumental in the erection of the viewing tower and signage along the trails.

This year a series of work days have been scheduled at the site in order to complete any required maintenance. A maximum of four additional volunteers can be utilized on any of the selected dates:

18 June 2 July 23 July 8 August

Dates can be adjusted due to weather conditions. Note that volunteer will be involved for a couple of hours on each of the work days.

If you are interested please select the date most suitable to your schedule and register with Jim Cashmore in advance at (705) 742-8644. Jim is the PFN volunteer coordinator for the club's efforts at the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area. Advance registration is important so the number of volunteers match the work to be done.

*River Otter with
Smallmouth Bass
~ Submitted by Luke Berg
~ April 3*



From the Archives – 20th Anniversary

The following is from the brochure for the 20th Anniversary:

Program of the Special Club Outing Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Peterborough Nature Club*

May 14, 1960

At the estate of Gordon K. Fraser, Burleigh Falls, Ontario

Programme

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 2:00 P.M. | Leave City Hall, Peterborough |
| 3:30 P.M. | Official Welcome Address |
| 3:45 P.M. | Presentation |
| 4:00 P.M. | Nature Walk |
| 5:30 P.M. | Picnic |
| 7:00 P.M. | Departure |

Club Officers (1960)

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| President | F. Heilingbrunner | Vice-President | M. V. Powell |
| Secretary | Miss Lola Leach | Treasurer | Mr. G.C. Green |

* now Peterborough Field Naturalists

75th Anniversary Announcement

The PFN was founded on May 18, 1949. In order to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of our founding, Camp Kawartha has been booked for Monday May 18, 2015 for a special club event. Planning is underway and further details will be available in the fall. Reserve this date to celebrate the history and accomplishments of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, originally called the Peterborough Nature Club!

Ontario Nature News

Submitted by Ted Vale, ON Representative for the PFN

The Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting took place on May 4th at Sheppard's Bush in Aurora. Lynn Smith and I attended on behalf of the PFN.

All attendees made local activity reports. We reported on the Parkway Issue and the unusual influx of winter waterfowl on the Otonabee River.

Many members reported on their advocacy efforts on environmental issues. These included the use of the grounds of the former Dunlop Observatory, efforts to extend the proposed Rouge Valley National Park to include some of the Pickering Airport Lands, the proposed expansion of the Cobourg Marina, the proposed

construction of an ethanol plant on the Oshawa lakefront, expansion of Toronto Island Airport, and the issue of wind turbines on Ostrander's Point in Prince Edward County.

A provincial review of the Oak Ridges Moraine, Niagara Escarpment and Greenbelt Plans is scheduled for 2015. A coalition of four groups – Ontario Nature, Earthroots, STORM, and Ecospark has been formed to provide input to the review with a goal of strengthening the policies on these areas.

Ontario Nature has just released a publication “Best Practices Guide to Natural Heritage Systems Planning”. This guide identifies best practices for municipalities in establishing planning policies for local natural environmental systems. We obtained two copies for the club.

The Ontario Nature Youth Summit will be held Sept 19 to 21 at Geneva Park in Orillia. It is open to youth ages 14 to 20. Our Club is contributing \$300 to the cost of the Summit and would be willing to sponsor a local youth if anyone is interested.

Lastly, Ontario Nature is planning to raise fees for member clubs in the coming year.

Golden-winged and Cerulean Warbler Surveys

Submitted by Bird Studies Canada

Bird Studies Canada's Ontario staff are conducting targeted research on several at-risk forest bird species this season. To support conservation and the development of recovery monitoring programs for species at risk, researchers investigate population numbers and distribution, and examine the influences of various landscape and habitat features.

Surveys for Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers are under way in Ontario. Golden-winged Warbler surveys began last week in the Frontenac region, where 10 individuals have been detected so far. The field crew will next make its way to North Bay. Cerulean Warbler surveys have begun in southern Ontario's Norfolk Sand Plain area, and have commenced in the Frontenac region.

Bird Studies Canada encourages anyone who sees these species (or other at-risk birds) to report them through eBird Canada (www.ebird.ca) or Project Nestwatch (www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pnw). Partners and supporters of the Golden-winged and Cerulean warbler projects include Environment Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the University of Manitoba.

Report Whip-poor-wills in Ontario

Submitted by Bird Studies Canada

Eastern Whip-poor-wills have returned to their breeding territories. Although data collection for the Ontario Whip-poor-will Project is complete, Bird Studies Canada is encouraging volunteers to listen for whip-poor-wills in suitable habitat, and report observations to eBird Canada (www.ebird.ca). Bright moonlit nights from June 5 to 13 (leading up to the next full moon) will be best for hearing whip-poor-wills.

The Ontario Whip-poor-will Project (www.birdscanada.org/research/speciesatrisk/wpwi) was launched in 2010 to investigate where in the province whip-poor-wills still occur, and to identify hotspots for this species.

In three seasons, hundreds of volunteers reported on the locations of whip-poor-wills, giving us a much better picture of their distribution and abundance. Results will be included in a summary report this fall, and are being used to direct research into declines in Ontario's whip-poor-will populations.

Support the PFN Lottery

Submitted by **Martin Parker**

Earlier this year Bill Snowden donated to the PFN a limited edition framed print titled 'Amid the Trilliums' by Joan Tovey. The original painting was chosen for the cover of the Buckhorn Fine Art Festival catalogue. The framed print was donated by Bill for the purpose of a fundraising initiative by the PFN.

The Board decided to sell raffle tickets on the framed print. The proceeds of the raffle will be used for youth and for public education in nature in the Peterborough Region. The cost of one raffle ticket is \$2.00, with a limit of 1,000 tickets printed in accordance with the approved Lottery Licence M666089.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the June meeting of the PFN, and at most of the field outings. The draw will take place at the regular June 11 PFN meeting. Directors will also have tickets for sale in the meantime.

There will be three second-place prizes, each consisting of a copy of the excellent PFN publication 'Nature in the Kawarthas'.

Please consider purchasing a ticket, or tickets, and support the youth and public education initiatives of your Peterborough Field Naturalists!



Tree Swallow, Male ~Submitted by Cathy Boothby, Douro, May 2014

Spring News from the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

Submitted by **Lindsay Maxim, KTTC Executive Coordinator**

The volunteers and staff at the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre (KTTC) have settled nicely into their new digs at the north end of town. After the tremendous amount of hard work put in by everyone involved with the move, it was very rewarding to be welcomed by over 1,000 members of the community at our open house in March. Since that time, we have kept the momentum going.

With a late spring, seeming like the snow would never end, we finally began coordinating the release of over 91 fully healed adult turtles and hundreds of hatchlings in the month of May. However, if it is warm enough

for releases, then wild turtles are on the move. Sadly, we have already admitted 78 turtles in 3 weeks. The majority being males, or females without fully developed eggs. As June begins we will start to see gravid females along the roads looking for a spot to nest. Those that are injured and make it to KTTC often lay their eggs while receiving treatment. Even if they are deceased, we have had excellent success collecting the eggs, incubating them, and then releasing the hatchlings back to where the mother turtle was found. We have admitted Blanding's turtles, snapping turtles, painted turtles, and musk turtles thus far.

We have also received great positive feedback about our new education space on site. This is the first time the public can look at exactly what it is we are up to. Currently, we are open Wednesdays and Sundays from 12-3pm for drop-in visits. We hope to increase these hours as the summer continues. To help us develop our education program, please support us online; it's free to vote. If we make it into the top 25 we have a chance at \$20,000! Visit <http://learningproject.cst.org/ideas/248>.

As always, if you have found an injured turtle please call us at 705-741-5000. Our new address is 1434 Chemong Road. Unit 6 is the hospital, and Unit 4 is the Education Centre. We wish you many happy sightings!



The Orchid Diary



Compiled by Tony Bigg 705-652-7541 tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

ORCHID DIARY - April 29 to May 29, 2014

The peak of migration occurs during this month and, again, mainly first of the year sightings are noted. Butterflies started emerging in numbers.

- Apr 29 A **Spotted Sandpiper** and a **Bank Swallow** were heard calling by Sean Smith, from off Meadowvale Park near TASSS.
- Apr 30 A **Moose** calf was reported by Jeff Keller, yesterday morning on 5th Line at Chemong Rd . It was behind a small house.
- May 01 Bill Snowden reported an **Upland Sandpiper** today at the corner of Listowel Line and Robinson Road in Selwyn Township. It was on the top of a hydro pole. In Cavan Swamp a **Northern Waterthrush** and a **Ruffed Grouse** were heard by Sean Smith.
- May 03 Sean Smith had a **Yellow Warbler** at Dafoe and the East Rotary Trail.
- May 04 A **Northern Watersnake** took a little break on Jane Bremner's lawn. They are right beside a large marsh area along the Indian River; it was about a metre long. About 20 people braved very cool temperatures and strong winds Sunday morning to take part in the weekly Peterborough Field Naturalists' Sunday Morning Bird Walk led by Drew Monkman. At the Centre Line of Smith (Cty Rd 24) and the 5th Line the party had **Northern Waterthrush** (3), Common Loon (flyover), and **Virginia Rail** (heard and seen; attracted by broadcast of call). At Miller Creek Conservation Area a **Sandhill Crane** was heard, and three **American Bitterns** were seen flying from the observation tower. A **Virginia Rail** was also heard calling by Sean Smith from the marsh adjacent to Burnham PP.

- May 05 Today on Parkway trail near Cumberland, Mike Barker saw a **Blue-winged Warbler**, and an **Eastern Kingbird**. Late morning sightings at the Beavermead/Ecopark by Dave Milsom include **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Northern Waterthrush**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **Brown Creeper**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Brown Thrasher**, and **Rusty Blackbird**. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Scott McKinlay's feeder in Cavan. Tony Bigg found a **Great Egret** by the pond on Cty Rd 6 just west of the junction with Cty Rd 40; a **Blue-headed Vireo** on Cty Rd 46 at the junction with Devil's 4 Mile Rd; and a **Prairie Warbler** about 500m into FR83 off Sandy Lake Rd.
- May 05 cont'd Sean Smith saw a **Broad-winged Hawk** above Pencier Trail in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary and **Ruffed Grouse** drumming - somehow eluding dogs. At least four **Black-and-White Warblers**, five **Northern Waterthrushes** and three **Winter Wrens** singing in a Swamp Idol contest here with silent **Hermit Thrush**. Early morning **Eastern Garter Snakes** were in the sun after five days of rain. A first of the season **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen by Rob Welsh at Dodworth Island today on Stony Lake.
- May 06 Four **Warbling Vireos** were heard singing in the Lakefield Park, by Tony Bigg. Drew Monkman stepped outside to get the paper this morning and was greeted by the bubbly song of a **House Wren**, his first of the spring. This species nests in his yard most years.
- May 07 Walking the TCT from Nelson's Rd to Settlers Line and back this afternoon Tony Bigg found a small flock of **Rusty Blackbirds** near Nelson Rd, **Wilson's Snipe** were winnowing in the same area, three **Virginia Rails** were calling in the marsh in the south-east corner at the junction of the TCT and David Fife's Line, his only butterfly, a **Spring Azure** was a little way east of there, and a **Winter Wren** was singing at the east end of the marsh. Two FOY warblers were found – **Yellow Warbler**, and a **Palm Warbler**. Four **Red-bellied Snakes** were sunning themselves on the trail just west of David Fife Line within 100m of each other. Just west of the bridge on the Nelson-David Fife section of the trail about 500 **Bloodroots** were in full bloom. Along River Rd between the 2nd and 3rd Lines of Asphodel **Trout Lily**, **Large-flowered Bellwort**, **Sharp-leaved Hepatica**, **Dutchman's Breeches**, **Spring Beauty**, and **Red Trillium** were in bloom. **Large-flowered Trilliums** were in bud. Several **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs** were in a flooded field on Asphodel 3rd Line north of Cty Rd 2.
- May 07 cont'd Sean Smith had a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Meadowvale Park near TASSS, and five **Palm Warblers** and a **Warbling Vireo** nearby, **Savannah Sparrow** and **Eastern Meadowlark** were below the football field at TASSS, Lakefield Park provided **Eastern Kingbird** and amorous pairs of **Northern Harriers** and **Pileated Woodpeckers**, and **Green Heron** and **Bobolinks** were at the Lakefield sewage lagoons.
- May 09 Jeff Keller had a lot of bird activity in his backyard this morning. As he writes this (08:50) there are four **Baltimore Orioles** in one tree! He also had an **American Redstart**, three **Chestnut-sided Warblers**, a **Pine Warbler**, a **Magnolia Warbler**, a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **White-crowned Sparrows** and a **Scarlet Tanager**. The trees along the Parkway Trail between Hilliard and Cumberland were buzzing with warblers this morning. Among many species Mike Barker saw a **Blackburnian Warbler**, **American Redstart**, **Black-throated Green Warbler** and a **Gray Catbird**. Matthew Tobey found a **Clay-colored Sparrow** along the railroad 200m west of Airport Rd in a patch of bushes along the fence line. He also saw a **Golden-winged Warbler** and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**. The Peterborough County Birds Database (PCBD) reports a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** in Beavermead Park. A **Cape May Warbler** was seen in the same area by Bill Crins. A **Cliff Swallow** was seen by Bryan Sabourin at Hwy 7 and Cty Rd 28.
- May 10 **Soras** were reported by three people: Cheryl Goodchild, S. Wurtele, and Andrew Jobes at Miller Creek.
- May 11 An **American Pipit** was found by Iain Payner on the Hilliard St-Bridgenorth Trail south of Miller Creek.

- May 12 Travelling from Peterborough north-east to Hubble Rd and on to Sandy Lake Rd today, Bob Prentice and Tony Bigg found 13 warblers – **Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush**, and **Common Yellowthroat**. Other recent arrivals were **Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Great-crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbird, Baltimore Oriole, and Bobolink**. Butterflies showing were **Cabbage White, Mourning Cloak, Mustard White, Spring Azure, Eastern Pine Elfin, Olympia Marble, Chryxus Arctic, Henry's Elfin, and Hoary Elfin**. A **Blanding's Turtle** was seen on Sandy Lake Rd. The PCBD reports a **Lincoln's Sparrow** on the Peterborough-Trent Rotary Trail. Catherine Paradis reports a **Northern Parula Warbler** in the Ecology/Beavermead Park.
- May 14 A **Tennessee Warbler** was reported by the PCBD on the Peterborough-Trent Rotary Trail.
- May 15 Don and Emily Pettypiece were lucky enough to come across a very co-operative **Red-headed Woodpecker** on River Road just west of Asphodel 4th Line. They were able to take some great photos.
- May 17 Tony Bigg heard several **Marsh Wrens** singing in the Lakefield Marsh.
- May 18 A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported by the PCBD in the Millenium Park in downtown Petrboroughl. With the PFN morning group outing Tony Bigg had an **Eastern Wood Pewee, an Alder Flycatcher** (both on Division Rd), and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** on the TCT west of Cameron Line. One Clouded Sulphur was also seen in the latter area. In the afternoon Jerry Ball and Tony ventured up to Sandy Lake Rd and were able to add a **Brown Elfin** to his year's butterfly list. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found by Don Sutherland on Mervin Line.
- May 19 Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg found two **Dreamy Duskywings** on Charlie Allen Rd, and six **West Virginia Whites** on Charlie Allen Rd/Galway-Cavendish Forest Access Rd. Also of note a **Bullfrog** was sitting in the middle of Tates Rd at the west end.
- May 20 On the TCT between Cameron Line and Cty Rd 38 Tony Bigg found a **Red Admiral** butterfly.
- May 21 Jerry Ball found an **American Lady** butterfly on Base Line west of Heritage Line.
- May 22 An uncommon **Sedge Wren** was found by Iain Rayner in the Miller Creek CA. Don Sutherland saw a **Northern Mockingbird** and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on the Peterborough-Trent Rotary Trail.
- May 23 On Edgewater Blvd at the railway near Litle Lake, Iain Rayner found a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.
- May 24 On a Butterfly trip to the north-east of the County, Tony Bigg and Robert DiFruscia added **Juvenile Duskywing** (Hubble Rd), **Canada Tiger Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** (both Devil's 4 Mile Rd), and **Gray Comma** (Long Lake Rd).
- May 25 A **Least Bittern** was seen by Ian Sturdee in the Belmont 6th Line wetlands. At her cottage in Brooks Bay, Jack's Lake, Sheelagh Hysenaj saw a **Five-lined Skink**. She saw one several times last year at the same property but this one looked smaller to her and was in a different location.
- May 26 New FOY butterflies, **Meadow Fritillary** and **Silvery Blue** were seen by Tony Bigg and Robert DiFruscia on the TCT between Cameron Line and Cty Rd 38, and Jerry Ball found a Gray Hairstreak (Sandy Lake Rd) and Eastern Tailed-blue (Charlie Allen Rd).
- May 26 Two **Common Gallinules** was seen by Jerry Ball in the Belmont 6th Line wetlands.
- May 28 At around 8:30 pm Susan Chow saw five **Common Nighthawks** flying over the Otonabee River at 9th Line, accompanied by a very vocal male nighthawk calling then diving from a tree. He flew to another tree when he came up from his dive, and then went back to the original tree where he repeated both the call and dive again.
- May 29 Two **Cherry Gall Azures** were seen by Jerry Ball on the TCT between Cameron Line and Cty Rd 38. They were seen laying there eggs in the galls on the leaves of a Chokecherry bush.
- May 30 New FOY butterflies, **Tawny-edged Skipper, Siver-spotted Skipper** and **Hobomok Skipper** were seen by Jerry Ball, Robert DiFruscia and Tony Bigg on the TCT between Cameron Line and Cty Rd 38.

May 31 A sudden hatch of new butterfly species was noted by Tony Bigg and Robert DiFrucia - **Little Wood Satyr**, **Northern Cloudywing** (both on Hubble Rd), **Arctic Skipper**, **Pepper & Salt Skipper** (both on Devil's 4 Mile Rd), **Northern Crescent**, **Pearl Crescent** (both Post Rd), **Harvester** (FR68 & Sandy Lake Rd) and **Black Swallowtail** (Charlie Allen Rd).

More photos from the PFN members' visits to the Carden Alvar:



Killdeer ~ Submitted by Marla Williams ~ Carden Alvar, June 1



*Left:
Upland Sandpiper
~ Submitted by
Don Pettypiece
~ Carden Alvar,
June 1*



*Right:
Prairie Smoke
~ Submitted by
Martin Parker
~ Carden Alvar,
May 2012*



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* |
|------|------|------|------|
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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: _____