

# The Orchid

May 2016  
Volume 62, No. 4

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

## Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly, Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



Mourning Cloak, Trent University Campus, April, 2016 ~ Submitted by Basil Conlin

### Inside:

Nothing: Part Two  
Yellow Fish and Bee Houses  
Plant ID for Beginners and Spring Ephemerals at Trent University  
Help Clean Up Harper Park  
Fabulous Fall Fungi Returns

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Compton Tortoiseshell, north of Buckhorn,  
March 27, 2016 ~ Submitted by Martin Parker



Right: Brown Creeper, Bridgenorth Trail, April 21  
~ Submitted by Emily Pettypiece

Below: Feralia major, Trent University, April 14  
~ Submitted by Basil Conlin



## Welcome New PFN Members!

Lesley Hale & Joe Halloran  
Allan Bell  
Lisa McBain  
Barbara Saunders & Jennika Saunders  
Ray Dart & Krista English  
Michelle McKay  
Audrey Nowicki

Coming Events	
<p>Sundays to May 29<sup>th</sup></p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>North Parking Lot, Riverview Park &amp; Zoo Water Street, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Sunday morning wildlife outings</b></p> <p>Our traditional Sunday morning spring outings will continue in May. Unless otherwise advertised (see separate entries below), walks will start at 8:00 am and we normally carpool from the Peterborough Zoo parking lot 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 that day.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> May: Erica Nol &amp; Chris Risley  8<sup>th</sup> May: Scott McKinlay (<b>see separate entry below</b>)  15<sup>th</sup> May: Lynn Smith &amp; Kim Clark (<b>see separate entry below</b>)  22<sup>nd</sup> May: Mike McMurtry  29<sup>th</sup> May: Jerry Ball (<b>see separate entry below</b>)</p>
<p>Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup></p> <p>10:00 am to 12:30 pm</p> <p>Lot G Lady Eaton College Trent University</p>	<p><b>Spring flowers of the Trent University nature areas</b></p> <p>Spring flowers of the Trent University nature areas. This is the club's contribution to the Open Doors Peterborough. Roger Jones will lead this outing, starting with a walk up the Lady Eaton drumlin. Meet at the Lady Eaton College parking lot on the west bank of the university campus.</p>
<p>Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup></p> <p>10:00 am to 12:00 pm</p> <p>Bowers Park, gravel parking lot, 765 Brealey Drive</p>	<p><b>Harper Park super spring cleanup</b></p> <p>The three Peterborough area Rotary Clubs are organizing their 9<sup>th</sup> 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 PFN. Please bring your own water.</p>
<p>Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup></p> <p>8:00 to 11:00 am</p> <p>North parking lot Riverview Park &amp; Zoo Water Street, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Birding at Cavan Swamp</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup></p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: Fatal Light Awareness Program</b></p> <p>Across North America the estimated number of migrating birds killed annually in collisions with buildings ranges from 100 million to 1 billion birds. Since founding the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada organization in 1993, FLAP's Executive Director Michael Mesure has spearheaded efforts in Canada to preserve migrating birds from injurious and fatal collisions with human-made structures.</p> <p>More than two decades later, the issue of preventing window collisions is a global initiative, and raising public awareness is now a major component of the work done by FLAP in effort to make the migratory journey of millions of songbirds a little safer.</p>

Coming Events cont'd	
<p>Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p>8:00 to 11:00 am</p> <p>Millbrook Cavan Carpool Lot/GO Bus Stop</p>	<p><b>Stroll for sparrows and other nature surprises on the Oak Ridges Moraine</b></p> <p>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-Garsonn property near Bethany. Bring binoculars, scope, snacks, water and perhaps be prepared for some mosquitoes and/or blackflies!</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup></p> <p>9:00 am to 12:00 pm</p> <p>Begin at the Life Science Building, East Bank, Trent University</p>	<p><b>Wild plants of Peterborough County – Plant ID for beginners</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p>
<p>Friday May 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>8:30 pm to 10:00 pm</p> <p>2027 Preston Road at Selwyn Road (12<sup>th</sup> Line)</p>	<p><b>Dusk walk at the Kawartha Land Trust Dance Property</b></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 (we had some great views of hunting bats last year and glimpsed a beaver).</p> <p>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.</p>

Coming Events cont'd	
<p>Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup></p> <p>7:30 am to 5:00 pm</p> <p>Sobey's parking lot, Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p>7:30 am to early afternoon</p> <p>Country Style Old Keene Road at Hwy 7</p>	<p><b>Alderville First Nation Black Oak Savanna</b></p> <p>Following a wonderful visit last year, we will again visit this precious surviving example of a once-abundant Ontario habitat (<a href="http://www.alderillesavanna.ca">www.alderillesavanna.ca</a>). 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup></p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: Ontario's Geological Heritage</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup></p> <p>10:00 am to 3:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Warsaw Caves botanical outing</b></p> <p>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 similar interests.</p> <p>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 (<a href="mailto:jkeil@nanps.org">jkeil@nanps.org</a>) and contact Mike McMurtry if you wish to carpool (<a href="mailto:michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca">michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca</a>).</p>
PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)	
<p>At our May 3<sup>rd</sup> event, the Junior Naturalists will be participating in the Yellow Fish Road program. By volunteering with this project, your family will be helping to protect our local water quality with Otonabee Conservation. Join us at the Riverview Park and Zoo (new Education Centre near the splash pad) for an orientation, and help us to paint yellow fish on the storm drains. If it makes dinnertime easier, bring a pizza or picnic dinner for your family to enjoy at the playground before the event starts. Suggested ages: 8+, but younger siblings and friends are welcome. Please note this event will be rescheduled if it is raining (rain date is May 5<sup>th</sup>).</p>	

### PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12) cont'd

Join us at Ecology Park at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to make a stem-bundle bee house for your backyard. Peterborough GreenUP's Community Bee Keeping Program will help us to learn more about bees, their different nesting habitats, and how the plants we grow in our gardens can attract bees and other local pollinators. Plants that are native to Ontario require less tending and watering, and are more likely to attract local pollinators. It also helps to plan your garden so that there is always something in bloom – which is nice for you too! The Ecology Park Garden Market will be open, so check out their native and edible plants, shrubs and trees while you are there. RSVPs are preferred - book on the PFN website or email [pfnjuniors@gmail.com](mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com).

Kids: If you made a pollinator for our art display at Black Honey, THANK YOU! They look amazing! The pollinator mobiles will be in flight from May 1<sup>st</sup> until at least the 23<sup>rd</sup> so be sure to check them out (217 Hunter Street West). Your inspiring creations will be available for pick up at the June 5<sup>th</sup> event.

Check the PFN website for more details about these events and to register: [www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org).



### Other Events of Interest

<p>Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Guest Services Building, Riverview Park &amp; Zoo</p>	<p><b>Peterborough Astronomical Association monthly meeting</b> For more information on their monthly meetings (May is "Hunting exoplanets from your backyard, with Paul Mortfield"), and other upcoming events, please visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughastronomy.com">www.peterboroughastronomy.com</a>.</p>
<p>Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Markham Civic Centre 101 Town Centre Blvd. (Hwy 7 at Warden Street)</p>	<p><b>Annual spring native plant sale – Markham (plus 2 dates in Toronto—see below)</b> 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 choose the right plants for your location. A plant list and member online ordering is available at <a href="http://www.nanps.org">www.nanps.org</a>.</p>
<p>Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am to 1:30 pm GreenUP Ecology Park</p>	<p><b>Ecology Park leaf untuck</b> It is time to wake up the GreenUP Ecology Park plant nursery. Help us untuck the plants from their protective blanket of leaves. We need a lot of careful helpers to remove the layer of winter leaf mulch from our trees, shrubs and flowers, and depend on volunteers to help us with this important seasonal task. Families and people of all ages and abilities are welcome. Refreshments will be served!</p>
<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month 7:00 pm Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough</p>	<p><b>Peterborough Horticultural Society monthly meeting</b> Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing, with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm. For more information visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughhort.com">www.peterboroughhort.com</a> 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"</p>

## Other Events of Interest cont'd

<p>May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup></p> <p>See times and locations at right</p> <p><a href="http://www.nanps.org">www.nanps.org</a></p>	<p><b>Annual spring native plant sale - Toronto</b></p> <p>1) Saturday May 14, 2016, 11 am to 4 pm Artisans at Work, 2071 Danforth Ave. Toronto (Woodbine subway station)</p> <p>2) Sunday May 29, 2016, 12 to 4 pm Christie Pits, 750 Bloor St. W. South end of Park, Toronto (Christie subway station)</p> <p>Any questions please contact <a href="mailto:abutt@nanps.org">abutt@nanps.org</a> or phone 416-631-4438.</p>
<p>Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p>East Cross Forest 4560 Devitts Road Scugog Township</p>	<p><b>East Cross Forest "Bioblitz"</b></p> <p>Hosted by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust &amp; 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.</p> <p><a href="http://kawarthaconservation.com/conservation-areas/durham-east-cross-forest">http://kawarthaconservation.com/conservation-areas/durham-east-cross-forest</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 please contact Kristie Virgoe at 905-853-3171, extension 31, or email Kristie at <a href="mailto:kvirgoe@oakridgesmoraine.org">kvirgoe@oakridgesmoraine.org</a>.</p>
<p>Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p>6:00 pm to midnight</p> <p>Peterborough Museum &amp; Archives</p>	<p><b>Celebrate the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Astronomy Day with the Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)</b></p> <p>Weather permitting, join us for safe public solar viewing atop Armour Hill from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Parking is restricted access only, so be prepared to park at the Peterborough Museum &amp; Archives parking lot and walk a short distance. There will also be a public observing session from 9:00 pm until midnight, with telescopes and other observing aids provided by the PAA and instruction by its members. This is a free event and for all ages too.</p> <p>Come see Jupiter, our Moon, Mars, Saturn, star clusters and other celestial sights. Dress appropriately for the weather. Regardless of weather there will be free crafts and activities for the kids, telescope displays in the portable classrooms, astronomy presentations that will run from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Fleming Annex. Also free draws for the Astronomy Weekend Raffle to be held @ 9:00 pm. Join us!</p>
<p>Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>12:00 to 4:00 pm</p> <p>GreenUP Ecology Park</p>	<p><b>Annual Ecology Park spring plant &amp; veggie sale</b></p> <p>This is our biggest sale of the year and the official opening Ecology Park's Garden Market! Come and support our park programs with purchases of quality veggie seedlings and a large variety of wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees which thrive in our region of Ontario and provide important habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Check out our online catalogue of species for a list of prices and descriptions.</p> <p>'C'est Chaud Pizza' will once again be at this event serving delicious wood-fired pizzas made with local ingredients.</p>

## Other Events of Interest cont'd

<p>Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup></p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>Thicksons Woods, Whitby</p>	<p><b>Dog-strangling vine removal at Thicksons Woods</b></p> <p>Rain Date: Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the gates to the meadow along Thickson Road at 8:00 am. We are starting early since the sun rises shortly after 5:00 am on these longest days of the year, and it can get hot by mid-morning. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, a small, strong, sharpened round-mouthed spade, perhaps a lawn chair, and determination to defeat this unwanted intruder! Visit <a href="http://www.thicksonwoods.com">www.thicksonwoods.com</a> for more information.</p> <p>Swallow-wort or dog-strangling vine is related to milkweed. However, monarch larvae hatched from eggs laid on the plant aren't able to survive feeding on its leaves. So not only does the plant proliferate to choke out desirable native plants, resulting in an impenetrable monoculture, it's a hazard to the breeding success of monarchs already under stress in many other ways.</p>
<p>September 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> or September 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> or October 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b>2016 Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshops</b></p> <p>Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, these stimulating, hands-on workshops explore the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi found in Southern Ontario. Suitable for all levels. Maximum of 12 individuals per workshop.</p> <p>This year there is a choice between 3-day and 5-days sessions. Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Register early to avoid disappointment (there are waiting lists each year). Details at <a href="http://www.queensu.ca/qubs/events-and-outreach">www.queensu.ca/qubs/events-and-outreach</a>.</p> 
<p>Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup></p> <p>9:00 am to 3:30 pm</p> <p>Thicksons Woods, Whitby</p>	<p><b>Birds, Beavers &amp; Butterflies Nature Festival</b></p> <p>This year we are very excited to announce that two of the most popular attractions, missing last year, are expected to be back! Amazing magician Warren Toaze will confound and astound one and all with his sleight of hand. Geologist Norbert Woerns will share his extensive knowledge of rocks and minerals with the budding rock hounds at this fall's festival. Of course there will be many other exciting things to experience in the out-of-doors. Visit <a href="http://www.thicksonswoods.com">www.thicksonswoods.com</a> for more information.</p>

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

Submission deadline for the June issue is **Wednesday, May 25th**.

Send submissions to Marla Williams via email: [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)

or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7





**Membership Renewals:** PFN memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> 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	Lynn Smith	<a href="mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net">smithfam@nexicom.net</a>	944-5599	Membership Secretary	Jim Young	760-9397
Vice President	Kim Zippel	<a href="mailto:kimzippel@nexicom.net">kimzippel@nexicom.net</a>	740-0587	Orchid Editor	Marla Williams 874-5653 <a href="mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org">orchid@peterboroughnature.org</a>	
Secretary	Martin Parker	<a href="mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca">mparker19@cogeco.ca</a>	745-4750	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas	
Treasurer	Don Pettypiece	<a href="mailto:don.pettypiece@gmail.com">don.pettypiece@gmail.com</a>	750-1145	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin 749-3639 <a href="mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com">pfnjuniors@gmail.com</a>	
Program (indoor)	Phil Shaw	<a href="mailto:pshaw78@hotmail.com">pshaw78@hotmail.com</a>	874-1688	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Don Finigan	
Program (indoor)	Marie Duchesneau	<a href="mailto:duchesneau13@hotmail.com">duchesneau13@hotmail.com</a>	874-5739	Orchid Diary	Martin Parker	745-4750
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	<a href="mailto:paulelliott@trentu.ca">paulelliott@trentu.ca</a>	740-0501	Miller Creek Management	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young	
Harper Park, Stewardship	Rene Gareau	<a href="mailto:rene.gareau@sympatico.ca">rene.gareau@sympatico.ca</a>	741-4560	Advocacy Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Marilyn Hubley	
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	<a href="mailto:webmaster@peterboroughnature.org">webmaster@peterboroughnature.org</a>	740-2081	Peterborough Christmas Bird Count	Martin Parker	
Ontario Nature Rep	Ted Vale	<a href="mailto:tedandmarion@sympatico.ca">tedandmarion@sympatico.ca</a>	741-3641	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball	
Special Projects	Marilyn Hubley	<a href="mailto:maykeema@hotmail.com">maykeema@hotmail.com</a>	760-9378	Petroglyphs Christmas Bird Count	Colin Jones	
Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7						

## New Bird Houses at Miller Creek Wildlife Area

Submitted by Martin Parker

Through the efforts of Brian Wales, Jim Cashmore and Martin Parker, new bird houses have been erected in the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area, owned by the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority. Members who have visited the property, either on club outings or privately over the past few years, have noticed the dilapidated condition of the nest boxes.

This winter PFN member Brian Wales constructed new bird boxes, for cavity nesting birds, for the Miller Creek property. Wales constructed ten new bird boxes, two boxes suitable for Great Crested Flycatcher, four for Tree Swallow, and four for House Wren/Black-capped Chickadee. On April 14<sup>th</sup> Brian was accompanied by Jim Cashmore and Martin Parker, and the three spent a couple of hours at Miller Creek removing the old boxes and erecting the new nest boxes.

The Great Crested Flycatcher boxes were installed within the woods on the property. The Tree Swallow boxes were installed on the existing posts in the open meadow, and the wren/chickadee boxes were placed in the edge of wooded areas. It is hoped that these boxes will be utilized by cavity nesters at Miller Creek in the upcoming breeding season.



## **PFN Trip Report: Birds of the Lakeshore – a tradition to continue in memory of Tony Bigg**

### **Submitted by Lynn Smith**

On March 26<sup>th</sup> a party of eight headed south on Highway 28 through mist and fog. As Martin predicted, the fog cleared and the sun shone as we passed over the Oak Ridges Moraine. However, on reaching Cobourg Harbour the wind had a bite to it and fog and mist still hung over the water. Despite the challenging conditions Horned Grebe, Long-tailed Ducks, Trumpeter Swan, Scaup, Bufflehead, Canada Geese, Mallards, a possible Black Duck-Mallard hybrid, and Song Sparrow were all identified.



We continued west along the lakeshore, stopping at a variety of spots from Port Hope to Bond Head where we had lunch. Some highlights identified included Horned Larks, Killdeer, male and female Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawks, Kestrels, Loons, Common Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers (**photo, left, courtesy of Martin Parker**) and Common Goldeneye.

We headed north to the pond at Garden Hill; those with scopes perused a couple of thousand Canada Geese, looking for a surprise Cackling Goose or Greater White-fronted Goose. It was not to happen. However, a Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, a Bufflehead, Scaup and Black Duck were seen amongst the geese.

We made our way along Scriven Road and Nicholson Road. Jerry Ball had a feeder or two to check on Assumption Road to round out the species list with Goldfinch, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finches.

As we pointed our binoculars onto the feeders, the landowner came out to have a word with us. He had a picture on his phone to ID (Kestrel) and he described to us a mystery species that still remains a mystery. He was very appreciative, invited us back anytime, **and** to top off the day his wife brought out delicious, fresh-from-the-oven muffins for us to enjoy! What unexpected hospitality! With our hearts and tummies warmed we concluded that a great day was had by all.

## **PFN Trip Report: A Night of Salamanders and Frogs**

**Submitted by Shari Paykarimah, Land Stewardship & Volunteer Coordinator, Kawartha Land Trust**  
**Photos courtesy of Basil Conlin**

Kawartha Land Trust's (KLT's) Ingleton-Wells property is located on the North Shore of Stoney Lake and was donated to KLT in December of 2011. The 80-acre property is known to be one of the most important sites for First Nations in the area, second to Quakenbush and Petroglyphs Provincial Park. The property has trails that are regularly maintained by KLT Stewards and are open to the public, year-round.

On April 21st over 20 people gathered at KLT's Ingleton-Wells property to search for migrating salamanders. The search was led by Martin Parker. It was a beautiful evening with ideal weather conditions for finding salamanders as they move towards their breeding pools. Both Blue-spotted (**photo, right**) and Red-backed Salamanders were found under logs, large masses of Blue-spotted and Spotted Salamanders and Wood Frog eggs were observed in the pond (**photo, right**), and many Spring Peepers were heard calling. Several different spring flowers were observed in bloom, including Sharp-lobed Hepatica and Dutchman's Breeches. To make things even more exciting a Barred Owl called several times throughout the evening and a Winter Wren was heard singing as the sun started to set.

KLT and PFN have a wonderful partnership and we hope to host more of these events together in the future. Thank you to everyone who was able to come out and experience the evening with us and for those who weren't able to make it, we hope to see you at our next outing.



## Request for used canoes, paddles, lifejackets and safety kits

Submitted by Lynn Smith

Situated in the heart of Algonquin Provincial Park, the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station (WRS) is a not-for-profit organization that, since 1944, has served as a base for many long-term research projects. It is a leader in field biology research and has contributed significantly to our understanding and conservation of species and ecosystems in Canada.

Annually the WRS hosts hundreds of college, university and graduate students. On the list of most essential equipment for doing field research is the canoe. Over the last 2 to 3 decades the fleet of canoes at WRS has withstood thousands of hours of use and many require replacement.

If you have a canoe, paddles, lifejackets and/or safety kits to donate, or would consider financial support, please contact Patrick Moldowan at [pmoldowan1@laurentian.ca](mailto:pmoldowan1@laurentian.ca).

## PFN Volunteer Corner



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

Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>: The Buckhorn Fine Art Festival was named one of the Top 100 festivals of distinction for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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/>. 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](mailto:rene.gareau@sympatico.ca) or 705-741-4560.

## The Bug In Our Window

Poem and photo submitted by Murray Palmer

To photograph you I kept you in a cooled pill vial overnight.  
It usually makes insects sluggish, but you pushed toward the light  
Of the warm, late March afternoon sun that beckoned you outside.  
You don't know what a window is; you're persistence animified.  
With appendages outstretched you measure more than an inch;  
A macro lens with extension tube attached makes it a cinch  
To frame your enlarged image from only a few inches away ...  
To see you up close and personal, I know what some might say:  
You're a Western Conifer Seed Bug, a pest of forest and field.  
How could I squish you when your attire so handsomely appealed?  
As in leaf-footed bugs, your tibiae have a leaf-like, flattened plate  
That you wield against other males fighting to try to win a mate.  
You have a piercing beak to suck sap from, say, spruce or pine  
Flowers and cones, causing withering, and germination to decline.  
In Ontario since '85, your species spread from the temperate West.  
You've reached Nova Scotia and beyond in your invasive quest.  
By early fall you and older nymphs sought shelter in our home.  
Now you want to do what seed bugs do, you sappy, sap gastronome.



Photo: Canon 7D body with Tamron AF 90 mm F/2.8 MACRO lens, Canon Extension Tube EF 25 II. ISO 6400, 1/400 sec., f/11, M mode; handheld with elbows propped.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2016

## Mothing Part Two: Opportunities abound in spring!

Submitted by Basil Conlin

As soon as the temperatures reach above the freezing point, moths in our area begin to emerge. Several species can be found flying even before the first frogs begin to call. The first moth I encountered this year was a tortricid moth in the genus *Acleris*, found on a brisk night on March 13<sup>th</sup> at my light trap. Many micro moths in the genus *Acleris* and *Plutella* are common 'first of the season' moths.

The first moths and butterflies that appear in Peterborough County have overwintered in the adult form. They find tight crevices to hide in, or burrow under leaves and bark. Many can survive freezing temperatures for long periods at a time. On warm days in late March and April, many people are familiar with the mourning cloak and eastern comma, two butterflies that overwinter as adults. Other butterfly species found in the Kawarths that overwinter include the Compton tortoiseshell and the Milbert's tortoiseshell, both relatives of the mourning cloak and comma.



Many more genera of moths than butterflies can be found in the early spring. At my lights so far this season, the most common macro moths have been the speckled green fruitworm moth (*Orthosia hibisci*), and groate's sawfly (*Copivaleria grotei*), both in the noctuidae family, and the halfwing (*Phigalia titea* – **photo, left, taken this April at Trent University**) and its very close lookalike the smaller, less strikingly patterned small phigalia (*Phigalia strigataria*), both geometridae. These moths are attracted in decent numbers to white lights and moth bait; I counted 45 *Orthosia hibisci* at my light on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in one hour! The herald (*Scoliopteryx libatrix*) is a beautiful purplish grey moth with ember-

like red speckling on its forewings. This moth has a very wide range and can be found across North America and Eurasia, flying most of the year.

One particularly striking group of moths to watch for in early spring is the noctuid genus *Xylena*, the swordgrass moths. One species that is particularly uncommon in eastern North America but can be found in some numbers in Peterborough County is the American swordgrass moth (*Xylena nupera* – **photo, right, from Trent University in April**). This robust species feeds on a variety of trees and grasses, such as cherry and willow, and overwinters as an adult. Its striking forewing patterns are purplish brown with grassy yellow streaking and rich mahogany browns, resembling an antique piece of rustic furniture.



As we get into late April, the gorgeous moths of the genus *Feralia* make a short appearance, of which there are three species in our area. These moths have forewings that resemble moss and lichen, containing an intricate pattern of mosey greens, mint, black, white, subtle browns, and sea foam greys. They most likely overwinter as pupae and emerge in mid-late spring. Their larvae feed on trees such as tamarack, white pine, and spruce. These moths are fairly common at lights.

It will be a few weeks before the large and spectacular giant silk moths and sphinx moths begin showing up at lights (and in some unexpected places). Two members of this group, however, can occasionally be found in small numbers in late March through April; the lettered sphinx (*Deidamia inscripta*) and the Nessus sphinx (*Amphion floridensis*) both of the sphingidae subfamily macroglossinae (long-tongues). The subfamily name refers to the large proboscises these moths have in order to nectar on flowers. These moths have beautiful subtle patterning and scalloping on their wings that make them look like tiny pieces of gothic architecture. To attract these moths to your garden, plant grape and Virginia creeper, two favoured host plants for caterpillars, as well as early spring flowers to attract nectaring adults.

Other insects that tend to show up at lights during this season are the giant water bugs/toe biters (Belastomatidae), of which there are several species (three large and very similar looking ones occurring in our area); *Lithoceros americanus* and *Benacus griseus* and, occasionally, *Lithoceros uhleri*. These bugs also overwinter as adults in mud and emerge to breed in spring and can be found, sometimes in considerable numbers, at lights throughout spring and summer. Predacious diving beetles in the genus *Dytiscus* are always an impressive sight, particularly Harris's diving beetle (*Dytiscus harrisoni*), one of our largest beetles at 2 inches long with sleek greenish-black elytra margined with golden yellow. Other beetles including whirligig beetles (Gyrinidae), crawling water beetles (Haliplidae), and water scavenger beetles (Hydrophilidae); all tend to make an appearance at lights during this season.

It's always worth reminding moth watchers to submit their observations. Websites such as NationalMothWeek.org and BugGuide.net are great places to share your photographs and data with other naturalists and to expand our knowledge of species distribution. Facebook has several very helpful groups that anyone can join for help with species ID, such as "Mothing and Moth-Watching", "Ontario Moths", and "Moths of Eastern North America", all moderated by expert entomologists.

Happy moth-watching!

## **From The Archives – The Tree Bee Contest**

**Submitted by Martin Parker**

**From 'The Orchid', Volume 7, No. 3. March 1962:** "The Peterborough Nature Club (now Peterborough Field Naturalists) is happy to announce the first Annual Tree Bee to be held Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1962, in the P.C.V.S. Auditorium. 21 Teams with 3 students on each will compete. The teams will be grades 7 and 6 students from 8 public schools in the city.

These teams will register at 7 p.m. and the contest starts at 7:30. Other children, parents and spectators are also welcome. The contest consists of tree identification from slides and a general conservation quiz. There will be movies while the contest papers are being marked. The winning team is awarded a Tree Bee Cup for one year. There will also be other suitable prizes."

**From 'The Orchid', Volume 9, No. 4. April 1964:** "Imagine the majority of the Public Schools, not only in the City of Peterborough, but also in the Separate School system and the Rural School areas, studying a programme of Wildlife and Conservation. Think of the pool thus formed, from which the Nature Club could draw its future membership or form a branch of the Young Naturalists Club. Well, this imagining can become a reality in the near future, if we can have a successful competition this year.

Also the scope of the 'Tree-Bee' can be considerably enlarged to include topics other than Tree Identification and Conservation so that more Grades can participate and the field of study is broadened. Much of this expansion would of course depend on teachers willing to give time and energy above the call of duty. The arrangements for this year's competition are now almost complete. Time and place – 7:30 P.M., P.C.V.S. Auditorium, Friday, April 17. Fifteen teams are expected to compete, with three students on a team.

The prizes will be for both team and individual efforts. The Peterborough Lumber Trophy, presented two years ago by Mr. H. Doolittle will be awarded for Tree Identification, with individuals prizes, donated by the Peterborough Examiner and the Otonabee Conservation Authority (OCA), going to the members of the first three teams. The Fish and Game Association are going to donate a trophy for the best team effort on Conservation and Tree Use. The Peterborough Board of Education will donate the prizes for individual excellence in this class with the OCA assisting. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists have given a Gunn record 'Songs of Spring' and our Club's donation of three memberships in the Junior Naturalists Club will round out the prize list very appropriately.

In addition to the competition we will have a speaker on local conservation activity from the Otonabee Conservation Authority. Mr. Doug Sadler, our President, will chair the proceedings while Mr. D. Hynes and

Mr. Nichols, the Superintendant and Inspector of Public Schools, Mr. Doolittle of Peterborough Lumber Co. and the President of the Fish and Game Association will present the prizes.

Although the programme got off to a late start this year, there has been a good response from the Public Schools, six of them participating, two would have done so, but too much work with other school activities. However there is a promise for next year."

## **House finches at your feeder? A Trent Ph.D. student wants you!**

**Submitted by Simon Tapper, Ph.D. student, Department of Environmental and Life Sciences, Trent University**

The house finches of North America are an interesting sort of bird. Come autumn, after all eggs have been laid and fledglings fledged, and when the vast majority of birds from across North America are heading south for the winter, including house finches, a good chunk of the Ontarian house finch population sticks around for the long, cold Canadian winter.

This phenomenon, whereby some members of the same population migrate, while others remain resident, is known as partial migration. Partial migration is actually very common in the animal kingdom, occurring across a wide range of taxa including fish, mammals, and birds.

Partial migration is thought to be an evolutionary precursor to full-scale migration, and researchers studying partial migration have found that migratory disposition (i.e. whether to migrate or to stay) has an underlying genetic component. However, researchers have also found that individual differences, such as sex, age, and size, can modulate migratory disposition. More recently, researchers have found a link between the immune system and the tendency to migrate.

For my PhD thesis, I hope to uncover some of the reasons leading to these differences in migratory disposition, and I will do this by looking for patterns in the underlying physiology of both 'resident' and 'migrant' house finches.

So, how will I investigate house finch physiology? I will do this by capturing birds and taking a small blood sample in order to examine an array of bio-markers related to immunity and stress. How will I determine migratory strategy (i.e. resident vs. migrant)? Geographic regions vary in their relative proportions of stable isotopes, and scientists can read these ratios (called 'isotopic signatures') - in the material being studied - in order to determine relative location. In birds, these isotopic signatures become incorporated into body tissues, namely the feathers and toenails, as they ingest the local flora. Thus, I will take feathers and small toenail clippings in order to determine where the bird has been residing over the past winter.

How can you help me? Well, arguably the most important part of my project consists of finding and catching the birds!

My current plan is to put up bird feeders around Trent campus, and/or urban parks, and bait them with seeds that attract finches (e.g. Black Oil Sunflower, Nyger). Once the finches are drawn toward the feeder, I will catch them in mist-nets, or walk-in cages, which will be placed around the feeders. After they are caught in the net or trap, I will quickly take a small blood sample, some body measurements, some feathers and toenails, and then release.

However, for those of you who already have feeders set up around your house and regularly receive house finches, I'd love to be able to catch the birds right in your very own backyard! This would greatly help with my sampling effort - both in terms of finding the house finches and the number of total birds captured - the more birds the better. Therefore, if you'd like to help me with my project this summer, please contact me at [simontapper@trentu.ca](mailto:simontapper@trentu.ca). Please let me know if you regularly receive house finches to your feeder, or have heard them in your area. In case you do not know what house finches look or sound like, take a look at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology webpage: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House\\_Finch/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/House_Finch/id)

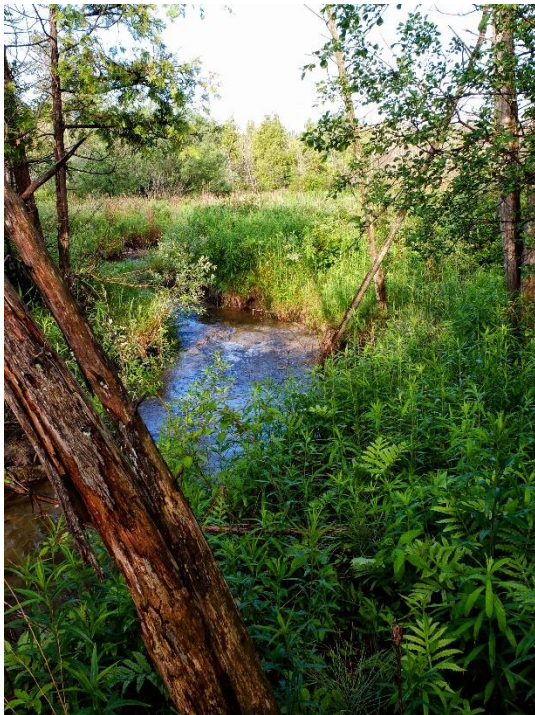
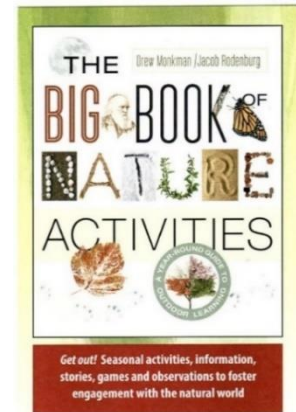
Your help will be most appreciated! Thank you.

**“Book” some time for nature activities this summer...  
and for every season!**

Congratulations to Drew Monkman and Jacob Rodenburg on the upcoming release of their new book entitled “The Big Book of Nature Activities”!

Drew is a longtime PFN member and past PFN President, while Jacob is the Executive Director of the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre and an avid supporter of the PFN’s mission and activities.

Young and old alike, we are all encouraged to “Get out!” and foster a closer engagement with the natural world.



Harper Park, June 2013,  
Courtesy of Craig Bogden

**Harper Park  
Submitted by Murray Palmer**

If 'Peterborough's A Natural' as it sees itself styled,  
Then let it not neglect what is lovely and wild.  
A city-owned green space tucked into the city's southwest,  
It begs the question of whether planners chose best  
To build a casino with more building to follow.  
Such a money-driven approach is careless and hollow.

What enlightened city leaders wouldn't give for the dream  
Of possessing assets like wetlands and a cold water stream?  
Where one can commune with Nature and heal one's mind,  
Harper Park is such a place like few others to find  
Brook trout, various flycatchers... scarce things of all kind.  
Let's not spoil paradise pushing 'progress' poorly defined!

Wouldn't it be prudent to improve our downtown core?  
There's no place in Peterborough that needs such help more.  
Our children will look back at us with scorn and disdain,  
And ask why we wasted natural treasure for short-sighted gain.  
Many people seem to feel that a casino is a necessary evil,  
But what's more fulfilling than to be at peace with life primeval?

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2016

**Province heeds science in commendable wolf and coyote hunt decision  
Reprinted from Ontario Nature**

Ontario Nature welcomed Ontario’s decision on April 4th to maintain current hunting regulations for Ontario’s northern wolves and coyotes. In December 2015, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry proposed to address declining moose populations by making it easier to kill wolves, removing any limit to the number of coyotes that could be killed by licensed hunters, and opening up the hunt to non-residents.

Ontario Nature and other organizations argued that science does not support predator control as a long-term, successful means of managing moose and other prey populations. There are many potential factors contributing to moose decline in Ontario in recent years. The one certain factor is hunting pressure by humans. Appropriately, the Province has been implementing changes to the hunting regime, and is seeking to better understand the causes of moose decline. Visit [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org) for more current events and announcements.



## 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](mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca) or phone (705) 745-4750.

April	The month of April showers this year was dominated by snow for the first two weeks with no accumulation. On April 26 snow arrived again. There were some days with warm and sunny weather.
FOY	First of Year – first report of this species this year on e-bird
March 23	Maureen Smith reported an <b>Eastern Bluebird</b> visited feeder for a short time near Warsaw.
March 25	Donald Sutherland had 4 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> on Little Lake.
March 26	4 <b>American Woodcock</b> were doing their courtship displays near Lynn Smith's residence near Cavan. Iain Rayner had a <b>Common Loon</b> and 4 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> off Birdsall Wharf, Rice Lake. Two still present the following day by Donald Sutherland.
March 27	Michael Gillespie had the first <b>Mourning Cloak</b> of the year near Keene. Jerry Ball & Martin Parker on Baker Road and other nearby roads off Hwy 507 in the north end of the Trent Lakes found 6 <b>Compton's Tortoiseshell</b> butterflies. Temperature was above 12C. Paul Frost had FOY <b>Wilson's Snipe</b> at Loggerhead Marsh. Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had a <b>Woodchuck</b> south of Buckhorn.
March 28	Michael Gillespie reported that <b>Spring Peepers</b> were very vocal in the Keene area. The warm weather the previous day was a stimulant. Don McLeod had a <b>Common Loon</b> flying over Lancaster Bay, Chemong Lake. Martyn Obbard reported two <b>Blue-spotted Salamanders</b> on roadway, heading north to the traditional breeding pond north of Sumcot Drive west of Buckhorn. Scott Gibson had an <b>Osprey</b> on Little Lake.
March 30	Jerry Ball had an <b>Eastern Phoebe</b> on Sandy Lake Road and an <b>Osprey</b> on the Indian River.
March 31	Martyn Obbard located a <b>Spotted Salamander</b> (with yellow spots) heading to a breeding pond off Sumcot Drive, Buckhorn.
April 1	Basil Conlin had <b>Painted Turtles</b> on the Old Norwood Road and heard <b>Spring Peepers, Western Chorus Frogs &amp; Wood Frogs</b> at the same location. Iain Rayner had a FOY <b>American Bittern</b> in Barnardo Park.
April 2	Dave Hueft observed and photographed a <b>Chipping Sparrow</b> in his yard. An early date. Ernie Basciano reported his first <b>Great Blue Heron</b> of the year just south of Peterborough. Erica Nol had FOY <b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b> on Gilmour Street.
April 3	Meredith Clark had a <b>Mourning Cloak</b> in Burnham's Woods. Scott Gibson had a <b>Savannah Sparrow</b> in the Bissonnette Drive area of the city. On the PFN Sunday morning outing, under the leadership of Jerry Ball, found large numbers of <b>Tree Swallows</b> along the Otonabee River. One group was sitting in a snowy cedar with snow on their backs. They also had a <b>Swamp Sparrow</b> and 3 <b>Eastern Phoebes</b> in Douro Township. Don MacLeod observed mating <b>Virile Crayfish</b> in Lancaster Bay, lower Chemong Lake. He observed this behaviour again on April 13.
April 4	Rick Stankiewicz had a <b>Northern Harrier</b> near Assumption and in response to posting on ptbosightings other observers were finding this species in the region on this date. As early as April 1 by Martyn Obbard near Centre Line of Smith and Woodland Drive.
April 7	Jim Cashmore reported a <b>Purple Finch</b> invasion with 12 to 15 individuals at his feeder, including 4 brightly-coloured males. Others reported an influx of Purple Finches on this date. Toni Sinclair reported a pair of <b>Common Loons</b> arrived on Buckhorn Lake near 6 Mile Point. Colin Jones FOY 3 <b>Ruddy Ducks</b> & 12 <b>Double-crested Cormorants</b> near Serpent Mounds Park.
April 5	Jerry Ball had 3 <b>Wilson's Snipe</b> in the Buckley Lake area. Missed on the outing the previous Sunday.

April 8	Bill Snowden noted the <b>Osprey</b> has returned to the nest at Emerald Road/Herrington Line. Bill also reported Buckhorn Lake is high and the run-off streams are running backward. Many observers are reporting large number of <b>Pine Siskins</b> at their feeders. Rob Welsh had over 50 at his feeders on Stoney Lake and Drew Monkman had about 60 at his feeders. At the members' meeting many reported an April influx of this species.
April 9	Donald Sutherland observed in the vicinity of Serpent Mounds Park an <b>American Bittern</b> . Sheelagh Hysenaj reported that an <b>Osprey</b> returned to the nesting platform just off the Young's Point Bridge.
April 10	Luke Berg spotted a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> east of Bridgenorth during the PFN Sunday morning outing.
April 11	Stevi Dulmage observed a <b>Red Fox</b> cross the Lakefield Hwy south of Trent University.
April 13	Donald Sutherland had FOY <b>Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler &amp; Vesper Sparrow</b> along the Rotary Trail at Trent U. Drew Monkman reported that a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> was singing in his yard. Martyn Obbard, the provincial bear expert, reviewed at the members' meeting a visit by a <b>Black Bear</b> to his property.
April 14	<b>Western Chorus Frogs</b> were calling at the Miller Creek Wildlife Area by Martin Parker. Jerry Ball visited the Sandy Lake Road area north of Havelock and found 1 <b>Eastern Comma</b> and 1 <b>Mourning Cloak</b> (butterflies) and singing <b>Northern Leopard Frogs, Spring Peepers</b> and <b>Western Chorus Frogs</b> . Basil Conlin had a <b>Mourning Cloak</b> at Nicholls Oval and <b>Eastern Comma</b> at Burnham's Woods. Kathy Darevic had a FOY <b>Rough-legged Hawk</b> near the intersection of Hwy 115 and Cty Rd 28.
April 15	Martin Parker had 2 <b>Northern Leopard Frogs</b> calling at the KLT Dance Property near Selwyn. Sean Smith observed a mating ball of <b>Eastern Garter Snakes</b> in Burnham's Woods Park. He felt there were approximately 6 individuals in the ball. He also had 2 <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> on the pond to the northwest of the corner of Television Road and Hwy 7. Jerry Ball found the following butterflies along roads off Highway 507 north of Buckhorn – Charlie Allen Road – 6 <b>Compton Tortoiseshell</b> , Galway/Cavendish Forest Access Road – 4 <b>Eastern Comma</b> , 2 <b>Mourning Cloak</b> , & 2 <b>Compton Tortoiseshell</b> , Cedarwood Drive – 1 <b>Compton Tortoiseshell</b> , Pencil Lake Road – 1 <b>Mourning Cloak</b> , and Lou Phillips Drive – 1 <b>Mourning Cloak</b> . On a pond off the Galway/Cavendish Forest Access Road he had 46 <b>Painted Turtles</b> . Basil Conlin had a <b>Red-bellied Snake</b> at the Trent U Nature Sanctuary. Matthew Garvin had FOY 5 <b>Barn Swallows</b> in the Ennismore area. Erica Nol had FOY <b>Field Sparrow</b> along Rotary Trail at Dafoe. Daniel Williams had FOY <b>Hermit Thrush</b> in Beavermead Park.
April 16	Sue Paradis at the intersection of the Lakefield Hwy and Woodland Drive heard <b>Spring Peepers &amp; Western Chorus Frogs</b> . She also encountered an <b>Eastern Garter Snake</b> mating ball on the side of roadway. When she stepped back they reacted by disappearing into holes along the side the roadway. The participants of the PFN frog and woodcock outing heard lots of <b>Spring Peepers &amp; Wood Frogs</b> . Several <b>Wood Frogs</b> were observed in a roadside pond. <b>American Woodcock</b> displayed. Chris Ellingwood had FOY <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> along Bass Lake Road in Trent Lakes. FOY <b>Bonaparte's Gulls</b> by Scott Gibson at Pengelley Point on Rice Lake. FOY 12 <b>Caspian Tern</b> & 4 <b>Purple Martins</b> by Donald Sutherland at Islandview Drive. Luke Berg photographed FOY 2 <b>Greater</b> & 1 <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> on pond on Indian Line. Ian Sturdee had FOY <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> in the Cardova Lake area.
April 17	Sue Paradis reported that <b>Sharp-lobed Hepatica</b> is blooming in her wildflower garden and the <b>trilliums</b> are poking out of the ground. Luke Berg had FOY <b>Virginia Rail</b> at Herkimer Point (Rice Lake) and FOY <b>American Coot</b> near Serpent Mounds Park. Michael Oldham had FOY <b>Brown Thrasher</b> in the Auburn area of Peterborough.
Owling	Two separate groups went owling. Matthew Tobey, Neil Campbell & Martin Parker in the northern part of Selwyn municipality saw two <b>Barred Owls</b> and heard a <b>Great Horned Owl</b> and 2 <b>Eastern Screech Owls</b> . In Trent Lakes Luke Berg had a <b>Saw-whet Owl</b> and a <b>Barred Owl</b> .

April 18	FOY <b>Northern Waterthrush</b> in the Bensfort Bridge area by Donald Sutherland. FOY <b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b> in Airport area by Matthew Tobey.
April 19	Mike Burrell & Donald Sutherland had a <b>Northern Waterthrush</b> along Tara Road in former Ennismore Twp. Sean Smith located a <b>Ruddy Duck</b> on the Lakefield Lagoon. Was seen by others later. Sue Paradis and Meredith Clark checked out the vernal pools in the KLT Ingleton-Wells Property on the north side of Stoney Lake and found one pond teeming with eggs – <b>Wood Frog</b> , <b>Blue-spotted Salamander</b> , & <b>Spotted Salamander</b> . There were lots of <b>Fairy Shrimp</b> and insect larvae. They also found blooming <b>Sharp-lobed Hepatica</b> and <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b> , <b>Pileated Woodpecker</b> , & <b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b> . FOY <b>Common Gallinule</b> was found in the Fairburn Street wetland by Warren Dunlop and others.
April 20	Paul Frost found FOY <b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> at Loggerhead Marsh, Peterborough. Bill Snowden reported <b>Bloodroot</b> (flower) are in full bloom with some petals dropping and <b>Hepatica</b> is almost open in the southern part of Buckhorn Lake. He also noted 4 <b>Greater Yellowlegs</b> in a pond in the same area. He also cleaned out his bird boxes and <b>Tree Swallows</b> are already investigating. Jerry Ball had <b>Pine Warbler</b> on West Kosh Road. Warren Dunlop had FOY <b>Eastern Towhee</b> in the Cavan Swamp.
April 21	Bill Crins had 2 <b>Red-breasted Mergansers</b> on Little Lake. Matthew Galvin and Warrant Dunlop reported a <b>Northern Mockingbird</b> in Rotary Park east of the London Street pedestrian bridge. FOY <b>Sora</b> by Chris Risley in the Johnston Drive area.
April 22	Most recent sighting of a pair of <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> on Lancaster Bay, Chemong Lake by Don McLeod. They had been present periodically for the previous 4 weeks.
April 25	FOY <b>Palm Warbler</b> in Rotary Park by Basin Conlin.
April 26	Donald Sutherland had FOY <b>Black-and-White Warbler</b> on the Rotary Trail at Trent U.
April 27	Luke Berg spotted a <b>Red Crossbill</b> flying over his yard in the city. He also had a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> near Lock 25 on the Otonabee River.
<i>Please submit your interesting sightings to <a href="mailto:mparker19@cogeco.ca">mparker19@cogeco.ca</a></i>	

Right: Wood Frog mating ball,  
Trent U Nature Areas, April 14

~ Submitted by Basil Conlin



Left: "Salamander Search Party",  
Ingleton/Wells Property, April 21

~ Submitted by Shari Paykarimah



# PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

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

## membership application form

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

### CONTACT

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

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐      2. Single Student \$15 ☐      3. Single Child\* (age 5-12) \$10 ☐  
4. Family (couple or family with children\*) \$30 ☐

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

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

### MAIN INTERESTS

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

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

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

### I am interested in the following:

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

### AGE GROUP

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

<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: \_\_\_\_\_