

The

Orchid



Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

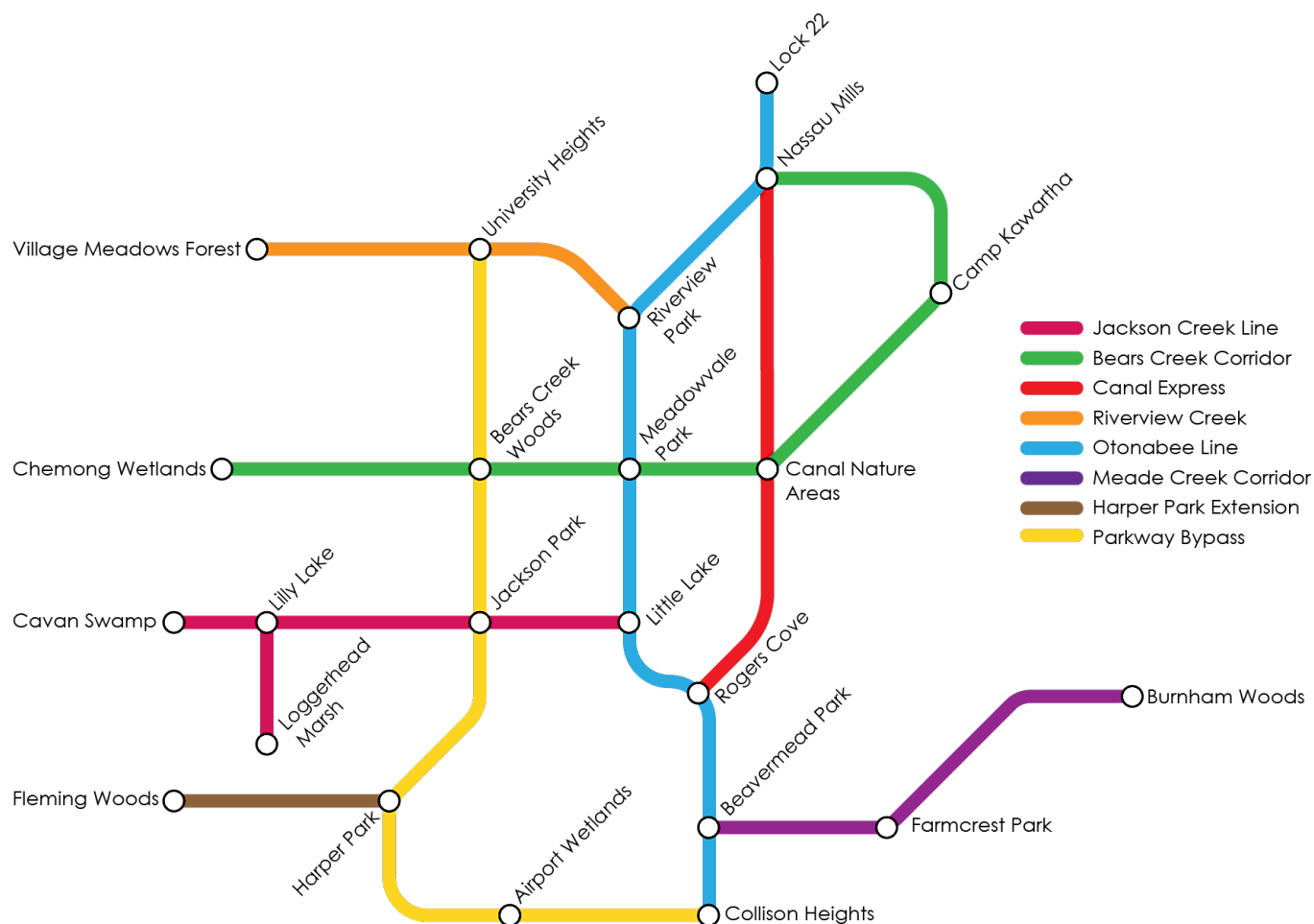
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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



City of Peterborough's Natural Heritage System. Design by Dylan Radcliffe.

Inside:

A "Transit System" for Wildlife

Pathway to Stewardship & Kinship a Big Success

80th Anniversary and Highlights from Last Five Years of the PFN

Information on Outings and New PFN Meetings

Places to Go Butterflying in Peterborough County

Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers in the City



In this Issue:

PFN Meetings	3
PFN Outings.....	3
80 th Anniversary of the PFN	5
Wacky Squirrel Behaviour.....	7
A Nature Almanac for June, July and August	7
Natural Heritage Systems	10
A Flower Diary	11
Solo Outing Reports.....	12
The Pathway to Stewardship & Kinship.....	13
Student Connections With Nature	13
From the Archives: Butterflying.....	14
Ten Steps to Better Butterfly Photography	15
Monarch Breeding Population Size in Canada	16
Environmental Film Festival Online.....	17
The Orchid Diary	19
Wildlife - Not Welcome in Our Town!.....	22
PFN Membership Application	24

Welcome new PFN members!

- Patrick Kramer & Katie Tremblay-Beaton
- Jennifer Baici



In reference to last month's mnemonics quiz, it turns out our White-throated Sparrow is bilingual (or trilingual if you factor in dialects). In English-speaking Canada, it sings, "Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada," in the States it sings "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" but when it's in Quebec (and maybe Louisiana), it sings, "Mon petit frère Frédéric, Frédéric, Frédéric." Photo: Don McLeod

Spring 101:



Three mating water snakes on Anstruther Lake on May 24.
Photo: Marie Duchesneau.



Black-capped Chickadee collecting nesting materials.
Photo: Reem Ali.



American Robin feeding a fledgling. Photo: Reem Ali

PFN Coming Events

<p>Wednesday, May 27</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting on Zoom</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Hiking the Great Trail</p> <p>On June 19, 2019, Sonya Richmond and Sean Morton began hiking across Canada starting from Cape Spear, NL. They are hiking the 24,000 km long Great Trail (previously known as the Trans Canada Trail), the world's longest recreational pathway. Over the next four years, they will walk west to Victoria and then venture north from Fort Saskatchewan to Tuktoyaktuk, NT. So far, they have trekked over 3,300 km through the maritimes all the way to Rivière du Loup, QC. They are now rejoining the Great Trail westward and would like to share with us their adventure, highlighting the importance of outdoor activities, being close to nature and getting involved in Citizen Science.</p> <p>Dr. Sonya Richmond completed an undergraduate degree in Biology and Environmental Resource Science, as well as MSc in Watershed Ecosystems Management at Trent and has earned a PhD from the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. She has done research at Bird Studies Canada and worked as a Geographic Information Systems Analyst.</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 24</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting on Zoom</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Wild Turkeys – A Year in the Life</p> <p>Jennifer Baici will be describing how wild turkey behaviour changes with Ontario's seasons and what this means for the researchers who study them. You'll hear about how wild turkeys are able to survive Ontario's harsh winters, why turkey poults sometimes end up in neighbouring nests, and the lesser-known importance of studying seemingly abundant, native species. Please bring any turkey questions you have as Jennifer will be more than happy to answer them following her presentation.</p> <p>Jennifer is a Ph.D. candidate at Trent University where she studies wild turkey social structure and behaviour. Prior to beginning her work with turkeys, she studied biocontrol of invasive species at the University of Toronto. She has been involved in numerous other conservation projects along the way involving a variety of different species including insects, songbirds, and big cats.</p>

Outings

Submitted by Sue Paradisis, Outings Co-ordinator

A Committee consisting of Sue Paradisis, Martin Parker, Steve Paul, Don McLeod, and Lynn Smith has been developing guidelines for our outings and for those participating. In the past year, we have experienced a lot of growth which has sometimes resulted in large numbers attending and therefore some problems. With COVID-19, all trips had to be suspended. There are many PFN members who are missing field trips so we have tried to address when and how can we safely resume small outings. The Committee's recommendations were discussed and supported by the PFN Board. While we cannot predict when we can start up again, we know the safety of participants and leaders is paramount.

The guidelines are as follows:

1. Wait for the province to allow gatherings of more than five people.
2. Not arrange carpooling but rather meet at a chosen location.
3. Follow physical distancing as recommended by Public Health.
4. Follow Provincial guidelines concerning masks. Currently they are only recommended to be worn when physical distancing is difficult. They are therefore optional for outdoor outings.
5. Provide enough leaders that participants can be split into small groups.

PFN Coming Events

6. Pre-register to control numbers for how many leaders we have.
7. Cap registration at a maximum of 20 people.
8. Due to restrictions on attendance numbers, club members will be given the first opportunity to register.

These guidelines will make organization much more difficult so it is expected that for the remainder of 2020, we will not offer as many outings as last year. When the Province announces easing of restrictions on gathering sizes, I would advise members to go to our website or watch for announcements on social media. Any planned outings will be posted along with information on how you can register.

In the meantime, refer to the May Orchid for lots of suggestions on places you can go on your own. Check eBird for hotspots. It has been nice running into members while out birding. You can't keep naturalists inside this time of year! Consider including some PFN friends in your expanding "bubble" when the time is appropriate.

I am missing the friendly, familiar faces of PFN members and hope we will soon be able to get together.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, August 21

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

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

Solo outing/sighting reports of up to 300 words would be appreciated for the next Orchid.



Hello PFN Members,

I hope you are all keeping well in these times. Our Board has come up with some excellent plans for the coming months to keep everyone engaged with the club. I am looking forward to meetings and outings going ahead in their modified forms.

Last month I resigned as the president of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. With the completion of my studies at Trent University, I felt it was a good time for me to step down as president. I will remain on the board as a member at large while Rene Gareau assumes the duties of president. It was a pleasure to serve for the past year, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Regards,

Dylan Radcliffe



The lapel pin shown here on the left has been produced to commemorate PFN's 80th anniversary. The pins are being sold for the reasonable price of \$5 each, and will be available at our next in-person monthly meeting - whenever that may be!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Wintergreen Studios presents the 6th Annual

LAND ART BIOBLITZ

June 5-7, 2020

This **FREE VIRTUAL** family-friendly event aims to connect participants with nature through live online workshops and webinars in the arts and natural history.

Explore your neighbourhood and celebrate the species who live alongside you.

For more information and to RSVP, go to
wintergreenstudios.com/events/lab-2020



80th Anniversary of the PFN**Submitted by Lynn Smith****PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS**

On Saturday, May 18, 1940, three individuals - Frank Morris, Harry Graham and John Hooper - led a field outing with naturalists from Peterborough and some members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature). The outing was held on the Gordon Fraser Estate on Stoney Lake. At the time, Gordon Fraser was a member of the National Government party (later, the Progressive Conservative party) for the Peterborough area. Following this outing and lunch, a meeting was held and from it the Peterborough Nature Club was organized. Thirty-two adults and four juniors became Club members with the membership fee set at \$1.00.

Mr. Harry Graham was elected president. From these beginnings the Peterborough Field Naturalists has grown to a membership of 223 individuals. The Club's mandate, "To know, appreciate and conserve nature in all its forms" demonstrates its spirit and dedication.

In 2015, the Peterborough Field Naturalists celebrated a 75-year milestone with May 18th dedicated to a day of nature hikes, activities for kids, a barbeque at Camp Kawartha, congratulatory speeches and anecdotes from past Presidents. It was a day of camaraderie, reminiscing and good times.

Unfortunately, in these COVID-19 times, plans for a similar event to celebrate the Club's 80th Anniversary are on hold. The following is a brief summary of some PFN highlights over the past five years.

PFN Members are Honoured

- Junior Field Naturalists – received the Environmental Excellence Award for Stewardship from the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
- Peterborough Christmas Bird Count Participants – received the Environmental Stewardship/Sustainability certificate from the City of Peterborough
- Drew Monkman was awarded Honorary Degree at Trent University
- Enid and Gord Mallory were inducted to Peterborough Pathway of Fame – 2018 Literary
- Junior Field Naturalist, Jakob Griffin, was awarded Margaret and Carl Nunn Memorial Camp Scholarship

PFN Donations & Support

- \$1,000 to the Kawartha Land Trust project, 'Help Save Boyd Island'.
- Sponsored "The Messenger" and "The Whale and the Raven" at the Reframe Film Festival
- \$250 to The Mount Community Centre for the creation of a butterfly-pollinator garden on the property
- \$2,000 to support a two-year study of the life history of the Brook Trout population in Harper Creek conducted by Trent University professor, Michael Fox and M.Sc. candidate, Scott Blair.
- \$1,000 to Nature Conservancy of Canada towards protection of Brighton Wetlands.
- \$1,000 to the Kawartha Land Trust property, 'Cation Wildlife Preserve' in Coboconk.
- Sponsored Holy Cross student, Maya Taylor, to attend the Wallacea Conservation Research Project in South Africa
- Each year PFN has sponsored a student for the Ontario Nature Youth Summit
- Legacy Fund Grant revenue from the Rhea Bringeman Bequest is allocated to Citizen-Science Projects, Youth Education, Community Natural History Stewardship Projects and Research

PFN Website is Updated**PFN hosted the Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional meeting**

Two Peterborough Marshes Receive Provincial Significant Wetland Status

- Loggerhead Marsh
- Harper Creek Wetland

PFN presented their display at:

- Peterborough Garden Show
- Gamiing Nature Centre
- Ministry of Natural Resources Earth Day Event
- Buckhorn Fine Art Festival
- Kawartha Land Trust 3rd Lecture – Trent Speaker Series
- Invasive Plant Conference
- Jack Lake Cottagers Association

PFN Repairs & Maintenance

- At Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area, new bird houses were built and a sign describing the frog and toad species was replaced.

PFN members identified first Peterborough County records

- Female Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly reported by Jerry Ball and Ken Morrison
- Silver-haired bats detected by Chris Ketola
- Early Hairstreak butterfly identified by Basil Conlin
- Long-billed Dowitcher bird reported by Scott Gibson
- Yellow-throated Warbler reported by Scott McKinlay
- Forster's Tern reported by Iain Rayner

Research Partnerships

- Fourth-year Trent University student, Vanessa Potvin, digitally mapped ten core ecologically important areas as described in the 1996 report entitled, "Peterborough Natural Areas Strategy."
- Fourth-year Trent University biology student, McLean Smith, reviewed *The Orchid* Diary from 1948 to 2016. He looked at seven species of birds and compared the relative abundance and the number of reported sightings in *The Orchid* and in Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys. The paper was published in *The Journal for Nature Conservation*.
- Harper Creek Urban Stream Ecology Research as part of Scott Blair's M.Sc. study on Brook Trout.
- Martin Parker, with several volunteers, conducted a two-year survey on the Kawartha Land Trust Dance Nature Sanctuary to determine seasonal occurrence of butterflies.
- PFN participates annually in two Christmas Bird Counts and one Butterfly Count, contributing valuable data to these international programs.

PFN members participated on community committees

- Martin Parker sat on Advisory Committee for City of Peterborough Official Plan
- Dylan Radcliffe joined the steering committee for "The Kawarthas, Naturally Connected Project".

- PFN invited as a stakeholder in the consultation on the Trent Lands and Nature Areas Study

PFN members published books

- Enid and Gord Mallory published their book, “Travels with Birds: In Eastern North America”.
- Drew Monkman and Executive Director of Camp Kawartha, Jacob Rodenburg, published, “The Big Book of Nature Activities”.
- Michael & Kenneth Burrell published, “Best Places to Bird in Ontario”.

The Peterborough Field Naturalists will continue beyond its 80 years in the spirit of ‘To Know, Appreciate and Conserve Nature in All its Forms’.

Wacky Squirrel Behaviour

Submitted by Susan Weaver

This spring I have been watching a squirrel in my yard that is exhibiting what I consider to be erratic behaviour. I have a small flag in my yard and this squirrel frequently climbs the fabric and acts like he is fighting with it. One morning he was throwing around and catching clods of grass and earth that the skunks had dug up while looking for grubs. Then, one morning I looked out my window and the squirrel was playing with a tree branch that was about two feet long. He would throw it around and then pounce on it with behaviour that reminded me of a cat playing with a mouse. He also has a history of running up, down and around tree trunks by himself like he is being chased by some unseen foe. I thought the animal might have found a cache of someone’s weed as I had not witnessed these kinds of antics before. However, recently I have observed this squirrel eating the mushrooms in my lawn and wonder if I have found a different reason for this enthusiasm with inanimate objects. Unless I get a better explanation, I am going to go with this one.



Ah ha! Squirrel caught on camera eating shrooms. Photo: Susan Weaver

A Nature Almanac for June, July and August

By Drew Monkman

June

The roadside flower parade that began with coltsfoot and dandelions continues with mustards, buttercups and, by mid-month, ox-eye daisies and dame’s rocket.

In downtown Peterborough and Lakefield, chimney swifts are putting on quite a show. Pairs can be seen in courtship flight as they raise their wings and glide in a V position.

Birdsong is at its most diverse. If you have a cottage or live in the country, get up about 45 minutes before sunrise, grab a coffee and go outside to enjoy the dawn chorus – the fervent birdsong that takes place each morning before and just after the sun comes up. How many different songs and calls can you hear?

Smallmouth, and largemouth rock bass, along with pumpkinseeds and bluegills, are spawning and can be seen guarding their shallow-water nests.



Brown Thrasher at Stoney Lake on May 4. Photo: Rene Gareau



Blanding's and Painted Turtles at Trent Lakes, Peterborough County, on April 25. Photo: Martin Parker

Painted and snapping turtles are often seen along roadsides and rail-trails laying their eggs. Please slow down in turtle-crossing zones and, if it is safe, help the reptile across the road.

The male cones of white and red pines release their pollen. Decks, picnic tables and shorelines look like they've been powdered with a yellow dust.

The first monarch butterflies are usually seen in June. Make sure you have some milkweed in your garden on which they can lay their eggs.

More than 20 species of orchids bloom this month. Among them is the spectacular showy lady's slipper.

The summer solstice occurs on June 20. The sun will rise and set farther north than on any other day of the year. Celebrate this profound celestial event with your family.

Late June nights are alive with fireflies. The male will typically fly low over a meadow and flash his heatless light in a specific pattern, colour and duration. The female then responds with her own luminous signal, usually from the ground, thereby allowing for a nocturnal rendezvous.

With bird activity winding down, now is the time to pay more attention to our many species of butterflies. Tiger swallowtails, black swallowtails, white admirals, northern crescents, European skippers and clouded sulphurs are particularly noticeable.

July

Cedar waxwings nest any time between late June and early August as berry crops, their main source of food, begin to ripen. In late June and early July, reddish-purple serviceberries are a common source of food.

Family groups of common mergansers are often seen feeding and traveling along shorelines on lakes in the northern Kawarthas. Because broods of mergansers sometimes combine, it is not uncommon to see a female with a parade of 20 or more young in tow.

Common milkweed is in flower and its rich, honey-sweet perfume fills the early summer air. The scent serves to attract insects whose feet will inadvertently pick up the flowers' sticky pollinia – small packets containing pollen – and transfer them to another plant.

A huge number of other plants are blooming, as well. In wetland habitats, watch for common elderberry, swamp milkweed, Joe-Pye weed, yellow pond lily and fragrant white water lily. Along roadsides and in meadows, common species include bird's-foot trefoil (often on lawns), ox-eye daisy, yarrow, viper's bugloss, black-eyed Susan, Queen Anne's lace, purple-flowering raspberry and orange hawkweed.



Green turkey tail mushrooms (Polyporus versicolor) at Fleetwood Creek Conservation Area on Oct. 12/19. Photo: Steve Paul

Identifying and photographing dragonflies is also a wonderful way to spend a summer afternoon. Among the most common July species are the dot-tailed whiteface, common whitetail, four-spotted skimmer, and chalk-fronted skipper. Some of the most frequently seen damselflies are powder-blue in colour, hence the common name of "bluets." Go to odonatacentral.org/ for pictures of all Ontario dragonflies and damselflies. Click on "checklists" and then type "Ontario" in the search box.

By mid-July, the buzzy, electric song of the dog-day cicada fills the void created by the decrease in bird song.

Watch for mushrooms such as white pine boletes and fly agarics. Summer – not fall – usually produces the greatest variety of fungi. The wet conditions this summer should result in a large mushroom crop.



Northern Pearly-eye along the Trans Canada Trail on July 7/19. Photo: Marla Williams

Late July through September offers some of the best shorebird watching of the year. Semipalmated sandpipers, pectoral sandpipers and greater yellowlegs are several of the most commonly seen species. Presqu'ile Provincial Park is a great shorebird destination.

The ghostly-white Indian pipe blooms in the heavy shade of hardwood forests.

Being opposite the high-riding summer sun, the summer moon travels low in the southern sky. This translates into the longest moon shadows of the year.

August

Listen for the high-pitched “lisping” calls of cedar waxwings and the “po-ta-to-chip” flight call of the American goldfinch. Waxwings often perch on the branches of dead trees and sally out to catch flying insects.



Cedar Waxwing. Photo: Steve Paul

August is a good time to check milkweeds for the yellow-, black-, and white-striped caterpillars of the monarch butterfly. They are easy to rear in captivity and provide adults and children alike with a first-hand lesson in insect metamorphosis.

By mid-August, ragweed is in full bloom, and its pollen has hay fever sufferers cursing with every sneeze. The higher CO2 levels and longer growing season associated with climate change are greatly increasing pollen production. It is also causing Poison Ivy to thrive like never before.

Small dragonflies known as meadowhawks abound. Mature males are red, while females and immature males are yellowish.

Bird migration is in full swing by mid- to late August, with numerous warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and common nighthawks moving through. One of the best places to see nighthawks is Back Dam Park near Warsaw. Migration peaks around August 20 but continues into the first week of September. Go in the evening and watch the sky for loose flocks.

Watch for underwing (Catocala) moths, named for the bright colours of the underwings. The forewings, however, which often hide the underwings, look very similar to bark. These moths can be attracted by applying a sugary concoction to tree trunks. A cup of white sugar, two or more mashed bananas, one ounce of molasses, a bottle of beer, and a pinch of yeast to help with fermentation will usually do the trick. Look for the moths once it gets dark.



Intent Zale Moth. Photo: Basil Conlin

Goldenrods reach peak bloom at month's end and become the dominate flowers of roadsides and fields. These plants are veritable insect magnets, drawing in an amazing variety of species with their offerings of pollen and nectar.

Pegasus, the signature constellation of fall, becomes visible along the northeastern horizon in the late evening. It reminds us to enjoy summer now because it won't last!

Some Uncommon Bird Sightings in Peterborough in May



Left: Common Gallinule at the Johnston Drive Ponds on May 1.

Right: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Meadowvale Park on May 10.

Photos: Steve Paul



Natural Heritage Systems

Submitted by Dylan Radcliffe

Over the past few years, city council has embarked on the process of revising the City of Peterborough's official plan. The official plan will have far reaching consequences on the structure and function of our city far into the future. In the past few decades, the province has mandated that a natural heritage system plan be integrated into the process of the official plan.

Over the past several decades, environmentally minded planners have recognized that a healthy environment is not just made up of individual parks and greenspaces but includes the connections between those spaces. Consider that many different creatures require different habitats as they progress through the stages of their life. Blandings turtles, for instance, will live their lives in forests, wetlands, rivers and fields. If the turtle is not able to travel effectively between those spaces, it will be unlikely to reproduce and live a full life. A robust and effective natural heritage system will map out these core natural areas and recommend strategies to enhance and protect connections between them. Thinking about natural heritage systems is not unlike thinking of our local greenspaces and corridors as a transit system for wildlife.

This wholistic approach to protecting healthy ecosystems acknowledges that natural communities require the ability of creatures to move from place to place. It also recognizes that humans are just as much a part of the environment, and that there are benefits to protecting our natural spaces. An effective natural heritage system can help a municipality meet health, recreation, and infrastructure objectives in addition to any environmental benefit. Therefore, it is critical that the official plan and the city's natural heritage system strategy be completed in a way that is recognized and put into practice by all city departments.

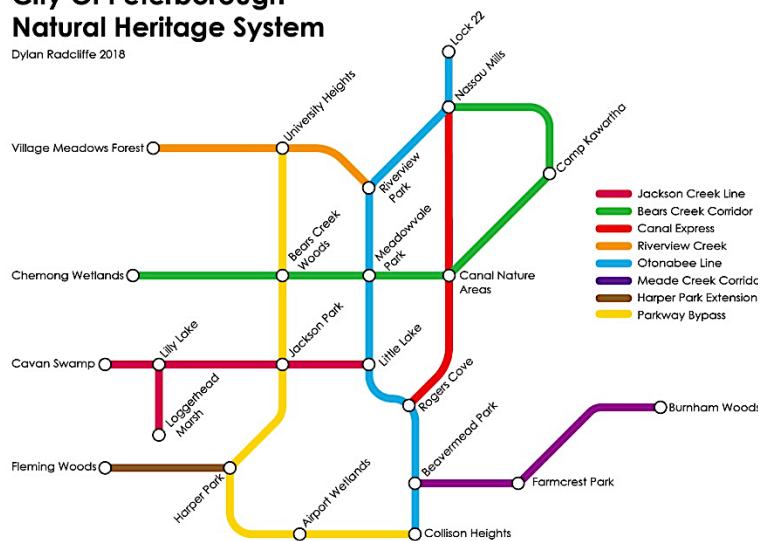
Last fall several members of the PFN convened a group to submit comments to Peterborough's draft official plan, in particular the elements of the local natural heritage system. Several recommendations were made to attempt to strengthen the language used and clarify what is protected within our city. These included:

- Recognizing the need to restore parts of Jackson Creek
- Expanding Access to Greenspace for Everyone
- Clear requirements for environmental impact studies
- Expanded protections for ephemeral watercourses
- Requirements to avoid infrastructure installments in sensitive natural areas.
- Consultation requirements for development in natural areas.
- Expanded protections for unevaluated wetlands
- Plan for ongoing land securement for the natural heritage system
- Specific recommendations for land use zoning surrounding Harper Park

The recommendations from this meeting were submitted to the city as a letter as a part of the official plan process. By thinking about the connectivity between natural spaces in our area, we can create robust plans for their ongoing protection and enhancement.

City Of Peterborough Natural Heritage System

Dylan Radcliffe 2018



There's More Than One Forest in Town - A Flower Diary

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

In last month's Orchid, I shared my love of Burnham Woods. I was so disappointed when the government announced that parks would be closed until the end of May. In a normal year with "normal" spring temperatures, the ephemeral wildflowers would have been finished by June. So began a search for another accessible woodland close to Peterborough. Happily, I found two spots with abundant spring flowers which I now visit frequently. If Burnham had not been closed, it's highly unlikely I would have found these beautiful spots.

Lady Eaton drumlin at Trent University is lovely in spring, but the campus was closed. Fortunately, there is another drumlin southeast of Armour Road and Nassau Mills Road. This drumlin runs west of the canal and south of the bridge that crosses the canal. There are several steep paths that lead to the top, but it is well worth the climb. On my first visit on April 23, I found the forest floor carpeted with newly emerged Trout Lilies and Trilliums. Sharp-lobed Hepatica was the only flower blooming but there were a lot of them. It was still early so very few other plants had yet to show. It is a beautiful spot and, unlike the Trent Nature Sanctuary, hardly anyone was there. Yellow-shafted Flickers were very noisy and not hard to spot. I left content in knowing that future visits would reveal a lot more blooms.

On my second visit, on May 2, Eastern Leatherwood shrubs were flowering along with the Hepatica, and the first Trout Lily was open. More plants were up and could be identified but it was only the first week of May, and the weather was unseasonably cold. It would be awhile before more flowers would be opened. Part of my excitement of exploring a new forest is that each visit reveals more emerging plants and more flowers.

My next spot to try was the little forest on the campus of Fleming College. What a spot! There were wildflowers everywhere I looked. There are numerous trails to explore and a creek runs through the valley. On my first visit, on April 25, there were large numbers of Sharp-lobed Hepatica blooming in some areas and Bloodroot was scattered throughout. Lots of Blue Cohosh were up and there were thousands of Trout Lilies and Trillium in bud. As at Trent, the lovely shrub of forests, Eastern Leatherwood, was easy to spot even with its little yellow blossoms. On each subsequent visit, more flowers were blooming, and more species were up. As of this writing, I had visited six times this spring and each time I found something new. I have found 19 species of ephemerals and encountered photo op after photo op.

Each trip has a "wow" moment. One week after finding just a few of my favourite, Spring Beauty, I came around a tree and to find a huge patch of beautiful dark pink flowers. On one visit, I was wondering why I had only found one Red Trillium but then came across a patch of at least twenty.

On May 17, I was finally able to return to Burnham Woods. It was great to be back and to find some of my favourite spots and plants. Strangely, it was anticlimactic. Spring ephemerals do better in a deciduous forest where they can take advantage of the sunlight that hits the forest floor before the trees leaf out. One of the things I like most about Burnham is the old growth hemlock grove but not much grows beneath the conifers. I also noted that there were not as



Sharp-lobed Hepatica: One of the first flowers to bloom in deciduous forests. It has white to deep pink flowers.



Trout Lilies dominate before Trilliums take over.



Early Meadow Rue has pretty foliage but its flowers are often overlooked.

many Trilliums as there used to be. I wonder if the number of off-leash dogs running through the forest stepping on the flowers and breaking the stems would be a factor.

By May 19, the Trilliums were in full bloom and the forest was a sea of white. This looked like a forest from my childhood, carpeted with Trilliums. Interspersed were Jack-in-the-Pulpit, yellow Large-flowered Bellwort, Labrador Violets, Early Meadow Rue and Two-leaved Toothworts.

By the time you read The Orchid, the main spring flower show will be past but there are lots of other plants coming along like Baneberry and Solomon's Seal that will bloom in June. This spot is worth a visit any time of the year.

Despite COVID-19, park closures, cancelled outings and lots of horrible weather, I have enjoyed spring and getting to know some new places in our community. I encourage all of you to visit somewhere you haven't been before whether for birding or for plants. I have not been disappointed.



Local forests with ephemeral flowers in the springtime. Photos: Sue Paradis



Tiny and delicate Spring Beauty.



Large-flowered Bellwort (yellow flowers) with white Trilliums

Solo Outing Reports

Phil Shaw on May 18:

My family and I went for a walk down the Lakefield Rotary Greenway Trail near Lock 25. We stopped by the shallow open water ponds by the canal. We were overjoyed to see two beavers eating, collecting food, and climbing up on the bank. We also saw two resident loons diving in the water along with two blue herons, and several painted turtles and red-winged black birds. We met a couple walking on the trail who said they lived in the area. They said they had seen as many as five loons in this area. I am also still hearing the Woodcock fluttering in the air in my neighborhood along Marsdale Dr. along with Spring Peepers.

Kathryn Sheridan on May 23:

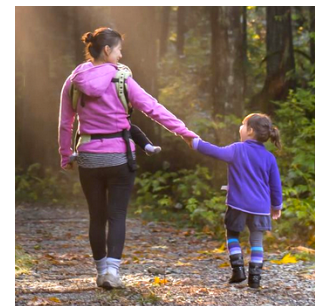
I rode my bicycle from Jackson Park westward along the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail to Doube's trestle bridge and back today. I had never cycled on the Great Trail before and was delighted with the rustic scenery along the way. My heart was lifted to hear so many Bobolinks singing in the meadows and to see people out enjoying the trail, smiling away, friendly as can be on such a warm, sunny, spring day. At Jackson Park, I stopped at the footbridge to scan Lily Lake with my binoculars and heard a splash behind me. I quickly turned around and saw a little muskrat swimming away on the other side of the bridge. This sparked a conversation with a woman and her young daughter who also saw the muskrat. The mother told me that they had just rescued a little painted turtle from potentially being squished on the trail by picking it up and depositing it near the water. It may have just hatched. I silently hoped this young girl might

grow up to be an active naturalist in the community – perhaps a future President of the PFN or even The Orchid Editor – and I was pleased that she was having a positive experience today exploring nature with her mother. Further on down the trail, the view from the trestle bridge overlooking Butternut Valley was exquisite. I could hear American Toads calling from somewhere down there, and I could hear Northern Waterthrushes singing in the wetlands. Next time, I will prepare myself better with more water and a lunch and venture further.

The Pathway to Stewardship & Kinship a Big Success

From pathwayproject.ca/2020/01/12/pilots-a-big-success/

Many thanks to all the great folks at our six pilot communities who worked so hard to make Pathway Landmark activities a regular part of their day. Three cheers to Peterborough Child and Family Centres, Compass Early Learning and Care, Millbrook South Cavan Elementary, St. Joseph Elementary in Douro, Queen Elizabeth Elementary, and Immaculate Conception Elementary for their great teamwork, super ideas, and dedication to the wellbeing of our kids and our world.



Here's a sample of success stories:

- All elementary grades reported an increase in outdoor activities
- Preschool and Kindergarten educators provided many new creative sensory and nature-based activity centres and opportunities to interact with living things
- All Grade 1-2 teachers involved their class in gardening (up from 44% in start-up surveys)
- 56% of Grade 3-4 teachers had involved their class in planning a trip (up from 0% in start-up surveys)
- All Grade 3-4 classes tried new outdoor activities, with increases in growing food, nature art, growing wildlife gardens, tree planting, keeping bird feeders and outdoor exploration

We were encouraged to hear that all educators said the Pathway Project benefitted their classes, with 69% responding 'very beneficial.' Teachers noted improved behaviour, increased physical stamina, improved ability to focus attention, increased outdoor confidence and respect for living things, and greater interest in being at school.

Based on these responses, we are working to expand the project and its community supports.

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Pathway to Stewardship & Kinship is a foundation for nurturing healthy and engaged children and youth. Through simple, age-linked "Landmark" activities that grow with them, children gain vital tools for physical and mental health, and lifelong relationships that bring joy and meaning to life.

When families, schools and the community work together to give these experiences to every child, the benefits are deep and lasting – for all of us, for future generations, and the world we share.

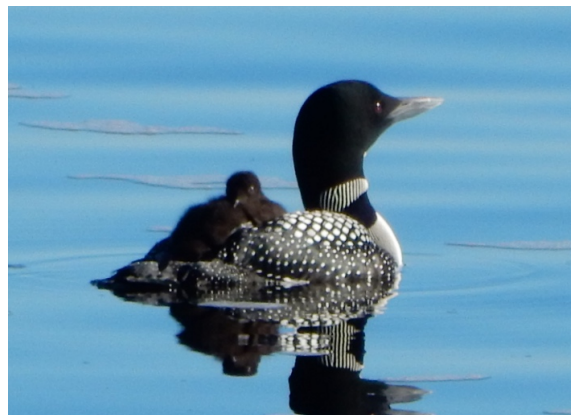
Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship began in Peterborough, Ontario. Directed by Camp Kawartha in partnership with many regional friends, its principles speak to any community.

## Student Connections With Nature

**Submitted by Caroline Tennent on behalf of Gemma Arvin**

*Caroline Tennent, a teacher at Adam Scott Collegiate, asked students to write about their connections with nature during this time of staying away from school and others. She received many detailed, moving pieces expressing their deep appreciation for nature. She wished to share one with Orchid readers as an example of the way teens do connect with nature. This one is by Gemma Arvin who is in Grade 10.*

Since social-distancing has started I have been going for a walk outside everyday with my mother. In the past few weeks, I have noticed a lot of robins outside and I have seen a few pieces of blue robins' egg shells. Another thing that I notice more often are various bird songs. I found a website that identifies birds by their bird song and I thought that it was very interesting. One of my favourite bird songs is that of the eastern meadowlark. My other favourite is the call of the loon. Unfortunately, the only time that I hear loons is when I am at my cottage. In my backyard, I also see lots of wildlife. There are rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks and birds. More specifically, there is a pair of cardinals and there is also a robins' nest on top of my downpipe. Last week I even saw a raccoon! My earliest memory in nature is going to the Trent drumlin with my daycare. I found it to be very peaceful and refreshing. Other places that are close to my heart that I remember going to when I was younger are Ecology Park, Sandbanks and Haliburton. More recently, a great memory that I have in nature has been when I went to Land's End in Cornwall, England. It was spectacular to be at the most southwestern tip of England overlooking the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. In the future, I hope to travel to several coastal places and walk on trails from which I can spot and visit all kinds of lighthouses. Lighthouses are meaningful to me because they are magical, historic, and beautiful. They also saved and still save many lives. For others in the future, I hope that as soon as this pandemic is over they will be able to travel and visit wherever they would like to go to enjoy nature.



Adult Loon carrying its chick on its back. Photo: Ken McKeen

## From the Archives: Butterflying

### Places to Butterfly in Peterborough County by Jerry Ball

*From The Orchid, Vol. 46, No. 7, October 2000*

Ninety species of butterflies have been recorded in the county. They start to appear in late March and can be seen until late October. Since every species has its preferred habitat and flight period(s), one must cover both the northern and southern parts of the county at different times throughout the season to find most of these species. [Ed. Note: The record is now 98 species in the County.]

The following list indicates ten "hotspots" where most of the species have occurred.

#### 1) Sandy Lake Road (56 species)

This road starts 30 km north of Havelock, just past Twin Lakes. It is a sand and gravel road that cuts through numerous sedge marshes. These sedges provide food for the larvae of many species. When the butterflies emerge, they nectar on the plants along the road. Species that can be found along this road include Chryxus Arctic, Olympia Marble and four species of Elfin. The Elfin are found in May and early June.

#### 2) Jake Lake Road (52 species)

This road starts in Apsley, runs to Jake Lake and then along the west side of the lake to a dead end. Butterflies can be found the whole length of the road. A sedge marsh just after the gravel section starts and the sand pits near the end of the road are the hot spots.

#### 3) Rail Trail (51 species)

This is an abandoned railway that ran from Peterborough to Belleville. [Ed. Note: Now it's called the Lang-Hastings Trail.] I do five sections of the trail. Each section is about 1.8 km long. The sections are from Base Line to David Fife



Compton's Tortoiseshell at Trent Lakes, Peterborough County, on April 25. Photo: Martin Parker

Line, David Fife to Settlers, Settlers to Villiers, Villiers to Blezard, and Blezard to Cameron. With the exception of Base Line, the sections can be accessed where the rail trail cross the Lines. The access at Base Line is reached by driving towards Keene on Heritage Line. Past the village of Lang, turn east on Base Line just before Keene and proceed east until Base Line, then turn south. An Osprey's nest is at this corner and the trail entrance is beside the nest.

4) Galway-Cavendish Forest Access Road and Jess Parnell Quarry Road (39 species)

This road is a dead end, stopping at the gate of the quarry. Great care must be taken as tractor trailers hauling limestone rocks can be encountered seven days a week. It is north of Flynn's Corner on Hwy. 507.

5) Charlie Allen Road and a Branch of Tates Road (35 species)

These roads are also accessed off Hwy. 507 and both are dead ends.

6) Pencil Lake Road (20 species)

This road is also off Hwy. 506. On the Pencil Lake Road, drive a short way past the lake to where the road passes through a swamp. Most of the species of butterflies can be found here. The road is too rough to go much further unless you have four-wheel drive.

7) Coon Lake Road and Big Cedar Lake Road (33 species)

These two roads can be accessed from Hwy 29 north of Burleigh Falls.

8) Jackson Park and Rail Trail from the park west past Ackison Road to Meadowview Road (35 species).

This area starts inside the City of Peterborough and is heavily used by walkers and bikers.

9) Miller Creek Conservation Area and the Gravel Pits at the End of Brumwell Street (28 species)

Both areas can be reached from the 7th Concession of Smith. This runs east from the village of Bridgenorth. Brumwell St. is on the south-eastern corner of Bridgenorth and it is gated. You must walk from the gates.

10) The Corner of Northey's Bay Road and County Road 6 (23 species)

To reach this area, turn onto CR 6 (a.k.a. Stoney Lake Road) just north of Lakefield and drive to Northey's Bay road which leads to the Peteroglyphs. Here there is a large marsh and butterflies can be found along the edge on both sides of the road.

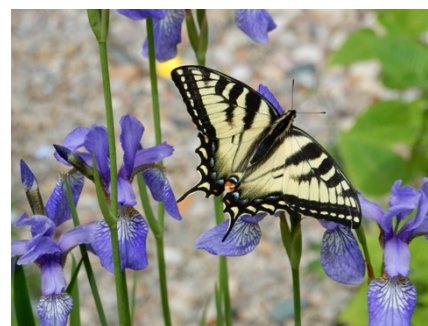
## Ten Steps to Better Butterfly Photography

### Reproduced from [www.ebutterfly.org](http://www.ebutterfly.org)

Summer is here and many of us are eager to get out butterflying with our cameras to bring images home to share with our butterflying buddies. While I don't fancy myself as an expert photographer, I sure love to photograph butterflies and other insects. I realized over time that many tricks I took for granted to approach butterflies were foreign to many naturalists especially those new to it. After sharing some tips on how to approach butterflies and better photograph them with friends and colleagues and seeing them come back with much improved results and more species than they use to find, I thought this might be helpful to share.

Here are my 10 steps to better butterfly photography. Note these tips apply to any kind of camera from a smartphone to a professional DSLR with a macro lens. It isn't always about the camera!

1. Take a first photo of the butterfly even if you are far away. If it flies away as you approach more closely, you still have a good chance of identifying it later and capturing a voucher image for eButterfly.
2. If a butterfly flies away, don't follow it right away. Simply wait for it to land again. Chances are it will land exactly on the same spot where it was or close by. Most butterflies are territorial and you have invaded their



An Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly with native Blue Flag Irises.  
Photo: Ken McKeen

territory. They generally quickly realize that this large mammal is not scared and is not going anywhere so they go back to their business at a safe distance. Skippers (Hesperiidae) are notoriously territorial and will buzz you with a very fast flight but after a few seconds will often land exactly on the same twig!

3. Always approach a butterfly slowly one step at a time from behind whenever possible.
4. As you get closer to the butterfly, make yourself smaller and take another photo just in case. I often end up on my knees or even laying on my stomach.
5. Never cast a shadow on the butterfly, it will fly away almost certainly.
6. Always try to be perpendicular to your subject. This will ensure that all of it is in focus when you snap the photograph.
7. Lean on something to stabilize yourself whenever possible when photographing butterflies hand held. I also often put my strap around my neck and arm and push on it to create a tension and reduce vibrations caused by my hands and arms shaking. Hold your breath as you take photos can also help.
8. Take as many photos as you can. With digital cameras it doesn't cost any more money to do so!
9. For those who can control aperture and shutter speed on their camera, try to have the smallest aperture (highest number on the dial) and the fastest shutter speed so you get as much depth of field as possible. I always shoot at f8 or higher and with a minimum shutter speed of 1/200. Newer cameras have amazing ISO capacity to increase your shutter speed in lower light conditions without creating excessive noise on your image.
10. Get outside and practice! And add your checklists to eButterfly of course.

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## Monarch Breeding Population Size in Canada Linked to Spring Migration and Recolonization

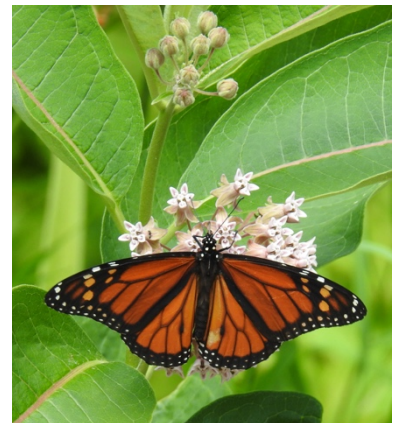
Reproduced from [www.ebutterfly.org](http://www.ebutterfly.org)

New research published in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* by scientists Tara Crewe (Bird Studies Canada), Greg Mitchell (Environment and Climate Change Canada) and Maxim Larrivée (Montréal Insectarium) highlights the importance of Canadian summer breeding habitat for the eastern North American migratory Monarch butterfly population. The study is based on 15 years of community science data collected by Canadian volunteers involved in long term efforts to monitor butterfly diversity trends in Canada.

The unique butterfly community-based approach by this study points to factors driving Monarch population size in Canada that happen outside of the region during the butterfly's life cycle. They show that the summer breeding population of Monarchs in southern Canada most often fluctuate in synchrony with other long-distance migrant butterflies compared with butterfly species that live year-round in Canada. Further, the study shows that fluctuations in the size of the summer breeding population in Canada reflect fluctuations in the size of the following winter population in Mexico.

Overall, these results suggest that the Monarch population in Canada is limited by factors acting mainly during spring migration, and that climate plays an important role in the ability of the Monarch to successfully re-colonize and breed in the northern portion of their summer range each year.

“This study used the huge amount of butterfly checklists that citizen scientists collect each year to provide a fresh perspective on where Canadian monarch populations are limited – without these checklists, we could not have taken the community-based approach to our analysis that helped us come to this conclusion” says Tara Crewe, lead author of the study.



Monarch on Common Milkweed.  
Photo: Rene Gareau

Greg Mitchell, author and lead of the Canadian Monarch conservation expert group adds, “This is another concrete example of how citizen engagement in biodiversity monitoring can help scientists gain valuable new insight to better guide conservation actions of a species-at-risk like the Monarch butterfly”.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the citizen science projects that provided the data for conservation and research. More information is available at e-Butterfly, Mission Monarch, and the Ontario Butterfly Atlas.

“I can’t think of a better way to stay connected with our environment while contributing to make a difference for it” says Maxim Larrivée.

## Washington D.C. Environmental Film Festival Online

DCEFF Online Offers Hundreds of Streaming Links. Choose from over 300 of our past festival selections (many free) while social distancing. This includes 70+ films from our 2020 festival.

The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital is the world’s premier showcase of environmentally themed films. Since 1993 our mission has been to celebrate Earth and inspire understanding and stewardship of the environment through the power of film.  
<https://dceff.org/watchnow/>



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

### **Lament for Sandy Lake**

You are the Lake of Spirits, though none I've seen;  
Your moody waters reflect shades of aquamarine.  
Coloured so by deposits of marl and silt,  
You live in a spring-filled basin the glaciers built.  
Along your shores so verdantly wooded  
Live wood ducks and mergansers, both common and hooded.  
Great blue herons range from a colony nearby,  
Its large stick nests lodged in treetops high.

As the day winds down, and the moon appears ghostly pink,  
The air becomes quiet and cool; one can relax and think.  
When twilight comes, I hear the tremolo cries  
Of a lonesome loon searching your darkening skies.  
A beaver makes a wake toward secret parts  
To survey and feed before the new day starts,  
And as the black of night finally falls,  
Sleep comes easily as a barred owl calls.

Now a bright orange sun peeks over the treeline,  
Causing a fire-licked strip of water to shine.  
As the mist burns off, one can see  
Two-storey houses where cottages should be  
In gaping wounds where the trees are gone -  
Natural diversity replaced by sterile lawn.  
If the animals could talk, wouldn't they say  
That 'progress' can't continue on this way?

Borne on the breeze are the exhaust and noise  
Of over-sized boats and other harmful toys.  
With how much disturbance can you cope?  
Will your waters be fouled with oil and soap?  
For those seeking peace, it seems such a pity  
That others can't come without bringing the city.  
Now greed exceeds need; it's truly insane  
For you are a paradise that won't come again.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2010



## 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 705-745-4750

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Migration continued. However, the cold north winds slowed migrations during the first couple of weeks. Around the middle of the month, the weather warmed with more migrants arriving, butterflies flying and flowers blooming. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| April 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Junior member Emma Carr observed 28 Cedar Waxwings in the Parkwood Circle area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| April 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Joshua Robertson spotted a Short-eared Owl gliding over the grassland off the Harold Town CA parking lot at dusk. Not present the following evening.<br>Lain Doye reported the first White-crowned Sparrow – the start of the spring influx.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| April 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Jerry Ball and Kathy & Martin Parker went butterflying near Mississauga Landing finding 19 Mourning Cloak, 7 Compton's Tortoiseshell & 7 Eastern Comma along with one Infant Moth. Over 100 Painted Turtles and 3 Blanding's Turtles sunning on logs. Birds of note -- several Pine & Yellow-rumped Warblers, Winter Wrens & Broad-winged Hawk.<br>Marilyn Freeman had a Wood Duck in the seasonal pond along Syer Line.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| April 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sue Paradis found an early Veery in the woodlands on the Fleming College campus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| April 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Kathryn Sheridan walked the Hooton Line hearing Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-throated & Swamp Sparrows and a few Winter Wrens. A Virginia Rail also called.<br>Sue Paradis visited the Fleming Campus forest and reported there were lots of Hepatica in bloom and Mourning Cloaks flying.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| April 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Brendon Boyd & Sandra Israel observed a Great Egret flying along the river at Nichols Oval.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| May 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dave Milsom, Matthew Tobey, and Matthew Gavin located a female Wilson's Phalarope in a flooded field on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Line of Douro. Seen next day by many other area birders.<br>Andrew Brown & Olivia Mallet spotted a Rough-legged Hawk in the eastern end of the Peterborough airport -- seen by them and others until May 7.<br>Matthew Tobey observed a Short-tailed Weasel along the Airport Road.<br>He also observed an American Crow land in a pond and catch an American Toad. There were several toads calling in the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| May 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Lynn Smith reported the following spring arrivals on her property near Cavan: 7 Brown Thrashers, 1 Gray Catbird, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Least Flycatcher & 1 Field Sparrow. Also, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds are occupying a nest box and 6 Tree Swallows are investigating other boxes.<br>FOY (first of year) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in the Mervin Line wetland by David Britton and many other observers -- normally present in this area each summer.<br>FOY birds: Chestnut-sided Warbler at Cordova Lake area by Ian Sturdee, American Pipit on Lang-Hastings Trail (Technology Dr. to Keen Rd.) by Steve Paul, Marsh Wren along Lang-Hastings Trail by Ken Abraham, Chimney Swift in N.E. part of City by Scott Gibson. Bobolink at Bird Hill Bird Sanctuary by Donald Sutherland.<br>Jerry Ball had FOY West Virginia White (butterfly) along Charlie Allan Road. |
| May 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Scott Gibson heard Least Bittern from the cattail marsh adjacent to Cunningham Blvd. in the City. Heard by others over the next few days.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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|        | FOY birds: Red-eyed Vireo in the Cordova Lake area by Ian Sturdee, Ruby-throated Hummingbird along Lang-Hastings Trail near Drummond Line by Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet, Black-throated Blue Warbler in yard south of Lakefield by Iain Rayner. Matthew Gavin had a Palm Warbler at the Johnson Drive pond, Peterborough. Along Sandy Lake Road, Jerry Ball and Kathy & Martin Parker had 2 Mourning Cloak and 2 Eastern Comma butterflies. On Devil's 4-Mile Road they had 5 Mourning Cloaks.                                                                                                                                |
| May 4  | Ruth Davenport reported a Yellow-rumped Warbler from the Jack's Lake area. FOY birds: Blackburnian Warbler in Jackson Park by Glenn Deay, Purple Martin on Mervin Line by Cathy Douglas, Eastern Whip-poor-will at South Bay, Stoney Lake by Cathy Douglas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| May 5  | Brendon Boyd & Alexandra Israel found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Meadowvale Park in the north end of the city -- seen over the next days by many observers. FOY birds: Cape May Warbler in Meadowvale Park by Chris Risley, Tennessee Warbler in South Drumlin Nature Area by Matthew Gavin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| May 7  | Mike Burrell located a Pectoral Sandpiper in the wetland off of the east end of the runway at the Peterborough Airport -- with a large mixed flock of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Seen by several others the same day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| May 8  | Travis Cameron had a Clay-coloured Sparrow at his home near Lakefield. FOY birds: American Redstart in Meadowvale Park by Chris Risley, Northern Parula along Trent Rotary Trail by Donald Sutherland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| May 9  | Matthew Gavin had an immature Black-crowned Night-Heron in Rotary Park. FOY Lincoln's Sparrow at Bensfort Corners by Donald Sutherland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| May 10 | Scott McKinlay had a Clay-coloured Sparrow at Cavan. Glenn Dasey & Sarah Wyshynski observed a Clay-coloured Sparrow along Jones Quarter Line -- seen by many others on the days following.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| May 11 | A late departing American Tree Sparrow was present at the home of Mike Burrell on the 8 <sup>th</sup> Line of Douro - still present on May 13. FOY Common Nighthawk by Ken Furlang.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| May 12 | Basil Conlin found 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Trent Nature Area -- same location as last year -- seen regularly for balance of reporting period by many observers. FOY Swainson's Thrush in Ecology Park by Anonymous eBirder.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| May 13 | Along Sandy Lake Road, Jerry Ball and the Parkers had FOY Hoary Elfin (3) and Olympia Marble (1) butterflies and on Devil's 4 Mile Road had 4 Eastern Comma & 15 Mourning Cloak. FOY birds: Magnolia Warbler along Airport Road RR by Matthew Tobey, Orange-crowned Warbler in Beavermead Park by Bill Crins.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| May 14 | Drew Monkman reported hearing a Least Bittern calling from Loggerhead Marsh in the west end of the City. There were also 3 Yellow Warblers and pair of Hooded Mergansers. Paul Frost reported that in the evening both Virginia Rail & American Bittern were calling from Loggerhead Marsh. Matthew Tobey had a Northern Pintail off the Airport Road railway. John Davey observed another Northern Pintail in the area of Lock 24. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed at Meadowvale Park. Cathy Douglas had an Orchard Oriole at a feeder on the east side of Pigeon Lake. FOY Indigo Bunting in Cavan by Scott McKinlay. |
| May 15 | FOY Scarlet Tanager in Ecology Park by Anonymous eBirder, as well as Blackpoll Warbler in Ecology Park. Bill Crins observed 4 White-winged Scoters flying by at Beavermead Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| May 16 | Iain Rayner had a flock of 47 White-winged Scoters fly over his home south of Lakefield. In the wetland east of the Airport runway, Donald Sutherland had 9 species of shorebirds including 1 Dunlin, 2 Least Sandpiper, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, 2 Solitary Sandpipers, 14 Greater Yellowlegs & 52 Lesser Yellowlegs.<br>FOY Bay-breasted Warbler by Scott Gibson on Zion Trail.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| May 17 | FOY birds: Black Tern along Rotary Trail by Lynne Cotton, Blue-winged Warbler in Rotary Park by Matthew Gavin, Canada Warbler in Fraserville by Donald Sutherland, Eastern Wood Peewee in North Kawartha by Tim Haas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| May 18 | JB Jaboor reported that Common Grackles are regularly dropping fecal sacs (nestling waste) into the water on the cover of his pool. This is an indication that grackles in his area have nests with young.<br>Iain Rayner had 3 White-winged Scoters fly over his Lakefield residence.<br>Drew Monkman had 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers along Duncan Line in the Keene area.<br>FOY Golden-winged Warbler along Charlie Allen Road by Donald Sutherland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| May 19 | Phil Shaw and family observed two Beavers feeding in the wetland area on the vicinity of Lock 25. There were also two loons in the area<br>Daniel Swales photographed an Indigo Bunting at his feeders near Bridgenorth.<br>Erica Nol, Chris Risley & Travis Cameron had a Great Egret in the University Drive wetland.<br>FOY Black-billed Cuckoo on TransCanada Trail by Tim Haas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| May 20 | Sue Paradisis reported that American Toads are calling in the east end of the city.<br>Bill Crins observed a flock of 7 Great Egrets flying over Beavermead Park.<br>Matthew Gavin had a Black-crowned Night-Heron in Rotary Park.<br>Matthew Gavin had late-departing American Tree Sparrow at Quackenbush Prov. Park.<br>Kyle Grady reported a male Orchard Oriole was visiting his feeder on Indian Road, Asphodel Norwood Township. -- seen by others until end of reporting period.<br>On 2 <sup>nd</sup> Line of Douro, Dave Milsom had 4 Semipalmated Plover, 2 Killdeer, 6 Least Sandpiper & 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers.<br>FOY birds: Sedge Wren along Sandy Lake Road by Matthew Gavin, Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Beavermead Park by Bill Crins, Mourning Warbler on Bridgenorth Trail by Paul Frost & Martin Parker. |
| May 21 | Jerry Ball & Kathy & Martin Parker had 9 species of butterflies along Sandy Lake Road including 1 Henry's Elfin, 2 Eastern Pine Elfins, 1 Chrysus Arctic, 1 Mustard White.<br>Along Devil's 4 Mile Road they also found 2 Olympia Marble, 1 Cabbage White, and 1 Northern Spring Azure bringing the days total to 12 species of butterflies.<br>Kathryn Sheridan reported Clay-coloured Sparrows returned to Water Tower area in Lakefield -- observed by other observers.<br>FOY birds: Alder Flycatcher on Lang-Hastings Trail by John Davey, Philadelphia Vireo by Paul Frost at Loggerhead Marsh, Wilson's Warbler at Lakefield by Travis Cameron.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| May 22 | Ian Sturdee had a Red-breasted Merganser on Cordova Lake.<br>Andrew Brown & Olivia Mallet had a Solitary Sandpiper in the Trent Nature Area.<br>FOY birds: Olive-sided Flycatcher at Beresford Corners and a Willow Flycatcher at Airport Ponds, both by Donald Sutherland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| May 23 | Along the Airport Road railway Matthew Tobey had a Black-crowned Night-Heron and Red-headed Woodpecker.<br>Jerry Ball observed a Long-tailed Weasel cross the Ouse River Road. It was being mobbed by a blackbird.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## A Natural View: Wildlife - Not Welcome in Our Town!

By Terry Sprague

From article from February/March 2013 issue of the SCOOP

There is a village near where I live that boasts a large mill pond. Now, one would think that would be a bonus, especially to anyone wishing to locate along its banks. However, the presence of this large pond resulted in some amusing phone calls to my office when I used to work for the conservation authority. On one memorable day, I could almost feel the spittle through the earpiece on my phone when one new resident wanted our agency to do something – today – about those bullfrogs that kept him awake all night at his new home. Another one wanted me to pick up “my” geese that were defecating on his lawn, refusing to accept my suggestion that it was his lawn being mowed to the water’s edge that was providing a grassed runway for them. Unconvinced, he steadfastly maintained that if the geese were picked up and released somewhere else, this would be the end of his problem.

In more recent years, a resident of a subdivision in Belleville wrote a letter to the editor demanding that the city do something about the unwelcome wildlife that was getting into his garbage overnight. I was unfamiliar with this residential area, but it sounded like an upscale area where no one had a clothesline and everyone on the same day of the week mowed their lawn diagonally. As a rural resident, I am happy that I don’t have those stresses. Evidently, this was also an area where the presence of wildlife was viewed with contempt and a few residents were convinced that their unwanted presence was not their problem, but the responsibility of the municipality. This resident openly admitted that he live trapped a “nuisance animal” every night and released it north of the city in someone else’s backyard. The thought, however, of storing his garbage responsibly overnight had not crossed his mind, so skunks and raccoons continued their dubious journeys to new territory.

As I explain in my backyard naturalization courses to those who want to encourage backyard wildlife, the presence and abundance of wildlife can be decided by following their four basic needs: food, water, space, and shelter. Provide one or more of these, and they will come. Work within the system and one can either prevent wildlife by not offering those necessities, or encourage them by providing a variety of wildlife shrubs and other attractants. You do not prevent skunks, raccoons, groundhogs and foxes from entering your property by leaving garbage out overnight, and then expecting city hall officials and mysterious agencies to drop what they’re doing and take care of what is essentially a “homeowner’s problem.” Again, it is a classic example of responsibility, or lack thereof, a term that is becoming less fashionable with each passing year. The concept of wildlife management is one I learned back in Grade 5 in a one-room school from a teacher who was way ahead of her time. And it is the same principle upon which sound wildlife management is still based today.

If you think this concept of wildlife management is nonsense, think back to the two or three squirrels you may have had at your bird feeder one winter, and how you decided to live trap them, release them in another area, and how at the end of the winter, you had live trapped 55 squirrels, and were still going strong. Live trapping rarely works, as Nature refuses to let it work. Wildlife is constantly on the move, inhabiting new territory as it becomes available. Live trapping does nothing more than accelerate the process, as in Nature, there is to be no void, if food and water, space and shelter, are all available. Wildlife species never exceed the carrying capacity of any given area. The more food there is, and the more readily accessible it is, the more there will be. Yet, some homeowners continue to live trap, falsely believing that this is the end to their problems. Meanwhile, residents elsewhere are bombarded by a growing number of groundhogs, raccoons, skunks, and foxes, all thoughtfully being delivered by urbanites who feel that wildlife does not fit into their style of living.

Live trapping is not the humane answer that many purport it to be. In addition to the animals leaving behind scores of starving and unattended young, these animals are being unceremoniously dumped in an area already claimed by others of their species, and the outcome is not pretty.



Canada Goose goslings in Keene on May 9.  
Photo: Steve Paul

The answer is responsibility, and seeking information from those knowledgeable on the subject on how to work within the system and dissuade those species that may be unwanted. And contrary to the soothsayers, any wild animals present are not predestined to introduce debilitating diseases, nor are they purposely seeking out children to bite and carry off; they are more than happy to stay out of our way, if not harassed.

Furthermore, if I never get another call from a resident droning on about the Canada geese problem, it will be too soon. Yet, we see these same people blithely mowing their grass to the water's edge and intentionally providing a grassed runway for them. Naturalize the shoreline with a buffer of select shrubs and ground covers, and the problem goes away. The problem will not go away by phoning every agency in the book and brusquely demanding that someone come and remove "your" geese.

It's all about taking some time, and doing a little research about any animal which a resident may be experiencing problems with, and does not want on their property. Learn what makes them tick, their likes and dislikes, and work within their system to achieve results. Our system is not what it is cracked up to be. Our failures have become legendary. A simple Internet Google search will bring up numerous suggestions that have worked for others, and it doesn't involve live trapping. It involves homeowner responsibility and a bit of common sense.

*Terry Sprague lives in Prince Edward County and is a retired interpretive naturalist and hike leader. See his website at [www.naturestuff.net](http://www.naturestuff.net) for more information on birding and nature. Write to Terry at [tsprague@xplornet.com](mailto:tsprague@xplornet.com) if you are interested in receiving pdf handouts on backyard naturalization using native plantings.*



Common Green Darner Dragonfly at Presqu'ile Provincial Park on August 24, 2019. Photo: Don McLeod



Porcupine at Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Area on May 16. Photo: Steve Paul



Rare Green Trillium at Bridgenorth Estates on May 17. Photo: Daniel Swales



Northern Amber Bumblebee at Trent University in spring of 2019. Photo: Basil Conlin

# 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:

- ☐ Natural Environment    ☐ Reptiles and Amphibians    ☐ Botany  
☐ Birds    ☐ Aquatic Life    ☐ Geology  
☐ Insects    ☐ Astronomy    ☐ 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:

- ☐ Join the PFN board    ☐ Sit on research or conservation committees    ☐ Help with the Orchid publication  
☐ Assist with meetings    ☐ Work on field projects    ☐ Lead an outing  
☐ Help the Junior Naturalists    ☐ 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:** \_\_\_\_\_