

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



A Beaver on the Trent Canal on February 28. Photo: Dave Milsom

Inside: Wildlife Rescue Info
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Check Inside For Lots of Outings Planned for Spring

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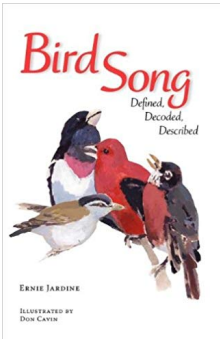
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Welcome new PFN members!

- Marianne Rock & Jason Giajnovio
- Diane Haggert



Clockwise from above: Pine Grosbeak in south end on March 6 (Photo: Rene Gareau), Common Redpolls at Lower Buckhorn Lake in February (Photo: Ken McKeen), and Red-necked Grebe on Otonabee River on March 9 (Photo: Dave Milsom).

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sundays 8 to 11 a.m. Meet at Riverview Park and Zoo</p>	<p>Weekend Wildlife Walks</p> <p>Our popular Spring Wildlife Walks are back. Most weekends we will meet on Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the north parking lot of the Peterborough Zoo, Water Street North. From there we will carpool to various birding hot spots as determined by the leader. Outings generally last about 3 hours. Bring binoculars, spotting scope if you have one, and change to help with gas. Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p> <p>April 7 Jerry Ball April 14 Toby Rowland April 21 Sue Paradisis and Dylan Radcliffe (see separate entry) April 28 Drew Monkman May 5 Mark Rupke and Don McLeod (see separate entry)</p>
<p>Saturday, April 6 7 a.m. in the north parking lot at the Riverview Park and Zoo, 1300 Water St.</p>	<p>Quest for the Canada Jay</p> <p>The Canada Jay officially relinquished its former name (Gray Jay) and resumed its even earlier name (Canada Jay) last year. It was officially recommended as Canada's national bird by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. This special outing will be an all day trip to Ontario's oldest Provincial Park: Algonquin. The focus of the trip will be to look for Canada Jays and other birds such as Spruce Grouse and winter finches. Early spring migrants are possible. Leaders for this outing are Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>This trip has an early departure in order to maximize the time spent in the park. A stop will be made in Bancroft on the way to the park. A visit to the park's Visitor Centre will be included.</p> <p>Meet in the north parking lot at the Riverview Park and Zoo at 7:00 a.m. Dress according to the weather forecast for the day of the outing and bring winter footwear. Bring your binoculars, camera, and packed lunch.</p> <p>Accessibility - Easy to moderate depending on the depth of the remaining winter snow</p>
<p>Wednesday, Apr. 10 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Bird Song - Defined, Decoded, Described</p> <p>As a youngster, well over half a century ago, Ernie Jardine was bitten by the birdwatching bug and his passion has never stopped. He is the author of <i>Bird Song - Defined, Decoded, Described</i> a guide to the songs of over 200 birds of eastern North America.</p> <p>Ernie will explain his system for learning to identify bird songs, developed through many years of listening to our birds, studying their songs, recording and analysing them. This practical system allows a birder to "access" and identify a mystery song in the field while the bird is singing.</p> 

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Easter Sunday, April 21 1:00 p.m. Harper Park Parking in the lot of the former site of Kawartha Metals at 586 Harper Road. – just north of the railway tracks</p>	<p>Harper Park</p> <p>Discover a hidden treasure and a provincially significant wetland within our City boundaries. Learn about the history of the site along with its interesting groundwater-based ecosystems and heritage trees. We will visit the vernal pool to see fairy shrimp and possibly wood frog egg masses. Dylan Radcliffe and Sue Paradisis are the leaders for the afternoon.</p> <p>Dress according to the weather forecast, wear waterproof footwear and bring binoculars.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate</p>
<p>Wednesday Apr 24 Meet at 6:00 p.m. in the north parking lot of the Peterborough Zoo</p>	<p>Night of Salamanders and Frogs</p> <p>This annual PFN evening trip is to look for migrating salamanders and their egg masses in breeding pools. This inventory event will be at the Ingleton-Wells property of the Kawartha Land Trust. We will start by checking the pools in daylight for the eggs of Wood Frogs, Spotted and Blue-Spotted Salamanders and for some of the many organisms that live and breed in these unique woodland pools. We will also be listening for calling frogs and owls. The trip is jointly led by Thomas Unrau of Kawartha Land Trust, Martin Parker and Sue Paradisis.</p> <p>This is an evening outing so bring a flash light or head lamp as we will be returning from the pools in the dark. After meeting at the zoo, we will travel to the Ingleton-Wells property on the northwestern part of Stoney Lake. For those wishing to meet us there at 7:00 p.m., the address is 105 Reid's Road. Wear clothes suitable to the weather forecast and bring water-proof footwear. It is anticipated that we will return to the city around 11:00 p.m.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate with walking around woodland ponds and returning in the dark.</p>
<p>Saturday, Apr 27 7:30 p.m. at the Sobey's parking lot adjacent to Tim Hortons, Lansdowne St. W.</p>	<p>Kermit's Friends and Timberdoodles</p> <p>The dusk air of spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock (a.k.a. Timberdoodle). Join Martin Parker for a 2-hour outing to listen to and distinguish between the different species of calling frogs and toads of our region and listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock.</p> <p>We will meet at the south end of the Sobey's parking lot next to Tim Hortons at 7:30 p.m. and travel to Hooten Line through the Cavan Swamp. We will walk a section of this closed, flat roadway. Bring a flashlight</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy, walking a closed road</p>
<p>Sunday, May 5 Meet at 12:15 p.m. in Harper Road-</p>	<p>Nature Walk at Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre, Cobourg</p> <p>Come and explore this Northumberland Land Trust property. To find out more about the Centre, check out: http://nltrust.ca/nlt-nature-reserves/laurie-lawson-</p>

PFN Coming Events

Crawford Drive parking lot	<p>outdoor-education-centre/. The google map link for the Centre is: https://goo.gl/maps/yLJKA3ft7fL2</p> <p>This event is organized by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists. As a joint outing, it is open to members from both WBFN and PFN. It will be led by Mark Rupke and Don McLeod. This will be a half-day outing. There will be a carpool gathering for PFN members at the parking lot at the intersection of Crawford Drive and Harper Road in Peterborough at 12:15pm. (Turn off Lansdowne going south on Rye St. which turns into Harper which ends at Crawford OR go north off Sir Sanford Fleming Drive on to Crawford.). Otherwise, meet at 1 p.m. at the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Environment Centre, 8000 Telephone Road, Cobourg.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 8 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: A Day in the Life of a Shorebird in South Carolina</p> <p>Shorebirds are an incredible group of birds that are important for wetland ecosystems and undergo one of nature's craziest phenomena – migration! But shorebirds are in trouble – their populations are experiencing drastic declines and many species are threatened or endangered. Ellen Jamieson is a Master's student at Trent University. Born and raised in Peterborough, she was encouraged to learn about nature and immerse herself in the outdoors from a young age. She is studying shorebird habitat use and feeding ecology on Bulls Island in South Carolina.</p>

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.

Other Events of Interest


<p>Tuesday, Apr. 9 7:30 p.m. Publican House, 300 Charlotte St.</p>	<p>The Conservation Café: Dr. Sheila Colla on Pollinators</p> <p>Dr. Sheila Colla, Professor of Environmental Studies at York University, will speak about pollinators and urban policy. A cash bar will be available.</p>
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Other Events of Interest

<p>Saturday, Apr. 13 9:30 a.m. Pickering Recreation Complex, O'Brien Room B 1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering</p>	<p>Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Spring Regional Meeting</p> <p>Our friends, the Pickering Naturalists are hosting this time. The program is packed with presentations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Nature Update on Protected Places and Current Provincial Policies, Dr. Anne Bell, Director of Conservation and Education • Pickering Naturalists – Steve LaForest, President • Blue Dot Durham – Dennis Sallans, Blue Dot Leader • Altona Forest – Larry Noonan, Altona Forest Stewardship Committee • Ontario Nature Board Update – Cara Gregory, LON Regional Director • Nature Network Update – Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia, Regional Coordinator • Alex Robertson Park Evolution (Hydro Park/Marsh) – Bob Hester, Retired OPG, Senior Scientist of Environmental Programs • A hike to the Alex Robertson Park. This 48-acre park includes several popular hiking trails through a variety of habitats and access to the Waterfront Trail along Lake Ontario. <p>PFN members are welcome to attend.</p>
<p>7 to 8 p.m. Fleming College 599 Brealey Drive, Whetung Theatre, Room 205</p>	<p>Peterborough County Stewardship Speaker Series</p> <p>This is a free event. All are welcome to attend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, April 25: Donnell Gasbarrini from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre will be speaking about turtle conservation • Thursday, May 30: Josh Feltham's talk will be "Amphibians and Reptiles of the Kawarthas: Profiles and Patterns"
<p>April 27 7-9 p.m. Cork & Bean 382 George St. N.</p>	<p>Best Places to Bird in Ontario Book Launch Party</p> <p>Kenneth and Michael Burrell will be launching their book, <i>Best Places to Bird in Ontario</i>, which outlines the top thirty birding destinations in Ontario, with up-to-date information on hard to find species, directions, birding tips, and much more.</p> 
<p>April 26 to 28 (Friday to Sunday) Fleming Trades & Technology Centre, Fleming College, 599 Brealey Drive <i>Held at new location!</i></p>	<p>Peterborough Garden Show</p> <p>This year, the Peterborough Horticultural Society has partnered with Fleming College and so the Peterborough Garden Show will be held at the Fleming Trades and Technology Centre. Admission is \$10.00 for a one-price ticket to enjoy the show all weekend. Lots of FREE parking. More details at peterboroughgardenshow.com</p> <p>Enjoy speakers, workshops, vendors, the "Little Green Thumbs" Children's Garden and much more. All show profits go back into the community to fund scholarships for post-secondary students studying in horticulture-related fields, various local projects & Community Gardens.</p> <p>The Peterborough Field Naturalists will have a booth and display at the Garden Show. Check out the Volunteer Corner to find out how you can help out!</p>

Other Events of Interest	
Saturday, May 4	<p>Global Big Day</p> <p>Global Big Day is birding's biggest day, uniting birdwatchers worldwide across political boundaries and language barriers, all brought together by our shared passion for birds. In 2017, 20,500 people from 162 countries took part. In 2019, will you join us?</p> <p>It's simple to contribute. Just go birding and then submit your data to eBird. How easy and fun is that? You don't need to do a full day of birding. Even an hour or 10 minutes makes a real difference! Learn more on eBird.</p>
May 4, 19, 26 Toronto area	<p>NANPS Native Plant Sales</p> <p>The North American Native Plant Society is proud to announce three native plant sales planned for this spring. Ethical growers approved by NANPS at all sales with knowledgeable volunteers available for assistance. Free admission and parking. Visit www.nanps.org for more information.</p>
May 24 to 26 Friday to Sunday South Bruce Peninsula	<p>Bruce Peninsula Nature Weekend</p> <p>Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars – this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a special place for naturalists.</p> <p>South Peel Naturalists' Club extends an invitation to join them to explore the Bruce Peninsula. This annual weekend event provides the opportunity to see the best of the Bruce with expert leaders and in the company of fellow naturalists.</p> <p>The cost per person for the weekend is \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders plus \$244 (+ 13% taxes) for two nights' accommodation at Evergreen Resort (evergreenresortredbay.ca) near Red Bay (includes all meals and snacks). Book rooms in advance by calling 519-534-1868. To register for the weekend, send e-mail to mail@spnc.ca or contact Donna at 905-815-0933 or Audrey at 905-820-2571.</p>
May 31 to June 2 Mohawk College, Hamilton	<p>Ontario Nature Annual Gathering</p> <p>Ontario Nature is holding its 88th Annual Gathering with the theme: Be the Change: Inspiration for the Future. We would love to have you join us!</p> <p>Attending our Annual Gathering is the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow nature lovers and have a weekend of fun in the outdoors. Highlights of the weekend include inspiring speakers, expert-led nature workshops and guided field trips to local ecological treasures.</p> <p>Space is limited so register today! The deadline to register is May 1. You can visit https://ontarionature.org/events/annual-gathering/ for all of the important event details.</p> <div>  </div>

Other Events of Interest

<p>Sept 23 to 27 or Sept 29 to Oct 4 or Oct 7 to 10</p>	<p>2019 Fabulous Fall Fungi Workshops</p> <p>Now in their 10th year! These fun & educational hands-on workshops provide the ideal opportunity to learn about mushroom identification, ecology, and natural history in a beautiful country setting. Suitable for all levels. Small class size. Typically, 150 to 200+ species identified per session. All meals & lodging included. Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Early registration is advised. Details: https://qubs.ca.</p>	
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President's Message

Environmental Advocacy

Things have remained active on the advocacy front. The PFN has joined with Ontario Nature in two submissions to the provincial government on changes that will weaken the Endangered Species Act.



Secretary Martin Parker did an interview recently on CHEX about the open season on cormorants. The government has not yet made a final decision on this so there is still time for individual members to write to their MPPs about this issue.

The PFN has been invited as a "key stakeholder" to make a submission to the Trent Lands consultation. A group of board and club members will be meeting with the consultants in the near future.

I want to encourage members who are out observing spring activity to register their sightings with sites like eBird or iNaturalist, or indeed the Orchid Diary. Such information is invaluable in advocacy efforts to protect important natural areas.

New Website

Our revamped website is up and running thanks to the hard work of co-webmaster Dylan Radcliffe. If you haven't already done so, visit the site and admire Dylan's work.

Margaret and Carl Nunn Memorial Camp Scholarship

Last month we asked for suggestions for a young person to nominate for this Ontario Nature Award. I am pleased to inform you that we have nominated a candidate for the Award and are anxiously awaiting the results.

Ted Vale, President

Volunteer Corner

Peterborough Garden Show

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will have a display table at the Peterborough Garden Show which runs Friday April 26 to Sunday April 28. This year the Garden Show is in a new venue, located at Fleming College, Trades and Technology Centre.



We are looking for volunteers to cover a 3 or 4-hour shift at the PFN booth. Two people are needed per shift. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with folks who are interested in our Club activities. Bonus: There is always time to tour the many vendors and exhibitors at the show! Please contact Lynn Smith if you would like to be involved: smithfam@nexicom.net or 705-944-5599. Thank you!

Harper Park Challenge

Submitted by Lynn Smith

eBirders & iNaturalist Users: A CHALLENGE!

Several members of the PFN and community have walked the paths, nooks and crannies of Harper Park using eBird or iNaturalist to document flora and fauna. This survey needs to be ongoing, 12 months of the year, so a clear picture of species identification, abundance and movement is achieved. This information is used when negotiating for protection of Harper Park from encroaching development.

So, back to the challenge! For the spring season, from April 1 to June 15, I'd like to challenge you to explore Harper Park, recording birds on eBird and other plants and animals on iNaturalist. I'd like to see lots of 'survey days' over this time period. We need to learn which migratory birds are using Harper Park, who is staying to nest, which plants are popping up etc.

For documenting species on eBird (ebird.org), Harper Park is a hotspot. On iNaturalist (iNaturalist.org) all species should be entered under the Project, 'Harper Park Stewardship Initiative'.

I will be checking eBird and iNaturalist to see who is out there surveying. There just might be a 'prize' for the person who puts in the most days. :-)

Check the website (www.harperpark.ca) for a map and information on the Park.

For any questions, please contact Lynn Smith at smithfam@nexicom.net.

PFN Juniors' Traditional Skills Outing

Submitted by Lara Griffin

The PFN Juniors had a great winter afternoon at Camp Kawartha on March 3 with outdoor education instructor, Chantale Killey. Parents and kids alike enjoyed some kick sledding, learned about traditional fire making and explored the wickiup. Thanks to Chantale and all the families who came out for this fun activity.

Watch the website for spring activities and email pfnjuniors@gmail.com to join the email list for announcements.



Kicksledding at Camp Kawartha. Photo: Gina Verrin



The wickiup at Camp Kawartha. Photo: Gina Verrin

Book Overview: The Overstory by Richard Powers

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

How do you classify a novel about how humans are destroying the world AND fill it chock full of information about how trees support everything - air, soil, life - then cap it off with a meta message about the importance of "story" and human psychology? This, in a nutshell (sorry!), is the theme of *The Overstory* by Richard Powers.

The novel starts with the backstory, a section called *Roots*, of nine disparate people who come into cognition of how fatal our "suicide economy" is through different channels. Walking through a psychological door of awareness that offers no return, they meet up at a non-violent eco-protection camp in Oregon.

In the next section, called *Trunk*, tense confrontations with loggers, police, "suits", and politicians ensue. The reader will recognize snippets of stories that actually happened, such as that of Julia "Butterfly" Hill who lived in a 1500 year old California redwood for 738 days through 1997 to 1999.

Through the words of field biologist and tree expert, Dr. Patricia Westerford, we learn that "before it dies, a Douglas-fir, half a millennium old, will send its storehouse of chemicals back down into its roots and out through its fungal partners, donating its riches to the community pool in a last will and testament."

The science tells us that rot adds value to a forest in such a way that streams in old growth forests have five to ten times more fish. Westerford says "People could make more money harvesting mushrooms and fish and other edibles, year after year, than they do by clear-cutting every half-dozen decades."

We meet Adam Appich, a grad psychology student who goes on to become a psych prof after tendering his dissertation based on the group of eco-activists he ultimately joins. When asked by another participant, "How do we convince people that we're right?" he responds, "The best arguments in the world won't change a person's mind. The only thing that can do that is a good story." This is possibly the most important line in the entire 500 page book, coupled with Adam's belief, "Property and mastery: nothing else counts [for humans]. Earth will be monetized until all trees grow in straight lines, three people own all seven continents, and very large organisms are bred to be slaughtered." Many of the characters obsess over what keeps people from seeing the obvious as well as its corollary, how some people manage to see.

Twenty years pass and the novel enters the section called *Crown*. The confrontational drama of the *Trunk* section comes to roost as the past catches up to the core group.

In the final section, entitled *Seeds*, a seminal question is asked, both of the people in the book and of the reader. "What is the single best thing a person can do for tomorrow's world?"

The answer is surprising, even shocking and, of course, there's more than one.

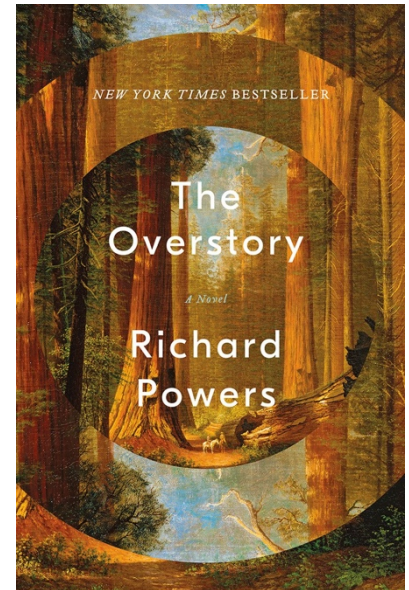
Politically, it's easier to claim scientific murkiness than to tell the truth. Decision makers with power, both political and economic, value their self-interest over the condition of the world their grandchildren will inherit. Venal or foolish, it's human nature. The more difficult question is how to come to terms with the fact that our species has proved itself incapable of taking remedial action.

Ultimately, Power's book is a passionate *cri de coeur*.

Available in the fiction section of the library.

ISBN: 9780393635522

Norton & Co. Publ. 2018



Found an Animal?

From <https://www.kawarthawildlifecentre.ca/>

Before you lend a hand, please make sure the animal actually needs your help. What you are witnessing may be perfectly normal behaviour.

Removing a wild animal from its natural habitat might actually do more harm than good, so before you "rescue" any wild animal, please make sure they actually need your help. If you've found a wild animal in distress, please contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre near you.

Contact us for wildlife advice, education and inquiries at 705-292-9211. Until the Kawartha Wildlife Centre is fully operational, we will be redirecting injured and orphaned wildlife to other centres in the area:

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

2146 Duck Lake Rd, Minden, ph: 705-286-1133, woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre

1434 Chemong Rd #4, Peterborough, ph: 705-741-5000, ontarioturtle.ca

Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge

87 Routley Ave, Pefferlaw, ph: 705-437-4654, shadesofhope.ca

Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre

8749 County Rd 2, Napanee, ph: 613-354-0264, sandypineswildlife.org



How Humane is Humane Trapping?

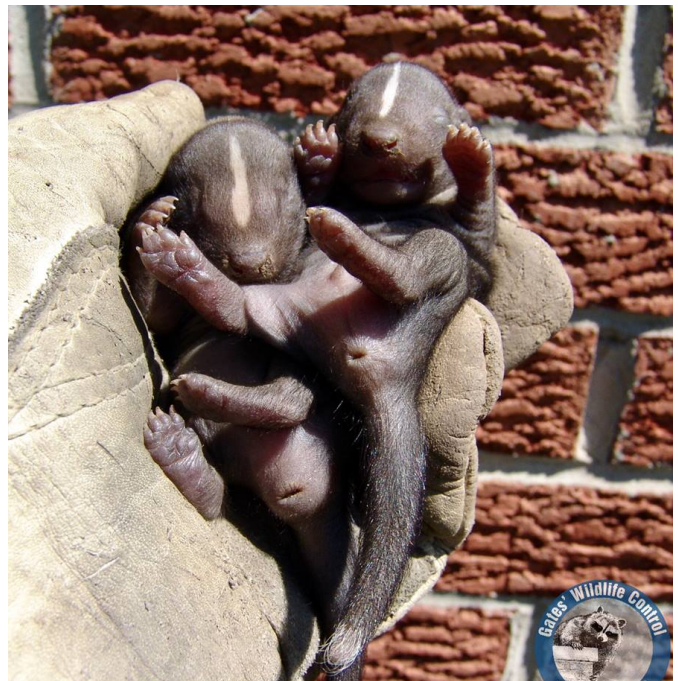
Based on an article by Donna Dubreuil, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

From www.wildlifehotline.org/scrapthetrap.html

They are considered the humane alternative to killing so-called "nuisance" wildlife. "Humane" or "live" traps supposedly capture animals without physically harming them. The question that is now being raised is: How humane are these traps when their use results in the deaths of hundreds of animals each year?

Live-traps come in various sizes and can be bought or rented from gardening and hardware stores. The trap is baited with food to lure the animal in. When the animal enters the cage far enough, he inadvertently steps on a platform that trips a door which quickly closes behind the animal.

Many homeowners use these traps to rid their lawns and gardens of squirrels, raccoons, groundhogs and skunks. Once trapped, the animal is relocated to a place away from the person's home. Homeowners assume they will no longer be troubled by the animal(s). People who use live-traps believe they are being humane since the trap doesn't hurt the animal.



Skunk kits (alive and well). Visit gateswildlifecontrol.com to learn more about humane animal removal and animal-proofing. This company's practises are endorsed by Ontario wildlife rehabilitators.

In most cases, if released soon after being caught, the animal is not hurt. But it is what the homeowner does not see that makes the use of these traps extremely inhumane.

Take the case of one couple who trapped and relocated a raccoon that had moved into their attic. Two days after removing the animal, the family heard the cries of baby raccoons. After cutting through drywall to access the area from where the sounds were coming, they found four raccoons, about three weeks of age, orphaned. The homeowner called a rehabilitator, feeling terrible for what she had done and not knowing what to do next.

Up to 30% of orphaned wildlife calls are the result of homeowners trapping and relocating adult females, unaware that these animals have dependent young. Too frequently, thousands of "created" orphans have to be euthanized because the limited numbers of licensed rehabilitators do not have the space to house all of them.

After checking with 11 pest control and wildlife removal companies, one wildlife centre in Canada found that eight of these companies are live-trapping and relocating wildlife during the birthing season. They tell clients that the young can survive without their mother!

Live-trapping will not solve wildlife "problems." Consider the facts:

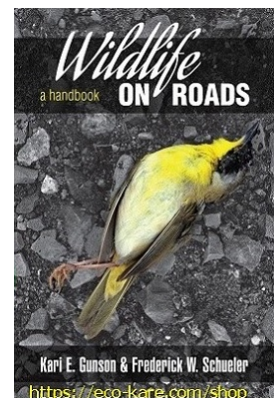
- When a nursing female is trapped and relocated, her young will starve. Even if the mother and her young are trapped together, she will be very stressed to find a new denning site and may only take one or two of her young, leaving the others behind.
- Birthing/rearing begins in March and lasts until the end of October for several mammals. Humane trapping outside of the birthing season, prior to or during winter, is a death sentence for the animal as it's unlikely to find a winter denning site before dying of exposure.
- Relocated animals often do not survive in new territories where they have no food source or denning site, and are frequently driven off by resident animals.
- "Humane" trapping to rid a property of "nuisance" wildlife does not solve any perceived problem. Urban wildlife is usually plentiful enough that trapped and relocated animals are soon replaced with others of the same species.
- The only time live-trapping is humane is when an animal is sick or injured and needs to be transported to a wildlife rehabilitation centre.
- There are humane ways to deal with wildlife problems. They involve suitable deterrents and proper animal-proofing.

Wildlife on the Roads - A Handbook

Submitted by Kari E. Gunson

This handbook is ideal for naturalists, students, and citizen scientists who would like to collect accurate and complete wildlife on-road data for application to mitigation planning. The book is organized by vertebrate group: amphibians, turtles, snakes and lizards, mammals and birds and a data management section. Each animal chapter first describes why these animals are on roads and what makes them vulnerable to road-kill. Following these literature reviews the diagnostic features, in context of road-killed carcasses, are outlined for each family and species groups. The handbook features a data management section and an iNaturalist project where concerned citizens can deposit and download their data.

To obtain a copy please go to: <https://eco-kare.com/>



PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
Vice President & Co-webmaster	Dylan Radcliffe	dylan.radcliffe@gmail.com	991-0422	Orchid Editor	Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Past President & Community Partners Liaison	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
Secretary	Martin Parker	mparker19@cogeco.ca	745-4750	Jr. Naturalists	Lara Griffin 749-3639 pfnjuniors@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dave Heuft	dave.heuft@gmail.com	743-6164	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Kathryn Sheridan
Meeting Coordinator	Phil Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	874-1688	Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects	Martin Parker
Meeting Coordinator	Marie Duchesneau	duchesneau13@hotmail.com	874-5739	Environmental Protection Committee	Jim Cashmore, Jim Young, Martin Parker, Ted Vale, Sue Paradisis
AGM Coordinator	Reem Ali	reemest@hotmail.com	868-0060	Harper Park Stewardship	Dylan Radcliffe, Lynn Smith, Rene Gareau, Marilyn Hubley, Ted Vale
Digital Comms Co-coordinator	Marilyn Hubley	maykeema@hotmail.com	760-9378	Webmaster	Chris Gooderham webmaster@peterboroughnature.org
Outside Shows Booth Coordinator	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	741-4560	Peterborough CBC	Martin Parker
Outings Coordinator	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com	559-2061	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones
Ontario Nature Representative	Lesley Hale	lesleyhale@hotmail.com	917-0373	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



TRENT UNIVERSITY

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Environnement et Changement climatique CanadaSmithsonian
Migratory Bird Center

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Have You Seen Me?

Reporting banded Lesser Yellowlegs

As part of a collaborative study to understand the migratory movements, survival, and breeding site fidelity of adults, biologists have marked Lesser Yellowlegs with color bands and unique alpha character or numeric leg flags. In addition, tracking devices were deployed on a proportion of banded adults.

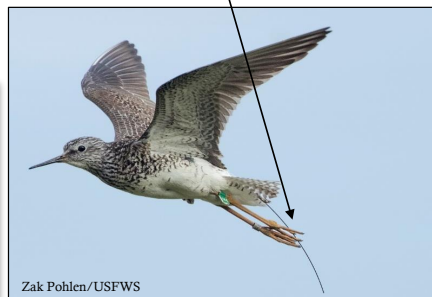
If you see a banded bird please REPORT:

Via email: yellowtringa@gmail.com

Please include a description of leg flag code, color of band, date of sighting, and location of sighting.

If possible, please send a photo(s) of the bird.

Tracking devices you may see:
Light-level geolocator
OR
PinPoint Argos-GPS satellite tag



Zak Pohlen/USFWS



Zak Pohlen/USFWS

Color bands you may see:

Db= Dark Blue
R= Red
Y=Yellow
W= White
Dg=Dark Green
Lb= Light Blue
Bk= Black
M= Metal (aluminum)



Leg flags you may see:

Dark Green (United States)
White (Canada)

PFN Winter Tracking Along the Ballyduff Trails

Submitted by Don McLeod

Seven members from the Peterborough Field Naturalists enjoyed a beautiful winter day looking for wildlife tracks and sign along the Ballyduff Trails and South Pond Farms on February 23. We would like to thank property owners Ralph McKim & Jean Garsonnin for access to their lovely Ballyduff Trails and to South Pond Farms for parking and access to the north end of the trail system.



Fisher tracks and trail. Photo: Don McLeod



PFN members enjoying a beautiful winter day on the trails. Photo: Don McLeod

The winter of 2019 has been poor for tracking due to variable weather and frequent melts or freezing rain. So it was a relief to finally have a good opportunity and we were rewarded with a very rich tracking experience. We observed tracks and/or sign for 13 species of wildlife and we observed or heard seven species of birds. Highlights included the White-tailed Deer kill site, three species of Lagomorphs, Fisher and a large flock of Common Redpolls. Here is the list of species identified by tracks and/or sign: Masked Shrew(?), Red Squirrel, Eastern Gray Squirrel, Eastern Cottontail, Snowshoe Hare, European Hare, Ermine, Fisher, Raccoon, Red Fox, Coyote, White-tailed Deer and Ruffed Grouse. The list of birds uploaded to eBird included: Ruffed Grouse (1), Blue Jay (4), American Crow (2), Black-capped Chickadee (6), White-breasted Nuthatch (1), Common Redpoll (80) and American Goldfinch (5).

From the Archives

Submitted by Martin Parker

"Sign of Spring" by Fred Whitlock

From *The Orchid*, Volume 11, Number 1, February 1969

I have a number of friendly chipmunks that I stuff with peanuts during the summer time, but after the winter sleep I notice they look at me with a certain amount of trepidation when we meet face to face for the first time in the New Year.

One of recently came running over the snow towards the house, unaware of my presence. When I moved, he turned to run, but something evidently stirred in his tiny memory, and as I could almost hear him say "Why, I know you". [Then] he came towards me in the usual way.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, April 19.

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org

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



Photos from PFN Outing to Presqu'île Provincial Park on March 10

A handful of PFN members braved the wet and icy weather to join leader Jerry Ball on this outing.

Bird list for Presqu'île (26 species): Canada Goose (30), Mute Swan (20), Northern Shoveler (1), Mallard (6), Canvasback(2), Redhead (300), Greater Scaup (800), Long-tailed Duck (30), Bufflehead (4), Common Goldeneye (50), Common Merganser (8), Red-breasted Merganser (1), Wild Turkey (13), Mourning Dove (5), Herring Gull (lots and lots), Downy Woodpecker(1), Blue Jay(5), American Crow (2), Black-capped Chickadee (24), Red-breasted Nuthatch (1), White-breasted Nuthatch ((3), American Robin (24), European Starling (1), Common Redpoll (6), American Goldfinch (9), and Northern Cardinal (4). Other birds were seen at other locations including an Iceland Gull at Cobourg Harbour; a Northern Pintail and Trumpeter Swans at Barcovan Beach; and a Hoary Redpoll and 100 Common Redpolls just north of Brighton.



Clockwise from top: Northern Pintail, American Coot, ice volcano erupting (!), and an Iceland Gull amongst Herring Gulls. Photos: Cathy Douglas



Lights Flashing Across The Marsh

It's mid-morning in late April under bright, overcast skies.
The woods are rather quiet now - few migrants here to vocalize.
Along the cattail-studded margins of a stagnant woodland pool
Lies a zone of ritualized combat where pluck and bluff rule.
Perched on a downed poplar branch is a jet black, mature cock;
His red epaulets are on fire, advertising his fit genetic stock.
Spreading his wings like an expansive cape while singing 'okalee'
To other interloping birds, what an imposing sight is he.
He chose this branch as a lookout from which to survey his plot.
Perhaps this time last year he occupied this very spot.
The best territories are those where nests can be built over water;
With the return of the streaked, dark females, competition will be hotter.
A male red-winged blackbird may attract up to fifteen mates.
It all depends on the desirability of his marsh estates.
Soon the colony will become a boisterous, crowded space
Where territorial, aerial skirmishes are very commonplace,
But I enjoy it most when the cocks climb high on a stalk to sing ...
Wing-borne red lights flashing across the marsh tell me it must be spring.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2014



Photo: Murray Palmer



The Orchid Diary



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

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

Weather	The temperatures were below normal with cold nights until mid-March. Sections of the Otonabee River which do not normally freeze over were ice-covered on the PFN outing on March 3. However the weather changed around March 14 with a major influx of migrants at that period. More migrants as March concluded.
Jan. 26	A belated report from Rene Gareau: He heard a Belted Kingfisher near the intersection of Harper Creek and Harper Road.
Feb. 18	Rene Gareau observed a group of 5 Ruffed Grouse along the side of County Road 4 between the 1 st and 2 nd line of Douro. Marla Williams had a Pileated Woodpecker in the Nicholls Oval Park area. Initially it was calling loudly and later in the day flew over the river near the London St. dam.
Feb. 19	Along Northumberland County Road 9 east of Bewdley. Marla Williams found a flock of about 50 Snow Buntings .
Feb. 20	Tim & Julie Haan found a Northern Saw-whet Owl in the area of Maria St. at the railtrail. White-throated Sparrows reported at feeders from five locations in the city and Millbrook.
Feb. 21	Cathy Douglas found three Redheads on the Trent River west of Hastings. Seen by many others in the same area.
Feb. 22	Meredith Clark spotted a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks in the Winner's Plaza area feeding on berries of various fruit trees in the area. On the Trent River at Asphodel Beach, Chris Risley & Ben Taylor had a Mute Swan , 2 Greater Scaup , 1 Red-breasted Merganser & a Red-necked Grebe . Seen in the same area by others during the period.
Feb. 23	Jerry Ball found a Belted Kingfisher along river north of Lock 25. Martin Parker had 1 Horned Lark near Mavis Corners.
Feb. 25	Warren Dunlop located a Greater Scaup on Little Lake off the cemetery. Observed by many others on Little Lake and adjacent river until end of period.
Feb. 26	Jerry Ball found Horned Larks in the fields along Scriven Road.
Mar. 5	Red-necked Grebe appeared on the Otonabee R. in the area of Millenium Park. Initially reported by Daniel Williams and seen regularly until the end of the period by many observers.
Mar. 6	Red-breasted Merganser still present on the Trent River by Warren Dunlop. He also had a Golden Eagle along the Trent River in the Drysdale Road area.
Mar. 7	Mute Swan still present on the Trent River in the Hastings area by Luke Berg, Warren Dunlop & Cathy Douglas. Red-breasted Merganser & Red-necked Grebe on the Trent River near Preston Island by Luke Berg.
Mar.. 8	A Red-breasted Merganser was found on Little Lake, initially by Warren Dunlop and later by many other observers over the next week.
Mar. 10	Dave Milsom had 2 Red-winged Blackbirds in his yard on Scollard Drive.
Mar. 11	Bruce Kidd reported a flock of about 50 Common Redpolls at his feeders near Douro for a couple of weeks. He noted that when the redpolls arrived, the resident flock of American Goldfinch disappeared. The goldfinches are normally present all year.

	<p>Al Sippel observed a Turkey Vulture south of the city.</p> <p>Donald McLeod watched a Muskrat running across the ice of lower Chemong Lake at first light. He noted there was no nearby open water so it had a long journey.</p>
Deep Water Birds	<p>In late February, several species of birds normally associated with the open waters on the Great Lakes showed up on the Otonabee River. They moved inland as the Great Lakes became more ice-covered. These included Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Red-necked Grebes. Many individuals were observed at various locations along the Otonabee and Trent Rivers.</p>
Mar. 12	<p>Sue Paradisis reported a flock of Common Redpolls arrived at her feeders.</p> <p>Dave Heuft reported a Brown Creeper at his residence.</p> <p>Matthew Tobey & Dave Milsom had a Redhead on the river off the Monaghan Road South boat ramp -- seen regularly until March 16 by many other observers.</p>
Mar. 13 (at member's meeting)	<p>Phil Shaw reported that a bat (either Little Brown or Big Brown) was found at the Murray Street Church. It disappeared by the time he arrived.</p> <p>Jerry Ball reported an Iceland Gull on the ice at Little Lake.</p> <p>Dylan Radcliffe reported that within Jackson Park near the creek in a flooded area, there was a large number of crayfish -- some were Rusty Crawfish.</p> <p>Claire __? reported approximately 150 Common Goldeneye were present on the Otonabee River above Lock 25.</p> <p>Susan Weaver reported that periodically during the winter, a Northern Flicker has been visiting her feeders in East City. It likes peanuts.</p> <p>A majority of the attendees at the member's meeting reported observing American Robins during the few days prior to the meeting.</p>
Mar. 13	<p>Don McLeod noted 2 Canada Geese returned to lower Chemong Lake today for the first time this winter. He noted they stood on the ice for a while and then left in a huff.</p> <p>Martin Parker on arriving home was greeted by a strong odour of a Striped Skunk.</p>
Mar. 14	<p>Ben Taylor reported an Eastern Chipmunk was present at his residence for a couple of days.</p> <p>Bill Snowden reported observing American Crows breaking twigs from trees to start nest-building.</p> <p>Pied-billed Grebes arrived on Little Lake according to Bill Crins & Martin Parker.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas found a White-crowned Sparrow on Edenberry Line in the Ennismore area.</p>
Migrant Influx	<p>Warming temperatures and a storm from the south resulted in the arrival of many spring migrants on March 15 and 16 including Killdeer, Turkey Vulture, American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles.</p>
Mar. 15	<p>Bill Snowden reported nine male Red-winged Blackbirds at his residence on Lower Buckhorn Lake. He also note willow buds are starting to expand, and flowers (pussy willows) are starting to show.</p> <p>Jerry Ball observed 4 Ring-necked Ducks on Little Lake. Since seen by many others and number increased to end of reporting period.</p> <p>3 American Wigeon were found on Little Lake off the Cemetery by Ben Taylor.</p> <p>A Gadwall was present on Katchewanooka Lake by Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>Red-necked Grebes were present at several locations including off the Monaghan Road Boat Ramp, behind the Holiday Inn and Auburn Reach. Still present at multiple locations until March 22.</p>
Mar. 16	<p>Jerry Ball observed a Coyote in a field along Lakeview Drive on eastern end of Rice Lake.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland found 2 Cackling Geese in a flock of 225 Canada Geese in flooded area along the 3th line of Otonabee-South Monaghan Township. There was also a pair of Northern Pintail.</p>

	<p>Donald Sutherland had an American Wigeon on the Trent R. off the 5th Line, Asphodel Township.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland located a Snowy Owl at the Peterborough Airport - observed by many until March 17.</p> <p>Mathew Tobey located a Hoary Redpoll within a flock of Common Redpolls in the Baillieboro area.</p> <p>Matthew Tobey had 2 Rusty Blackbirds at Asphodel Beach.</p>
Mar. 18	Jerry Ball had an Eastern Meadowlark along Nicholson Road.
Mar. 19	<p>Scott McKinlay had 2 Cackling Geese along Scriven Road.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas observed a Double-crested Cormorant on the Trent River off the 6th Line of Asphodel Township.</p> <p>Jerry Ball & Kathy & Martin Parker observed 2 Sandhill Cranes flying over Kent's Bay Rd.</p>
Mar. 20	<p>Bill Crins & Cathy Douglas found a White-fronted Goose & 6 Cackling Geese within a flock of Canada Geese on the beach at Beavermead Park. Still present on Little Lake the next day.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas, Colin Jones & Mike V. A. Burrell found 5 Cackling Geese at Beavermead Park.</p> <p>Scott Gibson and others spotted a Red-shouldered Hawk in the Edgewater Blvd. area.</p> <p>Jerry Ball observed a Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, Eastern Meadowlark and a road-killed Striped Skunk along Scriven Line.</p>
Mar. 21	<p>Jerry Ball had a pair of Northern Shrikes along Scriven Road.</p> <p>A Glaucous Gull was found on Little Lake by Iain Rayner, Mike Burrell & Colin Jones.</p> <p>Carrie Sadowski had an American Woodcock near Anne Street in Peterborough.</p> <p>Jerry Ball had a pair of Northern Shrikes off Nicholson Road.</p>
Mar. 22	Jerry Ball reported that the Bald Eagle is on the nest on the western side of Katchewanooka Lake
As of March 22, a total of 90 species of birds have been reported as being observed in Peterborough County on eBird. Over 3,000 checklists have been submitted.	
As the temperatures warm, the evening air will soon be filled with the calls of the early singing amphibians. Please submit the date you hear the first Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs, and Western Chorus Frogs to mparker19@cogeco.ca for the next Orchid Diary.	



A few parting looks at winter.
 Left: Mouse tracks on the Stoney Lake Trails on February 28 (Photo: Ken Lyon). Below: Otter with Bass at Young's Point on December 29 (Photo: Roy Bowles).



Membership Application Form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing this completed form to:

Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Contact Information:

Name(s):	Phone(s):
Address:	Email(s):

I would like to receive The Orchid by (Pick One): ☐ Mail Delivery ☐ E-Mail ☐ Both

Membership type and fee schedule:

Notice: Membership fees provide only a small part of the funds required to operate the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Donations from members like you help us offer a diverse range of programming for everyone. Please consider including a donation with your membership so that we can continue to serve you and the Peterborough community. **Please make cheques payable to Peterborough Field Naturalists.**

I have included a donation with my membership fees: ☐ Yes or ☐ No If Yes amount: \$_____

1. Single Adult \$25 ☐ 2. Single Student \$15 ☐ 3. Single Child (5 – 12) \$10 ☐ 4. Family \$30* ☐

***Please give the names and ages of children wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:**

Name:	Age:	Name:	Age:

◀◀◀ New Member Information ▶▶▶

Main interests:

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles and Amphibians | <input type="checkbox"/> Botany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals |
| Other: _____ | | |

How do you hope to participate:

- ☐ Outings
☐ Citizen Science
☐ Meetings
☐ Junior Naturalists

Volunteers are always needed. Do you have interest in any of these activities:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join the PFN board | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit on research or conservation committees | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with the Orchid publication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on field projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead an outing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help the Junior Naturalists | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a presentation | |

Liability Waiver (New and Returning Members):

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 my underage children

Signature: _____ Date: _____