

# The Orchid



November 2014  
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## ***Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists***

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms

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Gem-studded Puffball, Warsaw Caves Conservation Area, September 23 ~ Submitted by Jennie Versteeg

INSIDE:    Project Feeder Watch  
              Winter Finch Forecast

Monarch Migration  
Alderville Black Oak Savanna



Praying Mantis, Ottawa, September 23  
~ Submitted by Martin Parker

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:**

**Mark Williamson and Esther Paszt**

**Dylan Radcliffe**

## Coming Events

<p>Wednesday November 12</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p>Guest Speaker will be Dr. Chris Kyle of Trent University and the Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre. Dr. Kyle will discuss how DNA is being used to answer questions about the movement and habitat preferences of the American Badger, which is endangered in Ontario.</p>	 <p>American Badger ~ Courtesy of the Ontario Government</p>
<p>Sunday November 30</p> <p>1:00pm</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobey's/ Canadian Tire Plaza, Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Wave Riders of Rice Lake</b></p> <p>This is becoming a tradition! Join Martin Parker and Luke Berg on a trip along the north shore of Rice Lake to look for some of the later migrating waterfowl and other birds which are migrating through. We will look for rafts of diving ducks such as Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and others. Bring binoculars, a telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day. The trip will last until late afternoon and Martin promises that CFL fans will be home in time for the Grey Cup final!</p>	



Raccoon Buddies  
Eels Lake,  
Haliburton County,  
August 1

~ Submitted by  
Martin Parker

## Coming Events continued

<p>Saturday December 6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:00 am</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobeys/Canadian Tire Plaza, Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</b></p> <p>This day trip will be to the Niagara River, the gathering place for the world's greatest concentration of gulls. Each fall thousands of gulls representing up to twelve species gather to feed along the river. This concentration also attracts bird watchers from across the continent. On this outing we will visit the best locations along the river to look for the birds reported this fall. Beside the gulls there will be a variety of waterfowl and other late departing migrants. The leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza at 7:00 a.m. to carpool for the trip to the Niagara River. The secondary meeting location will be the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston. If you are planning to meet the group at that location please phone Martin (705-745-4750) in advance.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and clothes forecast for the weather forecast for the Niagara Region. If you have a telescope and/or camera bring it as well. The trip will end in the Niagara area in the late afternoon.</p>
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Above: Glaucous Gull (Second Winter)    Right: Iceland Gull, Kumliens Race (Paler)  
 Parry Sound District, December 2012 and December 2008  
 Submitted by Stephen O'Donnel

## Coming Events continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday December 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: Members' Slide Night</b></p> <p>The December members' slideshow is an annual PFN tradition. Have some photos from a trip, a natural event, or a wildlife encounter that you'd like to "show and tell"? Contact Lynn Smith at <a href="mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net">smithfam@nexicom.net</a> or 705-944-5599.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 14</p>	<p><b>Peterborough Christmas Bird Count</b></p> <p>Anyone can help with this long-standing annual winter bird census. Newcomers to the area, and newcomers to birding, are welcome to participate. They will be partnered with more experienced local birders. More eyes result in more birds seen!</p> <p>The count is an all-day affair, starting at daylight, or preferably earlier if you wish to add owls to the day's list, and finishing in time to make the compilation. The compilation of species seen will be made at Kelsey's, opposite the Canadian Tire Plaza on Lansdowne Street at 5:00 pm.</p> <p>Participants should let Tony Bigg know as soon as possible if they are available for this count. Contact Tony at <a href="mailto:tanddbigg@sympatico.ca">tanddbigg@sympatico.ca</a> or phone 705-652-7541.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday December 27</p>	<p><b>29<sup>th</sup> Annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count</b></p> <p>This annual count is in the northern section of Peterborough County, extending northwards from Stony Lake to the Apsley area, and primarily east of Highway 28. It samples the winter bird life in the shield part of the county. Annually such species a Bald Eagle and Black-backed Woodpeckers are located. The count covers an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometres. The count circle is covered by a number of field parties who visit various sites looking for birds. The count is an all-day activity.</p> <p>If you are interested in participating in this count please contact the count compiler, Colin Jones, in advance so that he can ensure all parties have similar numbers of participants.</p> <p>Please contact Colin Jones by email at <a href="mailto:colin.jones@ontario.ca">colin.jones@ontario.ca</a>, or by telephone at 705-652-5004 and/or 705-755-2166.</p>

## PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Do you enjoy children and nature? The PFN is still searching for one or two interested persons to organize activities and outings for the Juniors each month. Your creativity, enthusiasm, and appreciation for the natural environment will be most welcome by the Juniors! The Camp Kawartha Environment Centre on Pioneer Road is available for the activities throughout the year. If interested, please contact Martin Parker at 705-745-4750 or [mparker19@cogeco.ca](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca).

## Other Events of Interest

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday November 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 PM</p> <p>Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Antler Seminar</b></p> <p>Learn all about antlers, including their purpose, chemical composition, growth cycle and shedding, what determines antler size, causes of deformities, antler colouration and antler research.</p> <p>A silent auction of antler art will be held before and after the seminar, with proceeds being directed toward OFAH conservation projects.</p> <p>For more information phone 705-748-6324, extension 100. Website address is <a href="http://www.ofah.org">www.ofah.org</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meetings</b></p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street, 7:30 pm meeting start, doors open at 7:00 pm for socializing. Annual membership rates are \$15 individual, \$20 family. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener. For more information please visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca">www.peterboroughgardens.ca</a>.</p> <p>Upcoming meeting topics: November 26th - Rachel Burrows, "Indoor Christmas Arrangements"</p>

## 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	Don Finigan and JB Jaboor	745-4750
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Mary Thomas	
Orchid Editor	Marla Williams	874-5653
Jr. Naturalists		
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!

Submission deadline for the December 2014 issue is **Friday, November 21**

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

**Correction Notice:** The limited edition framed print won by PFN member Milda Bax was in fact from a painting by Joan Tovey called "Amid The Trilliums", and was kindly donated by William Snowden. Our apologies for the miscommunication.

## Project Feeder Watch Begins November 8<sup>th</sup>

The 28th season of Project FeederWatch begins on November 8! Please join our team of thousands of volunteers across North America, and turn your bird feeding hobby into research for bird conservation.

Your counts will help scientists monitor changes in winter feeder-bird populations. You choose how much time you want to spend. New participants receive a kit with a handbook, a bird identification poster, a calendar, and an instruction booklet.

Results are published in BirdWatch Canada and Winter Bird Highlights – the FeederWatch magazine. You can also explore maps and charts (<http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/PFW/ExploreData>) online to see what others are reporting during the count.

Anyone with an interest in birds and nature is invited to join Project FeederWatch and become a Citizen Scientist. To learn more or to sign up, visit our website:

[www.birdscanada.org/pfw.html](http://www.birdscanada.org/pfw.html), or call 1-888-448-2473. Your \$35 donation defrays the cost of the materials and data analysis (free for members of Bird Studies Canada).

Project FeederWatch is a joint program of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

## **Notice to PFN Members - Nominations for Directors**

The affairs of the Peterborough Field Naturalists are managed by 12 members who comprise the Board of Directors. The Nomination Committee annually prepares a slate of Directors for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

There are at least two vacancies on the Board which the Nominations Committee has to fill. The normal term of a Director is three years.

If you are interesting in serving on the Board, or would like to suggest a member who may be interested, please advise the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Kelly Boadway, at [kjboadway@gmail.com](mailto:kjboadway@gmail.com) or phone Kelly at (705)775-0756.

## **The Birds of Winter - from 'Winter Finch Forecast 2014-2015' by Ron Pittaway**

**Submitted by Martin Parker**

As the fall season progresses and most of the summer residents have departed for their wintering areas, birders look forward in anticipation of the arrival of the irruptive winter finches and other irruptive species. The presence or absence and the number of individuals of each species will vary from one winter to the other. The main factor which influences their winter populations in our area is the abundance of winter woods in the boreal forest and other parts of the continent.

Each fall Ron Pittaway prepares a forecast for the winter finches for the upcoming winter. Pittaway's forecasts have proven to be fairly accurate over the years. The report is based on an analysis of information collected from birders, researchers and foresters from across the continent. Pittaway issued the forecast for the upcoming winter, 2014-2015 in late September.

The following is a summary of the forecast as it impacts the Peterborough area. This winter's forecast and previous forecasts can be found at the following website: [www.jeaniron.ca](http://www.jeaniron.ca).

The forecast this winter is for a variety of different movements of winter finches, with movements to different parts of the continent.

There is an abundance crop of spruce cones in the James Bay lowlands, and west of Lake Superior in Ontario. The areas with an excellent spruce cone crop extend eastward to the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. This will result in White-winged Crossbills moving east and west to areas with lots of cones. They are predicted to be in low numbers in this section of the province.



Pine Siskins are another spruce cone feeder; many will move to areas with cones. However, a good flight southwards is predicted. Pine Siskins are already being reported in the region. Red-breasted Nuthatches started moving southwards in late summer in search of food crops. They are another spruce cone specialist. One can expect both Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches at feeders this winter.



Mountain-ash berries are an important food for Pine Grosbeaks and Bohemian Waxwings. The crops are low in northeastern Ontario and Newfoundland, but very good to bumper crops elsewhere in the boreal forest. As a result, Pittaway is projecting a small flight of Pine Grosbeaks into this part of the province this winter. Bohemian Waxwings are also berry feeders and the majority will remain north. Small numbers may be found in the region where there are berries.

Common Redpolls' main winter food is the seeds of birch trees. Pittaway reports that the birch seed crop is fair to poor across the north so expect a good flight of Common Redpolls in the region. Silo feeders with Nyger seed will attract these birds. One should also watch for a Hoary Redpoll within the flocks of Common Redpolls.



The Blue Jay was in excellent numbers last winter due to the abundance of acorns and other nuts in the fall of 1013. This year the nut crop has been poor in this region. It was excellent in the Carolinian Forest zone of the province and southward. This fall there were large flights of Blue Jays moving southwards so expect them in lower numbers at your feeders this winter.

Top to Bottom: White-winged Crossbill (female), Pine Grosbeak (male), and Purple Finch (male), Algonquin Provincial Park  
~ Submitted by Luke Berg

The Evening Grosbeak populations in Ontario are much lower now than from the 1940s to 1980s. This decline has been linked to the lack of outbreaks of Spruce Budworm, a food for nestlings. Small numbers should be present in the region.

It is now time to erect and fill your feeders for the winter finches which will be arriving in our region, as well as other winter birds who will be looking for a food source in order to supplement the wild food crops.

## **Reminder: PFN's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The PFN was founded on May 18, 1949. In order to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 soon. Reserve this date to celebrate the history and the accomplishments of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, originally called the Peterborough Nature Club! Mark Monday, May 18, 2015 on your calendar!



Eastern Garter Snake  
Hall's Landing Area, Otonabee-South Monaghan, October 28  
~ Submitted by Martin Parker

## **From the Archives – Publications of the Peterborough Field Naturalists** **Submitted by Martin Parker**

The Orchid is the regular newsletter of the Peterborough Field Naturalists and is distributed to members of the PFN. Over the years 'The Orchid' has contained extensive information on the history of the PFN and the natural history of the Peterborough Region.

The club and its members have published several reports, checklists, and books on the natural history of the Peterborough Region. The following is a summary of the publications, other than 'The Orchid', contained in the Archives of the PFN:

**The Orchid, Volume 60, Number 8, November 2014**

Birds:

**A Check-list of the Birds of Peterborough County, Ontario.** Compiled by J. L. McKeever, 1958. Peterborough Nature Club.

**Birds from the Ground: The Record of Archaeology in Ontario.** Douglas C. Sadler and Howard G. Savage, 2003. Occasional Papers in Anthropology, Trent University. Sponsored by The Trent University Archaeological Research Centre, The Symons Trust Fund for Canadian Studies, and the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

**Birds of the Peterborough Area & Their Seasonal Movements.** Douglas Sadler, 1965. Peterborough Naturalists Club.

**Birds of the Peterborough Area And Their Seasonal Movements, Revised Edition.** Douglas C. Sadler, 1968. Peterborough Naturalists Club.

**Birds of the Peterborough Area, Third Edition.** Doug Sadler, 1972. Peterborough Field Naturalists and Peterborough County Board of Education.

**Field-Checking List (1965).** List of Bird Species. Peterborough Nature Club.

**Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas.** Douglas Sadler, 1983. Peterborough Field Naturalists.

**Shorebird Habitat Project.** W. Dan Mansell. Prepared for Peterborough Field Naturalists, 2001.

Club History:

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists 1940 to 1980.** John E. Fitzgerald, Editor, 1980. Peterborough Field Naturalists.

**Programme of the Special Club Outing Commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Peterborough Nature Club,** 1960. Peterborough Nature Club.

General Natural History:

**1998 Peterborough County Natural History Summary.** Compiled by Peter S. Burke, Colin D. Jones, Jennifer M. Line, Michael J. Oldham, Peter J. Sorrill, 1999. Peterborough Field Naturalists, Natural Heritage Information Centre, Trent University.

**Kawarthas Nature.** Compiled by the Peterborough Field Naturalists, 1992. Boston Mills Press.

**Nature in the Kawarthas.** Compiled for Peterborough Field Naturalists, 2011. Dundurn Press.

**Peterborough: Woodlots, Water, Wildlife, and Wilderness.** Compiled by G.S. Berry and B.F. O'Higgins, 1975. Peterborough Field Naturalists.

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Geology and Geomorphology:

**Field Trip to the Dummer Moraine.** F.A. Heilingbrunner. 2011. Information Package for PFN Outing on June 29, 2013.

Mammals:

**The Mammals of Peterborough County.** Geoff Carpentier, 1987. Peterborough Field Naturalists

Municipal Planning:

**Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy, 1995.** Coordinated by Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Plants:

**Checklist of the Vascular Plants (Flowering Plants and Ferns) of Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park. 1983.** Peterborough Field Naturalists.

**Wildflowers of the Kawarthas.** Compiled by Dorothy Hunter, 1971. Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Special Issues of 'The Orchid' Club Newsletter:

**Commemorating the FON Annual Meeting, April 27 to 28, 1968**

**Commemorating the FON Annual Meeting in Peterborough, May 23 to 25, 1986**

**Commemorating the FON Annual Meeting in Peterborough, May 26 to 28, 1995**

## **Seventh Annual Prairie Day at Alderville Black Oak Savanna**

**Submitted by Becky Lyon, Outreach Coordinator, Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative**

On Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> approximately 360 visitors visited the Alderville Black Oak Savanna for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie Day. This day was a celebration of the remnant tall grass prairie and savanna ecosystems. These rare ecosystems are supported by the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative (RLPJI) who are a multi-partner conservation and stewardship project committed to its restoration since 2002.



Sponsored by the Friends of the Greenbelt, the day was filled with many activities, tours, displays, music and entertainment. Fun for the whole family, students and field naturalists alike, the day started off in the early morning with bird banding. Elizabeth Kellogg and Roger Frost from the Willow Beach Field Naturalists (a RLPJI partner) assisted in banding 9 species of birds for a total of 41 birds.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Alderville Black Oak Savanna, September 20

~ Submitted by RLPJI; photographed by Carolyn Smoke

Interactive displays included traditional practices of wild rice harvesting with Jeff Beaver, having many volunteers parching, dancing, winnowing, and asking questions about the gathering, planting, and benefits of wild rice (*photo courtesy of Peter Brotherhood*). Rick Beaver, the Research and Restoration Coordinator at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, guided a tour on the traditional uses of prairie and savanna plants.

The Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre, a registered charity that provides outreach, education, and conservation initiatives, introduced curious onlookers to a snapping turtle. Visitors left with a deeper concern for turtles, with 7 of the 8 species of Ontario's turtle listed as a species at risk.



The Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary (a RLPJI partner) described that Prairie Day was an opportunity to provide visitors with basic information on land trusts, providing information on outdoor recreational activities available on the conservation lands, and a great opportunity for partners to raise awareness in what they do. In addition to ongoing activities, a short bus trip took nature enthusiasts to Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, a Nature Conservancy of Canada property. The Nature Conservancy of Canada, a private land conservation organization, is a key founder in the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative.

Entertainers included Waaban (a hand drumming duo of Jordan Mowat and Nathalie Restoule), Cale Crowe, Ken Whiteley, the Barnburners, and Chad Solomon (with his puppet show Rabbit and Bear Paws). This exciting day seemed to pass quickly!

The 2014 Prairie Day was a tremendous success. Thanks to all the entertainers, presenters, tour leaders, organizers and volunteers for a great day. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Prairie Day!

## Membership Renewal Reminder

Memberships for 2014 will expire this December 31st.

Memberships paid after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 will be valid until the end of 2015.

You can renew at the November and December meetings, at the January Annual General Meeting, or by mailing the membership application form found on the back page of the Orchid newsletter.

Do you have any membership questions? Please phone Jim Young at 705-760-9397, or email Jim at [jbyoung559@gmail.com](mailto:jbyoung559@gmail.com).

## The Underrated Pileated

Submitted by Murray Palmer

From its sylvan haunts a large woodpecker, the pileated,  
Renders its discoverers, young and old, elated.  
When out for a stroll,  
They hear its drum roll  
And the sound through the woods reverberated.

Frequent the forest; you may chance to see  
A Woody chiseling deeply into a tree.  
Big chips fly from the hole -  
Carpenter ants, its goal,  
Are snatched from their tunnels while trying to flee.

A more impressive bird I challenge you to name.  
It's a wonderful sight with its red crest aflame.  
Its voice so enthralling  
Must be the wilderness calling;  
It lures us to places we should never tame.

These majestic birds we should not snub  
For the damage they cause in search of ant and grub.  
The beneficial essence  
Of their forest presence  
Defines the purpose of many a naturalists' club.

It saddens those of us who know their charm  
That people would carelessly cause these birds harm.  
Businessmen's schemes  
Destroy Nature's dreams -  
We must remain vigilant, and sound the alarm.

Was the lesson of the ivory-billed woodpecker not learned?  
Should commercialism win while ethics are spurned?  
Though nature deficit disorder  
Loosens its mortar,  
The wild has integrity over millions of years earned.

In quiet contemplation our minds often drift back  
To encounters with these birds of red, white and black.  
We wish we could be  
As wild and free,  
And find in Nature's solitude the peace we lack.

~ Murray Palmer

## Monarch Migration

Submitted by June Hitchcox, Courtesy of the *Apsley Voice*

Late September while sitting on my seventh floor balcony overlooking Lake Ontario at Burlington, I spent most of the afternoon - and days after that - watching the fascinating migration flight of Monarch Butterflies on their way to the southern USA and Mexico. Imagine a species of butterfly that migrates thousands of miles! They are not birds but they do fly and are part of nature - so please bear with me.

I hope that you will be interested to the point that you will watch for their return from the south next spring, and possibly plant some Milkweed seeds to help them on their way. These were all flying westward, mostly through the trees below me (safer) yet easily seen. They follow the shoreline, knowing that Lake Ontario is too wide for them to risk crossing, hoping to find land that will take them south. The eastern Ontario population cross in the Windsor/Detroit area and continue south.



Monarch Butterfly, Presqu'île Provincial Park

September 16

~ Submitted by Martin Parker

Their life cycle is very interesting, having three cycles like other butterflies; eggs laid on (Milkweed) leaves; four days hatching into caterpillars, eating the (Milkweed) leaves for two weeks; then the ten-day pupation and chrysalis stage to change into the butterfly that we know. Then emerging to dry wings and fly away, mating and laying eggs for the next generation, and dying in two to eight weeks, having completed the reason for being.

These four stages take place in February/March; then March/April; and May/June or thereabouts.

The fourth generation in September/October is different. All of the stages are completed but the adults do not die. Instead they head south and live for six to eight months; and it all starts over again: finding a mate, laying eggs on Milkweed plants and, if they are not far enough north, their offspring will perpetuate the cycle and continue northward.

Makes me and perhaps you want to look into Milkweed plants to give them a hand, doesn't it? Apsley Library, a few years ago, had Milkweed plants in their front garden for this purpose. Monarch Butterflies are having a difficult time surviving - numbers have declined - so perhaps we can help. We are lucky to have such a beautiful butterfly.

## **News from the PFN Board: Proposed PFN Legacy Fund and Scholarship/Grant Programme**

**Submitted by PFN Directors**

The Board of Directors has been reviewing options for the use of the legacy left to the club by the late Rhea Bringman, a long-term volunteer, former President, Director, and club representative to Ontario Nature. The current Directors discussed how to ensure this legacy benefits the club both currently and in the long term.

The Directors have proposed investing the principle received from Rhea Bringman in an endowed fund, known as the PFN Legacy Fund, with the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough (CFGP). The principle will be invested as part of the pool administered by the CFGP. Annually the investment will generate income which would be given to the PFN to meet its objectives. A proportion of the annual earnings of the fund will be retained in the PFN Legacy Fund to ensure the principle continues to grow over time.

The PFN Legacy Fund will be an endowed fund, meaning the principal will always have to be maintained. Canada Revenue Agency regulation does require that at least 3.5% of the value of the fund has to be used annually for the charitable purposes of the PFN.

The 'Letters Patent', which is the document which legally creates the PFN, states the objectives of the PFN are:

- a) to acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history
- b) to protect and preserve wildlife
- c) to stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation

The Board is considering using the annual interest for several new initiatives. These initiatives include an annual scholarship for a student attending a post-secondary education institution, as well as funding for special projects by members, committees of the club and other organizations. Over the next few months the Board will be developing the guidelines for the use of the annual interest from the PFN Legacy Fund.

The Board of Directors appreciates comments from PFN members regarding the appropriateness of establishing a PFN Legacy Fund with the Bringman Bequest, and using the annual return on investment to fund a scholarship(s) and special projects and initiatives of the PFN. Please feel free to discuss with any PFN Director.

## **Request for Items for AGM Bucket Draw**

The January 2015 Annual General Meeting is in the planning stages right now, and one tradition that the Peterborough Field Naturalist Club (PFN) has maintained over the years is the Bucket Draw! In order to have a successful raffle, a variety of items is welcomed, needed and will be much appreciated!

Proceeds from this draw are used for various PFN projects throughout the year.



## The Orchid Diary



Compiled by Tony Bigg 705-652-7541 [tanddbigg@sympatico.ca](mailto:tanddbigg@sympatico.ca)

### ORCHID DIARY - September 25 to October 30, 2014

The month brought an influx of northern ducks and a marked drop in the number of migrant song birds. A much greater number than normal reports were made of Bonaparte's Gulls.

- Sep 28 Bill Snowden had a late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at his feeder in Ennismore.
- Sep 29 Whilst at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, Don Sutherland saw a **Blackpoll Warbler** and had a **Peregrine Falcon** fly over. The latter arrived from the direction of Buckley Lake flying west low over lagoons and toward river. It was later observed perched atop the SGS Ltd. chimney. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball found a **Northern Parula** on Bass Lake Road in the NE of the county.
- Sep 30 On a nocturnal flight call count at his house Luke Berg registered eleven **Grey-cheeked Thrushes**, fifty-five **Swainson's Thrushes**, a **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, a **Palm Warbler**, an **American Tree Sparrow**, three **Chipping Sparrows**, a **Field Sparrow**, five **Savannah Sparrows**, eight **Song Sparrows**, three **Swamp Sparrows**, six **White-throated Sparrows**, a **Bobolink**, a **Common Redpole**, and two **Pine Siskins**.
- Sep 30 A trip to the Havelock Sewage Lagoons by Don Sutherland resulted in the sighting of 2 **Wood Ducks**, 16 **Mallards**, 10 **Blue-winged Teal**, 75 **Green-winged Teal**, 2 **Hooded Mergansers**, 1 **Green Heron**, 1 **Semipalmated Plover**, 15 **Killdeer**, 9 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 9 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1 **Stilt Sandpiper**, 1 **Dunlin**, 1 **Baird's Sandpiper**, 2 **Least Sandpipers**, 11 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 1 **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher**, and 4 **Wilson's Snipe**.
- Oct 01 A high flying **Osprey** was seen by Luke Berg, from his yard near Parkhill at George Street.
- Oct 03 On another rewarding trip to the Havelock Sewage Lagoons Don Sutherland found 24 **Blue-winged Teal**, 142 **Green-winged Teal**, 9 **Hooded Mergansers**, 1 **Semipalmated Plover**, 7 **Killdeer**, 7 **Greater Yellowlegs**, 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1 **Baird's Sandpiper**, 1 **Least Sandpiper**, 6 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 2 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, and 1 **Short-billed Dowitcher**, among other more common birds.
- Oct 04 Two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were found by Chris Risley at the Beloporine Marsh on County Road 46 near the junction with Keating Road. Donald Sutherland found a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on the Rotary Rail Trail just north of Trent University. A **Coyote** at the back of Maggie Sharp's yard was an early morning visitor. She is located in Douro-Dummer, one street north of the Caves Road. She hears **Coyotes** most nights between 11PM and 1AM.
- Oct 05 Luke Berg reported having a good view of a **Northern Goshawk** on Hooton Rd whilst part of the PFN Sunday morning walk group.
- Oct 06 A **Tennessee Warbler** was seen by Vera Miller on the east bank of the Otonabee River on the Trent campus. A **River Otter** was photographed by Don MacCleod on lower Chemong Lake. A **Pied-billed Grebe** was seen by Jerry Ball in Little Lake.
- Oct 07 Iain Rayner found a **Wilson's Warbler** near on the north side of Little Lake near the rail line. A **Pine Warbler** was seen by Nicole Lilakos on Hopewell ave in Peterborough. A **Cackling Goose** was seen by Scott Gibson on Bensfort Rd south of Peterborough.
- Oct 08 The adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen again by Iain Rayner on the Otonabee in Peterborough.

- Oct 10 A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Erica Nol's feeder on Gilmour Street in Peterborough. Jacob Seguin observed a late **Wilson's Snipe** at Sawyer's Creek on Lynches Rock Road. Jerry Ball recorded an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, a **Palm Warbler**, and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at the start of the Rotary Rail Trail north of the Trent campus. Jerry also had a **Savannah Sparrow** by the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
- Oct 11 On Ashburnham, Bill Crins and Donald Sutherland watched a gray morph **Eastern Screech Owl** being mobbed by six **Black-capped Chickadees**; perched high in an isolated Sugar Maple at the SW edge of the soccer fields. As reported by Luke Berg, five **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were counted at the James McLean Oliver Ecological Centre by Nogie's Creek. An unexpected **Eastern Whip-poor-will** was also heard. Iain Rayner heard a **Carolina Wren** calling on the Parkway Trail near Chemong Road. On Carveth Drive near Millbrook Jeff Stewart watched a **Red-shouldered Hawk** circling overhead. He also saw a flock of fifty **Rusty Blackbirds** heading to the southeast. Another late **Wilson's Snipe** was seen by Tony Bigg in the marsh at the TCT and David Fife Line. An **Eastern Phoebe** was on the trail midway between Nelson Road and David Fife Line. A **Northern Water Snake** was seen basking on Anchor Bay Road near Gannons Narrows.
- Oct 12 A further ten **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were counted by Luke Berg at the James McLean Oliver Ecological Centre. A **Marsh Wren** was recorded at Miller's Creek CA by Iain Rayner. A **Great Egret** missing part of its right leg, was seen by Dave Milsom, Luke Berg and Matthew Tobey, flying over the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
- Oct 13 A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was seen by Simon Dodsworth at his home on Jennifer Drive in the north of Peterborough. A **Blue-headed Vireo** and an **American Redstart** were seen by Iain Rayner off Barnardo Street in the north of Peterborough. Two **Sandhill Cranes** and three **American Woodcocks** were observed by Jacob Seguin at Sawyer's Creek at Lynches Rock Road. Tim Dyson saw his last **Monarch** of the year on this date. Walking the Blue Trail at the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary, Don Finigan and his wife watched a **Long-tailed Weasel** chase his dinner, a **Red Squirrel**.
- Oct 14 Flyovers of **Horned Larks**, **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Killdeer**, **American Pipit**, and **Pine Siskin** were observed by Don Sutherland from the Trent Rotary Rail Trail.
- Oct 15 Two **Field Sparrows** showed at Vera Miller's home on Terraview Drive in the north of Peterborough. The latest report of a **Palm Warbler** was made by Don Sutherland of an individual that had been on the Trent Rotary Rail Trail just north of the University for several days. Travis Cameron heard a flock of **Brant** flying low overhead in the late evening.
- Oct 16 The Lakefield Sewage Lagoons were visited by Aiden Bateman and showed **Wood Duck**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Redhead**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Greater Yellowlegs**.
- Oct 17 The latest sighting for the year of a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was made of a juvenile, by Iain Rayner behind the Battery Shop on Water Street. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen well by Jeff Stewart on Carveth Drive just SW of Millbrook.
- Oct 18 One of the breeding **Peregrine Falcons** on an Apsley area lake was still hanging around its nest. A **Snow Goose** was photographed by an unknown person near the Elmhirst Resort on Rice Lake.
- Oct 19 Iain Rayner saw and photographed a **Cackling Goose** at Hannah Road on Rice Lake. Two **Lincoln's Sparrows** were reported by Dawn Morris-Strain on the Bridgenorth Trail. Don Sutherland reported a flyover **Evening Grosbeak** on the Trent Campus.
- Oct 20 At the west end of the Bridgenorth causeway, Luke Berg saw a **Brant**.
- Oct 21 A **Surf Scoter** was seen near Gannon's Narrows by Scott Gibson. He also saw a **Red-necked Grebe** on Pigeon Lake near the Trent Oliver property, and three **Bonaparte's Gulls** off Kerry Line.
- Oct 22 A late **Eastern Meadowlark** was seen by Iain Rayner on Scriven Road. Shauna Ryner saw two **Snow Bunting**, four **Buffleheads**, and 120 **Lesser Scaup** at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Don Sutherland also reported the **Snow Buntings**.

- Oct 24 Iain Rayner saw and photographed **Bonaparte's Gulls**, and **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Hannah Road on Rice Lake.
- Oct 25 Travis Cameron, visiting the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, saw 3 **Redheads**, 5 **Buffleheads**, and **235 Lesser Scaup**. Luke Berg saw similar numbers of these birds at the lagoons but added a **Greater Yellowlegs** (heard), and a **Rough-legged Hawk** that flew in and circled overhead. Also at the lagoons, Bill Crins, Cathy Douglas, Don Sutherland, and Warren Dunlop, further added a **Ring-necked Duck**, four **Greater Scaup**, two **Common Goldeneyes**, two **Bonaparte's Gulls**, a **Snow Bunting**, and twenty-eight **Rusty Blackbirds**. Vera Miller recorded a late **Killdeer** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at her home on Terraview Drive in the north end of Peterborough. Jerry Ball found five **Eastern Bluebirds** and a **Hermit Thrush** on the 6th Line of South Monaghan.
- Oct 26 An **American Tree Sparrow** was recorded by Emma Dickie on Cumberland Avenue in the north end of Peterborough. Iain Rayner saw **American Tree Sparrows** on the Parkway Trail east of Chemong. There were also four **Hooded Mergansers** in a pond there. Two **Common Mergansers**, a **Common Loon**, and six **Pine Siskins** were seen by Luke Berg on/by the Otonabee River between Trent University and Lakefield. A **Cooper's Hawk** was reported by Dawn Morris-Strain on the Bridgenorth Trail, A **Barred Owl** was Seen by the Trent Ornithological Group, in Jackson's Park. They also saw three late **Double-crested Cormorants** on the Otonabee near the London Street park. The PFN Sunday morning walk group, led by Jerry Ball, found a flock of twenty-two **American Coots** and eight **Bonaparte's Gulls** on Pigeon Lake at Edenberry Line. They also had a **Northern Shrike** on Boundary Road. A **Red-necked Grebe** was seen by Bill Crins on Little Lake.
- Oct 27 A **Bufflehead** was seen by Ian Sturdee on Cordova Lake. On the Trent Rotary Rail Trail, Don Sutherland had a **Winter Wren** and two flyover **American Pipits**. A female **Evening Grosbeak** visited Tony Bigg's feeders opposite Lakefield College School.
- Oct 28 On the Trent Rotary Rail Trail Don Sutherland listened to a **Gray Catbird** giving its 'mew' call. Luke Berg found a **Hermit Thrush** and a **Fox Sparrow** in his yard near Parkhill Road and Water Street. A **Trumpeter Swan** (tag K29) was found by Tony Bigg in the Lakefield Marsh. Martin Parker and Jerry Ball saw a late **Garter Snake** and a late **Clouded Sulphur**.
- Oct 30 Iain Rayner saw a **Peregrine Falcon** on the roof of 300 Water Street.



Eastern Red Squirrel  
at Sunset,  
Eels Lake,  
Haliburton County,  
October 2014

~ Submitted by  
Laura Majnarich



# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

[www.peterboroughnature.org](http://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

☐ Under 20    ☐ 20-29    ☐ 30-39    ☐ 40-49    ☐ 50-59    ☐ 60-69    ☐ 70-79    ☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_