

# The Orchid



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*Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Female Brook Trout observed on the redd in Harper Creek, October 23, 2016  
Read about a Brook Trout participating in the the Harper Creek Study on page 10.  
Photo submitted by Don McLeod.

**Inside:** PFN Trip Reports: Shorebirds and Butterflies at Presqu'île ; Using iNaturalist at Harper Park; Sunday AM with Drew Monkman  
Extraordinary Nighthawk Migration  
Brook Trout and the Harper Creek Study

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### ***Welcome new PFN members!***

Michael John Knor  
 Ken & Linda Sunderland  
 Junior Katherine Ellis  
 Junior Darwin Steenburgh  
 Bruce & Barbara Taylor  
 Ellen Jamieson

Top right: Mated pair of Common Loons with chick at the "downy young" stage on June 10. Middle right: Mated pair of Common Loons with chick at the "small young" stage on July 7. Bottom right: Adult Common Loon with chick at the "large young" stage on September 10. Photos taken on lower Chemong Lake by Don McLeod.





PFN Coming Events											
<p>Sundays Sept. 3 to Oct. 29 8 AM</p>	<p><b>Sunday Morning Wildlife Outings</b></p> <p>Our autumnal season of Sunday morning wildlife outings will start on September 3. Unless otherwise advertised (check October's Orchid for any changes), the outings will begin at Peterborough Zoo parking lot on Water Street at 8.00am. From the zoo, participants will carpool to local sites for bird watching and other wildlife encounters. You should try to bring binoculars and pay attention to the weather forecast when deciding what to wear.</p> <p>The walks are suitable for novices and experienced naturalists alike. We welcome newcomers. Accessibility: These outings normally involve easy to moderate walking.</p> <p>Outings will be led by the following:</p> <table> <tr> <td>October 1</td><td>Don McLeod – see separate entry</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 8</td><td>Martin Parker and Bruce Kidd</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 15</td><td>Chris Risley</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 22</td><td>Dave Milsom</td></tr> <tr> <td>October 29</td><td>Jerry Ball</td></tr> </table>	October 1	Don McLeod – see separate entry	October 8	Martin Parker and Bruce Kidd	October 15	Chris Risley	October 22	Dave Milsom	October 29	Jerry Ball
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October 29	Jerry Ball										
<p>Sunday Oct. 1 8 AM Meet at public parking lot on Crawford Drive</p>	<p><b>Fall Colours</b></p> <p>Don McLeod will lead a fall colours walk to the Ballyduff Trails and Fleetwood Creek Natural Area. We will be looking for birds plus any signs of wildlife. If present, early fall colours will be a treat. We will attempt a shuttle up the big hill. PFN members are encouraged to bring vehicles that have AWD, 4WD or good road clearance. If you don't have such a vehicle, we can carpool from the Crawford Drive parking lot.</p> <p>Meet at the public parking lot on Crawford Drive, at the end of Harper Road and just off the Parkway and Sir Sandford Fleming Drive. From the parking lot, it is about a 25-minute drive to the outing location.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate. There is some uphill walking.</p>										
<p>Wednesday, Oct. 11 7:30 PM Lions Banquet Hall 347 Burnham St. <b>Note: We will not be meeting at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre in October</b></p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: Piping Plovers Nesting on the Shores of the Great Lakes</b></p> <p>Ian Fife has a Master of Science degree from Trent University. Most of his work experience has been with birds, working in various ecosystems of North America from the Carolinian and Boreal forests to the Canadian Prairies and the Arctic. He is currently the Piping Plover biologist with Ontario Parks Southeast Zone in Peterborough.</p> <p>Following an absence of breeding pairs in Ontario for 30 years, they have been making a gradual return at selected nesting locations since 2007 on the shores of the Great Lakes. The Federal and Provincial governments and local agencies have been cooperating to protect these Endangered shorebirds and their habitat, but trained volunteer 'plover guardians' also play a vital role.</p>										
<p>Saturday, Oct. 14 9:00 AM Meet outside Tim Horton's in the Canadian</p>	<p><b>Hawks Over Cranberry Marsh</b></p> <p>Each fall as the hawks and other raptors are heading southwards, they are blocked by the water of Lake Ontario. They will migrate westerly along the north shore of Lake Ontario looking for a way around the lake. On this outing we will travel to the Cranberry Marsh in Whitby to take part in the annual fall hawk watch. The hawk</p>										

PFN Coming Events	
Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street W.	<p>watch operates through the months of September and October. On the date of this trip, there should be buteos migrating through, and possibly eagles as well. The exact number will depend on the weather conditions, especially the wind direction. If the hawk migration is slow, there will be lots of other things to see. The trip will also provide an excellent introduction to the prime hawk migration monitoring location on the north shore of Lake Ontario.</p> <p>Meet trip leader, Martin Parker, at 9:00 a.m. in the Tim Horton's parking lot at the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West. We will car pool for the travel to Cranberry Marsh. The trip will return in the late afternoon. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast on the day of the outing. A portable chair for sitting in while looking for hawks would be advantageous.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking</p>
<p>Saturday, Oct. 21</p> <p>9:30 AM doors open</p> <p>Scugog Memorial Public Library at 231 Water Street, Port Perry</p>	<p><b>Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North (LON) Regional Meeting</b></p> <p>LON Regional Director, Cara Gregory, and the North Durham Naturalists are hosting the fall regional meeting. All PFN members are welcome to attend.</p> <p>The agenda includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected Places Campaign (PPC) presented by Ontario Nature's Executive Director Caroline Schultz.</li> <li>• Host Presentation by North Durham Nature, Mark Stabb, NDN Member</li> <li>• Lake Scugog: A Watershed Moment, Jay Thibert, NDN Board Member</li> <li>• Hike to Nonquon Provincial Wildlife Area, led by our hosts</li> </ul>
<p>Sunday, Nov. 26</p> <p>1PM</p> <p>Meet outside Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>Wave Riders of Rice Lake</b></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 of Rice Lake and the scenic vistas overlooking the 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>Wednesday, Nov.8</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Rd Peterborough ON</p>	<p><b>PFN Monthly Meeting: An Eco Tour in North Central India</b></p> <p>Recently retired, Bill Crins holds a Ph.D. in Science from the University of Toronto. During his career, he has worked as a naturalist and biologist in Algonquin Park then for 20 years as an ecologist with the Ontario MNR, and finally as the Senior Program Coordinator for Resource Conservation in the Parks and Protected Areas Policy Section in the Ministry.</p> <p>Since retiring, he has kept very busy with volunteering for the Kawartha Land Trust, teaching a graduate course in protected area ecology and has enjoyed traveling in India and Brazil. He is presently exploring Australia but will be back in November to share with us his Eco Tour in North Central India.</p>

### PFN Coming Events

<p>Saturday, Dec. 2</p> <p>7 AM</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls</b></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 the 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 (705-745-4750) in advance.</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch, binoculars, and telescope if you have one. A camera may be handy as well. Wear clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the Niagara River area for the day of this excursion.</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>
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### PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Back to school for the junior naturalists started with a sneak peek at what we might learn in grade 22 (or a PhD program)! Melanie Boudreau shared with us a kids' version of the highlights of her snowshoe hare research in the Yukon. Melanie is a 4th year PhD candidate at Trent University who has developed a passion for examining the mechanisms driving predator-prey dynamics in Canadian ecosystems.

Her current work examines how predator presence, or the stress of predation, affects snowshoe hare, a keystone species in the Canadian boreal forest. Melanie and her research partner Jacob use an Australian cattle dog, named "JD", to simulate the presence of a predator in their research. We had a chance to meet the whole research team, including JD! Thanks to Melanie and Jacob for showing us all the steps involved in planning and conducting field research.

Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email [pfnjuniors@gmail.com](mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com) if you're not on the members distribution list for event announcements. de

Like us on Facebook too!

<p>Sunday, Oct. 1</p> <p>1 to 4 PM</p>	<p>Have you seen the new rain gardens around town? Through the Ready for Rain Peterborough program organized by Peterborough GreenUP, gardens that are designed to soak up and retain heavy rainfall are being planted in residential neighbourhoods and downtown boulevards. With a changing climate and projections for increased rainfall in southern Ontario, it is expected that there will be an increase in flood events. By planting the gardens in areas where many people will see them, they provide learning opportunities for others considering similar landscaping changes. PFN juniors families are invited to help plant a rain garden together on October 1st.</p>
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### Other Events of Interest

<p>Tuesday, Oct. 3</p> <p>7:30 PM</p> <p>Market Hall</p>	<p><b>Trent Lecture: The Global Energy Transition &amp; Canada's Energy Paradox</b></p> <p>The global economy is undergoing the greatest transformation since the dawn of the industrial age as it shifts from an energy regime built on fossil fuels to one run by clean, renewable power. This transition underscores the central paradox of Canada's national identity as a resource-driven economy with a civil society that has placed a high value on environmental stewardship. Award-winning author and sustainability strategist Chris Turner has been documenting this energy transition for more than a decade, and his lecture will combine insights from his bestselling books on the cleantech revolution, <i>The Leap</i> and <i>The Geography of Hope</i>, as well as analysis of the transition's impact on the conventional energy economy drawn from his most recent book, <i>The Patch</i>. Mr. Turner explains where the energy transition leads, what Canada's energy future looks like, and how the path to that future will reconfigure the fabric of Canadian society.</p>
<p>First Friday of each month</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Guest Services Building, Riverview Park &amp; Zoo</p>	<p><b>Peterborough Astronomical Association Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p>For more information on their monthly meetings, please visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughastronomy.com">www.peterboroughastronomy.com</a></p> <p>Oct. 6: Ha and OIII Imaging by Brian McGaffney</p> <p>Nov. 3: Topic to be announced by Sean Dunne</p>
<p>Fourth Wednesday of each month</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Lion's Centre</p> <p>347 Burnham Street</p>	<p><b>Peterborough Horticultural Society Monthly Meeting</b></p> <p>Join us at 6:30 PM for socializing. The meeting begins at 7 PM. Annual membership rates are \$20 individual, \$25 family, and \$2 guest. All are welcome - and you don't have to be an experienced gardener! For more info visit <a href="http://www.peterboroughhort.com">www.peterboroughhort.com</a>.</p> <p>Oct. 25: Jacob Rodenburg from Camp Kawartha on "Pathway to Stewardship — How We Teach Children about the Environment"</p> <p>Nov. 22: Marg Burley, Owner of Burley's Gardens on "Houseplants: Orchids and Beyond"</p>



PFN board member, Phil Shaw, found this orphaned red squirrel at the Trent Nature Trails in early September while hiking with his family. He brought it to Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary where it would be rehabilitated and then released to the wild.

If you encounter orphaned or injured wildlife, go to the web page [www.ontariowildliferescue.ca](http://www.ontariowildliferescue.ca) and click on the category of wildlife on the banner at the top to find the closest wildlife rehabilitation centre. Alternatively, you can call a rehab facility such as Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary for advice (705-286-1133). Lots of useful information on this topic can be found on the above-mentioned web site, as well as in the April 2017 Orchid (a.k.a. **The Rehab Edition**), available for download from the PFN website.

## Trip Report: Shorebirds and Butterflies

### Lead by Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey

The first outing of the fall was held on Saturday, August 26 to view the migrating shorebirds and Monarch butterflies at Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Participants were not disappointed. During the summer, the water levels had receded in the beach area and there was lots of habitat for shorebirds to feed. A total of 11 species of shorebirds were observed including 100+ Semipalmated Plovers, 11 Baird's Sandpipers, 4 White-rumped Sandpipers, and 1 Ruddy Turnstone. There were about 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 45 Least Sandpipers on the beach, an impressive number. Many of the shorebirds were oblivious to our presence, permitting time to distinguish between the various species. A total of 73 species of birds were spotted in the park with a few more just outside the park.

The number and variety of shorebirds was matched by the number and variety of butterflies. A total of 13 species of butterflies were observed in the park including a total of 45 Monarchs. Many of the Monarchs were seen crossing the beach and heading westward over the lake. A few caterpillars were also found. There was also a total of five Viceroy. Participants were able to see the differences between it and the similar Monarch.

The butterfly highlight was the finding and photographs of a very cooperative Spicebush Swallowtail. This is a southern butterfly with only a couple of records east of Toronto according to the Ontario Butterfly Atlas web site. According to David Bree, Natural History Education Leader at Presqu'ile, this is the first record for the park. There was also a total of 20 Giant Swallowtail butterflies. This southern species is expanding its range northwards and becoming more abundant in the park.



Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly at Beach 4, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, on August 26. Photo submitted by Martin Parker.

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## Impressive Common Nighthawk Migration in Warsaw Area

### Drew Monkman with Tim Dyson

Late August is the time to watch for migrating Common Nighthawks, especially in the late afternoon and evening. They usually feed as they fly and are often seen over water. In my experience, they often turn up after a rain event.

The Common Nighthawk is a species of "Special Concern" in Ontario. This designation means that it may become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. The large-scale use of insecticides may be partly responsible for the widespread decline in nighthawks, since insects are their main food source. Habitat degradation resulting from fire suppression, land use changes in the boreal forest and an increase in intensive agriculture are other contributing factors. The proliferation of terrestrial predators around urban areas, such as domestic cats, skunks, raccoons and crows, have likely caused increased nest predation.



Common Nighthawk. Photo: Gary L. Clark /Wikimedia





Common Nighthawk. Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren / Wikimedia Commons (CC 2.0)

Here are some 2017 sightings from Tim Dyson, a well-known naturalist and raptor expert who lives in the Warsaw area. Between August 16 and September 20, Tim saw a whopping 566 nighthawks! Most were tallied over the Indian River near Back Dam Park on Rock Road. Tim writes:

1. On the evening of August 16, I saw 41 Common Nighthawks over the Indian River just north of Warsaw. I watched for 30 minutes, just after the sun had set. They were moving along southward in groups, averaging about five per group.

2. On August 18th between 6:24 pm and 6:27 pm, no less than 98 nighthawks passed overhead where I live just northwest of Warsaw.

Through a curtain of moderate rainfall, they were heading roughly southwest at average nighthawk height (100+ meters from the ground). Not really darting here and there much as is typical of them, but seemingly more intent on the direction they headed and the altitude they were keeping. They stretched to the eastern and western horizon. Although I have lived in a fair number of locations in the county over the past 25 years, the Warsaw area has always yielded the highest numbers for migrating nighthawks in my experience, both now, and in the early-to-mid 1990s.

3. On the morning of August 20th, (the date I've always considered to be average for observing large numbers of the species), 14 nighthawks appeared to the north, gathered, "kettled" in a thermal and rode it straight up and out of my sight. This happened at 10:30 am, which was just plain odd for me! Later in the evening, despite hoping for a bumper crop, I only saw six of them from my favorite viewing spot and they were all observed at 6:45pm.

4. On August 21, I set up to watch for nighthawks just after 6:00 pm, and none appeared in the sky until 6:50 pm when 17 came into view just above the treetops heading roughly southward. Before I went inside at 8:35 pm. I had seen 65 for the night.

5. On August 22, between 7:30 and 8:30pm, Drew, my friend Angela, and I counted 33 nighthawks over Back Dam Park on Rock Road. They were flying south in groups of 2-7, with a few single birds. A few foraged as they flew, but most were making a beeline south. The wind was from the west and there had been heavy showers over much of the afternoon and into the early evening. The sky had cleared by the time we started watching for nighthawks.

6. On August 23, Angela and I put the kayaks in at Back Dam Park at about 7:20 pm. At about 8 pm the first nighthawk of the evening flew along the western shore of the river and was actively feeding. About ten minutes later, there was the first good pulse totaling seven birds. Over the next twenty minutes others in small groups and singles appeared from the north and north-east. After a short lull, three more came along to wrap up the night's total at 22 birds.

7. On the evening of the 25th, we paddled northward up the Indian River. I spotted the first group of nighthawks at 6:55pm. There were initially four that caught my eye, and then over the next seven or eight minutes, a total of 55 of them passed overhead. Strange thing, was that they were all heading north! Also interesting was that they were very high as they came into view, and were gliding on set wings that rarely flapped. They were making a gradual decent. I am wondering if these nighthawks had already put some good miles behind them this evening and were just descending into a traditionally good feeding area, or just to feed at all.

Nighthawks returned to view coming in lower from the east and continuing westward out of sight. Groups numbered 9, 7, 4, and 18. As we headed back around the last bend, we could see another 12 actively hunting quite low over the little dam and playground area where we were parked. They hunted there for nearly fifteen minutes before they all gradually seemed to head out higher and over the trees towards the south west. Once I had the boats loaded, I turned to take a last evening look at the water, and one more nighthawk appeared, (as it seemed to nearly hit me in the face as it whipped in fast and low!) That made for 106 for the night!



8. On August 27, traveling from home for an evening paddle on the river, Angela and I counted 22 nighthawks from our moving vehicle as they zipped their way southward at about 6:35 pm. Paddling up the river from the Back Dam, we saw nighthawks in waves streaming from north to south and of course there were the usual lulls. After one hour, our total for the night had risen to 54 nighthawks, when at 7:35 the sky to the north was suddenly full of them! Our total rapidly grew to 96 nighthawks as 42 more made up the count for this bunch. Before the evening count was over, we had seen 147 nighthawks for the evening. That brought my season total (since August 16th) to 549.

9. At home on August 28, I watched as 9 sailed past heading south. This was well after the sun had set.

10. I was watching raptor migration at home on September 9, when a nighthawk came in from the north at about 2 pm. It fed a while over the field before heading back north again. Later in the evening at the same location, I watched as six nighthawks came in from the south and actively fed as they flew northward.

11. On the evening of September 20, a single nighthawk flew past our house heading due south. It seemed to be saying, "I'm heading out of here!"

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## Common Nighthawks Continued

### Submitted by Tim Dyson

Prior to this area's 2017 season, late summer nighthawk watching for me had been somewhat of a passive activity. It wasn't until Drew Monkman insisted that seeing 40 of the birds in a single evening here was "significant" that I decided to put in a little more effort, and to watch night after night either from the kayak on the Indian River or from home just three kilometers away. I had already known for years that the latter location produced good numbers of the species during the second half of August.

Even though the species is said by many to be so scarce, the high local abundance here was not news to me. Watching for them for so many days in 2017, however, has given me many more questions beyond settling on the simple conclusion of "migration hotspot".

First, I have to consider all of the variables witnessed during my observations: birds not always heading in a southward or westward direction as would be the case with birds decidedly leaving the area (migrating); birds appearing from the north, feeding, and then returning north; and birds coming in from several directions, mixing to feed a while, and then heading more or less southward later on in the evening. You can watch geese and other birds do this as part of their normal migration/staging routine. Many species seem to build in numbers, and then suddenly - as if overnight - they go, and few or none are seen at all again.

First of all, we must consider that there are still reasonable numbers of breeding nighthawks from the Warsaw/Norwood/Havelock area northward through Stoney, Belmont and Cordova Lake(s) and beyond. In my experience, the most productive natural nesting habitats in said areas are open and semi-open alvar-type landscapes on limestone pavements and/or limestone gravels with various woody growth like juniper and other shrubs and dotted with small-to-large trees. A little further north and just onto the shield, the species seems to prefer raised and open granite spaces protruding from the surrounding forests, and rocky grassland openings of



A Common Nighthawk nest could be described as the spot of ground where you see their eggs and/or chicks. Photo by Tim Dyson.

various sizes. Occasionally, one will flush from a nest in rather shady oak/pine forest or savannah, but most nests are found in locations exposed to the sun for much of the day.

So, let's assume then that a good number of these birds seen gathering in and around the Warsaw area are, for the most part, birds from the area (local birds) and birds from a little further out (breeding adults and their young). It could lend a little support to the idea when it appears that very often many of these birds seem to be coming from all directions, buzzing about Warsaw, and not all are heading southward as they arrive, nor as they depart on any given evening.

Certainly, some do appear to undeniably be migrating. But, on a fair number of occurrences, they appear to have Warsaw as their intended destination, perhaps to gather and feed, if not on the river, then at least near it. What about those that are coming in from the south in the evening and either hesitating over certain landscapes to feed, or moving beyond to places unknown? It is unclear as to what percent of this seasonal movement of nighthawks is actually an outright migration.

The Common Nighthawk is among the breeding species that spends the least amount of the year in the area, and then it is gone once again. Are its August movements, when concentrated as they seem to be in this area, more to do with availability of abundant food at this time of year, possibly to be found in abundance along certain river valleys? My friend Ed Heuvel and his wife Karen regularly observe nighthawks over their farm north-west of Norwood along the Ouse River every August as well. Could there be a connection between these smaller water courses and abundant nighthawk prey?

Where I now live, I am directly south of the Sawyer Creek wetland system, and I see about as many nighthawks here in August as can be seen along the Indian River in Warsaw. Are some of those which I see here (no matter if they are flying north, south, east, or west) moving about between these two local river systems for a period, while others are moving straight on through? Who knows?

The whole thing has inspired me to attempt to co-ordinate a collection of interested individuals for the August-September 2018 season to set out at certain spaced locations along the smaller local rivers and other places in between, and do some evening nighthawk counts to see what else we can learn about their apparently high abundance in this area.

There are several rivers to choose from, and I would suggest that if you are interested, to put in early for a station nearest where you live. Perhaps we could call it the KANW (Kawartha Annual Nighthawk Watch) or something like that.

Anyone interested should contact me at: [mothydyson@gmail.com](mailto:mothydyson@gmail.com) or Drew at: [dmonkman1@cogeco.ca](mailto:dmonkman1@cogeco.ca) and give your location so we can assign a station for you or help you choose one. If you often see nighthawks from your home, then, depending on overlap avoidance spacing on the map, your "home" could be your station.

With ten months to plan, we should have plenty of time to get ready!!

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## **The Iconic and Elusive Harper Creek Brook Trout**

### **Submitted by Kim Zippel**

Sustained by groundwater, cold and fast flowing, Harper Creek in the south-west end of Peterborough is home to one of the few remaining wild brook trout populations in Southern Ontario. And so little is known about them.

By radio-tagging 20 brook trout, Scott Blair and his research team will be able to follow their daily and seasonal movement, providing a window into the life history of wild brook trout in an urbanized watershed. The tags are quite expensive, so we looked to our community of friends and supporters to help fund this scientific effort. Without their incredible response, this project would not be possible.

Following is an account of how Harper came to be a funded participant in this study and what we know of him/her so far.

### The story from the Storey family:

Having lived in the West end of Peterborough for over 20 years, and not knowing about Harper Park and its significance on an environmental level, was what first grabbed our attention 2 years ago.

Needing to learn about this area further, me and my then 11-year-old son Elliott decided to go and explore parts of it on a few walks including a guided one

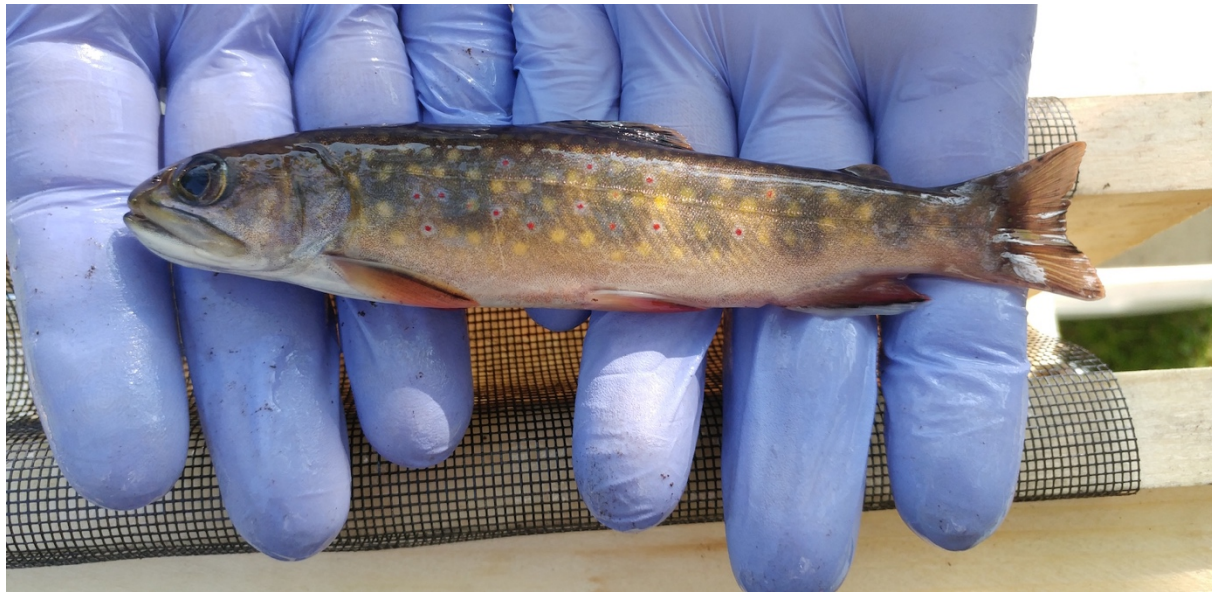
When our friend Kim Zippel explained to us that, even closer to our house, there had been a Harper Creek restoration project on Pinewood Drive, we were even more intrigued. The more we began to learn about the amazing diversity of this wetland, including the Brook Trout, the more we wanted to help preserve it and become stewards of it

At the same time as the news came out in April that the Harper Creek wetland had been designated a Provincially Protected Wetland, we heard about the "Fund a Fish" campaign and thought, what better way to be part of something that could lead to more understanding and knowledge about this incredible Harper Park, right here in our own backyard

So we have decided to name our trout Harper.



Elliott Storey reclines in a basswood tree in Harper Park. Photo by Ben Wolfe.



Harper, a juvenile Brook Trout. Photo by researcher Scott Blair.  
Is it possible that the movement of this young fish is based on personality?

### The story from Kim Zippel:

Harper is 148 mm (5.83 inches) in length and currently weighs in at 30.2 grams (1.1 ounces).

If someone asked you why your trout is in a particular location in Harper Creek in any given season, you might suggest that it is because there is food, because the temperature is within the range suitable for trout, or that the substrate (texture of the bottom of the creek) is perfect for spawning. Any number of parameters, or combination of factors could explain the presence of your trout in this reach (stretch) of the creek. But what if Harper is just exploring, and enjoys changing home range? Is it possible that Harper is an outgoing, curious, independent little trout who wants to be out of 'reach' of his/her birthplace (natal site) in the creek? Or, Harper could be a little slow to launch, and prefer the familiarity of the bottom of a pool near the hatching site (site fidelity). According to



current research by the team of Philip M. Harrison et al. (2104), unique personality traits did play a role on how wild burbot (*Lota lota*) moved through their habitat over a two-year period.

This is an important finding for fish conservation initiatives and improves our understanding of the ability of fish to surmount challenges, primarily human impacts, to their habitat. While the Harper Creek study may not be able to focus on aspects of brook trout personality, it will determine how far the trout are travelling, when movement occurs, and what barriers are surpassed if individuals travel within the multiple branches of the stream, a stream that will experience a tremendous amount of disruption from urban development as this study proceeds.

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## **Peterborough Field Naturalists Host an iNaturalist Walk Through Harper Park**

### **Submitted by Lynn Smith**

September 10, 2017 proved to be a sunny, warm, delightful morning as 13 people arrived at Harper Park for the Peterborough Field Naturalists' inaugural iNaturalist walk. With smartphones in hand, we gathered for a quick overview.

iNaturalist has become a popular method to engage citizens who want to learn about the nature around them and to document observations of species for further scientific research. An inventory of the species in Harper Park will provide a baseline of biodiversity and help to monitor and assess changes due to the impacts of development. All good stuff!

Although iNaturalist is user-friendly, the website [iNaturalist.org](http://iNaturalist.org) and the "How to make an observation on iNaturalist" YouTube video are worth exploring. First, everyone needed to make an iNaturalist account from the website, [iNaturalist.org](http://iNaturalist.org).

In order to maintain a species list for Harper Park in one spot, The Harper Park Stewardship Initiative Project was setup in iNaturalist. Therefore, the next "to do" was JOIN this project and make certain each observation goes into that Project. Good to know!

Once the App iNaturalist was downloaded onto our iPhone or Android, we were set loose to explore Harper Park and to start submitting observations.

The Criteria for a good quality observation include:

- **EVIDENCE**

Evidence involves taking good photos of a particular organism or signs of the organism such as tracks, nests or things that died. Harper Park has some beautiful asters blooming this time of year so that's where I started. I took 3 pictures of one individual plant and captured the brilliant purple bloom, how the leaves met the stem and the whole plant. There was space for extra notes to further describe the plant, habitat, size etc. Detailed information will help with identification.

- **WHAT YOU SAW**

You don't have to be an expert. iNaturalist helps you out in this area by listing suggestions. You have the choice of using a suggested I.D. or entering your own identification. Generally, the rule of thumb is to suggest identification to the level of your knowledge. I knew I was taking a picture of an aster but had no idea what species it was. I entered Aster.

- **DATE**

The App fills this in

- **LOCATION**

The App fills in the GPS co-ordinates latitude and longitude.

- HARPER PARK STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE PROJECT

Don't forget to tag this project!

- SHARE

The observation uploads and is submitted to the iNaturalist community. My first observation was complete.

A particularly interesting spider caught my eye and I proceeded to record my second observation. What happens next is amazing! Within a very short time we were all getting feedback on our observations from the iNaturalist community. They provided specific identifications where possible. My Aster was in fact the New England Aster.

When observations have been identified to species level by several people, that observation becomes "Research Grade." iNaturalist transfers Research Grade observations on to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) at [www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org) where they are stored and made available to the public. Scientists use the data to analyze abundance, distribution, behaviour patterns, biodiversity etc.

To date, 166 observations have been submitted to the Harper Park Stewardship Initiative Project, representing 105 species. We're off to a good start. However, we need YOU to participate. If you enjoy the outdoors and enjoy expanding your knowledge of the natural world, we encourage you to explore iNaturalist and become a citizen scientist in Harper Park!

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the November issue is **Tuesday, October 24.**

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

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



## June Hitchcox on Bald Eagles

### Courtesy of the Apsley Voice, with additions by Martin Parker

Re: Bald Eagles via an email from Melanie

"It was a very hot night and my Mom decided that we were going to eat outside as the cottage was too hot!! As we were eating, down in the furthest cottage in Winter's Bay, about half way through dinner we thought that we had seen our bay's resident osprey. Upon closer watch, my mom declared that it wasn't the osprey, but a bald eagle!"

"There had been reports of an eagle in the area and we sat amazed at getting to see it for ourselves. When I told my parents and my grandparents it was a bald eagle, they didn't believe me. We haven't seen a bald eagle at the cottage, EVER, so we turned the binoculars into a sort of telephoto lens and took the pictures through the binoculars! What an amazing sight after so many decades of decline and battles to prevent these eagles from extinction. It was amazing to see one in the wild. Thanks, Melanie"

Wonderful that you and family saw a Bald Eagle, Melanie. Several Ontario birding articles have reported seeing very few since the early 1900's. They were certainly on their way to extirpation in Southern Ontario not so long ago. Experts say DDT and related pesticides were the main culprit in the 1950's and 1960's. They were also targeted by the spreading of poisoned bait and shooting during the first half of the 20th century.

The favourite food of these Eagles is fish. Whether an Eagle sees a live fish in a lake, plunges feet first into that water and catches it live with its strong talons, or eats dead fish on the shore, the fish were contaminated with DDT and other pesticides. After eating many fish over time, the Eagle accumulates the toxins in its tissues impacting their reproduction. The egg shells became thinner and would crush under the weight of the brooding female.

Populations of other hawks and other fish-eating birds also declined during the DDT era. DDT and related products were banned in 1972 and, along with Ontario's endangered species laws protecting Bald Eagles populations, soon began to slowly increase. Re-introduction programmes in southwestern Ontario and New York State also aided in the recovery. Bald Eagles are now a regular year-round in the Peterborough area with at least 6 active nests in the County.

These Eagles are not mature enough to nest until they are at least 4 years old, so they do not produce young as quickly as most other birds. Bald Eagles co-exist happily with people, with some of the nest sites in the County being close to inhabited buildings. Their nests are 60' to 100' off the ground and up to 6' across, so the nest is easily spotted. They are much larger than an Osprey nest.

To recognize a Bald Eagle, look for a feathered white head (looks bald) and neck and white tail and dark brown body. They ride the wind currents on stiff, flat wings - unlike the Turkey Vultures wings that are held in a slight V. Keep an eye out and you may be lucky as Melanie and family have been!

## Warbler Diversity on September 17<sup>th</sup> PFN Sunday Morning Nature Walk

By Drew Monkman

A beautiful September morning greeted the ten early risers who took part in the Peterborough Field Naturalist's Sunday A.M. nature walk today. We spent most of our time in the Promise Rock area of the Rotary-Greenway Trail, just north of Trent University at Lock 22. Songbird diversity and numbers were very good. We were able to use pishing to coax in three species of vireos and ten species of warblers. A female American Redstart was particularly cooperative as it flitted about in the open, only three metres away. Our second stop was the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons where we got good looks through the scopes at four species of ducks and more than a dozen cormorants. Many of the ducks were juvenile Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers.

Below is a list of all of the birds seen (38 species) as well as some of the goldenrods and asters that caught our attention. Several of the goldenrods had galls – the ball-shaped galls from Goldenrod Gall Flies and the tightly-packed leafy galls from a midge.



Watching warblers at Promise Rock area.  
Photo by Drew Monkman



Black-throated Green Warbler. Photo: Dan Pancamo

Birds (38 species): Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, Common Grackle.



Flowers: Canada Goldenrod, Grass-leaved Goldenrod, New England Aster, Heath Aster, Calico Aster, Panicked Aster, Heart-leaved Aster

Other highlights: Huge seed crop on cedars, spruces, Sugar Maples; leopard frogs in grass at sewage lagoon; lots of fall colour, courtesy of White Ash, Staghorn Sumac, Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper

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### So Small a Plant, So Big a Reaction

I overwinter as a small stem, dormant in the soil,  
But I always contain a 'poison' known as urushiol oil.  
Birds eat my drupes, and deer my leaves without consequence.  
You can avoid a nasty rash - if you use good sense.  
When you see my 'leaves of three', you'd better leave me be,  
Or you'll be sorry about walking in the woods so casually.  
And here are a few more nuggets you should not ignore:  
My compound leaves have three leaflets - and sometimes more.  
I invade early successional habitats in disturbed locations.  
Perhaps urushiol evolved to fight microbial occupations.  
North of the Great Lakes, I tend to keep low on the forest floor,  
But to the south I may climb trees, and I do implore  
You to keep Rover from roving carelessly through my patch.  
Be assured the oil transferred will make you itch and scratch.  
But take comfort in the fact the blistering rash won't spread:  
Other parts may form a rash, so keep a level head.  
Don't ingest or breathe this compound when close to brush on fire;  
Your body's cells may not exchange gases, and you might soon expire.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2017





## The Orchid Diary

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

Information is compiled from eBird, Drew Monkman's Sightings web page, the ptbosightings Yahoo group, and individual submissions.

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750.

Weather	Summer temperatures finally arrived in September with numerous days with temperature near or above 30°C. The fall migration commenced.
Aug 16 to Aug 27	Tim Dyson monitored the <b>Common Nighthawk</b> fall migration through the Warsaw area during the last half of August. On the evening of August 16, a total of 41 individuals passed over. Dyson continued to monitor the migration and by August 27 had observed a total of 549 individuals passing over.
Aug 23	A <b>Lesser Scaup</b> was located on the Lakefield Lagoon by Bill Crins and seen by others.
Aug 21	Drew Monkman reported a <b>Great Egret</b> at Back Park Dam, Warsaw, and in the following days there were reports from throughout the region and into September
Aug 24	Chris Risley & Matthew Garvin found a <b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> at Meadowvale Park (north TASS) in the City. It was still present on September 10.
Aug 27	At the Otonabee Gravel Pits Conservation Area, E. Straka observed a <b>Peregrine Falcon</b> and an <b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>
Aug 30	A total of 117 <b>Common Ringlets</b> (butterflies) were counted by Martin Parker during the KLT Dance property butterfly survey. The peak number last year was 21 on Aug 17.
Sept 1	At the Lakefield Lagoon, Bill Crins found 3 <b>Bank Swallows</b> and 1 <b>Willow Flycatcher</b> .
Sept 1	While walking through Burnham Provincial Park, Sue Paradis came across an amazing insect spectacular. She found a colony of <b>Beech Blight Aphids</b> (identification confirmed by Drew Monkman). As Paradis stated, the insects were on a branch of a young Beech tree. They were rocking back and forth and held up appendages with small white fluffy puffs at the end.
Sept 3	The participants on the first fall Sunday morning outing, lead by Jerry Ball, had 41 species of birds, which included 10 species of wood warblers – highlights <b>Northern Parula</b> , <b>Blackburnian</b> , <b>Wilson's</b> and <b>Blackpoll</b> . They also had a <b>Merlin</b> .
Sept 5	Rene Gareau spotted a <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> butterfly at Oakland Green Golf Course in the Norwood area. He noted there was one feeding on wet soils at the same location on August 15. He also noted there were ten plus <b>Monarchs</b> in the same area. Jerry Ball found a <b>Red-bellied Snake</b> on the Hasting Rail Trail – Cameron to Blezard
Sept 6	Jerry Ball had a male <b>Northern Harrier</b> near the Peterborough Airport.
Sept 7	Peter & Stephanie Armstrong near Warsaw had a <b>Black Swallowtail</b> caterpillar on their gravel driveway.
Sept 8	Matthew Tobey found a <b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b> along the Rotary Trail at Trent U. Latest report of a <b>Bank Swallow</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon by Donald Sutherland. Reports of lingering <b>Barn Swallows</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon by James Scott and along the Trent Rotary Trail by McLean Smith, Iain Rayner and Matthew Garvin.
Sept 9	Peter & Stephanie Armstrong found the caterpillar of a <b>Hermit Sphinx</b> moth.
Sept 10	Iain Rayner located a <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake which was seen later in the day near Elim Lodge by others. A late <b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b> was found by Ian Sturdee in the Cordova Lake area. Luke Berg had a late departing <b>Baltimore Oriole</b> in his yard in the city.
Sept 11	A Greater Scaup was located on the Lakefield Lagoon by Luke Berg.

	<p>Iain Rayner had a late departing <b>Yellow Warbler</b> in Millennium Park.</p> <p>Scott McKinlay had a late departing <b>Canada Warbler</b> at Sharpe Line, Cavan.</p> <p>Meredith Clark spotted a <b>Red Fox</b> in the Harper Park area near the railway tracks.</p>
Sept 13	<p>A late departing <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> was found by Iain Rayner in the area of Fifes Bay Road at Franklin Drive.</p> <p>At the PFN meeting, Ted Vale reported that a storm water pond near his house, which was dredged a few years previously, has recovered this year: <b>Gray Tree Frogs &amp; Green Frogs</b> had returned. He also observed an <b>Osprey</b> fishing over the pond.</p> <p>Ted Vale noted an <b>American Black Duck</b> visited his neighbour's feeder which has been regularly attracting <b>Mallards</b>.</p> <p>Philip Shaw observed two <b>Milk Snakes</b> on the KLT Dance property.</p> <p>John Youngblood reported a <b>Green Heron</b>.</p> <p>Bruce Kidd reported seeing 15 <b>Common Nighthawks</b> passing over his farm in the Douro area a couple of weeks earlier &amp; <b>swallows</b> departed later this year than normal.</p> <p>Marie Duchesneau reported that for the fifth year, the pair of <b>Peregrine Falcons</b> on Anstruther Lake have successfully fledged young: two this year.</p>
Sept 14	<p>Sue Paradisis spotted a family group of <b>Trumpeter Swans</b> (two adults and two young) on the pond at Television Road and Highway 7.</p> <p>The same day, she and Meredith Clark had a mixed flock of warblers which included a <b>Black-and-white Warbler</b> and a <b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>.</p>
Sept 17	<p>Scott Gibson had a late migrating Yellow-throated Vireo at his residence in the city.</p> <p>The participants on the Sunday AM Wildlife Walk, lead by Drew Monkman to the Promise Rock area at Trent U. and then the Lakefield Lagoon, observed a total of 36 species of birds including three species of Vireos (<b>Red-eyed, Philadelphia, &amp; Blue-headed</b>) and ten species of warblers including <b>Northern Parula</b> and <b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>. At the lagoon, there were lots of juvenile <b>Wood Ducks</b> and <b>Hooded Mergansers</b>.</p>
Sept 18	<p>Peter &amp; Stephanie Armstrong observed 20 <b>Broad-winged Hawks</b> passing over their property in the Warsaw area.</p> <p>John Fautley located a <b>swarm of bees</b> in a crack in a tree on the east side of the Otonabee at the pedestrian/bike bridge at the north end of Water Street.</p> <p>Jerry Ball had his first <b>Praying Mantis</b> of the fall season.</p>
Sept 20	<p>A <b>Ross's Goose</b> was found in the open area along Edgewater Road and the RR crossing on the east side of the Otonabee at noon by Iain Rayner &amp; Matthew Garvin and seen by other observers. This is the third record for Peterborough.</p> <p>Iain Rayner found a <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> at Sandy Point on Pigeon Lake. Still present on September 23.</p> <p>Large numbers of <b>Praying Mantis</b> at the KLT Dance Reserve by Martin Parker.</p>
Sept 22	<p>Scott McKinlay found a <b>Great Egret</b> near Fraserville.</p> <p>An unconfirmed report on e-Bird of a <b>Golden Eagle</b> at Fire Route 28, North Kawartha.</p> <p>A report on e-Bird of a <b>Northern Mockingbird</b> at Woodland Drive by McLean Smith.</p>
Sept 23	<p>Meredith Clark found caterpillar of a <b>Waved Sphinx</b> moth in Lakefield.</p> <p>Stephanie Benn photographed a <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> near Elmhurst Lodge.</p>
Sept 24	<p>The PFN outing lead by Scott McKinley located a late departing <b>Spotted Sandpiper</b> and one <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b> in the Millbrook Conservation Area.</p>
Sept 26	<p>A <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> was spotted by Luke Berg on the Otonabee River between Lock 25 and Lakefield. Ken Sunderland also had one on Little Lake the same day.</p> <p>Iain Rayner had a <b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> in the area of Edgewater Road and the RR crossing on the east side of the river.</p> <p>Iain Rayner spotted a <b>Common Tern</b> at Sandy Point on Pigeon Lake.</p>



Jerry Ball found his 81<sup>st</sup> species of butterfly in Peterborough County this year: a **Common Buckeye** on the Hastings Rail Trail between Cameron and Blezard Lines.



Beech Blight Aphids seen ~Sept.24 at the Hamilton Spooky Hollow Nature Sanctuary, Turkey Point area. Photos submitted by Martin Parker. Also see Sept.1 entry of Orchid Diary above.

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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



# 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:	Email(s):
		<input type="checkbox"/> snail mail <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail <input type="checkbox"/> 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="checkbox"/> Birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="checkbox"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> 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="checkbox"/> Under 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69	<input type="checkbox"/> 70-79	<input type="checkbox"/> 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: \_\_\_\_\_