

The Orchid

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All its Forms



American Pipit, 12th Line Dummer, October 7th ~ Submitted by Randy Smith

Inside:

Skulls' Secrets
Show and Tell in December
Meet Artemis and Kallisto
Nothing Part Five: Fall Fanciers
Nature Relatedness in Peterborough



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Welcome New PFN Members!


Elaine Rutherford

Paul Mathers & Sharon McGee

Top: Blackpoll Warbler, Whitby Harbour, October 15th ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom

Bottom: Monarch butterfly, Selwyn Beach, September 1st ~ Submitted by Basil Conlin

Right: Monarch tagging at Presqu'île Provincial Park, August 27th ~ Submitted by Martin Parker

Coming Events	
<p>Wednesday November 9th</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: The Art of Falconry</p> <p>Come and meet Artemis, a Harris Hawk, and Kallisto, a European Kestrel, along with their trainer Jeff Wiltshire and learn about the art of falconry.</p> <p>Jeff is a graduate from the University of Guelph in Wildlife Biology and has worked since graduation at the MNRF in a variety of technical and biologist positions. Introduced to the sport of falconry in 2009 while he was the MNRF representative on the Provincial Falconry Advisory Committee, Jeff got his first bird, Artemis, in the fall of 2010. Artemis is a Harris Hawk and Jeff has hunted rabbits with her every winter since. Last July Jeff acquired his second bird, Kallisto, a European Kestrel, and is still in the process of training.</p>
<p>Sunday November 27th</p> <p>1:00 pm</p> <p>Tim Horton's parking lot, Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough</p>	<p>Wave Riders of Rice Lake</p> <p>Join Martin Parker for this traditional Grey Cup afternoon exploration of sites along the northwestern shore of Rice Lake. We will be looking for the later migrating ducks and other birds. Highlights will be the rafts of ducks riding the waves and the scenic vistas overlooking Rice Lake. Bring binoculars, telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day. The trip will last until the late afternoon and CFL fans will be home in time for the Grey Cup game.</p>
<p>Saturday December 3rd</p> <p>7:00 am</p> <p>Tim Horton's parking lot, Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough</p>	<p>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</p> <p>This day trip will be a birding outing to the Niagara River, a designated Important Birding Area due to the variety and number of gulls which utilize the river in late fall. More species can be observed in a day than anywhere else in the world! There will be thousands of gulls consisting of ten or more species. Besides the gulls there will be other waterbirds, and southern specialties such as Tufted Titmouse. The leaders for this outing will be Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>The trip will start from Peterborough with a secondary gathering location at the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston. If you are planning to meet the group at Queenston please advise Martin in advance (705-745-4750).</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, camera and telescope if you have one. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the Niagara River on this day.</p> <p>This outing will end in the Niagara Region in the late afternoon. For those wishing to spend the weekend at Niagara, the secondary meeting location at Queenston gives you the opportunity.</p> <div>  </div> <p>Herring Gull, Otonabee River, March 29, 2015 ~ Submitted by Dave Milsom</p>

Coming Events cont'd	
<p>Wednesday December 14th</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Members' Slide Show Night</p> <p>The members' slide show held at our December monthly meeting is a highly-anticipated annual PFN tradition. Show fellow PFN members your photos of a recent trip. Display those great nature moments or wildlife encounters that you've recently experienced. This is your night to 'show and tell'!</p> <p>Contact Jim Young at jbyoung559@gmail.com or phone 705-760-9397 to add your name to the list. Sharing your photos and your narrative makes for an interesting and educational evening for all.</p> <p>Sharing some Christmas baking is also part of the December PFN tradition, so please don't feel shy about bringing a goodie or two!</p>
<p>Friday January 20th, 2017</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>Peterborough Naval Association, 24 Whitlaw Street</p>	<p>Join us for PFN's 76th Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Keep up to date on PFN business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation!</p> <p>Tickets are just \$35 for the evening, and can be reserved by contacting Jim Young at 705-760-9397 or email jbyoung559@gmail.com.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open at 5:30 pm; meal begins at 6:00 pm • Meeting at 7:00 pm, followed by raffle at 7:30 pm • Keynote speaker begins at 8:00 pm <p>The AGM Keynote Speaker is Leora Burman, Corporate Founder and CEO of the organization "The Land Between". Leora's talk will focus on the last natural landscape in southern Ontario, and what the organization has achieved during the last 10 years.</p>
<p>Wednesday February 8th</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: A Salamander Soiree</p> <p>Matt Ellerbeck, also known as the Salamander Man, is a Salamander Conservationist licensed with the Ontario MNRF and a partner of the Amphibian Survival Alliance, which is the world's largest partner for amphibian conservation.</p>
<p>Wednesday March 8th</p> <p>7:30 pm</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Mothing in Peterborough</p> <p>Peterborough resident and moth enthusiast Basil Conlin has embarked on a personal project to document moths living in the city of Peterborough. Thus far Basil has found and identified 560 species!</p>
PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)	
<p>We are looking forward to a skulls identification workshop (for kids) on Sunday, November 6th. Susan Chow will teach us how to identify the skulls of animals found in Ontario. We will learn about clues that biologists use to determine whether the skull belongs to a predator or prey species, the type of foods the animal ate, how it moved around, how old the animal was, whether it had any injuries, and more. Registration is required for this event.</p> <p>Also, join us on Sunday, December 18th, starting at 10am, at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre for the annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count. After birding we'll head inside for a puppet show and songs with Glen Caradus of the Paddling Puppeteers. Friends are welcome to join us, but please note that registration is required. Please see details in the Juniors' event listings at http://www.peterboroughnature.org/junior/.</p> <p>To register for one or both of these events, please email Lara at pfnjuniors@gmail.com.</p>	

Other Events of Interest	
<p>Friday November 4th</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Guest Services Building, Riverview Park & Zoo</p>	<p>Peterborough Astronomical Association monthly meeting</p> <p>For more information on their monthly meetings (November is the 'Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve and some historic Irish Observatories' by Sean Dunne), please visit www.peterboroughastronomy.com.</p> <p>Novice astronomy classes are underway at the Riverview Zoo. The monthly classes are designed for novice backyard stargazers. Start time is 6:00 pm in the Rotary Education Centre at the Riverview Zoo. Novice meetings last approximately 60 minutes, after which the regular 2-hour PAA meeting will take place. Bring a notebook, pencil or pen, and your sense of curiosity! Contact John Crossen at 705-657-7717 or johnstargazer@nexicom.net for details.</p>
<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>Lion's Centre 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society monthly meeting</p> <p>The Peterborough Horticultural Society meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Lions Centre, 347 Burnham Street, Peterborough. Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing; the meeting begins at 7 pm. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, \$2 guest. All are welcome and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit www.peterboroughhort.com.</p> <p>November 23rd - Bugs in the Garden, Professor David Beresford, Trent University</p>
<p>Thursday November 10th</p> <p>6:30 to 8:00 pm</p> <p>The Chapel at the Mount Community Centre 1545 Monaghan Road, Peterborough</p>	<p>You are invited to KLT's annual Thanks.Giving Event!</p> <p>Please join the Kawartha Land Trust as they thank their dedicated and generous volunteers & donors, highlight this year's accomplishments, and share their vision for protecting more of the land you love in the Kawarthas. Mingling begins at 6:30 pm, with presentations at 7:00. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Please RSVP at www.kawarthalandtrust.org by November 1st if possible. For further details please call 705-743-5599 or email tking@kawarthalandtrust.org.</p>
<p>Tuesday November 15th</p> <p>Bagnani Hall, Traill College, Trent University</p> <p>7:00 pm to 9:00 pm</p>	<p>Animal Stories: Narrating the Nation - The Place of the Wolf in Canadian Narratives</p> <p>Dr. Stephanie Rutherford, associate professor, Environmental and Resource Studies discusses how animals occupy a complex and sometimes contradictory space in national narratives. Often in settler colonial countries like Canada, struggle with nonhuman nature is venerated as the vehicle through which national identity is born. At the same time, the animals that were so central to the making of Canada – both wild and domesticated – often act as spectral figures at the edges of historical change, erased from the places we might go in search of their pasts.</p> <p>However, the stories we tell about animals, and the ways they support particular ideas about the nation differently at different times, are a valuable archive that shows how narratives of the nation are anything but static. Using the metaphor of migration, this talk suggests that the history of wolves in Canada offers a particularly interesting way to conceptualize the shifting terrain of nationhood.</p>

Other Events of Interest cont'd

<p>Friday, February 10th, 2017</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston</p>	<p>2017 Forests Ontario Conference</p> <p>The Annual Conference is a unique opportunity for landowners, forest professionals, educators and those interested in the health of our forests to connect.</p> <p>Our forests are being greatly impacted as climate change, pests and development pressures push them to their limits. As society makes critical decisions regarding our forests, it is now more important than ever that we all understand the importance of this resource in a changing world. Join us as we discuss how it takes a forest to build healthy communities and a robust and prosperous society.</p> <p>Early bird registration runs from October 1st to December 31st. Registration is \$115 for non-members, \$80 for members and \$35 for students. Included with your registration is access to all sessions, coffee breaks, lunch, and the exhibitors. The silent auction is one of the highlights and an opportunity to fundraise for Forests Ontario programs.</p> <p>For more information visit http://www.forestsontario.ca/.</p>
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Orchid submissions are encouraged!

Submission deadline for the December issue is **Friday, November 25th**.

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



PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers		
President	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Membership Secretary	Jim Young	760-9397
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Program (indoor)	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	
Harper Park, Stewardship	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Advocacy Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Marilyn Hubley	
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Special Projects	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones	
Peterborough Field Naturalists 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 Trip Report: What a Difference a Week Makes! Submitted by Martin Parker; Photo courtesy of Robert Pratten

On Saturday, October 15th fourteen PFN members travelled to the hawk viewing platform at Cranberry Marsh at the south end of Hall's Road in Whitby. They spent about 2½ hours at the viewing platform watching for any hawks moving westward along the north shore of Lake Ontario.

Rayfield Pye, the official weekend hawk counter, provided an understanding of hawk watching and the history of counts at Cranberry Marsh. The winds were from the south on the day of the PFN outing, which unfortunately limited the number of hawks as the winds were blowing the hawks away from the lake.

PFN members managed to spot 5 species of hawks and relatives passing by the platform. There were 40 Turkey Vultures (most to the north), 2 Northern Harriers, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Cooper's Hawk, and 1 Red-tailed Hawk.



On Saturday, October 21st the results were vastly different.

The winds were from the north, blowing the hawks toward the lake. Hawks do not like migrating over large bodies of water because of the lack of updrafts to aid in their flight or glide. Hawks do more gliding than flapping.

The migration of hawks on October 22nd was inland from the shoreline of Lake Ontario. On this date the observers at the platform, which included Jerry Ball, observed a total of 12 species of hawks and falcons and a total of 754 individuals. October 22nd results include 487 Turkey Vultures, 5 Bald Eagles, 12 Northern Harriers, 53 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 5 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Northern Goshawks, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 160 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 3 Golden Eagles, 18 American Kestrel, 3 Merlin, 1 unidentified buteo, and 1 unidentified accipiter.

Checking the weather forecast to determine the wind direction is a good indicator of the magnitude of the movement of hawks and falcons.

A total of 4,518 hawks and falcons representing 16 species have been counted passing by the viewing platform, up to and including October 22nd. This is a must-visit location for those interested in viewing one of the highlights of the fall migration.

In terms of the PFN outing, the October 15th trip also observed about 50 American Pipits feeding on the mud flats of Cranberry Marsh, a late Blackpoll Warbler at Whitby Harbour, and at Thickson's Point 9 Brant and 121 American Wigeons.

PFN Volunteer Corner: Orchid Editor Needed!

Marla has greatly enjoyed volunteering as Orchid Editor over the last 3 years; however, she has decided to move on to new adventures.

Our Club is now looking for someone willing to volunteer as editor of the Orchid newsletter.

Marla can vouch that The Orchid is "a labour of love" and she is happy to help her successor with the transition. For more information on this position please contact Marla (orchid@peterboroughnature.org) or Lynn Smith (smithfam@nexicom.net).



66th Peterborough Christmas Bird Count – A Christmas Tradition – Sunday, December 18th

Submitted by Martin Parker

For experienced and beginning birders alike! Pre-registration is required.

The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 66th year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. The Peterborough CBC participants cover an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometres, centered on the intersection of Chemong Road and Sunset Boulevard in the City of Peterborough. This total count area is divided into smaller areas and a team of participants is assigned to each area. This is an all-day event.

The participants spend the day visiting various habitats within their area, recording both the number and the species of birds observed. At the end of the day all teams will gather at a local establishment for supper and swapping stories. The final results of the count will be compiled after the meal. All area teams are led by one or more experienced counters.

Plan to participate in this Christmas tradition! It is an excellent way to learn more about our wintering birds, and an unexpected species or two will highlight one's day.

To register contact Martin Parker (count compiler) as soon as possible by phone (705) 745 – 4750 or by e-mail to mparker19@cogeco.ca. More details in the next Orchid.

Volunteers Monitoring Wildlife

Article and photo submitted by Steven J. Kerr, Director – Environment, Jack Lake Association

Over the past three years (2014-2016), volunteers from the Jack Lake Association (JLA) have made a concerted effort to document turtle sightings. During that period of time we recorded observations of 155 individual turtles (3 different species) - many of which were nesting. We have recently summarized these observations in a short report. This information has also been provided to Ontario Nature's Herpetofaunal database, the Metro Zoo's Turtle Tally, and to local interest groups including the Peterborough Field Naturalists.

Number of Turtles Observed

Year	Blanding's Turtle	Midland Painted Turtle	Snapping Turtle
2014	2	32	12
2015	3	58	20
2016	5	14	16
Total	10	104	48



Prior to 2014 there were only 4 Blanding's Turtles (**photo, left**), 10 Midland Painted Turtles and 8 Snapping Turtles records in the database of the Ontario Herpetofaunal Survey.

Historic sightings of turtles in the Jack Lake watershed have been summarized in the 'Atlas of Fauna in the Jack Lake Watershed' (Kerr, S.J. 2016, Jack Lake Association, Apsley). It is hoped that continued efforts of the JLA volunteers will enable the additional accumulation of data from which to monitor and protect our turtles.

The JLA hope to continue these efforts in 2017. Any observations from PFN members will be welcome.

Editor's Note:

A copy of the summary prepared by Steve Kerr has been catalogued in the PFN's Doug Sadler Library at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. The summary can be reviewed at regular club meetings.

Staying up late at the Oliver Centre

Submitted by Lara Griffin, Junior Naturalists

Eight junior PFN members stayed up late for a chance to see Northern Saw-whet Owls up close and to observe the data collection process of the owl banding program. The program gathers information about the abundance and distribution of owls in Ontario to support research about their sensitivity to habitat change and fragmentation. The first group of families went on October 15th, which was a night with unseasonably mild weather. Two owls were caught that night. The second group went on October 22nd and caught five owls.



According to Evan, one of the guest owl banders, here is how it happens:

"There was a speaker set up in the middle of the forest and it was making a saw-whet owl sound and there was a net set up around it in a triangle. The sound attracted the owls and they flew into the net. Then we would go out every half an hour to see if there were any owls. We caught two. It was interesting to see how the net didn't damage the wings. When we got an owl we would go back to the station and we would weigh it, tag it, use a black light on the wing to see how old it was. We weighed them by putting them head first into a can without the sharp edges and put it on a scale. One owl was calm and another was more frisky. After we had measured them and stuff like that we would let them go. The kids played cards while waiting for the owls. It was nice."

A big thank you to Chris Risley, Erica Nol, David Copplestone and April Dejong for giving the Junior PFN members this wonderful chance to see the owls!

Environmental Awareness in Peterborough

Submitted by Martin Parker

Vital Signs is an annual report issued by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This report summarizes information from a wide variety of sources to provide a snapshot of the quality of life in Greater Peterborough, which includes the City, the County and the Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations Reserves. The following are excerpts from the report that relate to the mandate of the Peterborough Field Naturalists: to "know, appreciate and conserve nature in all its forms".

Conservation:

'Approximately 1 in 3 people in Greater Peterborough participated in voluntary activities to conserve or protect the environment in 2013, compared to 1 in 5 in Ontario.'

The main programs of the PFN such as wildlife outings, bird and butterfly counts, Orchid newsletter production and mailing, PFN Juniors, etc., all benefit from the willingness of members to volunteer their time and energy. These efforts are appreciated by all the members.

Parks & Green Spaces:

'Portion of people who live within a ten-minute journey of a park or green space:
81% in Greater Peterborough; 84% in Ontario; and 85% in Canada'

Any loss of parkland, and especially natural green spaces, makes it more difficult to access these areas. Recent public consultation by the City of Peterborough highlights the value of parks and green spaces to the residents of Peterborough, yet the area of Greater Peterborough falls below the provincial and the national averages. All our parks and natural areas need and deserve conservation and preservation.

Editor's note: Although it is unclear what mode of transportation is used to calculate the length of the "ten-minute journey" to parks and/or green space, there are many studies that demonstrate the physical, mental and emotional benefits of living in close proximity to green spaces. Close to home, Professor Lisa Nisbet at Trent University studies the relation between environmental and health benefits and connections with the natural environment ('nature relatedness'). To read some of Professor Nisbet's work, visit her website at www.naturerelatedness.ca.

From the Archives: The day lunch was spoiled by Rhea Bringeman

Submitted by Martin Parker

From The Orchid, Volume 37, No. 9, December 1991

"I was just putting lunch on the table, and about to call Stan, when he called me 'Would I please open the door'. On going, I found him standing with a wee something in his hand.
 'This little bird hit the window" he said.
 When I got a look at the wee chappie, it was a Golden-crowned Kinglet.
 He seemed all in one piece and just dazed.
 I put a drop of water on his bill and he swallowed, and several more.
 His dazed look was gradually disappearing and he began to eye us with more concentration.
 I thought about all the fruit flies in the porch window. Why not? I caught one, with a damp finger and put it on his beak. He ate it. Great! We thought. I spent the next few minutes catching fruit flies, while Stan held him.
 He ate a few with me putting them on his beak and then he began reaching for them and taking them himself.
 Stan released his hold and the kinglet stayed right there clinging to his finger and awaiting more goodies. I found a House Fly and that was really snapped up.
 Finally with a 'chip' and a buzz of wings, he was gone, so fast we could not see where he went and we went in to eat cold dried-up pasta with relish."

Editor's Note:

Rhea Bringemen and Stan Reiten were both long-term PFN volunteers, and both were recipients of the Lola Leach Award for their volunteer service with the PFN. An interesting personal encounter with one of our native birds!

PFN Supports Butterfly/Pollinator Garden

Submitted by Martin Parker

Using proceeds from the PFN Legacy Fund, a donation of \$250 has been made to The Mount Community Centre for the creation of a butterfly-pollinator garden on the property of The Mount.

Work has commenced on the establishment of the special garden, with the intent of providing an oasis and feeding location for butterflies, bees and a variety of other insects. The Peterborough Horticultural Society has also made a donation towards this garden, and members will provide the plant material. Students from the Lakefield College School provided much-appreciated student power to prepare the planting beds.

The PFN Legacy Fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough on behalf of the PFN. The initial contribution was from the bequest of Rhea Bringeman. This endowment fund provides an annual source of revenue to the PFN which is being used to fund special projects and initiatives. The donation to The Mount butterfly/pollinator garden is one of many projects supported this year. Contributions and/or bequests to the PFN Legacy Fund are welcome.

Scenes from Little Lake, Peterborough

Hooded Merganser,
 October 19th,
 Submitted by
 Dave Milsom

Meade Creek at
 Little Lake,
 October 2nd,
 Submitted by
 Jim Young



Mothing Part Five: Fall Fanciers

Article and photos submitted by Basil Conlin

October generally marks the end of insect season in Peterborough County. Of course, insects can be found at any time of the year, if one knows where to look! Giant silk moths spin large cocoons in which to pupate over winter. Many of our moths overwinter in the pupal stage and will emerge the following spring or summer, but some species also overwinter as eggs, adult moths, and caterpillars, which resume feeding as soon as the weather warms. The diversity of moths coming to lights diminishes considerably after the last week of August, but fall mothing offers many great opportunities. While species may not be as numerous in the fall, they are no less charismatic!

Members of the genus *Catocala*, the underwings, were absent from my lights after September 1st, when I saw my last white underwing (*Catocala relictata*). Altogether I saw 15 species of underwings this season, mostly during the final week of July. Many autumn moths feed on tree sap and sugary liquids, and are often better found using bait than using a UV light, as storing enough sugar to survive the cold nights ahead is a priority.

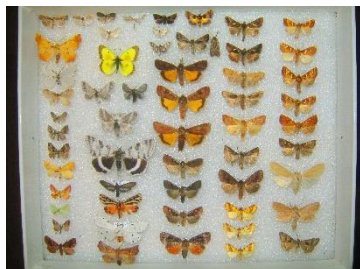
Fall moths arrived early for me this year; I was seeing ubiquitous species by August 22nd. I had my first large tolype moths (*Tolype valleda*) and larch tolypes (*Tolype laricis*) on August 22nd, and both were commonly seen until September 25th. Tolype moths are members of the Lasiocampidae family and related to the abundant eastern tent (*Malacosoma americana*) and forest tent caterpillars (*Malacosoma disstria*), which fly in June and July. They are stout, very hairy moths with wings that look small for their bodies. Tolypes also have a characteristic black 'mohawk' along their dorsal abdomen which some entomologists think may be used to conserve body heat.

Arguably the showiest moths to make their debut in the fall are the members of the Noctuidae genus *Papaipema*, also known as borer moths. These moths have beautiful, bronze orange wings marked with delicate white spots. Some species are dark or lack spots. We have 24 species present in Ontario, but many are very rare and have few records. I have encountered sensitive fern borer (*Papaipema*), meadow rue borer (*Papaipema unimoda*), bracken borer (*Papaipema pterisii*), loosestrife borer (*Papaipema lysimachiae*), and northern burdock borer (*Papaipema arctivorens*) at my lights, beginning on September 6th. As their names would suggest, many species in this genus bore into ferns and other plants including uncommon species such as wild indigo. This would account for the general scarcity and patchiness in the distribution of many moths in this genus.

Other beautiful and ubiquitous fall moths to watch for include Erebids such as the yellow collared scape moth (*Ciseps fulvicollis*), Noctuids such as the pink barred sallow (*Xanthia totago*), dingy cutworm (*Feltia jaculifera*) and greater black lettered dart (*Xestia dolossa*), and Geometers such as chain dotted geometer (*Cingilia catenaria*) and chickweed geometer (*Haemotopsis grataria*, **photo, right**), as well as several species of micromoths in the Tortricidae, Pyralidae, and Crambidae families, among others.



Our last species to emerge during the fall are the bruce spanworm (*Operophtera bruceata*) and the fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*), two rather delicate and drab looking geometer moths that are known to occasionally be pests on various trees. Both are among several genera of moths where only the males possess wings. The females are wingless and stay near the host plant, calling in males using pheromones.



Up to and including October 20th, 2016, I have encountered 625 species of moths representing 28 families in one location on the north edge of the city of Peterborough. As of this article I'm still compiling data and identifying species as well as researching previous moth data for the county, but this will hopefully result in a relatively useful moth checklist for Peterborough County.

If you are reading this and you have been keeping any moth observations please email me at basilconlin@trentu.ca. Thank you and enjoy 'the dark side'!

Editor's note: Basil has generously offered to donate his impressive moth displays to the Trent University collection.

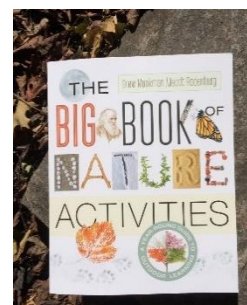
The Big Book of Nature Activities: Children's Book Award Winner

Submitted by Drew Monkman

Jacob Rodenburg, executive director of Camp Kawartha, and I were thrilled recently to learn that our new "Big Book of Nature Activities: A Year-round Guide to Outdoor Learning", has been awarded a silver medal in the North America-wide Moonbeam Children's Book Awards for the category 'Activity Books: Educational, Science and History'. We wrote the book for parents, grandparents and teachers to help children of all ages – as well as adults – explore, appreciate and connect with the natural world.

The 384-page, fully illustrated book begins with an examination of "nature deficit disorder" and why it is so important for children to spend time playing and learning in the outdoors. The second chapter deals with basic skills such as bird identification, nature photography, nature journaling, how to lead a walk, and how to make the best use of digital technology. In a chapter on key concepts, we explore why we have seasons, climate change, phenology and the mechanisms and wonder of evolution. We then move on to provide more than 150 activities, organized by season.

You will find numerous ideas for crafts, games, explorations, things to collect and how to engage all five senses. The activities are based directly on what's happening outdoors each season. In addition, the book contains lists of common species to learn and the key happenings in nature to observe each season across most of North America. We also highlight dozens of Citizen Science projects and give numerous examples of evolution in action through our Darwin cartoon character. The book has been endorsed by David Suzuki, Robert Bateman and Bill McKibben, a well-known American climate change activist.



The Big Book of Nature Activities would make a great Christmas gift for families and educators looking for ideas on "what to do" in the outdoors. It is available locally at Happenstance Books and Yarns in Lakefield, Chapters, Avant-Garden Shop, Peterborough GreenUp and from the authors. The book can also be ordered online from both Chapters-Indigo and Amazon. In addition, copies will be available for purchase at the December 14th PFN meeting.

The Little Red Oak And Me

Poem and photo submitted by Murray Palmer

Little Red Oak, you have great wants and hopes to fulfill...
When you grow up, you'll be a hardy and stately tree.
Though I see you still clinging to but one leaf,
While snow pelts you in whipping wind, you inspire me.



Oaks once symbolized power to ancient priests and kings.
Some grew large, and were known features of woodlands,
Oak wood's low electrical resistance enabled lightning strikes,
And their place in folklore as the Thunder Tree still stands.

I brought you home to safety from ground disturbed,
Since red oaks are for wildlife one of the best trees.
I dug and prepared a bed for you, Little Red Oak,
It felt good to touch the earth on hands and knees.

Sometimes in autumn your leaves glow a lovely scarlet red.
The beauty you lend this city yard is worth any hassle,
For would that I could see you become a proper tree,
I would see a natural courtyard from this humble castle.

Murray Palmer, 2015



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.

Weather	Warm temperatures continued, with no frost in the immediate area around Peterborough.
Aug. 23	A late report of a Eastern Hog-nosed Snake , which was found and photographed by Scott McKinlay on Cherry Lake in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park.
Sept. 16	Another late report. On this day Drew Monkman had two Evening Grosbeaks (a male and female) visit his bird bath, a unusual late summer observation.
Sept. 21	Two Trumpeter Swans were present on the north end of Buckhorn Lake, near the Kawartha Hideaway Resort according to Jane Philpott. 3 Great Egrets were present on the pond off Television Road, just north of Hwy 7, by several observers.
Sept. 22	A Black-crowned Night Heron was observed by Iain Rayner, Matthew Gavin & Chris Risley in the area of Edgewater Blvd. and the railway bridge across the Otonabee River.
Sept. 23	Luke Berg & Matthew Tobey had a Nelson's Sparrow in a wetland near Havelock.
Sept. 24	Iain Rayner had two Snow Goose within a flock of Canada Goose which flew over his house in the city. Latest date for Spotted Sandpiper at the Lakefield Lagoon by Daniel Williams.
Sept. 25	Last report of a Solitary Sandpiper in the Cordova Lake area by Ian Sturdee. Wilson's Warbler by Matthew Tobey in the southwest part of Peterborough. Luke Berg had a Great Horned Owl perched on telephone line along Mervin Line. An Eastern Screech Owl was also present in the same area.
Sept. 30	Last reported date for Great Egret on the pond along Television Road just north of Hwy 7 by Donald Sutherland and Bill Crins.
October 1	Sue Paradis birded Beavermead Park and had a Pileated Woodpecker , Ruby-crowned Kinglet , Veery and Red-eyed Vireo , along with some confusing fall warblers. Iain Rayner spotted a Virginia Rail in the Sawyer Creek wetland and a Lesser Yellowlegs in the Television Road pond. Drew Monkman had at least two dozen White-throated Sparrows present in his yard.
October 2	Luke Berg reported a late Veery in his yard in the City. Mike V.A. Burrell had a late Wood Thrush along the 8 th Line of Douro. The latest report of a Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the Trent U Nature Areas by Dave Milsom. An Eastern Milksnake was located on a dirt road at Gannons Narrows by Kingsley Hubbs.
October 3	Jerry Ball spotted a flock of 50+ Rusty Blackbirds along Mervin Line near the airport.
October 4	Marie Duchesneau photographed a Snapping Turtle beside the Otonabee River, north of Lock 23. The latest report of a Philadelphia Vireo was from Beavermead Park by Bill Crins. Greg Conley spotted a flock of Rusty Blackbirds along the Jackson Creek section of the TransCanada Trail.
October 5	Jerry Ball had a late Gray Catbird at the Lakefield Lagoon.
October 7	Randy Smith spotted an American Pipit along the side of 12 th Line of Douro just north of Hwy 7. As the month progressed they were present in many fields in the region. Bill Crins found 2 Cackling Geese in the Lakefield Lagoon. Late migrating Green Heron reports from Dave Milsom in the Scollard Drive area and from Beverly McClenaghan along the canal north of Parkhill Road. Dave Milsom had a Northern Mockingbird behind his yard at Scollard Drive. This bird was being mobbed by a variety of species including a late departing Yellow-throated Vireo . Greg Conley reported that along the Jackson Creek section of the TransCanada Trail there was a flock of about 100 birds consisting of Rusty & Red-winged Blackbirds & American Robins .

October 8	Donald Sutherland spotted an Osprey , Gray-cheeked Thrush , Swainson's Thrush and a late departing Wood Thrush at Beavermead Park Barb Evett reported the presence of an American Crow roost on the hill on Towerhill Road. She noted it was quite a sight with hundreds of crows.
October 9	Sue Paradis reported an Eastern Towhee in her yard in the City. Stephenie Armstrong reported that Dark-eyed Juncos & Purple Finches arrived in Warsaw.
Oct. 11	Jerry Ball had a mixed flock of Red-winged Blackbirds , Rusty Blackbirds and Common Grackles numbering over 1,000 birds in a corn field along Centre Line of Smith (Selwyn). Jerry Ball had a Red-bellied Snake in the Buckley Lake area.
Oct. 12	A late departing Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Donald Sutherland along the Rotary Trail. A total of 59 Clouded Sulphur butterflies were reported during a butterfly survey at the Kawartha Land Trust Dance reserve by Barbara & Robert Saunders and Martin Parker. Peak number recorded on 24 surveys conducted this year. Jerry Ball observed an Eastern Bluebird along Kerry Line. At the PFN Meeting Robert Saunders reported that a few days' prior a flock of 7 Sandhill Cranes flew over Anstruther Lake. Robert Fisher reported a Ring-necked Pheasant in his yard in the Kawartha Heights area, and Marilyn Freeman observed 2 Tundra Swans flying over the city.
Oct. 15	Don McLeod had 2 adult and 2 juvenile Trumpeter Swans on Chemong Lake – until Oct 17 th . He also had a late Osprey over Chemong Lake.
Oct. 17	Matthew Tobey located a male Surf Scoter along with 3 Long-tailed Ducks and 8 Red-breasted Mergansers on Little Lake southwest of the Mark Street boat ramp. Early dates for these normally large lake birds to be on Little Lake.
Oct. 18	Luke Berg had a Northern Mockingbird in his yard.
Oct. 19	Jerry Ball had 2 Trumpeter Swans along County Road 46 north of Sandy Lake Road, and a Mink on Sandy Lake Road and Fire Road 83 north of Havelock.
Oct. 20	Luke Berg spotted a bird he identified as a Black Vulture on the east side of Water Street north of the Zoo. On his e-bird report he noted the silvery wingtips which contrasted with the balance of the wing, its short wedge shaped tail and its wings profile, which is flat. This bird has quick snapping wingbeats. The first record of this species for Peterborough County.
Oct. 22	Two Cackling Geese were present on the Peterborough Landfill wetland project ponds by Donald Sutherland and Lori Humphrey. Luke Berg reported a late Blue-winged Teal and Red-shouldered Hawk flying over his yard. Dave Milsom an Osprey over Scollard Drive in the city.
Oct. 23	Scott Gibson had a late Osprey flying over Peterborough. A late Brown Thrasher was spotted on the 9 th Line of Douro by Iain Rayner. A very late American Redstart was spotted at the Peterborough Zoo by Jelmer Poelstra. Tony Barrett reported a Pine Grosbeak along Whitefield Road in Otonabee-South Monaghan. On the PFN outing led by Jerry Ball the participants visited various locations along the eastern shore of Pigeon Lake and observed 27 species including Common Loons , American Pipit , Merlin , 3 American Coots , several Pied-billed Grebes , and 2 American Wigeons .
Oct. 24	A late Eastern Phoebe along the 8 th Line of Douro by Mike Burrell.



Brant, Thickson's Point, Whitby,
October 15th
~ Submitted by Dave Milsom



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

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

CONTACT

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

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 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|

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: _____