

*The*

# Orchid



May 2019

Volume 65, No. 4

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

*Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

*Published nine times yearly. Publication Mail Agreement #4005104*

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



I don't care about spots on my apples. Leave me the birds and the bees, please!

Sentiment: Joni Mitchell. Photo of once endangered Osprey with a fish: Rene Gareau

**Inside:** PFN Trip Reports: Algonquin Park and Rice Lake  
Book Overview: The Secret Wisdom of Nature  
Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Report  
Info on Trent Canal Goings-on and ORCA Step Into Nature Program  
Student Writes About Experience With Conservation Project in South Africa

## In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events.....	3
PFN Junior Field Naturalists.....	5
Other Events of Interest.....	5
President's Message.....	7
PFN Supports Holy Cross Student in Africa .....	8
Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Report.....	9
Outing Report: Rice Lake .....	11
Outing Report: Quest for the Canada Jay .....	12
ORCA Explorations of Watershed Region.....	14
Book Overview: The Secret Wisdom of Nature. ....	15
A Little Dabble Do Ya.....	17
What Are They Doing Along the Canal? .....	17
The Orchid Diary .....	20
PFN Membership Application.....	24



From top down: Eastern Meadowlark, Red Squirrel, male Wild Turkeys displaying for preoccupied female (Cathy Douglas), and Tree and Barn Swallows (Toby Rowland)



### Welcome new PFN members!

- Carol & Paul Foster
- Fenella Hood
- Lisa Nisbet
- Karen Vanderwolf

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sundays 8 to 11 a.m. Meet at Riverview Park and Zoo</p>	<p><b>Weekend Wildlife Walks</b></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>May 5 Mark Rupke and Don McLeod (see separate entry) May 12 Scott McKinlay (see separate entry) May 19 Dave Milsom May 26 Martin Parker June 2 Jerry Ball - Carden Plain (see separate entry)</p>
<p>Sunday, May 5 Meet at 12:15 p.m. in Harper Road- Crawford Drive parking lot</p>	<p><b>Nature Walk at Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre, Cobourg</b></p> <p>Come and explore this Northumberland Land Trust property. To find out more about the Centre, check out: <a href="http://nltrust.ca/nlt-nature-reserves/laurie-lawson-outdoor-education-centre/">http://nltrust.ca/nlt-nature-reserves/laurie-lawson-outdoor-education-centre/</a>. The google map link for the Centre is: <a href="https://goo.gl/maps/yLJKA3ft7fL2">https://goo.gl/maps/yLJKA3ft7fL2</a></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><b>Monthly Meeting: A Day in the Life of a Shorebird in South Carolina</b></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>
<p>Saturday, May 11 6:30 p.m. Lady Eaton Drumlin</p>	<p><b>Evening Wildflower Walk</b></p> <p>The top of the Lady Eaton Drumlin is carpeted with spring ephemeral wildflowers in May. We are pleased to have The Trent University Biology Undergraduate Society, led by Bryan Hughes, take us on this evening walk. Take</p>



PFN Coming Events	
Trent University	<p>Water Street North to Trent University west bank and turn left after the Childcare Centre to park in Parking Lot G.</p> <p>Accessibility: The climb to the top of the drumlin is challenging but the walk at the top is easy.</p>
<p>Sunday, May 12</p> <p>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Ultramar at Lansdowne St. W. and Hwy 7</p>	<p><b>A Walk on the Hogsback Trail, an Esker near Omemee</b></p> <p>Join Scott McKinlay for a birding and nature hike along the Hogsback Trail, Omemee Esker. We will also be making a couple of stops along the way in the Cavan hills and swamps. The 2.5 km Hogsback trail is hilly and rocky in areas and can be muddy after a rainfall, so wear sturdy footwear. We will be leaving cars at both ends of the trail so please leave some empty seats in your car for ferrying people back to the start. Bring binoculars, weather-appropriate clothing and bring a small donation for gas costs if you are not driving. We will be meeting at 8:00 a.m., WEST of Peterborough at the Ultramar at the intersection of Lansdowne St and Hwy 7. Accessibility: moderate to challenging.</p>
<p>Saturday, May 25</p> <p>1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Meet at Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, 175 George St. N. (old train station)</p>	<p><b>Jane's Walk: Severed Connections: The Jackson Creek Story</b></p> <p>Over centuries past, Jackson Creek has been a focal point of Peterborough's economic, social, and environmental past. Join us as we explore sustainability through the lens of the Jackson Creek story. This walk will be a conversation about how Jackson Creek and other places in our community connect us to the land and the people around us. How might we use environmental restoration as a means for building community resilience? Over 3 hours we will discover the hidden Creek as it runs through downtown and out of the city centre. There will be plenty of breaks for conversation including a rest break at Fleming Park at 2:30. The walk will finish at Jackson Park at 4:00. Our leader will be Dylan Radcliffe.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Sunday, Jun. 2</p> <p>7 a.m.</p> <p>Meet at Tim Horton's at the Sobey's Plaza on Lansdowne Street West</p>	<p><b>Carden Plain Important Bird Area</b></p> <p>Join us for an all-day visit to the wonderful Carden Plain. This is an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will be our guide to this globally rare habitat 65 km west of Peterborough. Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers are all possibilities. Bring some lunch, water, a camera for the excellent photographic opportunities, and binoculars.</p> <p>Accessibility: easy. Some driving on a gravel road.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Jun. 12</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: How we can fight Ontario's invasive plants!</b></p> <p>Guest speaker, Vicki Simkovic, Coordinator at the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC), will present this talk on invasive plants. Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, Dog-strangling Vine, and Buckthorn are familiar examples of Ontario's 400-plus invasive species. They crowd out native terrestrial and aquatic plants, altering the environment for insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.</p>

### PFN Coming Events

OIPC was formed in 2007 by a group of people who saw a need for a collaborated response to the increasing threat of invasive plants. Since then they have been providing leadership, expertise and encouragement to take positive action in our own gardens and the fields and forests around us.

Vicki Simkovic holds a MSc in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Western Ontario. She is a passionate ecologist and naturalist and brings a strong invasive species background through her role as Field Assistant with the Upper Thames Region Authority and her work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

### PFN Junior Field Naturalists (ages 5-12)

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. 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](mailto:pfnjuniors@gmail.com) for details.

### Other Events of Interest

Saturday, May 4

#### Global Big Day

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?

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.

Saturday, May 4

#### Intro to Birding at Ken Reid

9 to 11:30 a.m.

Ken Reid  
Conservation Area,  
Lindsay

Join intrepid birder, Rob Stavinga, at Ken Reid Conservation Area for a morning of birding tips and tricks. Bring your sense of adventure, binoculars (if you have) and camera (if you want). Beginners welcome! Intermediate and experienced birders will also enjoy this day of exploration and fun. The Birds are Back! Come out and get to know them. Cost for the event is \$10 + HST for adults. Children 12 and under are free. To register go to <http://bit.ly/IntrotoBirding>.

Other Events of Interest	
May 4, 19, 26 Toronto area	<b>NANPS Native Plant Sales</b> <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 <a href="http://www.nanps.org">www.nanps.org</a> for more information.</p>
Saturday, May 11 10 a.m to 3 p.m. Hazel Bird Nature Reserve	<b>Hazel Bird Day</b> <p>Join the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) for Hazel Bird Day on the Rice Lake Plains! Come and celebrate birds, conservation and the people who make NCC's work possible. Enjoy this family-friendly event with hikes, talks and lunch at the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, just 20 minutes north of Cobourg.</p> <p>Registration is required for this FREE event. Learn more and register here: <a href="http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/ontario/events/hazel-bird-day.html">http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/ontario/events/hazel-bird-day.html</a></p>
Saturday, May 18 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ecology Park, 1899 Ashburnham Drive	<b>Green-up Annual Spring Plant Sale</b> 
Saturday, May 25 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1908 Colonel Sam Drive, Oshawa	<b>Feathered Friends Festival</b> <p>Friends of Second Marsh in partnership with General Motors of Canada will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Feathered Friends Festival at General Motors of Canada headquarters overlooking the McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve and Second Marsh Wildlife Area in Oshawa.</p> <p>This free family-oriented event is a festival celebrating the return of migratory birds. The theme of the event is birds and all aspects related to birds (feeding, viewing, landscaping, etc.). We hope to have our visitors connect with birds in a fun and meaningful way by providing hands-on experiences through bird presentations, crafts, hikes and other activities. Butterflies, bats and bees have also been added to this event. Dogs are not permitted at the festival with the exception of service dogs.</p>

Other Events of Interest	
<p>Thursday, May 30 7 to 8 p.m. 599 Brealey Drive, Room 205</p>	<p><b>Peterborough County Stewardship Speaker Series</b></p> <p>Josh Feltham's talk will be on "Amphibians and Reptiles of the Kawarthas: Profiles and Patterns" This is a free event at Fleming College, Whetung Theatre. All are welcome to attend.</p>
<p>May 31 to June 2 Mohawk College, Hamilton</p>	<p><b>Ontario Nature Annual Gathering</b></p> <p>Ontario Nature is holding its 88<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="https://ontarionature.org/events/annual-gathering/">https://ontarionature.org/events/annual-gathering/</a> for all of the important event details.</p>

---

## President's Message

### Consultation on Trent Lands and Nature Areas Study

The PFN was invited as a key stakeholder to participate in the consultation on the Trent Lands Plan. On March 28, a group composed of Martin Parker, Jim Cashmore, Rene Gareau and myself met with Jim Faught, one of the consultants on the project.



We found the consultant receptive to our concerns and knowledgeable about natural heritage issues. In fact, he was a former director of Ontario Nature. We discussed a number of topics, including the need for an environmental inventory of the whole campus, a commitment on the part of the university to a high standard for the protection of its natural heritage, the importance of maintaining the existing natural areas, particularly the wetlands, and the need to establish natural corridors on the university property.

Mr. Faught advised that Trent is already carrying out field assessments of some parts of the campus and is looking for further funding to do as much as possible in this regard. It is endeavouring to use permeable paving and to adopt the latest stormwater management technology. We proposed to him various methods for safeguarding the natural areas from future encroachment. Suggestions included transferring the nature areas to an independent stewardship body or establishing an independent "commissioner" for the natural areas. He asked if the PFN would be interested in having a representative on an on-going advisory committee on the Trent nature areas. We of course said yes.

I feel it is indicative of the PFN's status in the community that we were identified as a key stakeholder.

### Natural Heritage Climate in Ontario

It is increasingly evident that Ontario's current government is not committed to protecting the environment. The list of actions which negatively affect our natural heritage is becoming depressingly long.



The list includes:

- Eliminating the Environmental Commissioner's Office;
- Cancellation of the provincial carbon cap and trade program;
- Opposition to the Federal Carbon Levy;
- Promoting an open season on cormorants;
- Plans to weaken the Endangered Species Act;
- Plans to change and possibly weaken the Conservation Authorities Act.

The PFN, along with Ontario Nature and other like-minded organizations, needs to take a stronger advocacy role to safeguard the environment we love. Come the fall, we are hoping to strengthen our environmental protection committee.

Ted Vale, President

## PFN Supports Holy Cross Student in Conservation Project in South Africa

**Submitted by Maya Taylor**

*Over the March break, Maya Taylor, a grade 10 student at Holy Cross High School, took part in Operation Wallacea, a conservation project in South Africa. PFN made a contribution to her expenses from our Legacy Fund. What follows is Maya's report on her experience.*

This past March break I travelled down to South Africa to do conservation work through an organization called Operation Wallacea. This trip gave me the opportunity to learn about wildlife, dangers to wildlife and steps that we can and do take to prevent wildlife and habitat loss. While

there, we focused on some specific tasks, the first one being large game transects. These entailed going in the back of trucks and driving through the reserve while we collected data on the animals that we saw while driving. We measured the game route distance, the GPS location, the distance from us to the animals, the type (species) of animals, their bearing relative to the truck, the age and gender, and their overall health. This data was then returned back to camp and the data will be incorporated into ongoing studies. The data collected from the game transects gives conservationists an idea of how many animals there are in the different parts of the reserve. This information helps them know what kind of animals they should be introducing to the reserve, if any need to be removed through various methods, and the health and overall condition of the animals.

Next, we focused on bird point counts. One of many lectures we participated in focused on birds and bird identification. Each person in the group needed to learn a specific bird call. Mine was the Cape



Photo of giraffe by Maya Taylor



Photo of elephant by Maya Taylor

Turtle Dove. When out in the bush, each person was given an axis to stand at (north, west, east, or south), this helped when trying to identify the bird's location. A timer for ten minutes was started and within this time we needed to identify and record as many birds as possible by either seeing the birds or identifying them by hearing their calls. After the timer was done, we packed up our gear and moved to a new location and started again to get a new set of data. This was repeated several times. Because most of the birds are out early in the morning, these surveys



required us to go out at 6 AM. Once again, this information was brought back to the camp to be analyzed for population counts.

After that, another one of our main focuses was surveying vegetation. These surveys entailed us setting up a perimeter to conduct the survey within. At each site, the perimeters were different because of the overall size of the reserve. At the first reserve, Balule (in Kruger National Park), the perimeter was 25 m by 25 m. At the second site, Dinokeng, the reserve was much smaller and therefore the perimeter for the vegetation survey only needed to be 10 m by 10 m. The vegetation surveys required us to identify the different species of grasses and woody vegetation. At the first reserve, we had to identify certain aspects of the vegetation such as the height, diameter, type of vegetation, and if there was any animal damage. At the second reserve, all we needed to know was the type of vegetation and the coverage. One of the things that the vegetation surveys show us is the amount of damage caused by animals. One of the animal species that we found that caused a lot of damage was elephants. Elephants had a tendency to rip trees out of the ground for food and then leave them because they didn't want them. They would also ring-bark trees causing the trees to die, which in turn affected the number of birds. All of the information from the vegetation surveys also show if there are any invasive species or if any species are not thriving and need to be burnt to restart the ecosystem. All of this information is very beneficial to the conservationists and helps them to better understand what kind of things need to change within the reserve or not.

This trip gave me a very good understanding of what kind of work goes into managing the reserves and allowed me to participate in the conservation work.

---

## Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting

Hosted by Pickering Naturalists on April 13 at Pickering Recreation Complex

Submitted by Lesley Hale



### Highlights from Other Clubs

**ProtectNatureTO** is an umbrella group advocating for the protection of wildlife and natural areas across the City of Toronto. They participate in nature-related activities at a local or city-wide level by contributing time to do hands-on stewardship work, organizing or leading public walks and talks, producing educational handouts and websites or speaking up for nature on local advisory committees. Here is their website for more information: <https://www.protectnatureto.org/>

### **The Mycological Society of Toronto**

Membership in MST gradually increased as mushroom lovers discovered there was a club where they could meet with others of like interest. Membership in MST brings you in contact with veteran mycologists, both amateur and professional, who gladly share their knowledge and steer you in the right direction with tips on when and where to find the best mushrooms, how to avoid being poisoned and what books are best for beginners to use. Members' interests are wide ranging in areas related to fungi, including:

- Mushroom identification
- Microscopic examination of fungi
- Edible and poisonous mushrooms
- Mushroom cultivation
- Cooking
- Photography

- Arts and crafts
- Postage stamps depicting mushrooms
- Mycological information on the Internet

Check out their website for some fungi resources and events: <https://www.myctor.org/>

### **Blue Dot Movement**

Ecojustice and the David Suzuki Foundation are partners in the Blue Dot movement, a national grassroots campaign to advance the legal recognition of every Canadian's right to a healthy environment. More than 110,000 people across Canada have stood up to have this right recognized and protected, and it's working! As a result of volunteer efforts, 173 municipalities have passed resolutions in support. Ultimately, the movement seeks to amend the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include the right to a healthy environment, so that we can join the 110 countries around the world that already have this right included in their constitutions. To learn more, go to the website <http://bluedot.ca/>

### **Ontario Butterfly Atlas**

Do you have Ontario butterfly records that you could make available to the Toronto Entomologists' Association? Over 400 people now contribute records annually, which are used to produce the Ontario Butterfly Atlas Online and an annual seasonal summary (Ontario Lepidoptera ) of records for each species for the just-completed year. The seasonal summary also serves as a forum for notes and articles on aspects of biology, distribution, behaviour, survey work, etc. Photographs are also welcome, especially of significant records. Submit your records, notes, articles and photographs to Ross Layberry ([rosslayberry@yahoo.ca](mailto:rosslayberry@yahoo.ca)), Jessica Linton ([JessicaLinton86@gmail.com](mailto:JessicaLinton86@gmail.com)) or Colin Jones ([colin.jones@ontario.ca](mailto:colin.jones@ontario.ca)). People are encouraged to submit records by December 31, but records for inclusion in the atlas database are welcome at any time -- data from years ago is valuable as well. You can see the atlas at this website: [http://www.ontarioinsects.org/atlas\\_online.htm](http://www.ontarioinsects.org/atlas_online.htm)

### **Grow Me Instead**

The Horticulture Outreach Collaborative worked closely with the horticulture and landscape industry to develop a provincial Grow Me Instead campaign. The Grow Me Instead guides identify invasive garden plants and provides suitable native or non-native, non-invasive alternatives. In continuation of the Grow Me Instead campaign, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Horticulture Outreach Collaborative created two native seed packets including a Northern Ontario (Anise hyssop) and Southern Ontario (Wild Bergamot, Black-eyed Susan and Common Evening Primrose) wildflower mix in the fall of 2018. This ongoing GMI campaign aims to continue to promote the use of non-invasive garden alternatives for Ontarians through distribution to horticulture groups and individuals across Ontario. Check out the information packets on their website: <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/>

### **Ontario Nature: Save Ontario Species (SOS)**

Ontario Nature's Save Ontario Species campaign is focused on sending a message to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) urging him not to weaken protections for species at risk. In January, MECP announced that it is reviewing the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA). Though the review ostensibly is to "enable positive outcomes for species at risk," the overall thrust of the ministry's proposals is to reduce "administrative burdens" and "barriers to economic development." In other words, the open-for-business mantra prevails at the expense of the natural world. For more information and to sign the petition visit the website: <https://ontarionature.org/save-ontarios-species/>

## **Guest Bloggers Needed!**

Ontario Nature is looking for guest bloggers on the Ontario Nature Blog. They are looking for nature events, local issues, club highlights, etc. If you are interested in submitting a blog, or you wish to sign up for the blog to receive email alerts about breaking conservation and environmental news, visit the website: <https://ontarionature.org/blog/>

---

## **Outing Report: Mergansers and Friends on Rice Lake**

### **Submitted by Ed Addison**

On Sunday, March 31, Martin Parker led an outing of nine people with three scopes along the north shore of Rice Lake and nearby areas downstream on the Trent River. An overnight accumulation of about 15 cm of wet snow awaited us at the start of the trip (one day early for April Fool's Day!). Even the trees were white during the morning. As Scott McKinlay said, 'If it is black, we had better check it'. The snow continued intermittently throughout the day, helpful in spotting things at times and a hindrance perhaps only once when observing in late afternoon light and through the falling snow three sandhill cranes in a hedge row two fields removed from the road. One beaver, two otter and 44 species of birds were seen. The greatest variety of bird species were seen at Asphodel Beach (25), Trent River at Drysdale Road (17), Trent River at Asphodel 5th Line (13), Rice Lake at Holiday Pines Park (10) and Rice Lake at Birdsalls Wharf (10).

Water birds included: Trumpeter Swan (2), Common Loon (1), Pied-billed Grebe (1), Red-necked Grebe (1), Canada Goose (57), Common Goldeneye (96), Hooded Merganser (35), Common Merganser (30), Red-breasted Merganser (2), Bufflehead (22), Ring-necked Duck (30), American Black Duck (4), Mallard Duck (2), American Widgeon (1), Great Blue Heron (5), Belted Kingfisher (1), and Ring-billed Gull (7).

The more land-oriented birds included: Sandhill Crane (3), Wild Turkey (36), Mourning Dove (34), Turkey Vulture (3), American Crow (15), Northern Harrier (2), Red-tailed Hawk (1), American Kestrel (1), European Starling (42), Common Grackle (25), Red-winged Blackbird (11), Blue Jay (2), American Robin (56), Killdeer (4), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Tree Swallow (6), Eastern Phoebe (2), Northern Cardinal (3), Black-capped Chickadee (5), American Goldfinch (5), House Finch (1), Common Redpoll (30), Dark-eyed Junco (1), Song Sparrow (10) and American Tree Sparrow (1).



Three Great Blue Herons at Rice Lake looking like they might be discussing whether to head back south or to stick it out up here. Photo: Cathy Douglas



An Eastern Phoebe at Rice Lake who might be deep in thought, possibly considering the pros and cons of staying put as presented by the three Great Blue Herons. Photo: Cathy Douglas



## Outing Report: Quest for the Canada Jay

Submitted by Fenella Hood

It's 6:50 a.m. in the zoo parking lot on Saturday, April 6, and the gathering of women surrounding trip leaders Martin Parker and Matthew Tobey are making it look like this special outing might be just for the "birds". Slowly, others arrive forming a mixed group of intrepid birders amassing for the quest for the Canada Jay in Ontario's oldest provincial park.

The Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) is a bird of many names: Gray Jay, Camp-robber (for their habit of approaching humans for food), Venison-hawk, Lumberjack or Whiskeyjack (from the aboriginal Wisakedjak, a trickster and a benevolent spirit). Commonly known as the Canada Jay since the early 1800s, it became the Gray Jay in 1957. A popular contest led by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2015, and then last year's proposal to the North American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society, nominated the Gray Jay as the national bird of Canada. Although not official yet, eBird et al. have returned to using the bird's original moniker.

The assembled group divided into cars for the northward journey, some lucky enough to snag rides in luxury vehicles (shout out to Cathy Douglas' 3-day old Passport), and soon birders, binoculars, scopes, and guide books were off. A stop at Bancroft's Timmy's brought a couple in from Norwood, capping the league at 27 people. "No crumbs!" scolded Cathy as boots gingerly re-entered SUV's with Tim's fare to supplement the northern route.

All eyes out the window on the overcast morning spotted White-tailed Deer, gliding Ravens and rowing Crows. A mess of roadkill in the southbound lane was a topic for much debate: Was it Raccoon, Fisher or Marten?



Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo: Cathy Douglas

Arriving at the north gate by 9:30 a.m., park entrance fees were paid and the convoy continued to Opeongo Road. Winter was very much in attendance still as we walked a trail flanked with waist-deep snowbanks. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Black-capped Chickadee visited open palms, and Brown Creeper, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Redpoll, and Pileated Woodpecker were either seen or heard. On the road out, a stop at fresh tracks in the snow leading from a winding river had us wondering what had just been there; the Canada Goose pair paddling the water's curves knew.

The morning sky was still covered in clouds as we arrived at Spruce Bog Boardwalk, a spot known for frequent visits from Canada Jays

looking for hand-outs. But as we eagerly rounded the trail they were nowhere in sight. Was our quest to be in vain?

A lot is known about the Canada Jays of Algonquin Park as research has been conducted here since the 1960s, when Ontario Naturalist Russell J. Rutter used colour-banding combinations to identify individual jays. The birds had new names again, as band combinations led to "whirr-zil" (from WRSL "White Right, Standard Left") and "yorl-zer" (YORLSR "Yellow Over Red Left, Standard Right").

Through his research, Rutter discovered that Canada Jays live long lives on permanent territories (up to 150 hectares!) and nest in the same place each year. Since the early 1980s, Dan Strickland and his team have continued research in the Park, and find approximately 20 nests each year. The jays begin nesting



Photo: Cathy Douglas

as early as late February - 90 percent of Algonquin's migratory birds have yet to return by the time the Canada Jays are fledging!



Snow Bunting. Photo: Susan Weaver

Next stop was the Visitor Centre, which included an excellent sighting of a Snow Bunting in the parking lot. The Visitor Centre is a grand chalet with an impressive interpretive exhibit and a well-stocked book and gift shop. The large relief map in the entrance displays the Algonquin watershed and details the topography and many tributaries of the Park, likened to an upturned bowl with waters flowing off in every direction. The Park's higher elevation, almost 600 metres above sea level, is the reason it still looked a lot like winter.

The viewing deck at the rear of the Visitor Centre offers a beautiful view over the treed landscape. Park staff had removed their winter feeders earlier that week, so there were no easy sightings to be had as we ate our lunch in the cafeteria by the windows.

Research has shown that Algonquin's migratory birds have annual death rates of 40 to 50 percent, meaning close to half of one spring's songbirds won't see the next spring. The non-migratory Canada Jay has an average death rate of less than 20 percent, and can live for ten plus years – the oldest recorded in the Park was 16! The majority of Canada Jay deaths occur not in food-scarce winters, but rather in summers when Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins are active.

Park staff confirmed that we had visited the correct haunting grounds for bagging a sight of the Canada Jay, and simply suggested we retrace our steps to try our luck anew. As we left the Visitor Centre, the sun came out from behind the clouds, and we were feeling lucky. Back at Spruce Bog, we rounded the corner of the trail and this time there was the Canada Jay: beautiful, soft grey chest, with dark grey back, looking like a gentleman in top hat and tails. We stood quietly in awe, and deep liquid black eyes watched us back as two more flew into trees just a few feet from us. These passerines are monogamous, and mating pairs are accompanied by a juvenile from the previous season. Raisins and peanuts were quickly presented for coaxing, but chickadees and nuthatches were the only crowd-pleasers.



Canada Jay. Photo: Cathy Douglas

At the extreme southern limit of its range in Algonquin, the Canada Jay is one of the few overwintering birds, surviving the cold months on cached food of insects, berries, mushrooms, and carrion that it coats with sticky saliva to fasten securely in tree bark and lichen. Black Spruce are a common tree of choice, and it is thought that its resin may kill bacteria and prevent spoiling. How do they find the thousands of hidden storage sites again? Research suggest these corvids remember!



Pine Martin. Photo: Cathy Douglas

Feeling very accomplished, we walked the bog trail and then headed to Mew Lake, where our luck held out as we were gifted the sighting of two Pine Marten in the trees near the garbage disposal units. We breathlessly followed one of the martens with our eyes as it ran through the snowy woods, then climbed up a tree with playful agility, stopping to give us a good look, then bouncing back down again and disappearing, leaving us wondering if it had been real at all.

Triumphant and giddy, we drove out of Algonquin Park with the sun shining gloriously off the snow. Stopping to look out over a small lake in Whitney, we were surrounded by the buzz of chickadees in the thickets by the roadside. On his way back to the car, Matthew slowed, looking curious. "Thought I heard a Boreal in amongst the others, but no, probably just hopeful." But giving it one more beat, he took out his phone and played the song. Responding within seconds, a stunning Boreal Chickadee presented itself in the slim tree branches close in front of us – a boon to an already bountiful day.



Boreal Chickadee. Photo: Susan Weaver

The dinner stop in Bancroft was abuzz with pleasant recollections. When, with bellies full, Martin asked the group to recount their highlight from the day, we struggled to choose just one. But the moments with the well-tailored Canada Jays won out, for that was our quest conquered after all.

The Algonquin Park Gray Jay Research is "one of the longest-running studies of a marked population of vertebrates anywhere in the world." For more fascinating facts like those above, visit: <http://www.sbaa.ca/projects.asp?cn=495>

## Step Into Nature Offers Explorations of Watershed Region

### Otonabee Conservation Celebrates 60 Years in 2019

Submitted by Kathy Reid



The Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (Otonabee Conservation) is marking its 60th anniversary of providing environmental services to area municipalities and residents with the launch of "Step into Nature ~ Watershed Explorations".

"We're really looking forward to sharing our conservation story and highlighting the individuals, and community partners who have made incredible contributions to a conservation legacy," said Andy Mitchell, Chair of the Board. "Celebrating Otonabee Conservation's 60th anniversary is a great opportunity to showcase how a healthy natural environment supports thriving communities."

The early conservation pioneers – among them the late Christine Nornabell, David N. McIntyre, Bill Davidson and Edward Horton – championed Ontario's Conservation Authorities Program as offering the new approach to natural resources management based on the watershed as the ecological area of focus. When a number of local municipal councils agreed to become involved, this spirit of cooperation led to the establishment of the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority in 1959.

As Dan Marinigh, Chief Administrative Officer for Otonabee Conservation explains, "Step into Nature ~ Watershed Explorations", offers a variety of new, self-directed and environmentally-themed activities to enjoy and participate in throughout the year."

Marinigh encourages residents throughout the Otonabee Region watershed to get outdoors and explore, discover, capture and celebrate 60 years of conservation. The "Step into Nature ~ Watershed Explorations" involves five distinct but connected activities including geocaching, a photo and student art contest and a handy list of 60 fun things to do and explore.

It's all connected through the new Watershed Map App that Marinigh describes as "a guide to touring the Otonabee Region watershed and discovering some unique natural features and special spaces of 11



conservation and wildlife areas." The new Map App provides location information, a description of activities and facilities offered at the areas, and useful links to further information. "A variety of mapping tools are available to record your adventure and build upon your explorations. While you're there, take a photo and enter it in the Photo Contest!" says Marinigh.

Andy Mitchell was also pleased to announce that on July 9 - Otonabee Conservation's birthday - day use entry into the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area will be free of charge.

Finally, back by popular demand is Discovery Days - the annual series of demonstrations and workshops will once again be hosted at local Conservation Areas!

Residents are encouraged to take part in the planned activities and learn more on [www.otonabeeconservation.com/connect-with-us](http://www.otonabeeconservation.com/connect-with-us)

---

## Book Overview: The Secret Wisdom of Nature by Peter Wohlleben

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

In this third and final book of his trilogy, author Peter Wohlleben has again captured the complexity and beauty of the natural systems that make life on Earth possible.

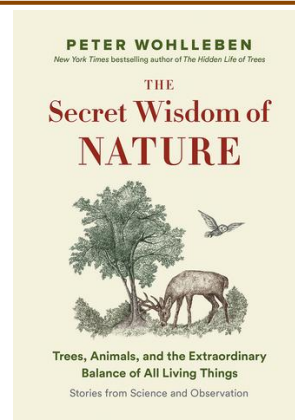
Wohlleben is superb at telling stories and it's hard to do a short review of any of his books. Every page is a delight and an education. Here is a sampling of chapter titles: Why Deer Taste Bad to Trees, The Funeral Feast, and How Earthworms Control Wild Boar. Irresistible!

In *The Funeral Feast*, fascinating things happen around dead bodies. Many animals tolerate or even need various stages of putrefaction in their food. Bears and birds are early responders. Wolves and ravens partner up to cooperate in the feast. So why don't we find bones all over the place? Bears love bone marrow. Mice love bones for their calcium.

Mice also proliferate and the total weight of their dead bodies over one season would be about 200 tons per square mile: way too much mouse meat to be carried off by vultures, foxes or cats. Bring on the burying beetle. A mouse carcass is both a hearty meal and a good place for their offspring to get a start in life. The beetles dig under the mouse dragging it down by its fur. The mouse gets coated with beetle saliva making it easier to slide under the ground until it completely disappears. By now it has been turned into a pellet that will serve as food for the beetle larvae. Since the babies' mouthparts are not strong enough to chew, the mother beetle feeds her kids who raise their heads like birds in the nest. Of course, if there are too many babies, the mother beetle kills off a few.

Wohlleben takes a look at the mountain pine beetle in northwestern North America. The proliferation of this beetle is exacerbated by warming temperatures, but it is also aided by the annihilation of ancient forests and their replacement with monocultures that favour the beetle. Furthermore, "plantations" stress trees, and fire suppression has allowed too many weak pines to survive and therefore play perfect hosts to the beetle. The beetle is moving to higher and higher places that used to be too cool and is finding trees that aren't good at defending themselves against a new invader. On the other hand, by multiplying in former plantations, the beetles create a temporary paradise for detritivores. This allows for a whole new generation of trees. Bark beetles "are more than just funeral directors; they are midwives as well." Nothing is simple.

We've been told that forest fires are a good thing for regeneration. This downplays the devastation to the ecosystem caused by humans playing with fire since prehistoric times. It's not fire that releases the nutrients, it's the billion-strong army of "animal sanitary engineers" that undertake decomposition - and



they are completely incinerated in forest fires. These species are of little interest to humans. They aren't cute or cuddly. However, they're much more important to the ecosystem than large mammals. Without them, the forest would drown in its own waste.

When did humans separate themselves from nature? Wohlleben draws the line at when hunters and gatherers settled down, became farmers and transformed their environs into an ecosystem devoted to meeting human needs. Homo sapiens are very aggressive in their tendency to attack other species. One wonders whether the desire to disrupt the giant mechanism of nature is in our genes!

So the question becomes: Can multifaceted ecosystems ever be recreated? Evidence from the Amazon forests reveals how indigenous people practiced "agroforestry". This functioned for a very long time and had no great effect on environmental health. It points to a way of forest preservation without the exclusion of humans. After 600 years, the forest regenerated to the point that earlier researchers thought the area was virgin. Winning back original forests could also steer the climate in the right direction – just by leaving things alone on a large scale.

Finally, how can you NOT like an author who loves to tell stories and play the ukulele (my instrument of choice!). Wohlleben has a point – humans function through emotion. A good story is what will captivate, energize and teach.

Ptbo Library: 577.8Woh

ISBN: 978-177164-388-7(hardcover) ISBN: 978-177164-389-4 (epub)

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

## A Little Dabble Do Ya

You beaver pond folk will scream and croak, quack, hoot, and howl  
When with luck I'll grow up a Wood Duck, a splendid waterfowl.  
I never knew my father since he didn't bother to keep Mum company.  
A hole formed by decay where a limb broke away was made cushiony  
By our Mum who plucked feathers from her breast to keep us warm...  
High above ground level we could revel quite unafraid of a storm.  
Dry after hatching, we climbed with sharp claws scratching to meet  
Mum on the ground who gathered us 'round to lead our little fleet.  
On innocent feet, our brood complete shadowed our wary mother;  
Through the woods we stole to our watery goal, an adventure like no other.  
Got to love beavers, those waterworks achievers who restore fertile  
Early growth stages which degrade as a pond ages over a short while.  
We snatched bugs here and there, in water or air, on plants of many kinds,  
And now we're older, our dabbling got bolder, showing our behinds.  
We like to feed where tiny duckweed indicates environmental health.  
Once threatened by extinction, we exude distinction of true natural wealth.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018



Photo: Murray Palmer

---

## What Are They Doing Along the Canal?

The following is from a Community Update issued by Parks Canada

### **Peterborough Earth Dams -- Spring Restoration**

### **Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site**

March 1, 2019 – Over the past two years Parks Canada has made a historic investment to rehabilitate earth dams along the Trent-Severn Waterway in the City of Peterborough. Earth dams are vital for flood



mitigation and therefore the safety of visitors, residents, and property. These investments will further reduce the risk of flood damage along the canal corridor.

This earth dam work has presented an opportunity to further connect and formalize sections of the Peterborough trail network. The City of Peterborough and Parks Canada will jointly host an open house to gather public input into Peterborough's canal-side trails, as well as the trail through Waverly Heights Park near the Thompsons Bay Dam.

Parks Canada's work to restore the Peterborough earth dams, covering a distance of approximately 2.2 linear kilometres, is now almost complete. Restoration of the sites will commence this spring. Weather dependent, the full scope of work including site restoration and landscaping is scheduled to be completed by June 2019.

### **Thompsons Bay Earth Dam (Cunningham Boulevard and Scollard Drive)**

All vegetation has been removed at this location, the dam strengthened, and new earthen material compacted into place. In-water substrates have been enhanced to improve the area's fish spawning habitat.

Notice: Contractors will install some tree stumps at the shoreline in an effort to increase natural fish habitat. This work will take place beginning March 18. Ice conditions will not be safe for skating after this point.

Following the tree stump installation, the existing access road through Waverly Heights Park will be restored as it was prior to construction. The City of Peterborough and Parks Canada will together host an open house to gather input regarding the best location for a Parks Canada maintenance access road to the dam, and a connection to the trails network. Aggregate that was removed from the area will be stored on Parks Canada land until this new access road can be constructed.

### **Curtis Creek Earth Dams & Hurdons Earth Dams**

The shorelines of the Trent Canal both south (Curtis Creek) and north (Hurdons) of Parkhill Road have seen big changes, and significant structural improvement in the last two years. Vegetation undermining the integrity of the earth dams has been removed, and both the dry and wet sides of the dam have been enhanced and stabilized. As a part of the work, spawning habitat has been improved adjacent to Hurdons Dam.

As the weather improves, contractors will complete the crest of both Hurdons and Curtis Creek dams, and improve pedestrian trails at Woodbine Ave. and Spencleys Lane. Bollards will be placed at most access road entrances to maintain pedestrian access to the earth dam trails, while excluding motorized vehicles. Parks Canada maintenance vehicles will retain infrequent access to some areas.

This spring, areas that were used to access and prepare for construction will be restored, and adjacent roadways cleaned. A specialized seed mix that includes beneficial native plants like milkweed, wildflowers, and tall grasses will be spread on the earth dams. Residents are asked to participate in the restoration efforts and remain off seeded areas until they can grow and establish.



Curtis Creek got a new culvert under the Trent Canal and a flashy new headwall. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

For more information about the Parks Canada infrastructure projects in the Peterborough area please visit [www.parkscanada.gc.ca/tswPeterborough](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca/tswPeterborough).

To receive notification of the City of Peterborough / Parks Canada open house in the coming weeks, please send an e-mail to [ont.trentsevern@pc.gc.ca](mailto:ont.trentsevern@pc.gc.ca) and include "Peterborough Canal Trail open house" in the subject heading.

---

A promotional graphic for Bumble Bee Watch. It features a hand holding a smartphone that displays a close-up of a bumblebee on a purple flower. The background is a soft-focus field of similar flowers. Text at the top reads "BUMBLE BEE WATCH" in large white letters, followed by "A collaborative effort to track and conserve North America's bumble bees". Below the phone, it says "Join us today at www.BumbleBeeWatch.org". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for partner organizations: The Xerces Society, Wildlife Preservation Canada, the Insectarium, uOttawa, the Natural History Museum, and BeeSpotter.

**BUMBLE BEE WATCH**  
A collaborative effort to track and conserve  
North America's bumble bees

Join us today at  
[www.BumbleBeeWatch.org](http://www.BumbleBeeWatch.org)

THE XERCES SOCIETY  
FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION

Wildlife Preservation Canada

explorer  
pour la  
vie **Insectarium**  
montréal

uOttawa

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

BeeSpotter

**Orchid submissions are encouraged!**

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, May 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





## 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 during the period were below normal with cold nights until the last day of the period. Periods of snow and heavy rains.
March 20	William Snowden reported there were still lots of ducks at Gannon's Narrows and one <b>River Otter</b> along the shore. Matthew Tobey & Dave Milsom had 2 <b>Wood Ducks</b> & 1 <b>Gadwall</b> on the Otonabee River - the beginning of the spring influx of waterfowl. Warren Dunlop found 2 <b>American Wigeon</b> on the Trent River off Asphodel 5 <sup>th</sup> line. The spring influx of waterfowl commenced as the lakes in the area became ice-free.
March 21	Iain Rayner had 6 <b>Wood Ducks</b> on Katchewanooka Lake off Stenner Road. Seen by others at this location and others in the County in the following days. Annamarie Beckel reported a <b>Sandhill Crane</b> calling, a <b>Great Blue Heron</b> and <b>Eastern Chipmunk</b> in the Lakefield area.
March 22	Rene Gareau reported that his resident <b>Eastern Chipmunk</b> has emerged. Iain Rayner located 4 <b>Tundra Swans</b> off the Fothergill causeway on Pigeon Lake -- seen over the next few days by others until at least March 27.
March 24	1 <b>Gadwall</b> was located off Stenner Road, Lakefield by Iain Rayner. <b>Northern Pintail</b> arrived with multiple birds seen on Katchewanooka Lake, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Line pond, Birdsall Wharf, off Holiday Pines Park (Asphodel Twp.) by multiple observers. Bill Crins & Donald Sutherland had 2 <b>White-winged Scoters</b> off Holiday Pines Park.
March 27	William Snowden reported from the Ennismore area that <b>Turkey Vultures</b> have returned, 2 <b>American Kestrel</b> in vicinity of nest box and a <b>Great Blue Heron</b> flew over his house. Matthew Tobey located <b>American Woodcock</b> in Harper Park with numerous reports over the next few days -- migration influx occurred. Jerry Ball had a <b>Cackling Goose</b> in a wet area on 6 <sup>th</sup> Line of Monaghan.
March 28	William Snowden reported his wintering <b>Dark-eyed Juncos</b> and 1 <b>White-throated Sparrow</b> have returned after being absent for about a week. They were joined by <b>American Tree Sparrow</b> & 1 <b>Fox Sparrow</b> . FOY (First of Year) <b>Northern Shoveler</b> on Little Lake by Iain Rayner and others. FOY <b>American Coot</b> off Stenner Road. <b>American Woodcock</b> returned to 8 <sup>th</sup> Line of Douro according to Mike V.A. Burrell and Ann Avenue by Carrie Sadowski. Warren Dunlop had FOY <b>Wilson's Snipe</b> in the Nicholson Road area. Numerous reports in the next few days. FOY <b>Rusty Blackbirds</b> in Bissonnette Drive area by Scott Gibson.
March 29	<b>Eastern Phoebe</b> returned to Beavermead Park by Susan Weaver. Iain Rayner and others had a <b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> on Little Lake. <b>Red-shouldered Hawks</b> arrived with one at Trent Rotary Trail by Donald Sutherland and an individual at Coon Lake Road by Aileen Wheelton. <b>Golden-crowned Kinglets</b> became more abundant with reports from the 8 <sup>th</sup> line of Douro by Mike V.A. Burrell and Lang/Hasting Trail by Luke Berg.
March 30	The meltwater pond at Mather's Corners was still mostly ice-covered according to William Snowden. A delayed melt. Mike V.A. Burrell had a <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> between Norwood and Havelock.

April 1	Annamarie Beckel had an <b>Osprey</b> in vicinity of Lock 25 -- numerous reports after this date.
April 3	David Swales reported a flock of about 34 <b>Common Redpolls</b> have returned to his feeder. Been present for a week -- Redpolls are starting to pass through the area as they are moving northward. William Snowden reported two <b>Ospreys</b> are occupying the nest platform at the western end of the Gifford Causeway. He noted there are many observations of <b>Turkey Vultures</b> in Selwyn Twp. Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had <b>Tree Swallows</b> and <b>Common Loon</b> on the Otonabee River.
April 4	Jerry Ball had a <b>River Otter</b> off the Fothergill Causeway. Scott McKinlay located a flock of <b>Snow Buntings</b> with several <b>Lapland Longspurs</b> in the field along Tapley ¼ Line.
April 6	Dave Milsom had the first <b>Blue-winged Teal</b> along Drummond Line at Cty Rd. 2. Meredith Clark reported a possible <b>Pine Marten</b> in the southwest section of the City and a <b>Red Fox</b> .
April 7	On the PFN outing led by Jerry Ball, the participants located <b>Common Snipe</b> at 7 different locations. First warblers returned with <b>Pine Warbler</b> by Simon Dodsworth at Jennifer Drive and <b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b> by Bill Crins in Beavermead Park. Numerous reports of both of these species since from throughout the County.
April 8	Carrie Sadowski reported the first <b>Chorus Frog</b> of the season calling on the 7 <sup>th</sup> line of Smith. She noted it was difficult to hear over the twittering of the <b>American Woodcock</b> . Jerry Ball had 2 <b>Gadwall</b> and 2 <b>Blue-winged Teal</b> on Little Lake. Ball observed a <b>Green Frog</b> cross the road near the airport.
April 9	Jerry Ball had a <b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> at Mather's Corners. Cathy Douglas reported 2 <b>Cackling Geese</b> from the Mather's Corners meltwater pond. Seen by others. <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> still being located on Little Lake by many observers during this reporting period. Cathy Douglas found 4 <b>Snowy Owls</b> on the ice of Rice Lake off the Station Restaurant, Hiawatha First Nation. 1 or more <b>Snowy Owls</b> were present in the areas until April 12. <b>Winter Wrens</b> were reported from a variety of locations including Lang/Hasting Trail, Harper Park, Otonabee Gravel Pit CA, & Trent Rotary Trail by multiple observers. <b>Golden-crowned Kinglets</b> were reported from Lang-Hasting Trail by Luke Berg, Campbelltown Landing by Cathy Douglas, Otonabee Gravel Pits CA by Matthew Tobey, Ecology Park by Ben Taylor, Millennium Park by Matthew Gavin and Harper Park by several observers. Reported daily throughout the county since. Chris Risley had a <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> on the Rotary Trail south of Dafoe Drive. FOY <b>Fox Sparrow</b> from many locations including Harper Park by Matthew Tobey, Cathy Douglas and others, Ecology Park by Ben Taylor & Rotary Trail south of Dafoe by Chris Risley. Numerous daily reports since.
April 10	Scott McKinlay found 1 <b>Bonaparte's Gull</b> at Pengelly Point.
April 10 Meeting	At the April PFN Meeting, in response to a question about Spring Peepers, no one has heard them calling yet this spring. Dylan Radcliffe noted <b>Ospreys</b> have returned. Marie Duchesneau reported a <b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b> and John Fautley reported 4 <b>Bald Eagles</b> feeding together on a dead carp near Lock 25. Milda Bax observed a <b>Northern Mockingbird</b> near Norwood. Lisa Nisbet reported a <b>Blue-spotted Salamander</b> .
<b>Cackling Geese</b>	There were numerous other reports of <b>Cackling Geese</b> : 5 in the Keene area by Kyle O'Grady on April 11, 4 on Briar Hill waterfowl pond by Donald Sutherland on April 13, 3 at Pengelly Landing on April 13 by Luke Berg & Alexandra Rousseau.



April 11	Sarah McGuire & Luke Berg had an early <b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> at Rotary Park. FOY <b>Field Sparrow</b> along Hooton Line by Cathy Douglas. FOY <b>Vesper Sparrow</b> along Lang-Hasting Trail by Luke Berg. Numerous reports since. FOY <b>Savannah Sparrows</b> along Lang-Hasting Trail by Luke Berg, Many sighting since.
April 12	Chris Risley, Ben Taylor & Cathy Douglas had <b>2 Red-shouldered Hawks</b> near Buckhorn.
April 13	Jerry Ball, Robert DiFruscia & Martin Parker went looking for butterflies along Charlie Allen Road and Sandy Lake Road and spotted 3 species: <b>Compton's Tortoiseshell</b> , <b>Eastern Comma</b> & <b>Mourning Cloak</b> . <b>Coltsfoot</b> were also in bloom. Jerry spotted an early <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b> . 3 <b>Bonaparte's Gulls</b> were present on Little Lake according to Iain Rayner, Matthew Gavin and others. Janet Kelly & Warren Dunlop found a <b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b> at Hall's Landing. Matthew Tobey had a <b>Virginia Rail</b> in the SW corner of the city. Seen by others. Ian Sturdee spotted a <b>Common Tern</b> on Cordova Lake. Iain Rayner had a <b>Rough-legged Hawk</b> along the Lindsay Highway. <b>Northern Shoveler</b> in Lakefield Marsh by Travis Cameron and Hall's Landing by Luke Berg & Amanda Rousseau. FOY <b>Brown Thrasher</b> in Harper Park by Matthew Tobey. Numerous reports since.
April 14	Matthew Gavin observed a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> along Lily Lake Road. Drew Monkman had a <b>Carolina Wren</b> visiting his feeder for about 15 minutes. Last date a <b>Northern Shrike</b> was reported on eBird for region (Iain Rayner). FOY <b>Eastern Towhee</b> by Luke Berg along Hubble Road.
April 15	Cathy Douglas located a male <b>Eurasian Wigeon</b> with a mixed flock of ducks off Hall's Landing. Seen by many other observers. Over 1,000 ducks present in the area. 3 <b>Bonaparte's Gulls</b> were also present. Mark Zippel reported a <b>Black-and-White Warbler</b> feeding on the trees in his yard in the south end of the city.
April 16	FOY <b>Caspian Tern</b> by Donald A. Sutherland off Trent Rotary Trail, and <b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b> by Iain Rayner at Millennium Park.
April 17	Jerry Ball & Robert DiFruscia went butterflying north of Flynn's Corners and found 50 butterflies representing 3 species - <b>Compton's Tortoiseshell</b> , <b>Eastern Comma</b> and <b>Mourning Cloak</b> . They also found <b>The Infant Moth</b> (early flying moth).
April 18	FOY <b>Cliff Swallow</b> by Luke Berg over Little Lake, <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b> by Travis Cameron along Douro 8 <sup>th</sup> Line, <b>American Bittern</b> by Donald A. Sutherland at MacGregor Bay, Rice Lake and <b>Ruddy Duck</b> by Donald A. Sutherland at Hall's Landing.
April 20	Cathy Douglas had a <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b> along Douro 8 <sup>th</sup> Line. FOY species seen this day include <b>House Wren</b> by Matthew Tobey in Harper Park.
Over the next month there will be waves of returning migrants, noisy evenings of calling frogs and blooming of the spring wildflowers. Take time to explore our natural world.	



## Peterborough County Stewardship Nest Box Fundraiser

PCS is a board of volunteers that consults and supports ecological restoration projects in conjunction with urban and rural landowners in Peterborough County. PCS is selling nest boxes to raise money for its projects. The boxes are made of 3/4" pine board.



**Bat Box**

Bat roosting shelters benefit bats and humans. Ontario bats are insectivores and provide natural pest control by consuming vast amounts of insects including agricultural pests and mosquitoes. Each box can house approximately 100 bats. \$70.00



**Bluebird**

Bluebirds are attractive songbirds that eat many insects, which are common pests to gardeners. Bluebirds are cavity nesters, which rely on natural cavities in dead trees or man-made nesting boxes. 16.5" H, 9.25" W, 10.5" D. \$40.00



**Flying Squirrel**

Flying squirrels benefit forest ecosystems by distributing tree seeds and mycorrhizal fungi. Southern Flying squirrels are classified as a species at risk. Nest boxes provide important shelter for these animals. 16" H, 10" W, 7" D. \$50.00



**Screech Owl**

Screech owls are one of the smallest owls in North America. They help control potential pest species such as mice. 16" H, 9.5" W, 8" D. \$50.00

To place an order please contact Peterborough County Stewardship at [peterboroughcountystewardship@gmail.com](mailto:peterboroughcountystewardship@gmail.com)

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_