The



April 2016 Volume 62, No. 3

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly, Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know

Appreciate

Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Eastern Blue Jay, Peterborough, December 30th, 2016 ~ Submitted by Murray Palmer

Inside: Bats in Your Belfry?

2016 Wildlife Tracking Report

North American Native Plant Society Partners With PFN

Dusk Walk at the Dance Property

In this Issue:

Coming Events3
Junior Naturalists6
Other Events of Interest6
PFN Directors Listing9
Volunteer Corner9
From the Archives10
Birding at Mathers Corners10
Bats in your Belfry?11
The Bruce Beckons11
Owling for You12
How I Photographed the Barred Owl12
Wildlife Tracking Report 201613
Moth Season Approaches!14
Orchid Diary15
PFN Membership Application18



Eastern Chipmunks, Peterborough, May 29, 2014

~ Submitted by Murray Palmer



Red-winged Blackbird, Port Hope, May 2015
~ Submitted by Murray Palmer

Welcome New PFN Members!

Harvey Medland

Kevin Loftus

Gary Heuvel

Barbara Mann & Joanne Richmond

Barry & Lisa Killen



"'Collared Inca', one of 40 beautiful hummingbirds seen on our March tour to Columbia".

~ Submitted from Columbia by Dave Milsom

	Coming Events					
	Sunday morning wildlife outings					
Sundays April 3 rd to May 22 nd 8:00 am	Our traditional Sunday morning spring outings will take place in April and May. Unless otherwise advertised (see separate entries below), walks will start at 8:00 am and we will normally carpool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. Outings generally last about three hours. Bring some change to donate towards gas costs and bring binoculars if possible. In most cases the leaders will confirm the destination on the day. Further details will be in May's Orchid and on the PFN website.					
North Parking Lot, Riverview Park & Zoo Water Street, Peterborough	3 rd April: Jerry Ball 1 st May: Dave Milsom 10 th April: Dave Milsom 8 th May: Scott McKinlay 17 th April: Vern Bastable (see separate entry below) 24 th April: Drew Monkman 22 nd May: See separate entry below) 22 nd May: Mike McMurtry 29 th May: Jerry Ball (see separate entry below)					
Wednesday April 13 th 7:30 pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre Pioneer Road, Peterborough	Environmental and Life Sciences at Trent University. Allan has worked as a resource technician and an aquatic biologist at the Harkness Laboratory, a fisheries research station in Algonquin Park focusing on ecological research for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry. Allan will present to us the subject of his master's thesis "the Blackfin Cisco" a species					
Saturday April 16 th 7:30 to 9:30 pm Tim Horton's at Sobey's Plaza Lansdowne Street West	Kermit's friends and Timber-doodles! The dusk air of the spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle. Join Martin Parker for a 2-hour outing listening to, and distinguishing between, the different species of calling frogs and toads of our region, and listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock. We will meet at the Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West, and then travel to walk part of Hooton Line through the Cavan Swamp. Bring a flashlight.					
Sunday April 17 th	All about trees					
8:00 to 11:00 am Ecology Park, Ashburnham Drive, Peterborough	Join Vern Bastable at the Peterborough Ecology Park to learn how to identify trees before their leaves appear, from their bark and their buds. He will also advise on how to choose the right species for your backyard or wildlife project, and how to care for your trees. The Ecology Park shares a parking lot with Beavermead Park. Park in the lot and follow signs through to the Ecology Park. Bring your binoculars for some incidental bird watching.					

Coming Events cont'd				
Thursday April 21st 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm North parking lot Riverview Park & Zoo Water Street, Peterbroough	Night of salamanders and frogs Join this evening outing to look for migrating salamanders as they move to their breeding pools. This inventory event will be at the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Land Trust. The event will commence with the checking of pools for egg masses of Spotted Salamanders. We will then record the frog species calling and check the roadways for migrating salamanders. This is an evening outing. Meet Martin Parker at 6:00 pm at the Peterborough Zoo; from there we will travel to the Ingleton-Wells property on the northwestern part of Stoney Lake. Wear clothes forecast for the weather, waterproof footwear, bring a head lamp or flashlight, and an evening snack or packed supper. The outing will likely finish around 11:00 pm.			
Saturday May 7 th	Roger Jones will lead this outing. Details to follow in next month's Orchid.			
Saturday May 7 th 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Bowers Park, gravel parking lot, 765 Brealey Drive	Harper Park super spring cleanup The three Peterborough area Rotary Clubs are organizing their 9 th annual Super Spring Cleanup, and Harper Park is registered for cleanup. Meet at Bowers Park to receive instruction, garbage bags, gloves, and Tim Horton's refreshments. We will then head to Harper Park to start filling garbage bags! Stay as long as you can, whether it is 20 minutes or 2 hours. This event is an opportunity to become familiar with Harper Park, which is stewarded by the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Please bring your own water.			
Sunday May 8 th 8:00 to 11:00 am North parking lot Riverview Park & Zoo Water Street, Peterborough	Birding at Cavan Swamp Scott McKinlay's last attempt to share the joys of birding in Cavan Swamp was shortened by persistent heavy rain. Fortunately Scott has agreed to try again! Meet at Peterborough Zoo at 8:00 am to carpool or join the group at the first planned stop at the Trans-Canada Trail at Jackson Creek and Ackison Road at about 8:20 am. The outing will end up near Millbrook.			
Wednesday May 11 th 7:30 pm	PFN Monthly Meeting Details coming soon! This meeting will be held at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre on Pioneer Road.			
Sunday May 15 th 8:00 to 11:00 am Millbrook Cavan Carpool Lot/GO Bus Stop	Stroll for sparrows and other nature surprises on the Oak Ridges Moraine Led by Lynn Smith and Kim Clark, this outing will include car stops as well as a couple of strolls along lovely back roads and onto the McKim-Garsonnin property near Bethany. Bring binoculars, scope, snacks, water and perhaps be prepared for some mosquitoes and/or blackflies! Meet at the Millbrook Cavan Carpark/Go Bus Stop: From Peterborough take Hwy 115 south and exit at County Rd 10/Millbrook Cavan (Exit #38). Come to a stop sign. Go straight and the carpool lot is on your left, on Syer Line.			

Coming Events cont'd

Wild plants of Peterborough County – Plant ID for beginners

Saturday May 21st

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Begin at the Life Science
Building,
East Bank,
Trent University

Join Susan Chow for an introduction to the identification of the wild plants of Peterborough County. In a fast-paced 3 hour hands-on workshop, you will learn what physical characteristics botanists use to tell one species of plants from another. You will learn to use one of our Newcomb field guides to identify spring ephemerals in the Kawarthas. Then we will take a closer look at plants' naughty parts so we can group them into major families such as buttercup, rose, pink, nightshade, evening primrose, mustard, mint, legume and sunflower.

We'll start the day at 9 am with a 20 minute lab session in Room D106 of the Life Science Building at Trent University. (Look for directions posted on the Block D biology building door) before we head outside to key out the spring ephemerals at either Lady Eaton Drumlin or Burnham Woods. Of course, no ID workshop is complete without a botanical stories exchange to help us remember and love the plants around us. So bring a notebook, camera, some snacks, and come botanize with a couple of plant geeks! Plant geeking is contagious, and a great way to spend a Saturday morning on a long weekend.

Note: Background botanical resources will be posted on the PFN website a couple of weeks before the workshop to get you excited about this upcoming botanical adventure!

Dusk walk at the Kawartha Land Trust Dance Property

Friday May 27th

8:30 pm to 10:00 pm

2027 Preston Road at Selwyn Road (12th Line) 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 (we had some great views of hunting bats last year and glimpsed a beaver).

Bring bug repellent and a flashlight. 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.

Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)

Sunday May 29th

7:30 am to 5:00 pm

Sobey's parking lot, Lansdowne Street West An all-day visit to the Carden Plain, an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will guide us through this globally rare habitat is only 65km from Peterborough. The trip offers the chance to see 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 some lunch, water, camera and binoculars.

Coming Events cont'd				
	Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna			
Sunday June 5 th 7:30 am to early afternoon	Following a wonderful visit last year, we will again visit this precious surviving example of a once-abundant Ontario habitat (www.aldervillesavanna.ca). Up to 40 species at risk have been recorded at this site. It is a great site for butterflies, flowers (including wild lupins) and birds.			
Country Style Old Keene Road at Hwy 7	We will meet at the Country Style (junction of Old Keene Road and Hwy 7) to carpool or, if you know where it is, at the Black Oak Savanna Information Centre at 8467 Northumberland County Rd 18, Roseneath. Visitors are welcome to bring a packed lunch to eat inside or on the deck. The centre provides coffee, tea and spring water.			
Wednesday June 8 th	PFN Monthly Meeting: Ontario's Geological Heritage			
7:30 pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre	David Webster is a senior Conservation Geologist with the Protected Areas Section at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. He will be speaking about our province's geological heritage and the importance of protecting it for the future.			
	Warsaw Caves botanical outing			
Saturday June 11 th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	The North American Native Plant Society is hosting a field session at Warsaw Caves Conservation Area. Mike McMurtry will be leading this hike, which represents the first collaboration between the North American Native Plant Society (NANPS) and PFN. We will have the opportunity to learn more about plant communities' interaction with the karst geological landscape at Warsaw, and to meet members of another environmental organization with common goals.			
	Participation is limited to 5 PFN members and 15 NANPS members. Bring a lunch, suitable clothing, binoculars, and your love of all things herbaceous and woody! Email Janice Keil if interested (ikeil@nanps.org) and contact Mike McMurtry if you wish to carpool (michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca).			
	PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)			

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

At our May event, the Junior Naturalists will be participating in the Yellow Fish Road program. We will learn how to protect our local watershed and our community's water quality with Otonabee Conservation. Join us at the Riverview Park and Zoo and help us to paint yellow fish on the storm drains. These yellow fish will serve as a reminder that when harmful substances go down storm drains along our roads, they pollute the water and harm the fish, plants, insects, wildlife, and humans that depend on clean water.

Check the PFN website for more details about this event and to register. <u>www.peterboroughnature.org</u>				
Other Events of Interest				
Friday April 1st	Peterborough Astronomical Association monthly meeting			
7:00 pm	To more information on their monthly meetings (this month is touring our sold)			
Guest Services Building,	system"), and other upcoming events, please visit <u>www.peterboroughastronomy.com</u> .			
Riverview Park & Zoo				

Other Events of Interest cont'd				
	Peterborough Horticultural Society monthly meeting			
Fourth Wednesday of each month	Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing, with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more information visit www.peterboroughhort.com			
7:00 pm Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough	Upcoming Meeting Topics: April 27 - Brad White - "An Eclectic English Gardener in Canada" May 14 - Annual Plant Sale, Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke West, 9-11 am May 25 - Toni Sinclair - "An Insight into Plant Competitions" June 22 - Vicki Taylor Scott - "Cheap and Cheerful Gardening" September 28 - Gifts from the Garden Demonstrations October 26 - Gail & Todd Grainger - "All About Garlic" November 23 - David Beresford - "Bugs in the Garden"			
	Peterborough Garden Show 2016			
Friday April 8 th through Sunday April 10 th Evinrude Centre, Peterborough	Come welcome spring at one of Ontario's largest garden shows! The annual Peterborough Garden Show is sponsored by the Peterborough Horticultural Society and area Master Gardeners. The 3-day event hosts many garden-related vendors, exhibitors, daily speakers, informative workshops, displays, arrangements and advice. Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and local beautification projects. For more details check out www.peterboroughgardens.ca .			
	Ontario Nature's spring regional meeting			
	Location: Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Avenue East www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca (southwest corner of Lawrence & Leslie Avenue)			
Saturday April 9 th Toronto Botanical Gardens	Speakers: Eric Davis, U of Toronto, Faculty of Forestry – Insect and Bird Diversity on Native and Non-Native Trees Jason Ramsay-Brown, TFN member - Toronto's Ravines and Urban Forest Lynn Miller, TFN board member – TFN 2015 Membership Survey Colleen Cirillo, Toronto Botanical Gardens' Director of Education – Social Media			
777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto	Ontario Nature updates on: Endangered Species Act Lawsuit, Appeal to be heard on April 19, 2016; MNRF proposed major changes to rules for hunting wolves & coyotes in Northern Ontario; New monitoring projects for wildlife conservation; Building a Citizen Science Directory; Working with Forest Stewardship Council to protect the boreal forest; Advocating for a strong pollinator health strategy; Supporting strong legislation to protect wetlands; Growing the Greenbelt			
	Interpretive Hike: Miles Hearn, TFN Hike Leader, will guide a hike in the Wilket Creek ravine and adjacent Sunnybrook Park in the afternoon. PFN members and Junior members are welcome!			

Other Events of Interest cont'd				
Saturday April 23	18th annual Earth Day Jackson Creek cleanup			
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Event is rain or shine, bags and gloves will be provided. More information is available at www.otonabee.com or call 705-745-5791. Meet at main entrance to Jackson Park			
Jackson Park, Peterborough	(parking lot at Monaghan Road & Parkhill Road). The cleanup is hosted by Otonabee Conservation Foundation & Otonabee Conservation.			
Saturday May 7 th	Annual spring native plant sale – Markham (plus 2 dates in Toronto-see below)			
10:00 am to 3:00 pm	The North American Native Plant Society is hosting a sale of wildflowers, ferns, grasses, trees and shrubs. Learn how to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators and help restore local ecologies. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to help			
Markham Civic Centre	choose the right plants for your location from hundreds of species.			
101 Town Centre Blvd. (Hwy 7 at Warden Street)	A plant list and member online ordering is available at www.nanps.org from now until April 17 th for pickup at the Markham Civic Centre on the day of the sale.			
	Annual spring native plant sale - Toronto			
May 14 th and May 29 th	1) Saturday May 14, 2016, 11 am to 4 pm Artisans at Work, 2071 Danforth Ave. Toronto (Woodbine subway station)			
See times and locations at right	2) Sunday May 29, 2016, 12 to 4 pm Christie Pits, 750 Bloor St. W. South end of Park, Toronto (Christie subway station)			
	Any questions please contact <u>abutt@nanps.org</u> or phone 416-631-4438. Visit <u>www.nanps.org</u> for more information.			
	East Cross Forest "Bioblitz"			
Friday May 13 th to Saturday May 14 th East Cross Forest 4560 Devitts Road Scugog Township	Hosted by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust & Kawartha Conservation; supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The East Cross Forest (540 hectares) is designated as a Natural Core Area on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The forest can be accessed from 4560 Devitts Road, Scugog Township, or at 4531 Boundary Road. http://kawarthaconservation.com/conservation-areas/durham-east-cross-forest The intent of the 24-hour Bioblitz is to document all species on the property in the categories of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, plants, mushrooms/lichens, and insects during this period. Volunteers will work in groups of 3 to 5, led by one individual having a high level of expertise in a particular category. Twenty-eight specialists and about 100 volunteers are needed for this exciting initiative. If interested in participating please contact Kristie Virgoe at 905-853-3171, extension 31, or email Kristie at kvirgoe@oakridgesmoraine.org .			

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

Submission deadline for the May issue is Monday, April 25th.

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





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.

PFN Board of Directors			Other Volunteers			
President, Harper Park	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Membership Secretary	Jim Young	760-9397
Vice President, Harper Park	Kim Zippel	kimzippel@nexicom.net	740-0587	Orchid Editor	Marla Williams	874-5653
Secretary, Archives	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas	
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	don.pettypiece@gmail.com	750-1145	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin	749-3639
Program (indoor), Stewardship Council, Fisheries Council	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Don Finigan	
Program (indoor), Harper Park	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@ hotmail.com	874-5739	Orchid Diary	Martin Parker	745-4750
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501	Miller Creek Management	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Ted Vale	
Harper Park, Special Projects	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Municipal Planning Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Michael Colley	
Webmaster, Jane's Walks	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@ peterboroughnature.org	740-2081	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count	Martin Parker	
Ontario Nature Rep, Harper Park	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@ sympatico.ca	741-3641	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball	
Website	Marilyn Hubley	mhubley@sympatico.ca	760-9378	Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count	Colin Jones	
Harper Park	Michael Colley	michaelgcolley@gmail.com	(519) 729-4223	PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7		

PFN Volunteer Corner

1) Earth Day celebration at the Gamiing Nature Centre

The Gamiing Nature Centre (http://www.gamiing.org/home.php), located at 1884 Pigeon Lake Road has invited the PFN to set up our display booth at their annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23rd. Please contact Lynn Smith smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599 if you can help staff this PFN display. Thank you!

2) Buckhorn Fine Art Festival – Volunteers needed for shifts at the PFN display booth

Saturday, August 13th and Sunday, August 14th: The Buckhorn Fine Art Festival was named one of the Top 100 festivals of distinction for the 9th year in a row! Over 85 artists showcase their work in a picturesque woodland garden setting with eleven permanent gallery buildings. There is art for sale, special interest displays, a children's ARTivity Zone, culinary delights and performances by local musicians.



Check out the website at http://www.buckhornfineart.com/festival-info/. And for just a few hours of volunteering you will have the opportunity to explore the festival free of charge! Please contact Rene Gareau to volunteer at the PFN display booth; rene.gareau@sympatico.ca or 705-741-4560.

From the Archives – The Orchid, Vol. 5, No. 6, June 1960 Submitted by Martin Parker

CONGRATULATIONS TO A YOUNG NATURALIST (A member of our Nature Club)

The author of a recent series on "Giant Silk Moths', (ed note: in The Orchid) Gary N. A. Botting, is receiving many congratulations (and we join in them) for his entry in the Ontario Science Fair held in Toronto on April 1960 and also at the National Science Fair (International) in Indianapolis, U.S.A.

His exhibit won for him top honours in each case. There were 8 countries and 44 states represented at the latter fair. His exhibit 'Variations of the Cynthia Silk Moth (Hybrids)' won him a set of Encyclopedia Britannica and a trip to Indianapolis (from Toronto Fair), and \$125 and a trip to Oklahoma in August (from National Science Fair).

We are all proud to have Gary as a member!

Current Note: The Peterborough Field Naturalists are supporters of the Peterborough Regional Science Fair, and sponsor four special PFN Awards in the Elementary and Junior Classes. Each award winner receives a cash prize of \$25, a copy of the 'Mammals of Peterborough County' published by the PFN, and this newsletter. Funding for these awards is provided by the PFN Legacy Fund, an endowment fund initiated from the generous bequest of the late Rhea Bringeman.

Birding at Mathers Corners Article submitted by Don Pettypiece; Photo submitted by Emily Pettypiece



This March 22nd outing was planned the previous week, but freezing weather could not put off Emily and Don Pettypiece and the instigator, Bill Snowden, from a quick outing to check out the water birds at the Mathers Corners runoff birding site.

But, with what little runoff being frozen, the Mathers sightings consisted of a Trumpeter Swan, Ring-Billed Gulls, and in the air, a Great Blue Heron and a pair of Mallards. Further down the road at the Heron rookery, there was zero apparent activity.

So, over to Herkimer Point. During our travels we saw American Crows, Canada Geese, a Robin, Grackles, Starlings, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Scaup (too far away to identify), an immature Bald Headed Eagle, Rock pigeons, and Turkey Vultures.

Next was lunch at the Old Railroad Stop in Havelock, and then a tour (by Bill) of where "I spent part of my youth in summer". Which is why we go on these excursions – bird (or other) sightings are an excuse!

Back home just in time for the last (?) storm of the winter. Bill reported the sighting of a Kestrel on Robinson Road on the drive back to his home.

Bats in your Belfry? Article and photo submitted by Marilyn Hubley

No, but I found a bat in my crawl space.

Many of us have encountered bats in our house at one point or another. The usual course of action is to capture the wee winged one and set him free outside. Their status is "Endangered" meaning the species lives in the wild in Ontario but is facing imminent extinction or extirpation. Please do not kill the animal; instead contact someone that will remove it if you do not wish to do so.



So what happens when you find a sick or injured bat like I did in my crawl space? First, take precautions by gloving yourself and getting a towel or something else to scoop up the bat. I got information from several friends and acquaintances with Bat Knowledge and thought I would share, in case you find yourself in the same situation.

Providing Temporary Care: Do not handle a bat with bare hands, and do not attempt to rehabilitate the bat on your own. To do so could jeopardize your safety as well as the life of the bat. Please also read the information below to provide temporary care for the bat until help is obtained. Line a box with an old T-shirt or towel so the bat has something to hang on upside-down. Create some pleats in the shirt so that if the bat wishes to hide it can. (Ensure any tape that is used is well-secured so the bat won't get stuck.) Put a small amount of water in a small, shallow container like a baby food jar lid. Place the lid on the bottom of the container and next to a wall so the bat can hang over it to drink. Secure a top to the box as some bats can squeeze through a crack as thin as ¼ inch! If you must handle the bat please remember to wear thick gloves (although rabies is rare in bats, if the bat bites you it will have to be euthanized and tested). Until help is located, keep the box in a room where the bat won't get too warm or too cold. Keep the bat away from children and pets.

I was also told they can escape from a lot of things so to put them in a shoebox with holes in it, a small container of water as described above and then put the whole box in a pillow case and tie the end with an elastic band.

Then contact the people who know what to do. I found and recommend Dee at the Foster Forest Wildlife Orphanage located at 73 Lafferty Road, Trenton, 613-394-6667. I will now start checking my crawl space regularly in case others follow, and will consult with the specialists to figure out how the bats are getting in.

The Bruce Beckons Forwarded by Ted Vale, PFN's Ontario Nature Representative

Ontario Nature is holding its 85th Annual Gathering, *The Bruce Beckons*, on June 3-5 at Evergreen Resort, along Little Red Bay of South Bruce Peninsula. We hope you will be able to join us for this milestone year!

Highlights of the weekend include inspiring speakers, expert-led nature workshops and guided field trips to some incredible natural areas. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow nature lovers and have a weekend of fun in the outdoors.

You can also join us in celebrating our shared conservation successes and discuss the vision for the year ahead at Ontario Nature's 85thAnnual General Meeting, and recognizing achievements of conservation heroes at the Conservation Awards ceremony.

Register now to hold your spot at this year's gathering. The deadline to register is May 9th, but be sure to register before spots are filled!

You can visit www.ontarionature.org for all of the important event details. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lauren Wright at laurenw@ontarionature.org or 1-800-440-2366 extension 271.

Owling For You Submitted by Murray Palmer

We're here on Amherst Island at the promising Owl Woods To see hawks and owls not readily seen in our neighbourhoods. Of other owls in the Woods we have seen no sign, But there you are, Barred Owl, perched in a tall jack pine. Peering out of sleepy eyes at the canopy and ground, You're waiting so patiently for any telltale sound Of a squirrel, rabbit, or bird as large as a grouse. Sometimes you plunge into the snow for a vole or mouse. This winter's frequent rainy weather has not been very kind ... Has frozen, melted snow made your prey hard to find? It's this and other questions that creep into my thought: To relieve your pangs of hunger, were small owls also caught? I love to watch your head turn with fixed, staring eyes; Oh, how its turret-like movement almost mystifies! Your gentle, large, dark eyes - how peaceful you seem -But what are we to think of your night-shattering scream? It's been a trying time walking on icy road and slick paths, too, But I would do it all again sometime to go owling for you.

How I Photographed the Barred Owl of the Owl Woods, Amherst Island Article and photo submitted by Murray Palmer

On March 5, 2016 our intrepid PFN group walked in from the main road along the very icy country lane that led towards the Owl Woods. I had my camera and shoulder pod hanging from my neck and tucked under an XL-sized insulated light coat.

The last time I visited here was sometime in the 1980s when the owls were located in a woods of white cedar, so their present domain in a plantation of jack pine was unfamiliar to me. Matthew Tobey sighted a Barred Owl perched high in a tree at the edge of a trail, perhaps sixty-some feet from a point that afforded a good view.



My digital camera was fitted with a 400 mm lens and 1.4x teleextender which magnified the image about 32x, a fortunate choice in this situation. This gear was mounted on a shoulder pod which was now of limited worth since I had to shoot at such a steep angle that it was not well anchored on my chest. I rarely use a tripod since they are often too awkward and time-consuming to set up, let alone to carry, especially on the icy road and paths, and the PFN gang doesn't linger. It was already about 12:15 pm.

With the ISO set at 6400, I kept the aperture wide open at f/8, and selected complementary shutter speeds of 1/1600 and 1/1250 to prevent blur from camera movement. I was so preoccupied with both setting the exposure manually by metering on some part of the picture with a middle grey tone, and autofocusing on the eyes with a central point in the viewfinder while the camera swayed unsteadily that I could only hope that the high burst rate of the shutter would capture the composition I wanted. That's not easy since my vision on my left side is already deficient.

I like this particular photo because the owl's dark eyes reflect the surrounding trees and light sky, whereas others only show a glossy appearance. I want to see my subjects with the shine of life in their eyes.

Wildlife Tracking Report 2016 Article and photos submitted by Don McLeod

Twenty members and guests from the Peterborough Field Naturalists spread out over four dates, January 15, 22, 23 and March 5, went tracking on the John de Pencier trail at the Trent University Nature Area. Wildlife species identified by tracks and/or sign included Snowshoe Hare, American Mink, Fisher, Red Fox, Coyote, Red Squirrel, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Mouse sp, Shrew sp, Beaver, Porcupine, Domestic Dog, Domestic Cat and Ruffed Grouse. Various small bird tracks were thought to be from Dark-eyed Junco and American Goldfinch. Ermine and White-tailed Deer tracks were observed by some members while walking the east trails.



Ruffed Grouse tracks (**photo left**) were observed both in January and March but at different locations along the trail. Snow roosts observed in January were depressions in the snow made by Ruffed Grouse. No roosts were observed on March 5th due to reduced snow depth and milder temperatures. Ruffed Grouse snow roosts observed during 2015 were completely under the snow with entry and exit holes. Snow depth at that time was close to two feet.

The carcass of a Northern Short-tailed Shrew was found near the trail on January 23rd. It appeared to be intact albeit slightly

deformed. Due to Domestic Dog tracks in the area, it was likely that a Dog caught the Shrew and after a while, dropped it along the walking trail. Perhaps this was accompanied by vociferous command from the dog owner!?

Red Fox scat was stumbled upon early during the walk on January 22nd. As often happens with Red Fox or Coyote scat, it was deposited in the middle of the trail. This behaviour is part of territory marking. We put the Fox scat in a small bag and hid it off the trail so that it would be available for the next day. In an odd twist, the bag with scat inside was returned to the same spot on the trail when we went back on the 23rd. We assume that it was picked up by a Dog and then left on the trail when the owner barked out instructions to "drop it"! Domestic Dog scat was also found just off the trail at a different location. While we used the opportunity to compare it to Red Fox and Coyote scat, the scat should not have been there: Dogs are supposed to be on leash and poop picked up.

Noticeably absent during our 2016 walks was Eastern Cottontail. There were no Rabbit tracks, scat or browse along our section of the John de Pencier trail. The only evidence was one set of tracks that I personally observed while scouting the east trails on March 3rd. This marks a sharp contrast to the tracking done back in 2014 and 2015 during which Eastern Cottontail tracks were seen on every occasion, particularly on the East side. Scat and browse were also regularly seen. Greater snow depth and very harsh cold weather during February and March of 2015 may have contributed to this local decline.

The boardwalk Porcupine was back during 2016. One or more of these large rodents regularly make their dens under the boardwalk of the John de Pencier trail (**photo right**). Observations of trails, tracks, nip twigs, debarking and scat have been made throughout the past three years of tracking. During the past two years there was a den near the south end of the boardwalk. This year that den was not active. However, the den at the north end of the boardwalk was active again this year. During the January 15th walk we observed fresh Fisher tracks which followed the Porcupine trail. It appeared that the Porcupine survived the encounter. No kill site was found and Porcupine tracks were again evident at this location during our subsequent walks.

The PFN Harper Park Stewardship Committee enjoyed a tour through the woods of Harper Park in Peterborough on March 4th. Snow conditions were good and there were many tracks and sign observed. The species list included White-tailed Deer, Red Squirrel, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Porcupine, Eastern Cottontail, Coyote, Red Fox, Wild Turkey,

American Crow and Northern Cardinal. At the moment, this is not an accessible location for our tracking group to go on an outing. In the future, as trails, access points and parking are sorted out, Harper Park will be a very good tracking location.

The winter of 2016 was challenging for trackers due to frequent mild spells and snow melt; this limited the selection of tracking dates. I feel fortunate that we managed four outings but realize that several members on the tracking email list could not make the dates. While tracking outings for this winter are done, the email list will resume when conditions permit. With that in mind, let us hope for a snowy winter next year!

Moth Season Approaches! Article and photos submitted by Basil Conlin

Moths are some of the most diverse and spectacular groups of animals. According to Mike Burell's checklist for moths of Ontario, 3,000 species occur in the province, considerably more than our birds! Of these, a large percentage can be found in Peterborough County due to our mixed habitat and plentiful edge habitats which provide the greatest variety of host plants for caterpillars.



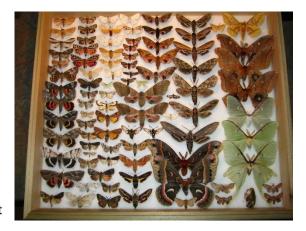
This being said, many of these species are uncommon and have short flight periods which means they are not often encountered. The willow ghost moth (Sthenopis thule – **photo left**) and the pine imperial moth (Eacles imperialis pini) are two particularly spectacular, uncommon and ephemeral moths to look for during their short flight periods in July. July is the month of peak moth abundance, but species can be found all year round; many overwinter as adults and start flying as early as February if the weather is warm enough, and other species fly into the late fall.

To attract moths, there are generally **two methods**: the light trap and the bait trap. To make a portable light trap, purchase a battery such as an 18 amp-hour 12V battery or any other sealed acid (SLA) battery and attach a light source to it. A good choice for a light source is a 15 watt UV/black light, available from BioQuip.com or from any pet store in the reptile department. For the body of the trap, use a plastic bucket with a funnel placed into it. Line your bucket with a plastic egg crate as a water guard to keep moths dry in case it rains while you're sampling, and add some cardboard egg cartons to give your moths a safe hiding spot. Attach the light to the top and voila, you're ready to start cataloging the species in your area! You can also hang up a white sheet, on a clothesline perhaps, and shine a black light onto it to attract moths. The white sheet method works in some cases, but trapping moths tends to yield more species and a higher species diversity, and you don't have to stay up all night watching a sheet. Moths caught in traps can be photographed and then released.

Bait traps involve the application of a sweet, sticky liquid to the trunks of trees, boards, or walls to attract moths that aren't normally attracted to light traps, such as some very intricately-patterned species in the noctuidae family. The Peterson Field Guide to Moths contains a recipe that has worked for me several times: "one soft banana, scoop of brown sugar, dollop of molasses, and a glug or two of beer". Rural areas and places with a lot of mixed habitat are the best for sampling, but even urban backyards can turn up some interesting finds.

Some moth species are so uniquely patterned, such as Harris's three-spot (*Harrison resignation*), that identifying them is easy. But many other species are very hard to identify without taking photos and some species can only be identified by collecting a specimen and dissecting its genitals. It's very important to keep records of moths, either by cataloging photographs or collecting specimens, in order to understand what species are found where. While photographing is usually sufficient for keeping records of moth species, sometimes it might be worthwhile to collect and pin specimens. Collecting one or two specimens will never damage a population of moths like it would for birds or reptiles; many of our moths have a very short lifespan, lasting one season with a flight/reproductive time of normally a few days. Very few individuals need to mate and produce young in order to keep a population healthy, and many hundreds of times more insects are killed in vehicle collisions or by simply mowing our lawns than will ever be killed for the purpose of keeping a scientific collection.

If you choose to collect specimens, pin the moth on a black enamel insect pin or a minuten pin for micro moths, available on BioQuip.com or IndigoInstruments.com, spread the moth's wings carefully and include a data label specifying the country, province, county, general location, GPS and elevation, collection date and collector's name. Much of what we know about insects comes from the collection and study of insect specimens, which can last centuries, so collecting specimens is scientifically a very invaluable practice. (**Photo at right** is author's collection from one site in edge habitat in Peterborough).



To encourage moths to come to your backyard, make sure to plant as many varieties of native plants as possible. Trees such as

maple, birch, polar, ash, aspen, and alder attract many species of spectacularly large moths such as modest sphinx moths (*Pacchysphinx modesta*) and luna moths (*Actias luna*). One of the best things a homeowner can do for their local moth population is to avoid cutting the grass! Maintaining a short cut lawn greatly limits the number of available food sources for moth caterpillars, and many colorful species such as virgin tiger moths (*Grammia virgo*) feed on low growing plants and can be encouraged by not mowing lawns and/or not mowing lawns too short.

While the topic of moths might seem dizzying at first, it is very rewarding to learn about and conserve our moth diversity! Moth observers can directly contribute to scientific knowledge by cataloging and submitting their species. Good websites to check out, if you have I.D. questions or just want to learn more about moths, are www.bugquide.com, www.ontariomoths.com, and especially the Moth Photographers Group.



The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in the Peterborough Region.

Information is compiled from e-bird, the Drew Monkman Sightings website, PTBO Sightings, and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone (705) 745-4750.

March	March was a variable month with several snowy events early in the month, above normal temperatures				
	during the final weeks of the month, and with wintery weather around Easter weekend.				
Feb. 28	Iain Rayner had an early Turkey Vulture soaring over the St. Anne's Church area.				
Feb. 29	Jerry Ball spotted a Red-bellied Woodpecker along Hannah Road and 2 Trumpeter Swans on Little				
	Lake. These swans spent the next month on Little Lake or on the river between Trent U and Lakefield.				
March 1	JB Jaboor reported his first American Robin of the spring on the Rotary Trail south of Hunter Street.				
	It was bitterly cold with a wind of 35 km/hr and this was reflected in the bird's body language "I must				
	be nuts". As the month progressed migrating robins started flooding and by the 20th were common				
	everywhere.				
	Bruce Kidd reported that a Red-winged Blackbird showed up in the Warsaw area, and Gord & Enid				
	Mallory noted they were reported to them from the Lily Lake area.				
	Donald McLeod reported that 150 Pine Siskins along with 25 American Goldfinches were at his feeder				
	on lower Chemong Lake. It was the largest concentrations of siskins at his feeder this winter season.				
March 2	The Peregrine Falcon which was reported from various locations in January & February has been				
	observed on the Quaker Oats building by Murray Palmer and Sean Smith.				
	Warren Dunlop located a White-fronted Goose on the Trent River off Drysdale Road east of Hastings.				
	He also had a Mute Swan at the same location which was since seen until at least March 6 th by multiple				
	observers.				

March 4	Jerry Ball had a Red-winged Blackbird at Campbelltown Landing on the Otonabee River. He also had
	an American Kestrel with a Meadow Vole in its talons along Scriven Line.
	Marilyn Freeman, after partaking in a tracking workshop, started to investigate a track in the snow near
	her car and then came upon the track maker – a Striped Skunk .
March 6	Lynn Smith spotted a Fisher along the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails.
March 7	Bill Snowden reported that Red-winged Blackbirds and American Robins have arrived on the
	southern shores of Buckhorn Lake.
	Jerry Ball had a Common Grackle and Sharp-shinned Hawk along the Keene Road.
	Donald Sutherland had 2 Common Grackles fly over in the city.
	An Eastern Chipmunk returned to gather scattered seeds under the feeders of Kathy & Martin Parker
	in the west-end of Peterborough.
March 8	Mike Burrell heard and observed 2 Cackling Geese flying over within a flock of Canada Geese in the
	area of Wallis Drive and Valleyview Road.
March 9	Martin Parker had 2 Green-winged Teal on Otonabee River between Locks 23 & 24. Also one Leopard
	Frog calling periodically.
	Donald Sutherland had a Killdeer fly-over and calling on the Rail Trail at Trent University.
Redhead	A flock of Redhead (ducks) arrived on Little Lake (northeastern section). Five individuals were initially
	reported by lain Rayner and seen daily by many observers until at least March 23.
March 10	According to Jerry Ball this was the first day the meltwater pond just south of Mather's Corners was
	ice-free. On March 9 it was ice-covered. On this date there was 1 Snow Goose , 1 Cackling Goose ,
	several Northern Pintail along with lots of Canada Geese, Mallards and American Black Ducks
	Donald Sutherland had 8 Tundra Swans on the Mather's Corners meltwater pond. Mike Burrell had 9
	the next day on the meltwater pond.
	Warren Dunlop had a Mute Swan on the Trent River at the southern end of Humphries Line.
	Luke Berg had a Great Blue Heron fly by and a female Brown-headed Cowbird at the southern end of Drummond Line.
March 11	Gord Mallory spotted two Eastern Meadowlarks along Stockdale Road northwest of the city.
IVIAICII I I	Michael Gillespie noted the Snow Goose was still on the Mather's Corners meltwater pond along with
	a pair of Gadwalls and a variety of other waterfowl. Jerry Ball noted American Wigeons were on the
	pond along with 2 Snow Geese . Many others continued to report the Cackling Goose, Snow Goose
	and other waterfowl from this location.
	Bill Snowden reported that lower Buckhorn Lake in front of his house is now active with waterbirds
	including Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks and
	Mallards.
	Jerry Ball had 2 Green-winged Teal and 4 American Widgeon along Nicholson Road.
	Jerry Ball had an Eastern Meadowlark along Drummond Line.
	A Muskrat was sitting on the edge of the ice of Chemong Lake at the northern end of the causeway
	by Kathy & Martin Parker and Cal Osborne & Sandra Arseneau of North Bay. It was feeding on aquatic
	vegetation.
Snow	The Snow Goose on the Mather's Corners meltwater pond initially located by Jerry Ball on March 10 th
Goose	was present until March 17 th and seen by many observers.
March 12	Bill Snowden reported a Bufflehead had joined the waterfowl concentration in front of his home and
	more American Robins & Red-winged Blackbirds are being seen daily. He also noted Dark-eyed
	Juncos & American Tree Sparrows had departed, although Pine Siskins are still present.
	lain Rayner spotted 2 Red-shouldered Hawks soaring over the city near St. Anne's Church.
	Matthew Tobey & Luke Berg located a Cackling Goose at the southern end of Drummond Line. Bill
	Crins had another Cackling Goose on the 8 th Line of Douro south of River Road.
	An American Woodcock was present and calling at dusk at the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary at dusk by an
	unknown contributor to e-bird.

American	On March 12 th there were numerous reports of American Wigeon : In the Bailieboro area Linda
Wigeon	Sunderland had 3 at the 3^{rd} Line at Nicholson Road, while Donald Sutherland had 2 NNE on 2^{rd} Line &
	3 at Bensfort Corners (2 $^{\rm nd}$ Line at Nicholson Road); in the Asphodel-Norwood Township Luke Berg &
	Matthew Tobey had 4 on Humphries Line, and another 5 at the south end of Drummond Line; and at
	Curve Lake FN another 2 by Martyn Obbard.
	On the Mather's Corners meltwater American Widgeon were initially reported on March 11 th with over
	12 reports until March 13 th . Maximum number was 10 on March 13 th by Iain Rayner.
March 13	Lev Frid had a Northern Goshawk at the Mather's Corners meltwater pond.
	Kevin Young had a Sandhill Crane at the Trent U Nature Areas.
March 15	Jerry Ball observed 3 Northern Shovelers in a pond along Nicholson Line.
March 16	Jerry Ball spotted Turkey Vultures at three locations south of the City.
March 17	Jerry Ball had a Great Blue Heron along Drummond Line.
	Martyn Obbard had 2 Sandhill Cranes calling in the Buckhorn area.
	J. Philpott has a Red-bellied Woodpecker visiting the feeders at Kawartha Hideaway on Buckhorn Lake
	west of Buckhorn.
	Don MacLeod reported an American Kestrel on the wires along Hwy 7 near Fowler's Corners.
	Bill Snowden reported the arrival of a Song Sparrow at southern Buckhorn Lake. Marilyn Freeman had
	a Song Sparrow singing in her yard in the north end of the City.
Banded	On March 19 Ashley Holland of Lakefield found a dead Great Horned Owl on her property near
bird	Lakefield. This individual was banded and on-line information from the banding office documented
	that this bird was banded on March 3, 2009 and it hatched in 2007 or earlier. This bird was thus nine
-	years old or older.
March 19	On Pigeon Lake near the Fothergill Isle Causeway Donald Sutherland had 2 Canvasbacks.
	lan Sturdee reported a Winter Wren.
March 21	Jerry Ball had a Northern Flicker in the Fraserville area.
	On the B.E.L. Rotary Trail south of Bridgenorth Warren Dunlop had 8 Rusty Blackbirds .
	lain Rayner had a Tree Swallow flying over the river at Millenium Park in Peterborough.
	Matthew Tobey & Martin Parker observed over 250 Common Mergansers on the waters of Rice Lake
	in the Hiawatha FN area. Predominately male birds. Large rafts of males with a few female Common
	Mergansers being reported by observers from other lakes in the region.
Tundra	In the early afternoon of March 21st Jerry Ball had 33 Tundra Swans on the Mather's Corners meltwater
Swans	pond. At 3 pm Michael Gillespie had 34 on the same pond and at 5 pm there were 42 by Matthew
March	Tobey & Martin Parker. On March 22 at about 2:00 pm there were 5 which flew off shortly after that.
21 & 22	
	Jerry Ball & Martin Parker observed a Red Maple with swollen buds ready to break out knot flowers in
	the Kents Bay Road area.
	Jerry Ball had a Cooper's Hawk in the Hiawartha FN area.
	Jerry Ball had two Sandhill Cranes on Mallard Bay Road, Ennismore area.
March 24	Don MacLeod observed two Pileated Woodpeckers starting a new hole along a seam between the
	trunks of a large Silver Maple near lower Chemong Lake. The result was a steady stream of sap dripping
	from the fresh cuts.
March 24	As of this date 105 species of birds have been observed and confirmed this year in Peterborough
	County, according the e-bird data base
	Don MacLeod reported that just after the ice storm a flock of 25 Pine Siskins arrived at his feeders.
March 25	Others reported feeders were very active during the late March storm.

Reports of the first calling for the spring amphibians, migrations of salamanders, and blooming of spring wildflowers will be appreciated for next Orchid Diary. Please submit to mparker19@cogeco.ca.



www.peterboroughnature.org

membership applications 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:			
rume (3).			Work Tel:			
Address:	Rece Orch	ive o snail mail o e-mail id by: o both please	Email(s):			
MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FE	E SCHEDULE					
Please make cheques payable	to Peterborough Field Natu	alists				
1. Single Adult \$25	2. Single Stude	nt \$15	3. Single Child* ((age 5–12) \$	10	
4. Family (couple or family *Please give the name(s) and		wish to be enrolled in	the PFN Junior N	laturalists		
Name	Age*	Name			Age*	
MAIN INTERESTS						
o Birds	o Butterflies/insects	o Botany (Wild	flowers/trees/sh	rubs)		
o Astronomy	o Aquatic Life	o Geology	0	Field Trips		
o Hiking	o Conservation	o Other (specif	o Other (specify)			
I (name) am knowledgeab	le in the follow	/ing		
areas		and would be pre	epared to			
o lead an outdoor session	o give a presen	ation o	prepare an ar	ticle for The (Orchid	
I am interested in the fo	llowing:					
o Joining the PFN Executive		ing on research or servation committees	o Wo	orking on field	l projects	
o Helping with refreshment	s at meetings o Ple	ase have a member of	the executive ca	all me		
AGE GROUP						
This information helps us to ur	nderstand the needs of our	nembers. If a family n	nembership, plea	ase check for	each adult	
o Under 20 o 20-29	o 30-39 o 40-49	o 50-59 o	60-69 o	70-79	o 80< over	
DONATIONS						
Membership fees cover the general ope tion. You can assist the club by making purposes. All donations are gratefully r	a donation to help further our wor	in such areas. The PFN is a	registered charity an	d issues receipts	for income tax	

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:	
Signature.	