

The Orchid

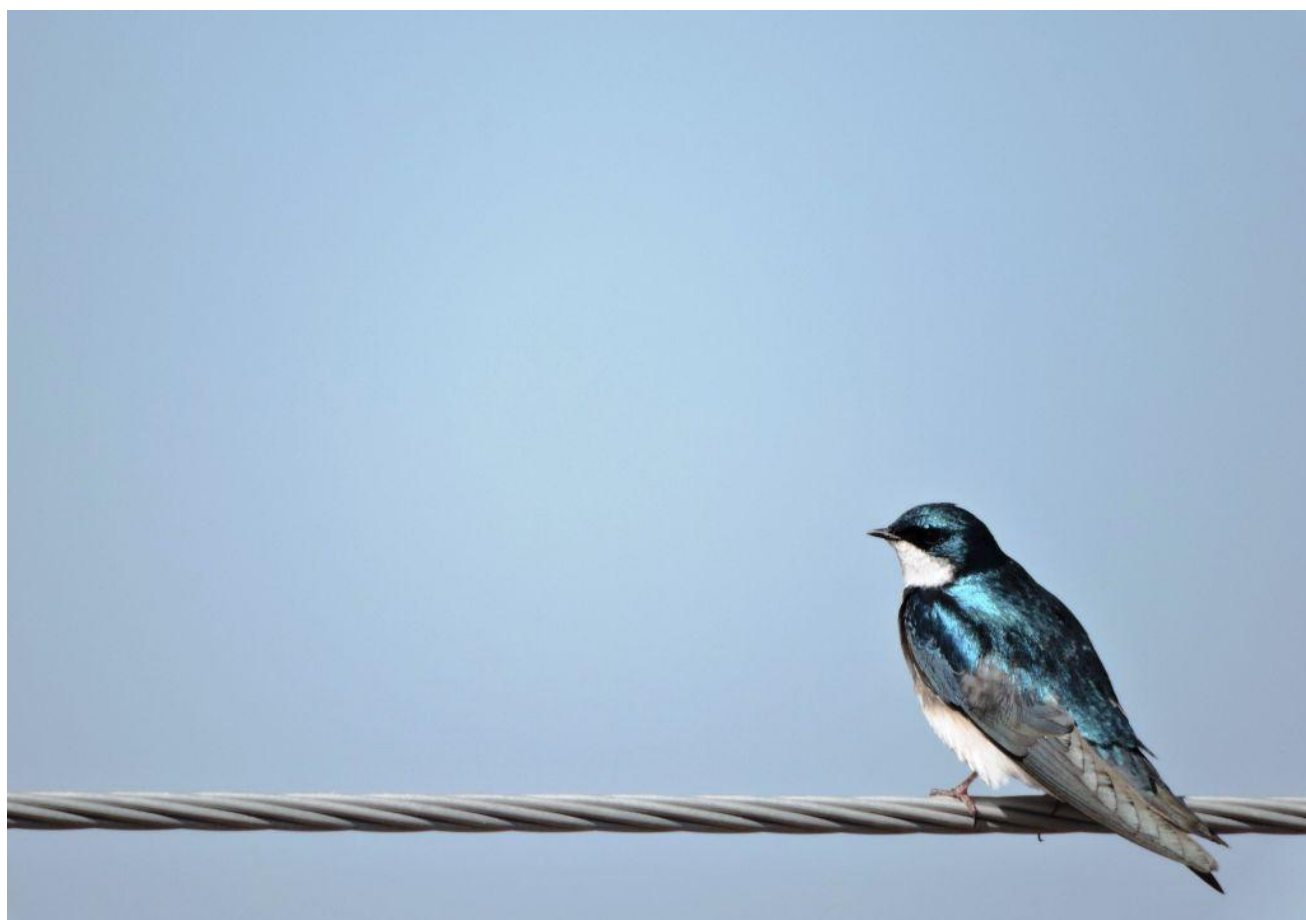
May 2015
Volume 61, No. 4

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly, Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Tree Swallow, April 2015 ~ Submitted by Paul Elliott

INSIDE: Honorary Degree to be Awarded to PFN Member!
 Birds in May
 Report From A Cold, Clear Sunday Morning Wildlife Walk
 75th Anniversary Celebration Only Weeks Away
 PFN Receives Samuel Armour Award

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Marsh Marigold, Trans Canada Trail at Cameron
Line/County Road 38, April 30
~ Submitted by Tony Bigg

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Pat Ainsworth

Marilyn Hubley



Iceland Gull, Kumleins Adult, Otonabee River, April 1 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Coming Events

<p>Sundays to May 24</p> <p>8:00 to 11:00 am</p> <p>North Parking Lot, Peterborough Zoo, Water Street</p>	<p>Spring Wildlife Walks</p> <p>Our popular Spring wildlife walks will continue until May 24th. Unless otherwise advertised walks will start at 8:00 am and we will carpool from the north parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases the leaders will confirm the destination on the day.</p> <p>3rd May – Tony Bigg 10th May – Martin Parker 17th May – Dave Milsom 24th May – Mike McMurtry</p>
<p>Saturday, May 2</p> <p>8:00 to 10:00 pm</p> <p>2027 Preston Road at Selwyn Road</p>	<p>Dusk Wildlife Walk</p> <p>Join Paul Elliott for a chance to explore a Kawartha Land Trust site at dusk. Situated between Young's Point and Lakefield in the Township of Selwyn, the Dance property is part of a provincially significant wetland, as well as creeks, forests, old fields and other diverse habitats. Ultrasonic bat detectors will be used to locate and listen to flying mammals and we will keep alert for other crepuscular activity. Bring bug repellent and a flashlight.</p> <p>The Dance property is at 2027 Preston Road at Selwyn Road (12th Line) west of Young's Point and north of Lakefield. Drive up the driveway and park in the field on the left just beyond the shed.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 13</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: The Oak Ridges Moraine From Above</p> <p>Bill Lishman is an artist, inventor and explorer. Living in Blackstock by Lake Scugog, he has been flying his ultralight plane for the last 40 years over the Oak Ridges Moraine and taking thousands of photographs. He has observed it like no one else with a bird's eye perspective. He is launching his photographic book "The Oak Ridges Moraine From Above" on April 22nd and will come and share his knowledge and love of this precious geographical formation.</p>
<p>Sunday, May 31</p> <p>7:30 am to 5:00 pm</p> <p>Sobey's Parking Lot, Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)</p> <p>Join us for an all-day visit to the Carden Plain, a 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-winged Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher. Bring a packed lunch, water and binoculars.</p>

Coming Events continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, June 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Zoo North Parking Lot</p>	<p>Alderville Black Oak Savanna</p> <p>We will visit this precious surviving example of a once abundant Ontario habitat (www.alderillesavanna.ca). Up to 40 species at risk have been recorded at the site.</p> <p>Meet at the Peterborough Zoo north parking lot on Water Street at 7:30 am to carpool.</p> <p>The visit will last until around 12:00 pm. If you wish, you are welcome to bring a packed lunch and eat inside or on the deck. The centre will provide coffee, tea and spring water.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, June 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: Forest Gene Conservation</p> <p>Barb Boyson from the MNR's Forest Gene Conservation Association will be speaking about forest gene conservation in southern Ontario.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, June 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peterborough Zoo North Parking Lot</p>	<p>Hike at Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park</p> <p>Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park protects over 37,000 hectares of the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, including many significant species and habitats. Rock Barrens is a unique ecosystem that occurs throughout this provincial park, located just 45 minutes north of Peterborough. Characterized by exposed granitic bedrock and stunted trees and shrubs, these areas have a subtle beauty and hold great ecological value. Join park staff to explore a section of rock barren during a four kilometre hike where many characteristic species of birds, reptiles, insects and plants will be sought.</p> <p>This hike will be moderately challenging. Hiking boots, sun- and bug-protective clothing, water and snacks are recommended. Carpooling from the Peterborough Zoo parking lot is necessary due to limited parking at the site.</p> <p>To minimize impact on the park, this hike is limited to 15 participants. If you would like to reserve one or more places please contact Paul Elliott (705-740-0501 or email pauelliott@trentu.ca).</p>

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Juniors are enthusiastically invited to the PFN's 75th Anniversary Celebration on May 18th, and there is a special workshop held for the Juniors that day. For more details, please see page 10. Any questions please contact Lara Griffin at 705-749-3639. See you there!

Other Events of Interest

International Migratory Bird Day

Sunday, May 3, 2015

**8 AM – Early morning bird hike at
Hazel Bird Nature Reserve
(meet in parking lot)
Leader: Mark Stabb**

**11:00 AM – Alderville Black Oak Savanna
"Introducing Raptors of Northumberland"
Presenter: Mark Stabb
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Learn tips on identifying the birds of prey normally
encountered in the Rice Lake Plains and
Northumberland County.**

**1:00 PM – Grassland Birding at Alderville
Black Oak Savanna
Leader: Rick Beaver**

*Everyone is welcome to attend for all or
part of the day's activities.*



To register please call
905-352-1008
or email
outreach@ricelakeplains.ca

This free event is open to all ages and
birding abilities.

Please bring your own lunch.

Drinks and dessert will be provided.

We'll hike in the rain or sunshine.

*This event is brought to you by the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative and
supported by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation*



Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meetings

Fourth Wednesday of each
month

7:30 pm

Peterborough Public Library

The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings take place at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street North. Doors open at 7:00 pm for socializing and a 7:30 pm start. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener. Annual membership is \$20 individual, \$25 family. Visit www.peterboroughgardens.ca.


Upcoming Speakers & Events:

May 27 - John Stratham of John's Gardens will be talking about "Perennial Grasses"
June 24 - Cauleen Viscoff's topic is "What a Plant Knows"

Other Events of Interest continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, May 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am to 3:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Markham Civic Centre 101 Town Centre Blvd. Markham (Highway 7 at Warden)</p>	<p>North American Native Plant Society Annual Sale</p> <p>The North American Native Plant Society is a volunteer-based, registered charitable organization dedicated to the study, conservation, cultivation and restoration of native plants. The Society is hosting its annual sale of wildflowers, ferns, grasses and sedges as well as trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Our sale showcases hundreds of native species and introduces thousands of native plants into gardens. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.</p> <p>Member online ordering: The plant list is available at www.nanps.org. Pickup will be at the Markham venue only, on May 9th.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GreenUP Ecology Park Ashburnham Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>2015 GreenUP Ecology Park Programs and Events</p> <p>May 9th 10:00 – 4:00 Ecology Park compost sales ONLY</p> <p>May 17th 12:00 – 4:00 Ecology Park Annual Spring Plant Sale</p> <p>May 23 11:00 – 12:00 Spring Backyard Compost Workshop</p> <p>June 13th 1:00 – 2:30 Stay Calm But Watch Your Ash (Emerald Ash Borer information session)</p> <p>June 20th 1:00 - 3:00 Pollinator Garden workshop</p> <p>* Visit the GreenUp website www.greenup.on.ca or email workshops @ greenup.on.ca.</p> <p>* Ecology Park plant catalogue is online; see 'Ecology Park/Garden Market'.</p> <p>Bulk Sales & Costs:</p> <p>\$2 / bucket leaf compost</p> <p>\$3 / bucket cedar mulch</p> <p>\$7 straw bale</p> <p>Bring your own buckets and only available during garden market hours. May 17th to October 29th; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 to 4:00 pm.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, May 14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments Lecture begins at 7:15 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Market Hall, Peterborough</p>	<p>Kawartha Land Trust 2nd Lecture</p> <p>The second talk will be given by Rick Beaver, Research and Restoration Co-ordinator at Alderville Black Oak Savanna, and member of Alderville First Nation.</p> <p>Rick will draw from his experience as a restoration ecologist and an artist, his background in biology and as a holder of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and will share with us dynamic ways of understanding and connecting to land.</p>

Other Events of Interest continued

<p>Saturday, May 23</p> <p>rareECO Centre Cambridge</p>	<p>A Day on the Grand</p> <p>Dreaming of being outdoors in warmer weather? Ontario Nature and Rare Charitable Research Reserve invite you to our one-day event, A Day on the Grand, to be held on May 23rd at rare ECO Centre along the beautiful Grand River in Cambridge.</p> <p>This joint event is the perfect opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and have a day of fun in the outdoors. Highlights of the day include bird banding, guided nature hikes, a special presentation on sustainability, and the chance to become a citizen scientist alongside local researchers.</p> <p>You can also join us in celebrating our shared conservation successes and discuss our vision for the year ahead at Ontario Nature's 84th Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Register now on the Ontario Nature website before spots fill up! Registration deadline is May 4th. We hope to see you in May!</p>
<p>Saturday, May 23</p>	<p>2nd Annual Feathered Friends Festival</p> 
<p>Sunday, June 14</p>	<p>Farms at Work Pollinator Habitat Field Day</p> <p>Peterborough County Bring your own lunch \$10 (snacks included)</p> <p>Join us for a tour showcasing how two local farms (Buckhorn Berry Farm and Rocky Lane Farm) have created and/or maintained pollinator habitat as part of their farming systems. The day will culminate in a new pollinator habitat project on Leahy Stock Farm near Lakefield. Participants will receive a copy of A Landowner's Guide to Conserving Native Pollinators in Ontario and a Bumble Bee ID Guide. Pre-registration required. For more information, contact: info@farmsatwork.ca (705) 743-7671.</p>

Other Events of Interest continued

Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshop

Now in its 6th year, this popular 3-day workshop explores the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi found in Southern Ontario. Suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Activities include daily field trips to collect specimens, working in the classroom to identify our finds, and discussions on fungal ecology, natural history, and uses.

There will also be one or more evening presentations, plus the opportunity to see a bioluminescent mushroom in action. If we find any edibles our cook is always amenable to cooking up samples for us to try. Participants will have access to a class set of field guides, 10x loupes, and an extensive collection of reference books.

Cost includes 3 nights' accommodation, all meals, instruction, printed materials, and use of classroom. Small class size (maximum 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.

Session 1

Tuesday September 9
(8:00 pm) to
Friday October 2 (4:00 pm)

Session 2

Tuesday October 6
(8:00 pm) to
Friday October 9 (4:00 pm)



PFN Officers and Directors

President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599
Vice President, Fisheries Council	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587
Secretary, Archives	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145
Membership	Jim Young	jbyoung559@gmail.com	760-9397
Program (indoor), Stewardship Council, Fisheries Council	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688
Program (indoor)	Marie Duchesneau	Duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560
Webmaster, Jane's Walks	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Ontario Nature Representative	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641

Other Volunteers

Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor & Don Finigan	745-4750
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Mary Thomas	
Orchid Editor	Marla Williams	874-5653
Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin	749-3639
Miller Creek Management Area	Jim Cashmore & Jim Young	
Municipal Planning Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Lynn Smith, Martin Parker, Ted Vale	



Membership Renewals:

PFN memberships expire on December 31st each year but Orchid deliveries will continue until March. After August new memberships are valid until the end of the following year. A tax receipt is issued for memberships and donations.

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Submission deadline for the June issue is **Friday, May 22nd.**

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



PFN Members Publish New Book Submitted by Enid Mallory

TRAVELS WITH BIRDS: In Eastern North America is a new e-book by club members, Enid and Gord Mallory. With 138 images it will take readers to beautiful natural places to enjoy the birds and wildlife there and to salute the naturalists who saved these pieces of wild America.

The book will tell why a person should travel with birds, discuss where to go, how to get there, modes of travel, what camera equipment to use and why Canadians wear Tilley hats.

To view a sample chapter or buy, visit www.amazon.ca and search by title in 'Books'. You can also contact Enid Mallory at ptbopub@yahoo.ca.



Come Celebrate!

You are Invited to the 75th Anniversary of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

DATE: Monday May 18, 2015 (Victoria Day)

Three hikes are planned:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 7 am – 9 am | Miller Creek Management Area for the 'early birds' |
| | ➤ Meet at Peterborough Zoo Parking Lot at 7 am to carpool |
| 10 am – 12 pm | Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park with a focus on spring wildflowers & other flora |
| | ➤ Meet at Parking Lot of the Park, 846 Highway 7 |
| 2 pm – 4 pm | Camp Kawartha Trails with a focus on butterflies and exploring the geology of area |
| | ➤ 1010 Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer |

Family activities are planned:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10 am – 12 pm | Lakefield Marsh for pond-dipping with nets, fun in the wetland |
| | ➤ Meet at Lakefield Marshland Centre, 65 Hague Boulevard, Lakefield |
| 2 pm – 4 pm | Camp Kawartha for some entertaining children's games and activities |
| | ➤ 1010 Birchview Road, Douro-Dummer |

Social Hour at Camp Kawartha:

- 4 pm – 5 pm
- Displays from a variety of organizations
 - Appetizers
 - Wine and beer

Presentations:

- 5 pm – 5:30 pm
- Introductions & elected officials

BBQ Hamburgers & Sausages/Anniversary Cake: (a donation is appreciated)*

5:30 pm – 7 pm

*** The caterers need to know by May 10th how many will be attending the BBQ, so please confirm your attendance by contacting Jim Young at 705-760-9397 or email Jim at: jbyoung559@gmail.com**

Further Presentations:

7 pm A few words from past presidents & others

This is your day, folks! All ages are welcome. Choose any or all of the planned events. It's a day to enjoy with friends, the 75 years that the Peterborough Field Naturalists has been in existence.

Come Celebrate!

From the Archives: Highlights of 75 Years of Club Activities

Submitted by Martin Parker

Founded on May 18, 1940, after an afternoon 'Regional Field Gathering' of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in the Peterborough Area. The meeting was hosted at the Estate of Gordon K. Fraser, the MP for Peterborough on Stoney Lake, at Burleigh Falls. Initially it was called the Peterborough Nature Club.

Objectives which were adopted were 'To Know, To Appreciate, To Conserve Nature in All its Forms' which are still guiding principles of the Peterborough Field Naturalists today.

The Orchid, the newsletter of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, was initially published in 1956 and currently nine issues are published annually. A newsletter called 'Nature Notes' was published irregularly prior to the establishment of the 'The Orchid'. The name, 'The Orchid,' is in honour of our key founder and first Honourary President, Frank J.A. Morris, author of the classic book, 'Our Wild Orchids.'

The PFN published the first summary of 'Birds of the Peterborough Area' in 1958 (J. L. McKeever). The PFN has published a number of special publications on the natural history of the Peterborough area, with the most recent being, 'Nature in the Kawarthas,' in collaboration with Dundurn Press.

The organization was incorporated in 1971 as the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

The PFN has conducted the Peterborough Christmas Bird Count annually since 1953 (the longest operating annual wildlife survey in the Peterborough area). The club also supports the annual Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count and the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count. Conducts other biodiversity inventories in the region. The Orchid contains articles which document the natural history of the region.

Monthly meetings are held from September to June, with a speaker on a topic on natural history. Field outings are held throughout the year. Over the years the PFN has sponsored a number of public events.

The PFN has been an informed advocate on natural history, and environmental and planning issues in the region for decades. The PFN has been represented on a variety of advisory boards.

PFN provided funding for a number of projects in the region over the years, including the trails and viewing tower at Miller Creek Management Area, the Saw-whet Owl Banding Programme at Trent University, and Camp Kawartha's Environment Centre on Pioneer Road.

The highly anticipated celebration of PFN's 75th Anniversary will occur at Camp Kawartha, Birchview Road (off Hwy 28 South, between Lakefield and Young's Point) on Monday, May 18, 2015.

Birds in May

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

During the month of May, songbirds arrive in droves! About this time, give or take, nature has arranged the hatching of thousands upon thousands of insects for their dinner. With climate change lately, these bugs may not hatch at their regular time, making life difficult for the songbirds but who knows, perhaps that is in the scheme of nature, too. We bird lovers find ourselves looking up into the sky; into trees and bushes; out over lakes and rivers; to the ground - trying to determine the identity of birds that we see or hear. After all, we have not had them around since last fall and our memories need refreshing.

In Southern Ontario, the second and third weeks of May are usually the prime time to see these songbirds. The best time of day to go birding is from dawn to about mid-morning, as well as just into the evening. At these times, they will be singing and actively foraging for food.

When we get a good sighting and want to identify a bird, it's good to try to register its size (sparrow, robin, crow). Is there any outstanding colour and where is that colour? Is it on the ground (perhaps a Robin?); high in a tree, pecking on the bark with its chisel bill to get at insects (a woodpecker but which species?); in the sky, gliding hither and yon, mouth widely gaping to catch flying insects (perhaps is a swallow?).

Another very good identification mark for some species is to look at the wings for "wing bars" - bars of colour that differ from the rest of the wing. As we get used to noticing these features, we begin to look for others such as the size and shape of the bill. THEN but only then, look in your bird book - it's nearly impossible to notice all these things and search a bird book at the same time! The order in the good field guides group birds by family so related birds are grouped together. The ducks are in a different section than the warblers, for example.

Species that you might see in May could include: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, (like the ones that would knock on our cottage window when the feeder was empty). Also arriving are Veery; Scarlet Tanager, flycatcher and warblers. So many others that it would take many pages to list them all. May - a great month for birds!

Limited Edition Bird Prints for Auction **Submitted by Dianne Wadden, Music and Beyond**

Music and Beyond is an arts organization that hosts a festival of chamber music, exploring its relationships with other disciplines and art forms for two weeks in July. We are heading into our 6th season and the money raised from our fundraising online auction goes toward our world-class programming. We have a number of spectacular limited edition bird prints by Bernard Loates, J.F. Lansdowne, Arnold Nagy and others in our auction that bird lovers will want to know about. Any prints that don't sell in the auction will still be available for sale from the Ottawa office. Any questions please contact Dianne Wadden, Online Auction Coordinator, at 613-241-0777, extension 505, or email boxoffice@musicandbeyond.ca.

The prints were generously donated and are waiting to go to a loving, forever home. Visit http://musicandbeyond.ca/festival2015/product-tag/nature_prints/ and <http://musicandbeyond.ca/festival2015/>.

Slumbering Raccoon on Roof **Article and photo submitted by Phil Shaw**

On 12 April I was surprised to hear one of my neighbours across the street announce to her husband that there was a raccoon on the roof of their next-door neighbour. My immediate thought was "I gotta see this".

I asked if it was all right for me to go around the house, and sure enough there was a raccoon comfortably asleep on the edge of the roof soaking up heat of the sun. I ran back to get my camera and took several good photos of his back end! I assured my neighbours that rabies was not a problem and the raccoon was just doing what raccoons do. By the evening he had moved up further onto the roof and sometime during the night he climbed down.



PFN Member Drew Monkman to Receive Honorary Degree at Trent University Degree to be Awarded on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 10:00 am

On March 26 it was announced that Drew Monkman will be receiving an Honorary Degree at Trent University's 2015 convocation in June. On June 2 Drew will be awarded a Doctor of Science for his achievements in promoting knowledge of and an appreciation for the natural environment, especially in the Kawarthas.

Drew is a long standing member of the PFN, submitting his first article for 'The Orchid' in October 1963 (Vol 8, No. 9). He has served on the PFN Board of Directors and was President for the 1993 and 1994. He is still active in the club and is a popular outing leader. He is well known for this weekly column in the Peterborough Examiner, 'The Changing Seasons', and his books on the natural world.

The PFN congratulates Drew on this recognition by Trent University. A retired teacher, naturalist and writer, Drew Monkman has a love for all aspects of the natural world. As a local Peterborough resident, the retired French immersion elementary school teacher always brought his passion for the environment and natural history to the classroom. For over 20 years, Mr. Monkman oversaw the development of a schoolyard naturalization project and outdoor classroom at his school, Edmison Heights, which has been a model for many similar projects.

Mr. Monkman studied Biology and Geography for two years at Trent University, before completing an undergraduate degree in journalism at Université Laval in Quebec City. He later went on to complete a Master's degree in Education at the University of Toronto.

Perhaps best known as an award-winning nature writer and naturalist, Mr. Monkman writes a weekly nature column in the local newspaper, The Peterborough Examiner, and is the author of two books, Nature's Year in the Kawarthas: A Guide to the Unfolding Seasons and Nature's Year: Changing Seasons in Central and Eastern Ontario. Currently, he is co-authoring a family and classroom guide on nature activities through the four seasons. Mr. Monkman has won a number of awards for his writing and environmental advocacy, including induction into the Peterborough Pathway of Fame, the Carl Nunn Media and Conservation Award from Ontario Nature, and the Environmental Excellence Conservationist Award from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority.

"His authoritative books are informed by enthusiasm, scholarship and a profound and intimate knowledge of our province. They are monuments to the wildlife and biodiversity of our region and serve to promote love and concern for our environment in all levels of our society." – Nominator, anonymous.

Mr. Monkman also maintains a website where he posts local nature sightings of note. The website also features all of Mr. Monkman's past columns, his daily Tweets, and information on climate change in the Kawarthas.

Mr. Monkman is a former board member of Camp Kawartha and the past president of the Peterborough Field Naturalists where he continues to lead field trips. He participates in special bird monitoring projects, and is an active member of For Our Grandchildren, a group that works to increase awareness of the threat of climate change. He speaks regularly to a wide number of groups on topics such as nature through the seasons and climate change in the Kawarthas.

Mr. Monkman and his wife of 36 years, Michelle, have four grown children and two grandchildren.

Upon learning of the honorary degree to be bestowed this June, Mr. Monkman commented, "I am thrilled to be receiving this honorary degree. What makes it especially satisfying is that Doug Sadler, a highly respected local naturalist, writer, and educator, who helped awaken and develop my own interest in nature, received the same honorary degree in 1988. It is wonderful to follow in his footsteps."

Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program

Submitted by Erin McGauley

Do you live on an urban watercourse within the City of Peterborough - or know someone who does? Please help us to promote the Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Program by taking part in or telling your friends and family about this unique opportunity.

Details below:



As part of the **Peterborough Urban Shoreline Revitalization Project**, Otonabee Conservation is offering Shoreline Assessments that are free, voluntary and confidential.

Benefits of Participation:

- *Protect your shoreline
- *Enhance landscaping
- *Reduce erosion
- *Improve water quality
- *Up to \$50 towards plants or rain barrels

Book your Shoreline Assessment by phoning 705-745-5791, extension 200, or email otonabeeeca@otonabee.com.

PFN Receives the Samuel Armour Award!

Submitted by Lynn Smith



The Awards Committee of the Peterborough Historical Society selected the Peterborough Field Naturalists for the **Samuel Armour Award**. Our Club was recognized for its 75th Anniversary and its commitment to broadening the knowledge and appreciation of our region's natural heritage.

We can pat ourselves on the back, and with this kind of encouragement continue on for another 75 years!

PFN President Lynn Smith (left) with Peterborough Historical Society President Barbara McIntosh

PFN to Receive Award from Peterborough County

The PFN has won a "Special Award" for all of the work done by our Club in the many townships of Peterborough County. The awards ceremony will be held at the Buckhorn Community Centre on Friday, May 22nd. Doors open at 6 pm and the ceremony begins at 7 pm with refreshments afterward. Congratulations PFN!

PFN Report From A Cold Yet Clear Sunday Morning Outing, April 5th **Article and photo submitted by JB Jaboor**

Spring had almost sprung when on April 5th, 2015 at 8 am thirteen intrepid naturalists and wannabe's met at the Peterborough Zoo for the first of our Sunday morning spring outings. With temperatures hovering around 0C and a wind chill pushing it well south of that number we jumped into 4 vehicles and set off in search of what must have been, on this frigid morning, self-doubting birds.

We were ably led by Jerry Ball, who had generously sussed out a route the day before, and had us heading off to follow the east bank of the Otonabee River past Trent University towards Lakefield. En route we saw a limited selection of waterfowl and a dozen or so perching Tree Swallows puffed up into little feathery balls with backs to the biting wind (see photo below).



At Lakefield we turned east onto 33 past the sewage ponds and left onto Hwy 28 north. It was here that we spotted our next exciting find and for most of us, the first sighting of Sandhill Cranes in 2015, four in total. Shortly thereafter a little excitement of a different sort involved our Tail-end Charlie vehicle being pulled over by an enthusiastic OPP officer. It turned out that they were driving in an erratic manner with mystifying variations of speed. That they were all wearing binoculars probably went a long way to saving their bacon.

Having reached Young's Point a left turn had us heading back towards Peterborough on CR 25 with a stop along the way to observe a Bald Eagle on its nest and a little further on a gorgeous male American kestrel in full view on a utility line. Then back to the zoo passing deserted frozen melt ponds that only 24 hours prior had been open and inhabited by waterfowl.

Cold aside the outing was enjoyed by all who took pleasure not only in the nature experience but of friendships renewed following our self-imposed winter "hibernations".

27 species were recorded in spite of the frosty conditions, as follows:

American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Canada Goose, American Crow, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Mallard, Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow, Hooded Merganser, Wild Turkey, Wood Duck, Greater Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Common Grackle, American Black Duck, Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch, European Starling, Belted Kingfisher, Sandhill Crane, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Blue Jay, Bald Eagle and American Kestrel.



The Orchid Diary



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

ORCHID DIARY - March 29 to April 30, 2015

With the migration of the birds heating up only first reports of most birds are noted. Early in the month the waterways continued to be the main source of sightings, but by the end of the period most waterfowl had moved further north and song birds started arriving.

- Mar 28 Two first year **Glaucous Gulls** were seen by Dave Milsom, at Little Lake.. He also saw a **Pied-billed Grebe** on the Otonabee River at Trent University.
- Mar 29 Dave Milsom continued his busy weekend with two first year and one adult **Iceland Gull**, and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on the Otonabee at Trent University, a **Snow Goose** and a **Cackling Goose** below Lock 24, a **Common Grackle**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and two **Ring-necked Ducks** at the Parkhill Rd bridge. In his yard he had **Song Sparrows** and **White-throated Sparrows**, and on Thompson Creek were two **Great Blue Herons**, **Hooded Mergansers**, and **Wood Ducks**.
- Mar 30 At the channel on Buckhorn Lake Bill Snowden and Jane Philpott added **Common Mergansers**, **Red-headed Mergansers**, and **Greater Scaup** to the months sightings. Jane also reported Beavers out on the ice. Tony Bigg watched a **Golden Eagle** soaring in circles over the Trent campus as it made its way westwards.
- Apr 01 The first **Osprey** of the year was reported by Tianna Burke, over Little Lake. Esther Paszt reported a **Hoary Redpoll** amongst **Common Redpolls** at a feeder in the north end of Peterborough.
- Apr 02 On a warm, wet, and foggy evening Tony Bigg went searching for salamanders on Birchview Rd north of Lakefield. He could only see the road surface in a few places but he did manage to find one Spotted Salamander and one Blue-spotted Salamander.
- Apr 03 Scott McKinlay had a group of about ten **Bohemian Waxwings** feeding over Cavan Creek below his yard. Reports of Bohemians continued well into the month. Scott also saw a pair of **Blue-winged Teal** in the creek. Mark Williamson and Esther Paszt observed two **Sandhill Cranes** calling and flying over the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. They also noted six pairs of **Great Blue Herons** returned to their nests in the south of the sanctuary. Near the junction of Northeys Rd and the 14th Line of Smith, Tony Bigg heard a **Wilson's Snipe** calling. Tony and Jerry Ball had a **Brown Creeper** and a pair of **Eastern Phoebe**s on Tates Rd in the northeast of the County. Bill Crins saw three **Mute Swans** and two **Redheads** on Rice Lake, from the south end of Asphodel 3rd Line.
- Apr 04 A female **Black-backed Woodpecker** was found by Valerie Wyatt and Paul Grant at the Gannon's Narrows Conservation Area working on a dead Scots Pine. Tony Bigg watched a **River Otter** on the ice by the Lakefield Marsh.
- Apr 05 Dave Milsom led an OFO trip in the Peterborough Area. In the Peterborough County part of the trip they found five **Merlins**, including a mated pair sitting by their nest in Youngs Point, a **Great Black-backed Gull**, four **Glaucous Gulls**, four **Iceland Gulls**, and a probable **Nelson's Gull** (Herring x Glaucous Gull), many **Tree Swallows**, **Barn Swallows**, three **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and five **Horned Larks**. Tony Bigg reported that the pair of **Sandhill Cranes** were back at their nest site at the north end of the Lakefield Marsh.
- Apr 06 A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found at Gannon's Narrows, by Luke Berg. Toni Sinclair watched a **Peregrine Falcon** on the ice behind her house on Buckhorn Lake eating a fish. It was being harassed by a crow for about thirty minutes. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball found a flock of about twenty **Rusty Blackbirds** at the junction of Airport Rd and Beardsmore Rd.
- Apr 10 A **Fox Sparrow** was seen by Tony Bigg, at the tower at Lakefield Marsh. Warren Dunlop photographed a male **Long-tailed Duck** on Rice Lake from Lakeview Rd at Islandview Drive. Iain Rayner saw five **Double-crested Cormorants** at Gannon's Narrows.
- Apr 11 **Coltsfoot** were seen in bloom by Tony Bigg along the roadside on Cameron Line. A **Horned Grebe** was found by Don Sutherland at Gannon's Narrows. Iain Rayner heard a **Winter Wren** singing on the Bridgenorth Trail near the marsh area.

- Apr 12 A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was seen among seventy or so Canada Geese on the Douro 8th Line south of the Otonabee River. Four **Trumpeter Swans** were observed by Bill Snowden on the Otonabee River above Lock 23. A **Swamp Sparrow** was heard calling from the Lakefield Marsh, by the participants of the PFN Sunday morning walk group led by Walter Wehtje. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball saw a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on Charlie Allen Rd. Also in the northwest of the County they had their first butterflies of the season, ten **Eastern Commas**, two **Mourning Cloaks** and one **Compton's Tortoiseshell**. There were also many '**The Infant**' (**Archiearis infans**) **Moths**. Luke Berg had three **Brown-headed Cowbirds** flying over his yard on Kingan St. On the 2nd Line of South Monaghan he found three **Northern Pintails** in a meltwater pond, and a singing **Savannah Sparrow** nearby.
- Apr 13 Two **White-winged Scoters** were reported by Luke Berg on the Otonabee River north of Lock 23. Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg heard a **Field Sparrow** singing on the TCT between Blezard and Cameron Lines.
- Apr 14 Tony Bigg and Bob Prentice saw a male **Pine Warbler** on the Centre Dummer Rd.
- Apr 15 A **Green Heron** was seen by Basil Conlin, in Jackson's Park hunting among cattails.
- Apr 16 A **Hermit Thrush** was seen by Luke Berg in his yard on Kingan St, and Iain Rayner also heard one by the canal south of Parkhill Rd.
- Apr 17 Jerry Ball & Tony Bigg saw a **Broad-winged Hawk** on Hubble Rd. They also saw a young **Northern Water Snake** on Sandy Lake Rd.
- Apr 18 Driving the Galway-Cavendish Harvest Forest Access Rd Jerry Ball counted three **Blandings Turtles** and thirty seven **Midland Painted Turtles**.
- Apr 19 Walking in Petroglyphs PP, Don Sutherland reported a singing **Blue-headed Vireo** and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. At the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons Don added a light morph juvenile **Rough-legged Hawk** and a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**.
- Apr 21 David Milsom saw three **Caspian Terns** at the bridge on Nassau Mills Rd near Trent University, and he found seven **Greater Yellowlegs** with forty **Canada Geese** along a creek on Douro 8th Line. Two **Purple Martins** were seen by Basil Conlin over the Nichols Oval Park in Peterborough.
- Apr 23 Basil Conlin found a **Red-necked Grebe** on Little Lake.
- Apr 24 A **Great Horned Owl** was seen by Jeff Stewart near his home on Carveth Drive near Millbrook. Luke Berg heard both a **Barred Owl** and a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling on the KLT Ingleton-Wells Property near the Viamede Resort.
- Apr 25 Janet Kelly and Warren Dunlop found a pair of **Black-backed Woodpeckers** foraging on White Pine in Petroglyphs PP. A **White-crowned Sparrow** was heard calling by Don Sutherland from the Trent Rotary trail just north of the Trent Parking lot. Luke Berg photographed a **Northern Goshawk** flying over his yard on Kingan St. A small flock of **Purple Finches**, all male, visited Tony Bigg's feeder just north of Lakefield.
- Apr 26 A **Virginia Rail** was heard calling by Iain Rayner at Sawyer's Creek on Lynch's Rock Rd. Janet Kelly and Warren Dunlop photographed a **Great Egret** near the Pine Crest Golf Course on Base Line.
- Apr 27 At the Loggerhead Marsh in Peterborough Basil Conlin recorded **American Bittern, Sora, Common Gallinule, Solitary Sandpiper, Northern Waterthrush, and Yellow Warbler**. At the farm ponds on Elmhurst Rd Basil saw two **Cliff Swallows**. He also had a **Black-and-white Warbler** and **Black-throated Green Warbler** in Jackson's Park, and in downtown Peterborough he found a **Chimney Swift**.
- Apr 28 Luke Berg heard a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** calling in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary on the John Pencier Trail. Kevin Young reported a **Common Tern** over the Lakefield Marsh. Basil Conlin reported an **Eastern Towhee** in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Apr 29 Bob Prentice and Tony Bigg visited the northeast of the county and found five new butterflies for the year – **Gray Comma, Northern Spring Azure, Olympia Marble, Hoary Elfin, and Henry's Elfin**. They also heard a **Red-shouldered Hawk** calling on Sandy Lake Rd. Paul Frost found two Spotted **Sandpipers** in the Loggerhead Marsh. Don Sutherland heard a **Vesper Sparrow** singing from the Rotary Trail north of Trent University.
- Apr 30 Driving down Blezard Line Tony Bigg saw his first **Groundhog** of the year. On the TCT between Cameron Line and Cty Rd 38 he saw **Bloodroot** and **Marsh Marigold** in bloom, and along River Rd between Asphodel 2nd and 3rd Lines he saw **Sharp-leaved Hepatica, Dutchmans Breeches, Trout Lily, Red Trillium, and Spring Beauty** in bloom.



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by
mailing completed form and cheque to
Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10 ☐

4. Family (couple or family with children*) \$30 ☐

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

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

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

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

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

I am interested in the following:

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

AGE GROUP

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

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