

The

# Orchid



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*Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Monarch Butterfly Filling up on Mexican Sunflower Before the Long Journey.

Photo taken by Steve Paul at Presqu'île Provincial Park on August 24.

**Inside:**

Winter Finch Forecast

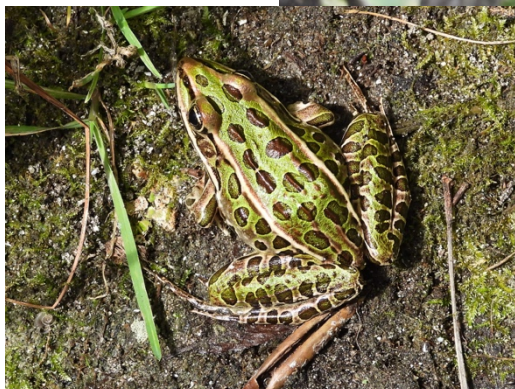
Reports on Shorebirds & Monarchs, Ballyduff Trails and Other Outings

Questions to Ask Candidates Before the Election

All-Candidates Debate on the Environment Coming up on October 3

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Clockwise from top: Red-headed Woodpecker at Presqu'ile Aug. 24 (Steve Paul), Cicada and second-year Scarlet Tanager (Ken McKeen), Northern Leopard Frog (Don McLeod), and Giant Swallowtail on a Butterfly Bush on Aug. 26 (Bill Snowden)






## PFN Coming Events

### PFN Outings

Weekly fall outings for our members and community guests continue with the hope that weather will cooperate. As always, we encourage participants to carpool and bring change to help with gas if not driving. Sturdy footwear is recommended, and one should always dress according to the weather forecast for our destination. Bring water, binoculars and depending on the outing, a spotting scope if you have one.

<p>Saturday, Oct. 5 1 to 4 p.m. Riverview Park and Zoo, Water Street North</p>	<p><b>Do You Like Rocks and Geology?</b></p> <p>Ken Lyon, P.Geo., is leading a half-day, old-fashioned road trip north of the City of Peterborough. We will explore geological features going back a billion years in The Land Between, one of the most priceless natural heritage areas in Ontario. Stops will include Burleigh Falls, the Great Unconformity between Precambrian and Ordovician rocks at Galesburg and either Lakefield or Warsaw Caves. There are lots of Pleistocene glacial features along the way. Details, including a road log, will be posted on the PFN website before the end of September. This trip complements Ken's monthly meeting presentation on Oct. 9. There's not a lot of walking but wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for the weather. Also, please bring gas money if you want to car share. Accessibility: Easy</p> 
<p>Sunday, Oct. 6 1 to 4 p.m. Meet at the main door of the Life Sciences Bldg.</p>	<p> <b>It's Mushroom Season</b></p> <p>Please join amateur mycologists Susan Chow and Radek Odolczyk for an intro to fungal taxonomy and macroscopy in the lab followed by a field visit to Mark S. Burnham Woods to investigate fungal ecology and their role in forest ecosystems. "We are fascinated by the fungal realm and are excited to share our special interest with anyone who cares to join us!"</p> <p>A Fungi Key can be found with the description of the session on The Events page of our website. Ideally you can download the Key prior to the lab for better understanding. As we will be exploring Burnham Woods, dress according to the day's weather and wear sturdy shoes. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Wednesday, Oct. 9 7:30 p.m. Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Geological Features of The Land Between</b></p> <p>The area north of the City of Peterborough contains a fascinating array of natural geological heritage features that span a billion years. Ken Lyon, hydrogeologist and PFN member, will introduce rocks of the core of ancient Canadian Shield mountains, plate tectonics and limestones and fossils of the shallow warm Ordovician seas, and Pleistocene drumlins and other physiographic features left by the glaciers.</p>  <p>Ken is a graduate of Princeton and Queen's Universities and a charter member of Professional Geoscientists Ontario. A complementary half-day field trip is being held on Saturday, October 5.</p>

PFN Coming Events		
<p>Sunday, Oct. 13 8 to 11 a.m. Riverview Park and Zoo, Water St. N.</p>	<p><b>Migrating Birds of the Pigeon Lake Area</b></p> <p>Dave Milsom and Matthew Tobey continue the PFN Sunday Morning Birding tradition, this time to the Pigeon Lake area looking for migrants including waterfowl. Accessibility: Easy</p>	
<p>Saturday, Oct. 19 9 to 4 p.m. Tim Horton's parking lot at the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne St. W.</p>	<p><b>Hawks Over Cranberry Marsh</b></p> <p>Each fall as the hawks and other raptors are heading southwards, they are blocked by the water of Lake Ontario. They will migrate westerly along the north shore of the lake looking for a way around it. On this outing, we will travel to the Cranberry Marsh in Whitby to observe the annual fall hawk watch. The hawk watch operates through the months of September and October. On the date of this trip there should be buteos and possibly eagles migrating through. The exact number will depend on the weather conditions, especially the wind direction. If the hawk migration is slow, there will be lots of other things to see. The trip will also provide an excellent introduction to the prime hawk migration monitoring location on the north shore of Lake Ontario. Meet trip leader, Martin Parker, at 9:00 a.m. Saturday in the Tim Horton's parking lot at the Canadian Tire/Sobey's Plaza, Lansdowne Street West. We will carpool for the travel to Cranberry Marsh. The trip will return in the late afternoon. Bring packed lunch, binoculars, and clothes suitable for the weather forecast on the day of the outing. A portable chair for sitting on while looking for hawks would be advantageous. Accessibility: Easy</p>	 <p>Immature Red-tailed Hawk. Photo: Steve Paul</p>
<p>Sunday, Oct. 27 8 to 11 a.m. Riverview Park and Zoo, Water St. N.</p>	<p><b>More Migrating Birds of the Pigeon Lake Area</b></p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead us to the east shore of Pigeon Lake looking for migrating waterfowl, Bonaparte's Gulls and Northern Shrike. Accessibility: Easy</p>	
<p>Sunday, Nov. 3 8 to 4 p.m. Meet at Country Style (Old Keene Rd &amp; Hwy 7, east of Peterborough)</p>	<p><b>Birding at Presqu'île Provincial Park</b></p> <p>Jerry Ball will lead a day-long trip to view migrant birds at Presqu'île Provincial Park, with other stops of interest on the way. Expect to see many interesting waterfowl. Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and, if you have them, rubber boots (not essential). Bring a contribution for gas if carpooling and the entry fee to the park. Accessibility: Easy walking</p>	

## PFN Coming Events

<p>Wednesday, Nov. 13 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: The Anthropocene's Animal? Coywolves as Feral Cotravelers</b></p> <p>In Canadian cities and towns, their presence is well known and feared. The coywolf is "an unsettled mixture" crossing the supposed species lines between wolf, coyote, and dog; and between the spatial assignments of wild, rural, and urban. Our guest speaker, Dr. Stephanie Rutherford, will be discussing how the coywolf provides us with an opportunity to reimagine all creatures as cotravelers.</p> <p>Stephanie Rutherford is an Associate Professor in the Trent School of the Environment, and also teaches and advises in the MA and PhD programs in Sustainability Studies, Cultural Studies, and Canadian and Indigenous Studies. She is the co-author of <i>Historical Animal Geographies</i>, published in 2018.</p>
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### Upcoming -- Details in Next Issue of *The Orchid*

Wave Riders of Rice Lake: Sunday, November 24

World's Greatest Concentration of Gulls (Annual Niagara Falls outing): Sunday, December 1

Peterborough Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, December 15

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

<p>Saturday, Oct.5 10:30-noon</p> <p>Kawartha Heights Park 2229 Kawartha Heights Blvd</p>	<p><b>BioBlitz at Kawartha Heights Park</b></p> <p>Let's identify all kinds of plants and animals. It's active exploration and learning. We'll wander through the park and learn how to use field guides and iNaturalist to identify and document the species we find. Plants will be our main focus since they stay still while you take pictures, but we'll also dabble with insects and other life. Open exploration is the focus.</p> <p>The PFN Juniors segment is part of a broader BioBlitz at the park coordinated by GreenUp. Anyone is welcome to join other parts of the blitz too, which are targeted toward specific groups of animals and plants with expert guides. For more information, please visit: <a href="https://peterboroughnature.org/event/pfn-juniors-bioblitz-at-kawartha-heights-park-sw-ptbo/">https://peterboroughnature.org/event/pfn-juniors-bioblitz-at-kawartha-heights-park-sw-ptbo/</a></p>	
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## Other Events of Interest

<p>Thursday, Oct. 3 7 p.m.</p> <p>Stohn Hall at Trent U 1600 W. Bank Dr.</p>	<p><b>All-Candidates Debate on the Environment</b></p> <p>This debate is part of the project "100 Debates on the Environment", which has a simple mission: to make the environment an issue that no party and no candidate can ignore by organizing more than 100 inclusive, politically neutral, and environment-focused all-candidates debates in communities across Canada. The debates will create a forum where voters can hear directly from candidates about their visions for the environment. They will create accountability for elected leaders and spur meaningful government action towards a sustainable future. <b>Please consider attending this debate and letting the candidates know of your concern for the environment.</b></p>
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### Other Events of Interest

<p>Saturday, Oct. 19</p> <p>10 a.m. at Kinmount Community Centre, 4995 Monck Rd, Kawartha Lakes</p>	<p><b>Ontario Nature, Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting</b></p> <p>The Kawartha Field Naturalists will be hosting this meeting, which will be held in Kinmount. There will be an election for a new Lake Ontario North Regional Director. We will visit the Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Reserve in the afternoon. PFN members are welcome to attend.</p>
<p><b>Kawartha Land Trust Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oct. 5: Prairie Seed Collecting   Volunteers Needed</li> <li>• Oct. 10: KLT's Annual Thanks.Giving</li> </ul> <p>To sign-up and for more information email <a href="mailto:pwilson@kawarthalandtrust.org">pwilson@kawarthalandtrust.org</a> or call the KLT office at 705-743-5599. To find out about more upcoming KLT events including volunteer work parties please visit <a href="http://kawarthalandtrust.org/?post_type=event">http://kawarthalandtrust.org/?post_type=event</a></p>	

### President's Message

Hello members of the club.

This September we kicked off the autumn season with our first members' meeting and outings. Sue Paradisis, our outings coordinator has organized an incredible diversity of outings over the next several months. If you're interested, check out the offerings in this issue of the Orchid. I know I plan on attending several of them! We also just submitted our official comments on Peterborough's Draft Official Plan. A very special thanks to Chris Risley for organizing our submission. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of our submission, please email [info@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:info@peterboroughnature.org). I also intend on having a copy of our submission available at the October PFN members meeting.



If it were not for volunteers like Chris, our club would not be able to have the impact that it does in this community. One hundred percent of our special projects are volunteer-run by members of our club. I have been approached countless times since joining the board for special initiatives to take on, but the reality is that many of these projects require a leader beyond our board's capacity. So if you have a special project that you are passionate about, please let us know and we will be happy to find a way to help.

One way in which we are helping members of the club is by starting our nature grants program. If you have a special project that you would like to do, be sure to check out the application on our website under "citizen science." It will be also be available for pickup at the regular members meeting. This is just one way we would like to help members like you share your passion, excitement and stewardship with the Peterborough community.

Dylan Radcliffe, President

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, October 25

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



## One Earth, One Vote Questions to Ask Your Candidates



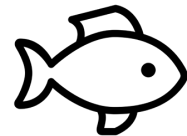
**1.** Climate change is a major and growing threat to wild species, wild spaces and human health. Will your party commit to increasing climate emission reduction targets so that they meet Canada's obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement and are in line with preventing a global temperature rise of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius?

**2.** Is your party committed to protecting at least 17 percent of Canada's lands and inland waters by 2020, in accordance with our international obligations as a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity?



**3.** Next year, Canada and other parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity will be renegotiating a new global target for protected areas. Will your party champion a global target of protecting at least 30 percent of land, freshwater and ocean by 2030 and adopt these in Canada?

**4.** Ontario has gutted its Endangered Species Act. Will your party protect Canada's at-risk plants and animals by using the federal Species at Risk Act to step in where provinces are failing to protect species facing imminent threats?



**5.** Is your party committed to operating in a manner that is consistent with Canada's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as the "calls to action" of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

**6.** Neonicotinoid pesticides are known to negatively impact pollinators, causing direct mortality and impairing navigation, learning, food collection, resistance to disease and reproduction. Will your party implement an immediate ban on all neonicotinoid pesticides, and support farmers to transition to safer alternatives?



**7.** Almost all Canadians believe that Canada should recognize the legal right to a healthy environment, as is the case in more than 150 countries worldwide. The right to a healthy environment results in stronger environmental laws, better enforcement of those laws and a greater public role in environmental decision-making. Will you introduce legislation to create a federal Environmental Bill of Rights?

**Sign today:** <https://ontarionature.good.do/oneearthonevote/>



## Outing Report for Aug. 24: Shorebirds and Monarchs at Presqu'île Provincial Park

Submitted by Martin Parker

On this annual outing led by Matthew Tobey and Martin Parker, the eleven participants departed early so they could observe the shorebirds on the beach of Presqu'île Provincial Park before they were disturbed by other people or falcons. Fortunately, the dry summer months resulted in lower water levels from the spring with beach being available for the birds.

On this trip a total of 73 species of birds were observed within the park with several more just outside the park. Nine species of



Tagged Monarch. Photo: Steve Paul



American Bittern. Photo: Don McLeod

shorebirds were present on the beach. The four Baird's Sandpipers were very cooperative, permitting close examination. The features which distinguished them from the similar Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were clearly observed. While on the beach, an American Bittern was spotted at the edge of a small wetland area. It stood erect, pretending it could not be seen.

The group had lunch in the yard of Bill Gilmour, and were entertained by a variety of butterflies feeding on the available blooms. The birding highlight in the garden were the two Red-headed Woodpeckers visiting the peanut feeders. Many photos were taken of these birds. Special thanks to Bill for permitting the group to visit his yard.

The other focus of this outing was the migration of Monarch butterflies. Many Monarchs were observed migrating across the beach and heading westward out over the lake. The migration to Mexico has commenced. During the morning, four Monarchs were captured. The antics of the members attempting to capture the butterflies was memorable. The Monarchs were taken to the Nature Centre in the park where they were tagged by park staff.

Several other stops in the park resulted in the participants observing a number of other species of perching birds.



Left: Semipalmated Plover. Right: Baird's Sandpiper with Least Sandpiper in foreground.  
Photos: Don McLeod



## Outing Report for Sept. 8: Sunday Morning Bird Walk

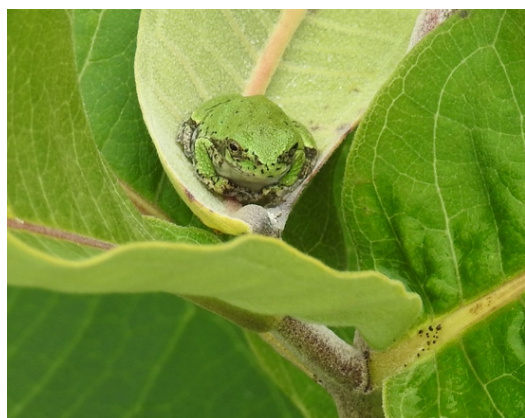
Submitted by Drew Monkman

Cool but sunny weather made for a lovely Sunday morning bird walk on September 8, even though the birds themselves being rather sparse. The 14 of us made our first stop at Promise Rock, just north of Trent University and on the west of the rail-trail. One of the highlights here ended up being a Blue-spotted Salamander that I was lucky enough to find under a log. We also enjoyed the diversity of asters such as New England, Heath, and Heart-leaved. Although the response to pishing was underwhelming, an American Redstart and Magnolia Warbler eventually decided to show themselves as did several Song Sparrows and a young Gray Catbird. We also got views of a Northern Harrier soaring in the distance.



Drew Monkman et al. pishing for warblers at Promise Rock. Photo: Steve Paul

As we made our way north to the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, many of us got good looks at a baby Common Loon and its mother, swimming not far from the road's edge. A very obliging Osprey also sat quietly on a dead branch and posed for pictures.



Gray Treefrog on Common Milkweed.  
Photo: Rene Gareau

At the lagoons, the birding picked up a little bit, mostly courtesy of the large number of ducks that were present. These included Lesser Scaup, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, and no less than 30 Wood Ducks. A few of us also got a fleeting glimpse of a Green Heron while a Marsh Wren chattered from the cattails. My efforts at pishing were a little more successful here, as an Eastern Wood-Pewee posed for us and several Yellow-rumped Warblers came within good viewing range. It was also wonderful to see so many Monarch butterflies flying about and to find several caterpillars. Rene Gareau even found a tiny Gray Treefrog – albeit lime green in coloration – sitting quietly on a milkweed leaf. For whatever reason, these frogs seem to have a special fondness for hanging out on milkweed leaves.

Later, after the rest of us had left, Steve Paul spent 90 minutes running ahead of a County employee who was cutting the grass – and milkweeds. Steve rescued eight Monarch caterpillars and took them home where he successfully reared them. Steve and I both think it would be a great idea if the PFN was to enter into some kind of stewardship partnership with Selwyn Township so that maintenance procedures at the lagoons are carried out with more regard to the impact on wildlife, and to tackle the encroaching phragmites. We both think that a small viewing platform would be a wonderful addition, possibly located on the section between the two lagoons.

As is always the case on these walks, simply getting out and enjoying great conversation with fellow naturalists made for a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning.



One of the lucky Monarch caterpillars.  
Photo: Steve Paul

## Outing Report for Sept. 15: Ballyduff Trails Nature Walk

Submitted by Don McLeod

When good weather follows you through the entire summer season of outings, you get the feeling that it can't last forever. Sure enough, the skies opened up with steady rain on September 15. Rain was still falling as 13 PFN members, led by Don McLeod, got out of their cars at Ballyduff Trails near Bethany. Our original plan was to walk 5 km along the trails and finish at South Pond Farms, using car shuttles to go back for the other vehicles. But with the rain we made a group decision to take a shorter walk down to the tallgrass prairie.

Our group tended to split into two with some folks birding and others looking at plants. The birding was better than expected despite being an afternoon outing. One area was productive for several species of Warblers. In another area one of the highlights was a Philadelphia Vireo. Grasses of interest included Big Bluestem, Little



Philadelphia Vireo. Photo: Steve Paul

Bluestem, Indian Grass and Canada Wild Rye, all part of Ralph's tallgrass prairie. Steve Paul gave us an update on KLT volunteer efforts which help Ralph plant new areas with tallgrass prairie seedlings. We also observed the results of work to control the invasive Scots Pine and Dog-strangling Vine. The task seems monumental. No outing with Don would be complete without an occasional poop alert. As usual there were plenty of sharp-eyed naturalists helping out and we found scat for Coyote and Raccoon. In three different locations we found the tell-tale mounds and tunnels of moles, most likely from the species Hairy-tailed Mole. Unfortunately, rain had leveled the sandy areas and we did not observe any tracks.

After a quick tutorial on how to find burrows belonging to Burrowing Wolf Spiders, we diligently cast our gaze to the ground (a bit tough on the birders) looking for these little holes in the ground. As seen in the photo, burrows were present during the fall of 2018. However, despite our best efforts, we did not find any burrows during our 2019 outing. The return walk was peaceful if not arduous with the uphill climb. We stopped one last time to view the wind turbines and wonder at the fate of one turbine which had a broken blade. The final treat was a 30+ flock of Cedar Waxwings. Many thanks go to Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin for the use of their KLT Ballyduff Trails.



Don McLeod leading the search for burrows of burrowing wolf spiders. Photo: Steve Paul



Northern Parula. Photo: Steve Paul



## Yellow-throated Warbler in Peterborough: First County Record

By Scott McKinlay with Martin Parker

In the early afternoon of May 17, I ventured out to private properties adjacent my residence in the hamlet of Cavan to check out the spring warbler migration. At the edge of a shallow thicket, I encountered many migrating warblers including several Yellow-rumped, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Northern Parula and Magnolia. That is when I encountered a Yellow-throated Warbler.

I watched this individual for 2 to 3 minutes. It then disappeared but returned again in 10 minutes, at which time I had a very close view, about 3 meters away, for another minute or so. There was no doubt that it was a Yellow-throated Warbler. I was able to obtain one fuzzy cell phone photo, but the head was turned. The yellow throat is just visible.



Yellow-throated Warbler.  
Photo: Scott McKinlay

Description of the individual: The yellow, which was restricted to the upper throat and chin popped out in contrast to the black mask. A white arc was visible below the eye, as well as white patch behind the eye, and a white supercillium. The back was blue/grey with two white wing bars, and the bill was black. The underside was white with black streaks on the side. The underside of the tail was white with black corners.

Martin Parker: This observation is the first documented observation of a Yellow-throated Warbler in the County of Peterborough. There is no mention of this species in the PFN publication *Our Heritage of Birds: Peterborough County in the Kawarthas* (Doug Sadler, 1983) or any of the preceding reports prepared for the PFN on birds of Peterborough County prior this publication. A review of the eBird database for Peterborough County indicates there are no previous records for this species for the County.

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## From the Archives: A Brief 50 Years History

Submitted by Martin Parker

From *The Orchid*, May 1990, Volume 36, Number 5

*Editorial Note: This issue contained a summary of the achievements of the PFN since its inception on May 20, 1940. A couple of years are reproduced in this article. In future issues, additional years will be highlighted leading up to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PFN in May of 2020. Pat Dunsire was responsible for preparing this summary.*

1950 – J.L. McKeever was returned as President for 1950. He produced three years of the Peterborough Nature Club News, which preceded *The Orchid*. Mr. Lewis Bird was the Secretary-Treasurer.

The fee for 1949-50 was raised to \$2.00. The club had five [public] lectures that year, all of them being Audubon presentations. Selling tickets for the 400 seating hall at Queen Mary auditorium wasn't any easier than it is today. The club induced the School Board to show the films to the students. Mr. Bird was having trouble building a junior club.

In December of 1950 they were looking for Evening Grosbeaks as none had been spotted. They don't seem too hard to find these past few years. Miss Eastwood found Will Lettuce on a field trip in October, it was the extraordinary height of eight feet.

1951 – Roger Tory Peterson was the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Lewis Bird was elected President.



## Winter Finch Forecast for Winter of 2019-20

By Ron Pittaway, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Toronto

**GENERAL FORECAST:** This is not an irruption (flight) year for winter finches in the East. Most winter finches will stay in the north. There are abundant spruce cone crops across the boreal forest in Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland. Most conifers (except pines), birches and other seed crops are good to excellent in much of the Northeast. This should be a good winter to see finches in traditional hotspots such as Ontario's Algonquin Park, Quebec's Laurentian Mountains, New York's Adirondack Mountains, and northern New England States. For the details on each finch species, see individual forecasts below. Three irruptive non-finch passerines are also discussed. The forecast applies mainly to Ontario and nearby provinces and states.

**PINE GROSBEAK:** Most Pine Grosbeaks will stay close to the breeding grounds this winter because the mountain-ash berry crop is excellent in the north. The abundant cone crop and a large seed crop on black ash will provide additional food to hold grosbeaks in the north. A few Pine Grosbeaks may drift south to Algonquin Park where they are seen most winters.



Pine Grosbeak at Algonquin Park. Photo: Susan Weaver



Purple Finch. Photo: Susan Weaver

**PURPLE FINCH:** Most Purple Finches usually migrate south of Ontario in the fall, but this winter many will remain in the province where tree seed crops are excellent. At feeders they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

**RED CROSSBILL:** Red Crossbills are currently widespread in the East. Expect to see them where there are large cone crops. Red Crossbills comprise at least 10 "types" in North America. The types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with an iPhone and identified to type. Matt Young of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will identify types if you email your recordings to "may6@cornell.edu" or upload them to an

eBird checklist. Recordings uploaded to eBird checklists are deposited in the Macaulay Library. Matt reports that Type 10 is the most common type now in the Northeast, but there are also some Type 3 from the West and a few Type 1 and 2. See Matt Young's guide to Red Crossbill call types in link #4 below.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL:** This crossbill is currently widespread and locally common in Ontario and Quebec where spruce cone crops are excellent to bumper. Expect to see White-winged Crossbills this winter in Algonquin Park. It feeds on native conifers with small cones such as white, red and black spruces and hemlock.

**COMMON REDPOLL:** Most redpolls will probably stay in the north this winter because seed crops on birches, alders and spruce are excellent this year. A winter trip to northern Ontario should yield redpolls. A few Common Redpolls may get south to Algonquin Park, but likely no farther. For subspecies ID and photos see link #2 below.

**HOARY REDPOLL:** Hoaries are not expected in the south this winter because it is not a redpoll irruption year. A road



Common Redpoll. Photo: Susan Weaver

trip to northern Ontario is recommended to see Hoary Redpolls. Watch for them in flocks of Common Redpolls. For subspecies ID and photos see link #2 below.



Pine Siskin. Photo: Susan Weaver

**PINE SISKIN:** Many siskins should winter in central and northern Ontario where cone crops are excellent to bumper on white spruce. Siskins relish nyger seeds in silo feeders. Siskin irruptions related to climate variability are discussed in link #3 below.

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** Most Evening Grosbeaks should winter in the north because conifer and deciduous seed crops such as black ash are generally excellent to bumper. However, we may experience an echo flight after the considerable southward movement last winter. The best spot to see this striking grosbeak is the feeders at the Visitor Centre in Algonquin Park. At feeders it prefers black oil sunflower seeds. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 2016 listed the

Evening Grosbeak as a species of Special Concern due to strong population declines in central and eastern Canada.

**THREE IRRUPTIVE NON-FINCH PASSERINES:** Movements of these three passerines are often linked to movements of boreal finches.

**BLUE JAY:** This jay moves south in varying numbers every fall. Expect a small to moderate flight along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie because the red oak acorn, beechnut, hazelnut and soft mast crops are very good to excellent in Ontario. Good numbers of Blue Jays should visit feeders this winter in Ontario.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH:** Boreal populations of the Red-breasted Nuthatch will not migrate south this fall. The excellent spruce and fir cone crops will hold Red-breasted Nuthatches on the breeding grounds this winter. The dynamics and population consequences of irruptions in the Red-breasted Nuthatch are discussed in link #5

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** The excellent native mountain-ash berry crop across the boreal forest should keep most Bohemians Waxwings in the north this winter. Some, however, usually wander south into settled areas where they are attracted to European mountain-ash berries, ornamental crabapples and buckthorn berries.



Evening Grosbeak in Algonquin Park. Photo: Susan Weaver

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

Finch Information Links:

1. Finch Facts, Seed Crops and Irruptions: <http://www.jeaniron.ca/2012/winterfinches.htm>

2. Subspecies of Common and Hoary Redpolls – ID Tips and Photos:  
<http://www.jeaniron.ca/2015/redpollsRP.htm>
3. Climatic dipoles drive two principal modes of North American boreal bird irruption: 5.  
<https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/112/21/E2795.full.pdf>
4. Crossbills of North America: Species and Red Crossbill Call Types: 7.  
<https://ebird.org/news/crossbills-of-north-america-species-and-red-crossbill-call-types/>
5. Dynamics and population consequences of irruption in the Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332970249>
6. Interview with Ron Pittaway in OFO News 34(1):1-3, 201:  
<http://jeaniron.ca/articles/FinchForecasterFe2016.pdf>

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### Berries, Bugs, And Slugs For The Fox

How gripping is the play between predator and prey!  
Three grey squirrels are feeding only yards away.  
A red fox darted toward them; they ran for the tree,  
Leaving him at a loss about where they could be.

The young red fox sits at the base of an old maple tree,  
Pondering how hard his life will be.  
C'mon, Foxie, you're said to be quick and cunning.  
A squirrel is only half as fast as a fox when running.

Hearing a mouse squeak at close to one hundred fifty yards,  
He'll soon find more prey in parks and backyards.  
From dusk to dawn he'll be on the prowl,  
Working the same haunts as the hawk and owl.

His sense of smell is good, his vision better at night.  
Numerous rods and a tapetum make the images bright,  
But he doesn't see colour or much detail during the day.  
He'll eat what he can catch; that's the omnivore way.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2018







## 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	After a very wet and cooler than normal spring, the months of July and August were warm and dry. By early September, a low water condition alert was issued by Otonabee Conservation. July was the month of great emergence of butterflies.
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> The influx of Red-headed Woodpeckers, initially reported for the May and June period continues with sightings from various locations in the county with suspected breeding at a number of locations. The prime locations were the Trent University Nature Area and the Yankee Line near Ennismore. The Trent University birds were observed by many observers during the reported period.	
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b> Observations of Clay-colored Sparrows continued during the period with the prime locations being around the Water Tower in Lakefield and the area known as the Dummer Alvar. Observations by multiple observers.	
July 1	Matthew Tobey and Dave Milsom had an out-of-season <b>Common Goldeneye</b> on the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon.
July 3	Chris Ellingwood heard a <b>Western Meadowlark</b> calling from a field near Flynn's Corners north of Buckhorn. In the Sandy Lake area, Jerry Ball had the FOY <b>Northern Pearly-eye, Eyed Brown, Two-spotted Skipper</b> and <b>Pink-edged Sulphur</b> butterflies.
July 4	In the Tate's Road area, Jerry Ball had FOY <b>Harris's Checkerspot, Appalachian Brown &amp; Atlantis Fritillary</b> .
July 5	On Lang/Hasting Trail (David Fife and Baseline), Jerry Ball had FOY <b>Bronzed Copper</b>
July 6	Erica Nol & Chris Risley spotted a <b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b> in the wetland off Mervin Line, east of the Peterborough Airport. On Lang/Hasting Trail (David Fife to Settlers) J. Ball had FOY <b>Baltimore Checkerspot</b>
July 10	In the Sandy Lake area, Jerry Ball had FOY, <b>Mulberry Wing, Aphrodite Fritillary, Banded Hairstreak and Delaware Skipper</b> (all butterflies)
July 12	On Lang/Hasting Trail (David Fife to Baseline), J. Ball had FOY <b>Common Wood Nymph</b>
July 14	On the PFN butterfly outing to Sandy Lake Road, the observers spotted 29 species of butterflies. Summary in August/September issue of <i>The Orchid</i> . Jerry Ball noted that on this trip the <b>Broad-winged Skipper &amp; Dun Skipper</b> , were his first of the year. Their emergence was delayed this summer due to the cool and wet spring.
July 18	Donald Sutherland spotted an <b>Orchard Oriole</b> in the vicinity of the Hope Mill. Jerry Ball & Robert DiFruscia had FOY <b>Dion Skipper</b> in the Nephton area and a <b>Green Comma</b> at Petroglyphs Provincial Park.
July 21	The 20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count was held. The participants observed a total of 55 species representing 3384 individuals. Results in the August/September issue of <i>The Orchid</i> .
<b>Merlin</b> Mike Faught reported through Drew Monkman's Sightings website a pair of <b>Merlin</b> which were nesting near his residence on Reid Street. He noted that five or six times a day they exchanged prey they had caught in an adjacent tree.	
July 24	On Sandy Lake Road, Jerry Ball & Robert DiFruscia had FOY <b>Edward's Hairstreak</b> .
July 26	On Lang/Hasting Trail, Jerry Ball had FOY <b>Orange Sulphur</b> . Joan DiFruscia had a <b>Common Buckeye</b> (butterfly) on Heritage Line, Keene area.
Aug. 2	Along the river south of Lock 24, Jerry Ball observed a <b>Mink</b> with unidentified prey.

Aug. 21	Bill Crins located an early returning <b>Bufflehead</b> (female) on the Lakefield Lagoon. It was observed by many observers until August 25. Jerry Ball, Robert & Joan DiFruscia and Martin Parker observed several <b>Leonard's Skippers</b> in the Sandy Lake Road area. This was Jerry's 89 <sup>th</sup> species of butterfly in the count this year. They also participated in a tour of the Blue Mountain quarry (off Cty Road 46) where a <b>Peregrine Falcon</b> was observed and, according to the site's environmental staff, has been nesting there for several years.
Aug. 24	Bill Crins had a <b>Black-bellied Plover</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.
Aug. 25	Parker Dirks found a <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> at Anstruther Lake, North Kawartha. Bill Crins located late-departing <b>Willow Flycatchers</b> along the Lang/Hasting Trail.
Aug. 26	Daniel Williams had a <b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b> at Buckley Lake, southeast of Lakefield Mike V. A. Burrell and Rob Craig had a <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> on Northeys Bay Road, North Kawartha. William Snowden submitted photographs of a <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> feeding on the flowers in his garden on Lower Buckhorn Lake. This butterfly species is expanding in numbers annually and gradually moving northward.
Aug. 27	Kathryn Sheridan had 70 <b>Barn Swallows</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon, preparing to depart.
Aug. 29	The post-breeding season dispersal of <b>Great Egrets</b> has commenced: Randy Smith & Matthew Tobey had an individual on pond at the intersection of Television Rd & Hwy 7. In the evening, Drew Monkman & Tim Dyson counted the <b>Common Nighthawks</b> migrating over Back Dam Park near Warsaw from 6 to 8 p.m. They observed a total of 133 individuals, with one flock containing 40 birds. Prior to this observation, Dyson had several nights in late August this year when approximately 100 birds flew over.
Aug. 31	Jerry Ball was participating in the Cranberry Marsh Hawk Watch and reported that thousands of <b>Monarch</b> (butterflies) were passing over. The exodus to Mexico has started. This year is the best year of number of Monarchs for many years
Sept. 3	At Sandy Point north of Gannon's Narrows, Dave Milsom & Matthew Toby had a Common <b>Goldeneye</b> & <b>Great Egret</b> .
Sept. 11	A <b>Great Egret</b> was observed feeding on pond north of the Peterborough Landfill site -- seen by many observers until late in the month. Another <b>Great Egret</b> was at Auburn Reach Park by Cathy Douglas, Anda Rungis & Marie Duchesneau.
<b>Report from September's Members Meeting on Sept. 11</b> A member reported find in the summer a <b>Milkweed Tussock Moth</b> caterpillar. Don Pettypiece reported a <b>Red Fox</b> in the Kawartha Heights Blvd. area & a <b>Merlin</b> in the north end of the Parkway Trail. A sighting of an <b>Eastern Milk Snake</b> from the Trent University Nature Area. Enid Mallory in the summer observed a <b>Virginia Rail</b> with young at Lily Lake. Brian Wales observed 50 <b>Common Nighthawks</b> on Sept. 5 passing over the Parkhill Road bridge. Many members commented on the abundance of <b>Monarch</b> butterflies this fall.	
Sept. 12	J. Ball noted the Salmon are running & spawning in the Ganaraska River at Port Hope
Sept. 13	Mike V.A. Burrell had a late-departing <b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b> along the 8 <sup>th</sup> Line of Douro Township.
Sept. 14	Chris Risley spotted a <b>Fox Sparrow</b> in the area of Assumption Road and Bensfort Road
Sept. 15	Dave Milsom had a late departing <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> in the Scollard Drive area. Patrick Scanlon a late departing <b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b> along Indian River Road. Iain Rayner had 4 late departing <b>Barn Swallow</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
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Past President and Treasurer	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	741-3641	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
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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					



Above: More Monarchs from Presqu'île (Photos: Martin Parker). Below: Canada Geese (Photo: Ken McKeen)





# 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**

<b>Contact Information:</b>			
Name(s):	Phone(s):		
Address:	Email(s):		
I would like to receive The Orchid by (Pick One): <input type="checkbox"/> Mail Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Both			
<b>Membership type and fee schedule:</b>			
<b>Notice:</b> 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. <b>Please make cheques payable to Peterborough Field Naturalists.</b>		I have included a donation with my membership fees: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input type="checkbox"/> No      If Yes amount: \$_____	
1. Single Adult \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Single Student \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Single Child (5 – 12) \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Family \$30* <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>*Please give the names and ages of children wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Age:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Age:</b>
<b>&lt;&lt;&lt; New Member Information &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>			
<b>Main interests:</b>			<b>How do you hope to participate:</b>
<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: _____			<input type="checkbox"/> Outings <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Science <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Naturalists
<b>Volunteers are always needed. Do you have interest in any of these activities:</b>			
<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Join the PFN board</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sit on research or conservation committees</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Help with the Orchid publication</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Assist with meetings</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Work on field projects</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Lead an outing</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Help the Junior Naturalists</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Give a presentation</div> </div>			
<b>Liability Waiver (New and Returning Members):</b>			
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			
<b>Signature:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____			