

The

Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



One of the nests in the heronry on Lower Buckhorn Lake in July. Photo: Ken McKeen

Inside:

Ron Pittaway's Winter Finch Forecast

September Trip Reports

Book Review: Starlight by Richard Wagamese

Blanding's Turtle Blog

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists.....	6
Other Events of Interest.....	6
Toby's Field Blog 08.28.18	7
Book Review: Starlight by Richard Wagamese ...	8
Winter Finch Forecast for Winter of 2018-19	9
Nature Outing Report for September 9.....	11
Nature Outing Report for September 16.....	12
Nature Outing Report for September 15.....	13
PFN Contributes to Wetland Protection	13
The Beauty of a Fungus.....	14
From the Archives - The First Newsletter	15
The Orchid Diary	16
PFN Membership Application.....	17

Welcome new PFN members!

- Krystal Mitchell
- Sally Hicks
- Alexander Fishbein
- Tore Bjerkek
- Rose & Ed Addison
- Ken & Maureen McKeen
- Matthew Dimitroff
- Brook Dodds
- Scott Blair
- junior Zachary Mulvihill



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Black Swallowtail butterflies. Photo: Ken McKeen




Great Crested Flycatcher. Photo: Ken McKeen



A honey bee and a bumble bee flying over goldenrod at the Windy Ridge Conservation Area in Omemee. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sundays Sept. 2 to Oct. 28 8 to 11a.m.</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks:</p> <p>Join our regular autumn Sunday morning walks to spot migrating birds and other signs of the changing seasons. Unless otherwise stated, the outings will start from the Peterborough Zoo parking lot on Water Street at 8:00 a.m. and last around three hours. Accessibility: generally easy to moderate.</p> <p>Bring a pair of binoculars and dress for the weather. We normally carpool, so please be ready to make a small contribution to gas costs. The following PFN members will lead the outings:</p> <p>Oct. 7 Dave Milsom Oct. 14 Don McLeod – see separate entry for details Oct. 21 Lynn Smith – see separate entry for details Oct. 28 Jerry Ball</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 10 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Flying Squirrels of Ontario</p> <p>Our guest speaker, Dr. Jeff Bowman, is an adjunct professor at Trent University and a research scientist in the Wildlife Research and Development Section of the MNRF. His research takes place in the boreal forest where he studies wildlife ecology, including studies on wolverines, caribou, martens, Lynx and flying squirrels.</p>
<p>Saturday, Oct. 13 Meet at 9 a.m. at Tim Horton's parking lot at the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne St. W.</p>	<p>Hawks Over Cranberry Marsh</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 the lake looking for a way around it. On this outing, we will travel to the Cranberry Marsh in Whitby to observe the annual fall hawk watch. The hawk watch operates through the months of September and October. On the date of this trip there should be hawks and possibly eagles migrating through. 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 carpool 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>Sunday, Oct. 14 8:30 a.m. Meet at the public parking lot on Crawford Drive</p>	<p>Ballyduff Trails and Fleetwood Creek</p> <p>Don McLeod will lead a fall colours walk at the Ballyduff Trails and Fleetwood Creek Natural Area. This will be a joint outing between PFN and Willow Beach Field Naturalists (WBFN). We will be looking for birds plus wildlife tracks and signs. Fall colours will be a treat and the trails are beautiful.</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	<p>The Ballyduff Trails are on private property owned by Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin. They have generously offered their trails to the public through an agreement with the Kawartha Land Trust. The nearby Fleetwood Creek Natural Area is managed by Kawartha Conservation.</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 at 8:30 a.m. From the parking lot, it is about a 25-minute drive to the outing location. We plan to meet the WBFN folks around 9 a.m. at the Ballyduff Trails location: https://goo.gl/maps/7cmhgeMD6Ty</p> <p>Optional items to bring include a packed lunch, binoculars and camera. If room permits, picnic blankets or lawn chairs would be helpful. Weather cooperating, we will have a picnic lunch after the walk. Accessibility: moderate. There is some uphill walking.</p>
<p>Sunday, Oct. 21</p> <p>8 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Peterborough Zoo parking lot</p>	<p>Sunday Morning Hike: Become a Citizen Scientist with iNaturalist</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you have a cellphone, please download the App at iNaturalist.org and we'll practice as we hike the trails at the Trent University wildlife sanctuary. You'll see how easy it is to submit observations. With the help of a community of naturalists, these species will be identified and added to the Trent University Bioblitz iNaturalist project.</p>
<p>Sunday, Nov 4</p> <p>8 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Country Style (Old Keene Rd & Hwy 7, east of Peterborough)</p>	<p>Birding at Presqu'ile Provincial Park</p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead a day-long trip to view migrant birds at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, with other stops of interest on the way. In particular, expect to see many interesting waterfowl. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and, if you have them, rubber boots (not essential). We will likely carpool, so bring a contribution for gas and the entry fee to the park. Accessibility: Easy walking</p>
<p>Wednesday, Nov. 14</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Antarctica</p> <p>Arnold Zageris is one of this country's pre-eminent landscape photographers. His photographs can be found at the National Gallery of Canada and in private galleries across North America.</p> <p>We had the pleasure to have Arnold as our guest speaker at our 2016 AGM talking about his book "On the Labrador ". This time he will focus on his recent book of photography entitled "Antarctica " where he has been traveling for over thirteen years, equipped with his cameras - a 35mm digital camera and an old 4x5 view camera.</p> <div> <p>ARNOLD ZAGERIS</p>  <p>ANTARCTICA</p> </div>

PFN Coming Events	
	"From the delicate tingling sights of tiny ice crystals, to the majesty of towering peaks and the ferocity of relentless storms, Antarctica animates, inspires and ultimately humbles" Arnold Zageris
Sunday, Nov. 25 1 p.m. Meet outside Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West	Wave Riders of Rice Lake 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, a telescope if you have one, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast for the day. The trip will last until the late afternoon. CFL fans will be home in time for the Grey Cup game.
Saturday, Dec.1 7 a.m. Meet at Tim Horton's in the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West	World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls 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. While the trip will start from Peterborough, a secondary gathering location will be at the Adam Beck Generating Station Lookout at Queenston for those wishing to spend the weekend in the area. If you are planning to meet the group at Queenston please advise Martin (705-745-4750) in advance. 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. This outing will end in the Niagara Region in the late afternoon.
Sunday, Dec.16 All day	67th Annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count This year's Christmas Bird Count has been scheduled for Sunday December 16. This is the largest one-day effort to monitor bird populations in the region and is the longest running annual wildlife survey. Pre-registration with the count compiler Martin Parker (mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750) is required in order to assemble parties in advance of the count day. Further details in November and December issues of 'The Orchid'.

PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

Junior naturalist families are reminded to check the website for event listings and email pfnjuniors@gmail.com if you're not on the members distribution list for event announcements. Bookings can be made online at <https://peterboroughnature.org/junior/>

Activities are geared for ages 5 to 12, but kids of all ages are welcome (parents stay and participate). Our events are led by PFN members and individuals from other organizations in our community who volunteer to share their knowledge and skills with us. We also organize environmental stewardship activities for kids to get involved and inspired.

Not a PFN member yet? Child memberships are \$10 per year. Contact pfnjuniors@gmail.com for details.

The Junior Naturalists enjoyed a beautiful afternoon canoeing on Clear Lake on Sunday September 23. The weather was perfect for a bit more summer fun before fall.



Free Software for Young Birders

Thayer Birding Software has given the Peterborough Junior Field Naturalists a chance to use their software for free. They have created a special code that you can use: PeterboroughNatureYoungBirder

Kids can get the software by visiting www.ThayerBirding.com, clicking the Windows or Mac download button and entering this code. College and grad students can get a 50% discount by using the code STUDENT. Teachers can get a 50% discount by using the code TEACHER

Sunday, Oct. 14
Time and place
TBA

Tree Planting: In October, the Junior Naturalists are going to help Otonabee Conservation with a tree planting project. If you want to pitch in, please email pfnjuniors@gmail.com. All ages welcome. (This invitation is for everyone, not just the Juniors). The planting date is Sunday October 14 in the afternoon, tentatively 2 p.m. Meeting location and other details will be provided to tree planters via email.

Other Events of Interest

Saturday, Oct. 27
11 a.m
Meeting Location
TBD

Buckthorn Removal on Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island | Volunteer Work Party

Since our Big (Boyd/Chiminis) Island is protected forever, we know the forest will never be cut down. However, we want it to be as diverse and healthy as possible! We need all hands on deck to manage the invasive Buckthorn shrub on the island and practice different tactics for dealing with this pesky invader. Sign-up by e-mailing tunrau@kawarthalandtrust.org or calling the KLT office at 705-743-5599

Toby's Field Blog 08.28.18

By Toby Roland

Reprinted with permission from Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre's blog web page (ontarioturtle.ca/news/)

I am a small wild Blanding's Turtle, and I've lived in a small vernal pool for most of my life. Not too long ago I was captured by some humans who took me on land, measured me, weighed me, and attached something to my shell, I'm not sure what it was. I was let go and I was spending more time in my vernal pool. It's in an area with dense shrubs and shallow pools carpeted by thick sphagnum moss. I live among many other creatures in this pool, from frogs and tadpoles to leeches and other small insects. Somehow those people who found me have been able to keep finding me although I'm not sure how they are able to. I feel like it may have something to do with the thing that's attached to my shell.



Blanding's turtle. Photo: Toby Rowland

I had been considering moving on to bigger and better places for a while and now the water levels in my pool are lowering quite fast so I started on my journey to new places. At first, I had to make my way through shrubby thickets and the biggest pools I have ever known. There were strange and new creatures along the way, but I wanted to explore different places so I kept going beyond all the sphagnum, shallow pools, and twigs. I reached a small stream that I followed down into a huge open area that was very scary! This area had shallow pools with mud, open areas, and just a few grassy places to hide in. There were so many more creatures in there that I had to worry about! There were really big bullfrogs croaking all over, and I even saw a few snakes swimming around and big birds flying up above!

Considering all of the dangerous animals in the area I decided to go very quickly into a safer area. On my way through this new environment I not only saw snakes and big frogs but I also saw other turtles! These turtles were different from me though. They were bigger, had long claws, and had flat shells with red and yellow streaks on them. They were Painted Turtles and they seemed to like sitting on logs in the sun, (something I never do as I am too timid for that). I kept on going through deeper pools than I could ever have imagined, the bottom seemed endlessly far away and there was no cover for me to hide in. While travelling through these deep pools I was able to see even more turtles swimming down below me. These big turtles were green and covered in algae, they had long spiny tails, big claws and scary heads that snapped up anything that came close! Apparently, the tales were true and Snapping Turtles really do exist.

Eventually, I made it to a safer area where there was deep water and thickets of sweet gale for cover. I met an elderly Blanding's Turtle who was missing her back legs from a long time ago. She told me to watch out for the great blue herons that walk around on their long legs trying to find food wherever they can. She told me that they look for small turtles like myself to eat as food, so I have been as careful as I can!

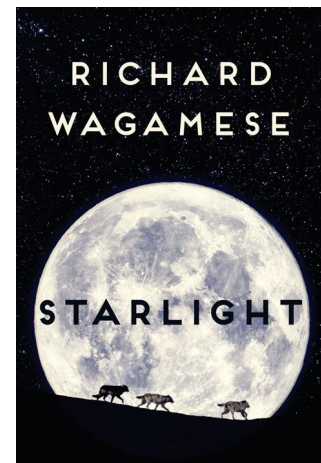
Once again, even in this new place, those humans who caught and measured me have found me again! This time I know how they did it because the Blanding's Turtle I met explained that I have something called a transmitter on my shell which sends a signal that the humans can hear. They then listen for a beep which gets louder the closer they get to me. Ever since I moved to this new area they have kept finding me, every now and then picking me up to measure my shell again. I always manage to get away in the end and sometimes I hear them coming, but I hide so well they can't find me. I think I'm pretty good at this game!

Book Review: Starlight by Richard Wagamese

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

It's a rare book that, when I get to the end, I immediately want to start reading again from page one. *Starlight* by Richard Wagamese is one of these books.

Wagamese died last year at the age of 61. He was one of Canada's best storytellers. Wagamese had a hard beginning to his life. As a toddler, he and his siblings were left at a bush camp in the winter by his alcoholic residential school survivor parents during a drunken binge. The children walked out of the bush and were separated into different foster homes during the 60s scoop. Wagamese was abused and belittled for being Indigenous and got into trouble with the law, resulting in some jail time. Amazingly, he pulled himself out of a downward spiral and became a professional writer in 1979. He was a newspaper columnist and reporter, radio and television broadcaster and producer, documentary producer and the author of twelve titles from major Canadian publishers. *Indian Horse* and *Medicine Walk* are two of his most famous books.



Starlight was unfinished at the time of Richard Wagamese's death. Every page radiates with his masterful storytelling, intense humanism, and insights that are as hard-earned as they are beautiful. His astonishing scenes are set in the rugged backcountry of the B.C. interior. Even though his characters are deeply scarred, their journey toward healing and forgiveness lifts the reader.

The main character, Frank Starlight, is a farmer who has been raised by "the old man", who took him in as a boy. The old man recently passed away but left Frank the farm, his quiet love, and the teachings of the land. Life changed dramatically when Starlight offered shelter to Emmy and her nine-year-old daughter who were escaping from a very violent relationship.

Through Frank's quiet personality and his love of the land, he helps the pair rebuild their confidence and happiness. He shares his art of nature photography and slowly they learn to trust each other despite Emmy's worry of her past coming back to haunt her.

"Out here where he spent the bulk of his free time, there was no need for elevated ideas or theories or talk," Mr. Wagamese wrote of Franklin, "and if he was taciturn he was content in it, hearing symphonies in wind across a ridge and arias in the screech of hawks and eagles, the huff of grizzlies and the pierce of a wolf call against the unblinking eye of the moon. He was Indian." *Medicine Walk*

In these times of "nature deficit syndrome" the message of how the land can heal, how we can learn to pay attention in a different way, how we feel that we belong are all shown through this story.

After finishing the book, I was left wanting more. Many times, I felt like I wanted to pick up the book and continue with these characters that I had grown to respect and appreciate. Wagamese's art was not only telling a story but also in building amazing characters that seemed real and stayed with the reader after the books were closed.

Although this is an unfinished novel, the publishers decided to put it out as is. There is a note at the end about how Wagamese thought the story arc would go as well as an essay by him entitled *Finding Father*.

This book will get you right in the heart. It will make you want to head out into the forest just to sit, observe and open up.

The book is at the Peterborough library: Fic Wagam

ISBN: 978-0-7710-7084-6

ISBN ebook: 978-0-7710-7085-3

Winter Finch Forecast for Winter of 2018-19

By Ron Pittaway, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Toronto

Reproduced from posting on ONTBIRDS

GENERAL FORECAST: This is an irruption (flight) year for winter finches in the East. Cone and birch seed crops are poor to low in most of Ontario and the Northeast, with a few exceptions such as Newfoundland which has an excellent spruce crop. It will be a quiet winter in the North Woods. Expect flights of winter finches into southern Ontario, southern Quebec, Maritime Provinces, New York and New England States, with some finches going farther south into the United States. Stock your bird feeders because many birds will have a difficult time finding natural foods this winter. This forecast applies primarily to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Spruce, birch and mountain-ash crops are much better in Western Canada. For the details on each finch species, see individual forecasts below.

PINE GROSBEAK: This magnificent grosbeak will move south in moderate numbers into southern Ontario and the northern states. The Mountain-ash berry crop in the boreal forest of Ontario and Quebec is below average and conifer seeds are in short supply. The feeders at the Visitor Centre in Algonquin Park should have Pine Grosbeaks this winter. At feeders they prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Also watch for them on European Mountain-ashes and crabapple trees.

PURPLE FINCH: Purple Finches are now moving south out of Ontario. Most Purples will have departed the province by December because seed crops are poor on northern conifers and hardwoods. A few may linger at feeders in southern Ontario where they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

RED CROSSBILL: Red Crossbills will be scarce this winter. Watch for them in pines. Red Crossbills comprise about 10 "call types" in North America. The western types seen last winter in the East have probably returned to their core ranges in western North America. Most types are impossible to identify without analyzing recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with an iPhone and identified to type. Matt Young (may6 at cornell.edu) of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will identify types if you email him your recordings or upload them to an eBird checklist. This helps his research. Recordings uploaded to eBird checklists are deposited in the Macaulay Library. See link #4 for Matt's guide to Red Crossbill call types.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Most White-winged Crossbills have moved east to Newfoundland and west to Western Canada where spruce cone crops are much larger. Some should wander south this winter into southern Ontario and the northern states because of poor cone crops in the eastern boreal forest. Watch for them on non-native spruces and European Larch.

COMMON REDPOLL: This will be a flight year for redpolls. Birch, alder and conifer seed crops are generally poor to low in most of the Northeast so redpolls will come south into southern Ontario and the northern states. The first arriving redpolls this fall likely will be seen in weedy fields. When redpolls discover nyger seed feeders, feeding frenzies will result. Fidgety redpolls are best studied at feeders. Look for the larger and darker far northern "Greater" Common Redpoll (subspecies *rostrata*) from Baffin Island (NU) and Greenland. For subspecies ID see link #2 below.

HOARY REDPOLL: This will be the winter to see Hoaries in flocks of Common Redpolls. The "Southern" Hoary Redpoll (subspecies *exilipes*) breeds south to northern Ontario and is the subspecies usually seen in southern Canada and northern USA. Watch for the far northern "Hornemann's" Hoary



White-winged Crossbill in Sundridge in February 2018.
Photo: Claude King

Redpoll (nominate *hornemanni*) from high arctic Nunavut and Greenland. It is the largest and palest of the redpolls. Hornemann's was formerly considered a great rarity south of the tundra, but recently it has been documented more frequently in the south with better photos. For subspecies ID see link #2 below.

PINE SISKIN: Siskins are currently moving south because cone crops in the Northeast are generally poor on spruce, fir and hemlock. Many siskins also have probably gone to better spruce crops in Western Canada. Siskins relish nyger seeds in silo feeders. Link #3 below discusses siskin irruptions related to climate variability.



Pine Siskin in Sundridge in February 2018. Photo: Claude King

EVENING GROSBEAK: Expect a moderate flight south into southern Ontario and the northern states because both conifer and deciduous seed crops are generally low in the Northeast. The best spot to see this striking grosbeak is the feeders at the Visitor Centre in Algonquin Park. At feeders it prefers black oil sunflower seeds. In April 2016 the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) listed the Evening Grosbeak a species of Special Concern due to strong population declines occurring mainly in central and eastern Canada.

THREE IRRUPTIVE NON-FINCH PASSERINES: Movements of the following three passerines are linked to irruptions of boreal finches.

BLUE JAY: A very large flight of jays is underway along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie. The acorn, beechnut, hazelnut crops were generally poor to low in central Ontario and Quebec.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: This nuthatch is irrupting south because conifer seed crops are poor to low in most of the eastern boreal forest. Red-breasted Nuthatches also have moved east to Newfoundland where spruce crops are excellent. A report on eBird at Point Pelee National Park on 25 July 2018 was an early indication of a movement.



Red-breasted Nuthatch in Sundridge in February 2018. Photo: Claude King

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: A good flight south into settled areas is expected because native Mountain-ashes in Ontario and Quebec's boreal forest have a below average berry crop. Flocks will likely wander farther south and east than usual. Watch for them feeding on European Mountain-ash berries, small ornamental crabapples and Buckthorn berries. Swirling flocks of Bohemian Waxwings resemble starlings and make a continuous buzzy ringing twittering.

Where to see finches: Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park is an exciting winter experience. It is about a 3.5 hour drive north of Toronto. Cone crops are poor in the park so crossbills, siskins and Purple Finches will be mostly absent this winter. The feeders at the Visitor Centre (km 43) should attract Common and Hoary Redpolls, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. The feeders are easily observed from the viewing deck. The Visitor Centre and restaurant are open weekends in winter. On weekdays there are limited services, but snacks and drinks are available. The bookstore has a large selection of natural history books. Be sure to get the *Birds of Algonquin Park* (2012) by former park naturalist Ron Tozer. It is one of the finest regional bird books. The nearby Spruce Bog Trail at km 42.5 and Opeongo Road at km 44.5 are the best spots for boreal species such as finches, Canada Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker.

Follow finches this fall and winter on eBird.

Nature Outing Report for September 9

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

Eight PFN members joined leader Chris Risley on this outing hoping to see some cool stuff. Despite all the warm weather we have had this summer, the high temperature on our outing was only 13°C. The sky was overcast and there was a slight wind. We started off at Lock 24 where we watched some Common Mergansers chasing each other in the river.

After this, we went to the Trent Rotary Trail and saw (but mostly heard) some birds there, though it seemed rather quiet on the whole. (Side note: Later, Chris Risley informed me that eBird regional reviewer Don Sutherland walked the trails earlier in the day and saw or heard *three times* as many birds as we did. Some people have all the luck, timing, hearing, visual acuity, memory, patience, concentration and skill!) On the off-trail path, we saw some ginormous puffballs that made some of our members get dreamy-eyed. You could almost picture the thought bubbles of giant puffballs on plates and hear the carving knife being sharpened.



A mutant puffball. Photo: K. Sheridan

Our bird list (25 species): Wood Duck (35), Mallard (17), Green-winged Teal (1), Ring-necked Duck (2), Lesser Scaup (2), Hooded Merganser (13), Common Merganser (3), Mourning Dove (1), Ring-billed Gull (10), Double-crested Cormorant (11), Turkey Vulture (2), Downy Woodpecker (2), American Crow (7), Black-capped Chickadee (6), Marsh Wren (1), Red-winged Blackbird (17), Chestnut-sided Warbler (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (1), Scarlet Tanager (1), Blue Jay (8), Northern Flicker (2), Gray Catbird (1), American Goldfinch (1), Northern Cardinal (2), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1)



An unusually curious and conspicuous Marsh Wren. Photo: Ken McKeen

Lastly, we visited the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and saw numerous species of ducks, a few warblers and some other birds. Here, a small group of us was treated to a curious Marsh Wren checking us out in full view, unprompted. A small swarm of mayflies escorted some of us around part of the lagoon. Now I know: Mayflies aren't just for May.



A mayfly resting on my scope. Photo: K. Sheridan

Nature Outing Report for September 16

Submitted by Don McLeod

Martin Parker led a group of ten PFN members on a warm Sunday morning outing to the Otonabee area south of Peterborough. The first stop was the Otonabee Gravel Pit Conservation Area owned by Otonabee Conservation. This property consists of several old gravel



Wild Turkey secondary feather from left wing measuring 12.5" (31.6 cm) long. Photo: Don McLeod.

extraction ponds plus the surrounding forest and shoreline along the Otonabee River. Despite some minor access issues such as two gates and overgrown trails, the ponds area proved to be a real gem for observation. Along the trail to the gravel pit, Blue-headed Vireos and a Red-bellied Woodpecker were seen and heard. A Wild Turkey feather was found and photographed. At the ponds we were greeted with the first of two large flocks of Green-winged Teal. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were another highlight for the day as was a dramatic chase scene involving a Cooper's Hawk going after a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Herptile observations included American Bullfrog, Green Frog and Northern Leopard Frog. The Bullfrog was photographed from a distance and would not cooperate with stealth attempts to get closer. A century ago, the Otonabee River was known for very large populations of Bullfrogs. Now, they are rare. A handful of butterflies included a nice view of the Viceroy. A Common Green Darner dragonfly also flew close to us.



Viceroy (a Monarch mimic). Note distinguishing black line across hind wings. Photo: Don McLeod.

The list of 29 species of birds seen and/or heard at the Gravel Pit Area included: Canada Goose, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Purple Finch, Song Sparrow, Common Grackle, Palm Warbler.

The next stop on the outing was at the Paudash St E boat ramp in Hiawatha. Nine species of birds observed on or near Rice Lake included: Canada Goose, Mallard, Mourning Dove, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Blue Jay, American Crow and House Sparrow. Several of us had a close look at the larva of a Hickory Tussock Moth. A final stop for some members was at the Peterborough Landfill Wetland Project ponds along Bensfort Rd which produced three species: Canada Goose, Mallard and Great Blue Heron. Martin Parker submitted the bird lists to eBird.



Greater Yellowlegs sandpiper at the gravel pit. Photo: Don McLeod.



Common Green Darner. This one might be getting ready to migrate soon. Yes, migrate! Photo: Don McLeod.

Nature Outing Report for September 15: Shorebirds and Monarchs

Submitted by Martin Parker

A total of 13 members of the PFN participated in this annual trip to Presqu'île Provincial Park to view migrating shorebirds and monarch butterflies. The initial park destination was Owen Point where the group was able to observe a small flock of Semipalmated Plovers which contained two Baird's Sandpipers and one White-rumped Sandpiper. With the use of scopes, the participants were able to distinguish between the various species. Suddenly the small flock erupted into the air when a Peregrine Falcon rocketed by.

While at Owens Point, a few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted passing by. Monarch butterflies were also passing over. In the open water of Popham Bay there was a variety of waterfowl species including a flock of Green-winged Teal. The next destination was Beach 1 where the participants had an excellent view of a Caspian Tern. The gulls were scanned and the distinguishing features between Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were noted.

After lunch, the group visited the Lighthouse area where a variety of small land birds were located amongst the leaves. The highlight was a Carolina Wren, heard calling repeatedly and also seen. At one point it was mobbed by a much smaller House Wren. Several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in this area along with Blue-headed, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos. The final stop in the park was the Calf Pasture area where a small flock of warblers kept the observers busy determining the different species. Offshore were numerous Mute Swans and Canada Geese along with Mallards and American Wigeon.

In the park's marshland just outside the entrance, a Great Egret was observed feeding along with 8 Common Gallinules, mostly young of the year.

The participants then proceeded to the Brighton Constructed Wetland and Sewage Lagoon where 30 Northern Shovelers, 1 Hooded Merganser and 4 Bonaparte's Gull were observed.

At the end of the day, a total of 70 species of birds was observed. The next PFN outing to Presqu'île Provincial Park is scheduled for Sunday, November 4.

PFN Contributes to Brighton Wetland Protection

Submitted by Martin Parker

The following was e-mailed by Mark Stabb, Program Director, Central Ontario-East, Ontario Region | Nature Conservancy of Canada and speaker at the May 2018 meeting of the PFN:

There has been great community support for this project, as well as terrific support from the regional naturalist community. We've had donations or pledges from Willow Beach Field Naturalists, Peterborough Field Naturalists, Lone Pine Land Trust, Northumberland Land Trust, Ontario Field Ornithologists, along with support from the Municipality of Brighton and Lower Trent CA. To date, NCC has received donations or pledges totaling roughly \$280,000 towards our \$400,000 goal. To close the deal, NCC



PFN members on recent Presqu'île outing standing in front of Brighton Wetland sign. Photo: Martin Parker

now has a loan approved for the remaining funds. This enabled us to waive the funding condition in our agreement (June 30) and we are now bound to complete the purchase at the end of July. We will keep fundraising until the loan is paid off - and beyond, actually, as we will be looking into some capital work such as trails, signage etc.

With such interest and generous support, it is quite possible that we will have all the funds in place by the end of July, making the loan (and the interest payments) unnecessary.

Thanks again for your support. I'm looking forward to NCC being a bigger player in the Bay, and to future projects and partnership with Ontario Parks and/or the Friends!'

Board Note: The Brighton Wetland is at the northern end of Presqu'ile Bay and just west of the reconstructed wetland. The spring and fall outings to Presqu'ile regularly stop at a vantage point where trip participants can scan the wetland for waterbirds. It is exciting that this area will now be protected from development.

Your Board decided to make a financial contribution of \$1,000 towards the protection of this coastal wetland. Several members of the PFN also made their own contributions towards this acquisition.

The Beauty of a Fungus

A whitish mushroom attached to a large maple,
It looked so artistic it stopped me in my tracks.
The fruiting body of a parasitic fungus
Is attacking the heartwood; it's as deadly as an axe.

This Northern Tooth just happened to form
A circular structure of overhanging shelves,
An external sign of heart rot infection within,
Weakening the tree until it's blown down in a storm.

Lacking gills or pores found in other mushrooms,
Its shelves' undersides are packed with 'teeth' or spines
That provide a large area for production of spores
In such numbers to ensure survival as to boggle our minds.

The infected snag creates homes, lookouts, and food
For many birds and small animals of forest and pond.
The fallen log will shelter and feed more as it rots,
Creating a stable ecosystem of wondrous plenitude.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018



Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is **Sunday, October 21.**

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



From the Archives – The First Newsletter

Submitted by Martin Parker

Peterborough Nature News – March 1949, Number 1, Vol. 1

This is the first of what I hope will be a series of newsletters to be issued perhaps two or three times a year. It seems worthwhile to have such a vehicle to inform members of decisions taken by their Executive, and to discuss topics of general interest. In this way, perhaps we can stimulate interest in our Club and keep our members in closer touch between meetings and outings. As your President, I am undertaking this first issue myself, with the kind cooperation of Mr. McKone in typing and reproducing. It is hoped that any member will feel free to contribute paragraphs to further issues. Comments, criticisms, and suggestions are invited.

J. L. McKeever, President and Editor

Archivist Comment:

The above is the opening article in the first newsletter of the Peterborough Nature Club, now the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The initial newsletter evolved to become 'The Orchid' in 1956. Over the decades since, 'The Orchid' has been guided by a series of editors to its current format. The vision for a regular newsletter as outlined by Larry J. McKeever is still a foundation for 'The Orchid'.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



The Orchid Diary



Regrettably, the Orchid Diary is not available this month. September's sightings will be reported in the November issue of The Orchid.

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

Here are some photos of various sightings from this year:



Swallow-tailed Kite at Wasaga Beach on August 29.
Photo: Dave Milsom



Red-necked Phalarope at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons May 14. Photo: Basil Conlin



Pileated Woodpecker in Harper Park in April. Photo: Rene Gareau



Barred Owl at the Kawartha Land Trust Ingleton-Wells property on Stoney Lake April 29. Photo: Evan Thomas



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

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

CONTACT

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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

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

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

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

MAIN INTERESTS

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

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

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

I am interested in the following:

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

AGE GROUP

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

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

Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) accepting this application, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever release and discharge the PFN, their officers, directors, servants and agents from any liability whatsoever arising from my participation in PFN activities, whether by reason of negligence of the PFN or its representatives, or otherwise. I affirm that I am in good health, capable of performing the exercise required for field trips or other activities in which I participate, and accept as my personal risk the hazards of such participation. As a member of the PFN and/or as a parent/guardian of a member under 18 years of age, I have read and understood the above, and accept its term on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____