The Orchid

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms

A Common Loon turning its eggs at Lock 25 lagoon. Photo: Paul Elliott

Inside:

In this Issue:

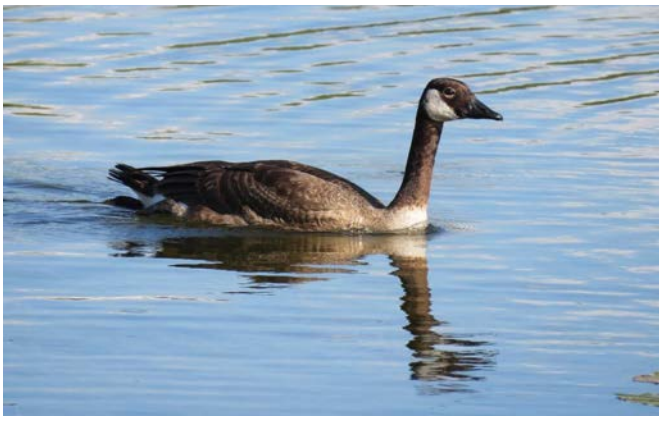
Welcome new PFN members!

- Mary Lou Murphy
- Nuala Murnane
- Kyle & Claire O'Grady
- Murray & Patricia Davenport

Above: Male Wild Tukey photo by Birha Farooqi.
Right: Juvenile Canada Goose photo by Steve Paul

A Double-crested Cormorant drying its wings after a fishing expedition. Photo: Steve Paul

Starting in September, Ontario's first ever cormorant hunt will commence. Cormorant numbers have increased in recent years after having been almost wiped out due to DDT usage in the 1960s. Having just barely survived DDT, now they have to contend with being considered by many to be "pests." Any time we blame another species for something we do - only we do it on a global scale and we do it despite having the capabilities of conscience, compassion, intellect and foresight – it might be fair to call us out for being unreasonable. Double-crested Cormorants have beautiful emerald-coloured eyes and are graceful underwater swimmers. Beauty and grace ought not to be requisites for our respect and admiration, though. As Peterborough Field Naturalists, whose motto it is "To know, appreciate and conserve nature in all its forms," we are saddened by the decision to proceed with a cormorant hunt in Ontario.



PFN Coming Events

Wednesday, Sept. 16

7:30 p.m.

Virtual meeting on Zoom

Invitations e-mailed to members

Monthly Meeting: Rodney Fuentes on The Monarch Ultra

Monarch egg on Common Milkweed
Photo: Ruth Davenport

The Monarch Ultra is a relay run that followed one of the world's longest insect migrations: the migration of the monarch butterflies. On September 21, 2019, the run started in Peterborough, Ontario, and arrived 47 days later in Macheros, Mexico. Rodney will be sharing the story behind the run, his experiences during the trip and what he learned along the way in terms of monarch conservation, habitat loss, and citizen actions to save our pollinators.

Rodney Fuentes is a documentary filmmaker with a background in eco-tourism and nature exploration. Rodney has experience exploring the neotropical rainforest and guiding birdwatching tours in his native country, Venezuela. He has worked and/or volunteered for several NGOs including the Venezuelan Audubon Society, Phelps Ornithological Museum, Bird Studies Canada, and the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Rodney lives in Peterborough.

After a long absence, we are finally able to offer some outings opportunities to our members. It will be good to see some familiar faces. However, due to COVID-19, a few changes are being implemented for the safety of leaders and participants:

- We will be restricting numbers attending. Pre-registration will be required. Due to the limited spaces, participants must be members.
- Carpooling will not be arranged.
- Masks are recommended.
- On most of the trips, you will drive to a meeting spot and from then on, the outing will be on foot, eliminating "caravans".

As always, participants should wear clothing suitable for the weather and footwear suitable for trails which may be muddy, steep, or uneven. In inclement weather, a leader may cancel or shorten a trip for safety concerns.

Outings have a range of difficulty, depending on the terrain, season, and duration of the event. Information regarding degree of difficulty is available from the event description and the outing leader. By joining an outing, participants acknowledge the difficulty and risk of the activity.

Participants are solely responsible for their own safety and that of children accompanying them and should withdraw from events they do not feel capable of managing.

~ Sue Paradisis, Outings Co-ordinator

Saturday, Sep. 12

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

20 participants

Early Fall Migrants at Presqu'ile

Presqu'ile Provincial Park, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, is one of the prime birding locations in the province and hosts lots of other natural wonders. This initial outing of the fall season will visit the park to look for migrating waterfowl, fall flowers and butterflies. While in the park, the participants will be divided into small groups to comply with Public Health regulations. A team of leaders has been arranged for this outing so small groups can be maintained. The scheduled leaders are Martin and Kathy Parker.

PFN Coming Events	
	The outing will commence at 9 a.m. at the park. We will then split into smaller groups and each leader will visit a different area of the beach. Leaders will be in contact so noteworthy observations can be shared. All participants are encouraged to bring masks and abide by social distancing guidelines. Participation is limited to 20 members who must pre-register by e-mailing mparker19@cogeco.ca Bring a packed lunch, binoculars and, if you have them, a telescope and camera. Accessibility: Easy
Sunday, Sep. 20 9:00 a.m. - noon 5 participants	**Fall Forest Birding on the Canadian Shield** The Kawartha Land Trust's Ingelton-Wells property has a good variety of forest birds that breed on site. With migration underway, additional species will be moving through and will hopefully add to the list for the morning. Located on the north shore of Stoney Lake, this forest and former farm has a variety of habitats including a lovely mixed hardwood forest. Experienced birder, Cathy Douglas will be the leader. It takes approximately 45-50 minutes to drive to the location. Be sure to bring binoculars and a camera if you wish. Members who would like to join Cathy should contact her by email at cddouglas77@gmail.com for details on where to meet. Accessibility: Easy to moderate
Sunday, Sep. 27 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 12 participants	**Ballyduff Trails Nature Walk** Don McLeod will lead a nature walk along the Ballyduff Trails near Bethany. We will be looking for birds plus wildlife tracks and sign. We will also check out the tall grass prairie. These trails and the scenery are beautiful! The Ballyduff Trails are on private property owned by Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin. They have generously offered their trails to the public through an agreement with the Kawartha Land Trust. PFN members who wish to attend should e-mail Don at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com. He will reply with location info and directions. Accessibility: Moderate. There is some strenuous uphill walking. Walking distance is about 5 km. Optional items to bring include lunch, binoculars and camera.
Sunday Oct. 4 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 5 participants	**Change is Underfoot in Millbrook** The former Millbrook Correctional Centre property has become very popular with local naturalists who are hoping, with the help of Kawartha Land Trust, to preserve the land as open space. The actual site of the demolished buildings is disturbed but there are nice areas of natural cover. Data is being collected on the flora and fauna and logged to eBird and iNaturalist. Join Lynn Smith in exploring this space and learn how to use both eBird and iNaturalist. Please preregister by emailing Lynn at smithfam@nexicom.net. Accessibility: Easy

Plan to Participate in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas III -- Peterborough Region

Submitted by Martin Parker

During the years from 1981 to 1985, birders and naturalists across Ontario participated in the largest citizen-science project to occur in the province. They combed the natural and unnatural habitats of the province looking for evidence of breeding birds. The data was collected in squares based on the UTM grid on topographic maps. Each square was 10 km by 10 km. The results were published in the *Breeding Bird Atlas of Ontario*. In this publication each species was discussed and a map was shown showing the squares it was located in. It was an outstanding ornithological publication. The range of many species of birds were revised as a result this cooperative effort.

In the years from 2001 to 2005, the effort was repeated and in 2007 *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001 - 2005* was published. This second atlas duplicated the efforts of the initial atlas along with the point counts which determined relative abundance. The results were maps showing the breeding distribution and another map showing relative abundance when compared to other squares. This was another landmark publication about Ontario birds.

The second atlas showed some significant changes in breeding birds of Ontario. It documented the reduction of breeding ranges of many aerial foragers, such as swallows, Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks. It also showed the expansion of the range of forest-nesting birds in the provincial planning areas known as the Green Belt and Niagara Escarpment Planning Area.

Planning is now well underway for a new Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Field work will occur in the years from 2021 to 2015. I have taken on the role of Reginal Coordinator for the upcoming atlas. This will be the third region I have coordinated. I did the Bruce Region for Atlas I and the Parry Sound Region for Atlas II.

The Peterborough region extends from just south of the city northward to the north end of the County, roughly corresponding to the boundaries of the County. This region has 60 individual squares which require coverage. In the first atlas, the participants documented 171 breeding species in the region. The number of species in the second atlas increased to 185. Some species such as Mallard, Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Nashville Warbler and Red-winged Blackbird were found in all 60 squares. Others, such as Wilson's Phalarope, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Northern Mockingbird, were only found in one square.

Sign up to Participate

This is an initial invitation to participate in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas III project. The basic requirement is to record the birds you observe at a specific location or in a specific square. In order to consider a square adequately covered, 20 hours of coverage is desired. This can occur over the five years of the project. Volunteers are asked to take on a

From top: Cedar Waxwing feeding young on Lower Buckhorn Lake on Aug. 2 (Ken McKeen), Ruby-throated Hummingbird on nest at Jack Lake on Jun.12 (Ruth Davenport), a convoy of 22 ducklings following a female adult Mallard at the Lakefield Marsh (Paul Elliot), and an Eastern Kingbird feeding its young on rail trail near Trent U on Aug. 8 (Steve Paul)

specific square(s) and collect as much breeding evidence as possible. It is a great way to learn more about our summer birds and discover new areas.

If you have extensive knowledge of bird songs you can also volunteer to conduct point counts. This involves going to a predetermined location and recording the birds heard singing or seen during a three-minute period. This data permits the preparation of the density map.

If you wish to wish to participate or wish additional information, please contact Martin Parker: mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750. Historic information can be viewed at www.birdsontario.org/atlas/index.jsp

Apply for a PFN Grant

Submitted by Martin Parker

The Peterborough Field Naturalists is pleased to have two programmes which offer financial assistance for specific projects or research. Details on the two programmes follow.

PFN Community Projects Grant

These grants are to support members or community partners in enhancing the naturalist community or natural environment in Peterborough and the Kawarthas.

This year the PFN is able to offer a limited number of grants up to $300. Each application will be reviewed by our selection committee. Please attach any supporting documents such as letters of permission if your project is on private or public lands.

PFN Research Projects Grant

These grants are available to any undergraduate student at Trent University for the purpose of completing projects or research that:

1. Enhance understanding of nature in Peterborough and the Kawarthas

or

2. Restore or conserve habitat through stewardship or restoration

Download an application form now! The application deadline is October 15, 2020.

Grants will be awarded with a preference to members of our club and require a short submission to 'The Orchid' describing your project and its outcomes. Submit your application to info@peterboroughnature.org or by mail to Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7.

An application form can be downloaded from the PFN website (peterboroughnature.org/pfn-nature-grants) or by request at info@peterboroughnature.org.

From top: Eastern Bluebirds at nest box at Stoney Lake Trails on May 24 (Rene Gareau), a Great Blue Heron rookery near Sandy Lake Road in early June (Cathy Douglas), a young Killdeer near Bailiboro in May (Cathy Douglas), and an Eastern Towhee on Kawartha Trans Canada Trail on May 28 (Don McLeod)

These grants would not be possible without the generous bequests and donations from our members which have been deposited in the PFN Legacy Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This is an endowment fund which provides an annual income for the PFN. The Board has allocated part of the annual income to support two grant programmes.

The objectives of the PFN grant program aligns with the PFN motto: "To know, appreciate, and conserve nature in all its forms."

A Nature Almanac for September

By Drew Monkman

Dogbane Leaf Beetle. Photo: Steve Paul

Fall songbird migration is at its peak. Watch for warblers and vireos in trees and shrubs along forest edges and even in well-treed city backyards. Strangely enough, the key to their presence is often the sound of chickadees, which often join up with migrants during the day. A minute or two of pishing will quickly bring the chickadees out into the open with the warblers and vireos not far behind.

Large mating swarms of ants are a common September phenomenon, especially on warm, humid afternoons. Some are females – the potential future queens – but the majority is males. Ants bear wings only during the mating season.

The spiraling flight of pairs of white or sulphur butterflies is a commonly seen behaviour. A male and female butterfly will circle around each other, all the while ascending high into the sky. Then, without warning, the male will give up the chase and drop to the ground, almost like a dead weight. It is believed that the female initiates these aerial climbs to rid herself of unwanted suitors.

The fall equinox takes place on September 22, marking the beginning of autumn. At the equinox, both the moon and sun rise due east and set due west. Day and night are of almost equal duration.

The Harvest Moon, the full moon closest to the fall equinox, occurs on October 1. For several evenings in a row, the moon rises at almost the same time and seems to linger on the horizon as it follows a shallow angle up into the sky.

Virginia Creeper turns a fiery red or deep burgundy. Poison Ivy offers up lovely oranges, while dogwoods and blackberry bushes provide beautiful burgundies.

Two species of white-flowered vines are very much in evidence this month, especially along woodland edges where they sprawl over fences, shrubs and trees. They are Wild Cucumber, which develop into roundish, cucumber-like seed pods covered in soft bristles, and Virgin's Bower, identified by its distinctive, fluffy seed heads of gray, silky plumes.

Brown and black Woolly Bear caterpillars are a common sight on roads, sidewalks and trails. People used to believe (falsely) that the longer the middle brown band was, the shorter and milder the coming winter

In most years, White Ash, Pin Cherry and Staghorn Sumac reach their colour peak in late September. Some ash trees turn a stunning purple-bronze that literally glows in the September sun.

By late September or the first week of October, the maples of the Canadian Shield and Algonquin Park are usually close to their colour peak.

Results of 21st Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count

Submitted by Jerry Ball and Martin Parker

A special thanks to the twenty participants of this year's Petroglyphs Butterfly Count which was held on July 18. A total of 58 species of butterflies were noted, which ties the previous high set in 2003. The day of the count was hot with sunny skies. Many participants noted there were "zillions" of Gypsy Moths. There was a serious outbreak along County Road 46 this year. A total of 4,556 adult butterflies and 33 Monarch caterpillars were recorded. Following are the highlights:

Coral and Acadian Hairstreaks on Dogbane flowers. Photo: Rene Gareau

New species

Northern Spring Azure: 5 -- one found and photographed laying eggs by Colin Jones & confirmed by others

High counts

Tiger Swallowtail: 58 -- the previous high was 23 last year. These were formerly identified as Eastern Tiger Swallowtails but new research indicates they are likely Midsummer Tiger Swallowtails, a potential new species.

Clouded Sulphur: 155 -- previous high was 154 in 2015

Pink-edged Sulphur: 54 -- previous high was 17 in 2001

Bog Copper: 21 -- highest in last decade; previous high was 20 in 2015

Coral Hairstreak: 78 -- previous high was 69 in 2015

Compton Tortoiseshell: 32 -- previous high was 30 in 2017

Mourning Cloak: 52 -- previous high was 16 in 2017

Common Wood-Nymph: 95 -- previous high was 70 in 2013

Juvenal Duskywing: 9 -- second time on count, were 4 on 2016 count

Long Dash Skipper: 27 -- previous high was 23 in 2013

Eastern Swallowtails puddling in sand. Photo: Ken McKeen

Compton Tortoiseshell. Photo: Rene Gareau

Other Notable Items

Black Swallowtail: 1 -- only the fourth time appearing in the last ten counts

Mustard White: 15 -- highest since 2009 count which had 28. The 2003 count had 132.

Great Spangled Fritillary: 75 -- highest since the 2013 count

Aphrodite Fritillary: 110 -- highest since the 2005 count

Northern Crescent: 433 -- highest since the 2005 count

Green Comma: 1 -- 4th time on the count

Common Sootywing: 1 -- only second time on count - previous record was 1 in 1998

Broad-winged Skipper -- 386 - highest since the 482 on 2013 count

Dun Skipper: 1872 -- should be highest number on continent. Last year there were 1459 and it was the continental high.

Results of 21st Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count Summary on July 18, 2020

Species	Park	Sandy L. Rd South	Sandy L. Rd North	Cty Rd 46 South	Cty Rd 46 North	McCoy Lake	Jack Lake	Forest Access Rd	Hwy 28 Corridor	Total
Black Swallowtail					1					1
Midsummer Tiger Swallowtai	7	2	2	9	8	11	18		1	58
Mustard White				1	2	4	8			15
Cabbage White	2	3		3	8	6	1	4	2	29
Clouded Sulphur	13	4		9	29	8	40	43	9	155
Orange Sulphur	1				1					2
Pink-edged Sulphur		13	33	2	6					54
Bog Copper		16	5							21
Acadian Hairstreak	1	6	3				3			13
Coral Hairstreak	3	48	13	9	4	1				78
Banded Hairstreak		8			3		1		3	15
Hickory Hairstreak		2								2
Striped Hairstreak		6	1		1					8
Gray Hairstreak		6								6
Eastern Tailed Blue			1			1	2			4
Northern Azure			4						1	5
Summer Azure		3		1	1			5		10
Great Spangled Fritillary	7	4	6	1	1	7	14	35		75
Aphrodite Fritillary	5	3	17		27	14	38		6	110
Atlantis Fritillary	1				2		1			4
Silver-bordered Fritillary			3		1					4
Pearl Crescent		4	5	7						16
Northern Crescent	39	36	25	3	38	92	131	40	29	433
Questionmark	1									1
Eastern Comma	4				1	5	11	1		22
Green Comma			1							1
Gray Comma			1			3	1	5		10
Compton Tortoiseshell	2	5	9	1	3	7	1	4		32
Mourning Cloak	5	10	13	1	7	10	5	1		52
American Lady							1			1
Painted Lady										
Common Buckeye										
Red Admiral		1					2			3
White Admiral	1	3	13	4	7	9	3	11	1	52
Viceroy	1		2		1					4
Northern Pearly-Eye	1									1
Eyed Brown		20	10	9	7	12	21	10		89
Appalachian Brown			1				1			2
Little Wood-Satyr	1									1
Common Ringlet										
Common Wood-Nymph	5	19	2	33	14	2	2	5	3	85
Monarch	11	2	9	8	24	36	61	28	8	187

Species	Park	Sandy L. Rd South	Sandy L. Rd North	Cty Rd 46 South	Cty Rd 46 North	McCoy Lake	Jack Lake	Forest Access Rd	Hwy 28 Corridor	Total
Silver-spotted Skipper	1	1		1		1	1			5
Juvenal Duskwing	8						1			9
Columbine Duskywing		49	21	13	11	13	2	32	1	142
Common Sootywing	1									1
Delaware Skipper	3	4	15	2		4	24	6	2	60
Least Skipper		7	4		3	9	13	7		43
European Skipper	4	1	1			16	28	7	1	58
Peck's Skipper		2	4		1	5	5	4	8	29
Tawny-edged Skipper						8	5		2	15
Crossline Skipper		1			1	1	5	1		9
Long Dash		3	1			6	10	7		27
Northern Broken-Dash			4		5	7	5			21
Little Glassywing		1				2				3
Hobomok Skipper	11				1					12
Mulberry Wing	2	26	39	1	10	9	13	22	8	130
Broad-winged Skipper	4	77	119	139	32	4	6	4	1	386
Dion Skipper			10			2				12
Two-spotted Skipper		2	3						1	6
Dun Skipper	72	820	409	59	169	51	267		25	1872
Unidentified										
Fritillary Sp.		3	2	7	9	6		2	7	36
Crescent Sp.				2						2
Hairstreak Sp			1							1
Swallowtail Sp										
Skipper Sp					5		4			9
Comma Sp.			1				1	5		7
Total Individuals	**217**	**1221**	**813**	**325**	**444**	**372**	**756**	**289**	**119**	**4556**
Total Species	**29**	**36**	**35**	**22**	**34**	**32**	**36**	**22**	**19**	**58**

Caterpillars

Monarch	1		6	1	4	21				33

Area Participants

Park and eastern Stoney Lake - Robert and Joan DiFruscia
Sandy Lake Rd North -- Susan Blayney, Dan Bone, John Carley
Sandy Lake Road South -- Rayfield Pye, Tom Mason
County Road 46 South -- Steve LaForest
County Road 46 North -- Martin Parker, Basil Conlin, Rene Gareau
McCoy Bay Road -- Matthew Tobey, Kathryn Sheridan, Ruth Davenport
Jack Lake -- Jerry Ball, Kathy Parker, Ken Morrison
Forest Acess Road -- Dennis Barry, Margaret Carney
Hwy 28 Corridor -- Colin Jones

The Dawn Chorus

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

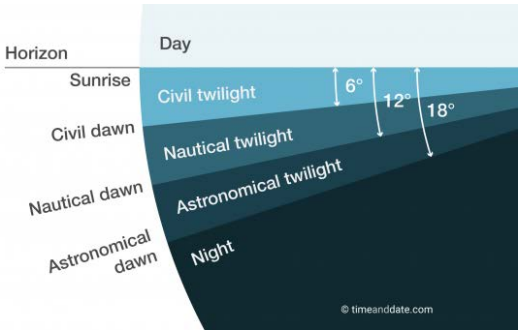
Back in the 1960s and 70s, the Peterborough Field Naturalists used to have an annual spring chorus outing on the first weekend of June. The outing took place at a member's farm in the Millbrook area. The members split up into three groups and went to different areas of the property. Each group would record the time each bird species in their area started singing. Over a hot breakfast on the farm, the groups would compare notes. It might sound like a really fun thing to do… until you hear what time you have to wake up! I've been wanting to do this for years. I finally worked up the initiative this year to drag myself out of bed at 3 a.m. on June 13. I drove to the Stoney Lake Trails in what is known as astronomical twilight when the sun's centre is between 12 and 18 degrees below the horizon which was from 3:13 to 4:12 a.m. on this day. On my drive, I saw a Red Fox cross River Road and what I supposed was a Common Nighthawk fly across the Hwy 28.

The world seemed still and, while a few creatures may have been stirring, all was quiet when I arrived at my destination. The moon was a waning crescent moon, the temperature was 7 ˚C and the wind was nil. I brought a camping chair and a coffee, got myself settled at my chosen spot and waited. It wasn't long after I arrived that it started, which was a few minutes after nautical twilight started. Nautical twilight is when the sun's centre is between 6 and 12 degrees below the horizon. Since both the horizon and brighter stars are visible during nautical twilight, it is possible to navigate at sea; hence, the name. On this day, nautical twilight was from 4:12 to 4:59 a.m.

The first song I heard was from a Song Sparrow at 4:20 a.m. It was a hearty effort for that early hour, but the effort seemed to expend all of the bird's energy. I wondered if it went back to sleep because I didn't hear from it again for quite some time. Similarly, a Swamp Sparrow only sang one song and then went quiet. Alder Flycatchers and Yellowthroats started singing around the same time and kept singing for the whole duration as far as I could tell. I was surprised to not hear an American Robin. I think of them as being early singers, and I had naively thought they were everywhere. I stopped recording my "hearings" at 5:37 a.m., a few minutes after daylight began, when I got the sense that the big chorus was over and it was time for the birds to go about their business of feeding their chicks.

I had expected to see lots of birds flying at daybreak, but the only two birds I saw during my time there were a Golden-Winged Warbler which came fairly close to check me out and an Indigo Bunting. I imagined that after I left there was a huge flurry of bird activity as things went back to normal.

In summary, at this particular date, time and location, the dawn chorus began at the start of nautical twilight, peaked at the start of civil twilight and then the big hoopla started to die down around sunrise. Alder Flycatchers and Yellowthroats were both the early risers and long-haul vocalists.



Different degrees of twilight in the morning from timeanddate.com

If you ever want to try something like this yourself, you really do have to start early. I tried to do this the day before but a little later in the morning. On my drive, I could hear Kingbirds and Robins singing. I realized that I would have missed the start of the dawn chorus at my chosen location so I turned my car around and drove home, feeling a little annoyed that I had woken up so early and failed in my mission. Wake up *really* early and make it worth it.

Here are my observations:

	Time (a.m.)	Bird Species (song or call)	Notes
Astronomical Twilight: 3:13 to 4:12	03:45		Left house. Saw fox and nighthawk (?) on drive
Nautical Twilight: 4:12 to 4:59	04:20	Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Alder Flycatcher, Yellowthroat	Song Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow did not sing for long.
	04:24	Indigo Bunting and Great Crested Flycatcher	
	04:27	Wilson's Snipe winnowing in wetland area	
	04:30	A high-pitched "beep, beep, beep" in sets of three. Not sure what it was.	Alder FC and YT still singing
	04:35	Veery	
	04:40		One and only bat flew by.
	04:45	Catbird, Bluebird	
	04:48	Marsh Wren, Golden-winged Warbler	Golden-winged Warbler came fairly close to look at me.
	04:55	American Crow	
	04:56	Black-capped Chickadee.	Lots of birds singing at this point.
Civil Twilight: 4:59 to 5:35	05:00	Mallard	
	05:04		Indigo Bunting flew past
	05:06		Lots of birds singing. Getting hard to tell if new voices have joined the chorus.
	05:07	Barred Owl	
	05:08	Nashville Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo	
	05:11	American Bittern	
	05:17	Common Loon	Flying overhead?
	05:20	Eastern Wood-Pewee	
	05:25	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker drumming	
Daylight/Sunrise at 5:35	05:37		Packed up

Late Summer Songsters

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

Northern Bush Katydid on a Monarda flower on August 10, 2018 in East City. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

It's like Drew Monkman says in his book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas*: early summer is filled with bird song and late summer is filled with insect song. Since I have spent so much time at home this summer due to COVID-19 and since the birds have stopped singing so much, I have begun to take a more active interest in our insect songsters. I can hear some from my window as I work during the day, and I can hear even more in the evening. The other night, I recorded some of the sounds I heard and tried to figure out who was making them. Parsing out the sounds was difficult because I have spent a lifetime grouping all the sounds into the simple heading of "crickets and cicadas." Later, when I became a birder, I filtered them out so I could concentrate on what the birds were singing.

This is not research-grade information, but I do believe I heard over the past few days (August 20 to 23): Narrow-winged Tree Cricket, Snowy Tree Cricket, Allard's Ground Cricket, Fall Field Cricket, and Dog-day

Cicada. There are probably more species that I did not manage to separate from the "wall of sound" but I hope to get better at this over time. It helps to have audio software that allows one to count the beats per second visually.

In the process of learning more about the insect songsters, a mystery from last year was solved. I didn't hear an American Toad calling from my front garden last August as I had thought. It was a tree cricket. I actually saw one of the tree crickets singing. Its lacy wings were held upright as it sang in typical tree cricket fashion. Tree crickets look very different from what people generally think crickets look like. Another interesting thing I learned was that many of the katydid species sing loudly but so high that many people can't hear them. I don't remember hearing the song of the Northern Bush Katydid that I photographed in my front garden a few years ago (photo above).

A great place to learn about insect song is Wil Hershberger's and Lang Elliot's website songsofinsects.com. The website also includes sound clips. I have extracted from the website some information on a few of the more common insect songsters of the Peterborough area in the table below.

Common Name	Song	Interesting Facts
Spring and Fall Field Cricket	The song of both species is a series of clear, loud chirps given at a rate of about one per second (or faster). Each chirp is actually a brief trill consisting of 3–5 pulses, given too fast for the human ear to detect. The frequency of the song is approximately 4–5 kHz, depending on the ambient temperature. Field crickets chirp both day and night from their hideouts, but are typically quiet at dawn.	The Spring and Fall Field Crickets look and sound the same but they are indeed two different species. They are large, black, and round-headed, and their song is the quintessential cricket chirp. In areas where both species are found, there is a period of silence in midsummer when neither species is heard. Both species are found in a wide variety of habitats and are common around buildings where they hide in cracks and crevices, under rocks, or in shallow burrows. As winter approaches, Fall Field Crickets are attracted to heat and often find their way into houses or other buildings.
Carolina Ground Cricket	A rapid, buzzy trill with a stumbling or sputtering quality, as if the singer is never quite able to get on track. This wavering quality is due to slight variations in loudness as well as pulse rate. Pulses are delivered at about 50–60 per second (four or five times faster than the Allard's Ground Cricket) with a frequency of around 6 kHz.	A constant companion to grigologists throughout our region (a grigologist is someone who studies crickets, katydids, and cicadas), the widespread Carolina Ground Cricket can be found in almost every terrestrial habitat. They are very cold tolerant and will be the last ground cricket singing as winter wraps its icy grip on the land. The song is surprisingly loud for such a small cricket, and getting a good location on a singer can be difficult. They can ofen be capured by turning over rocks or other debris in the vicinity of a singing male.
Snowy Tree Cricket	Song is a very pleasant series of evenly spaced chirps, each chirp consisting of 8 (occasionally 5) pulses at a frequency of 3 kHz. Males prefer to sing from the underside of branches or broad leaves.	Perhaps the most familiar of our tree crickets, the Snowy Tree Cricket is the one whose chirp rate can easily be used to estimate the temperature. One popular formula is to count the number of songs given in 13 seconds, and then add that number to forty to yield the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. It is referred to as "snowy" because individuals are often so pale that they appear white. Snowy Tree Crickets sing from brushy understory plants at the margins of woods or within open woods.
Narrow-winged Tree Cricket	A mellow trill of variable length, usually lasting about two to ten seconds, and sometimes with a slight sputter at the beginning or the end. Songs are separated by several seconds of silence. Pulse rate is about 65 per second, with a frequency of 3 kHz.	Light green in color with a prominent reddish cap, the Narrow-winged Tree Cricket is a handsome species that often sports pale blue eyes. Some individuals are particularly striking, with bright green veins on their wings. It frequents orchards, shrubbery, and gardens and may also be found in coarse weeds near the base of trees. Singing only at night, males are easy to locate and observe. They continue to sing even when illuminated with a light.
Dog-day Cicada	A high-pitched whining drone that lasts about 15 seconds. Starts soft, gets louder, then tapers off at the end. Reminds many of the penetrating buzz of an electric saw. Peak frequency is about 7 kHz.	Dog-day Cicadas are widespread and vocal. The common name comes from the fact that this species exhibits peak singing during the time of the year when the star Sirius, of the constellation Canis Major (the big dog), is prominent in the night sky. These typically hot and muggy days of July and August are referred to as the "dog days" of summer. The exact range of Tibicen canicularis is not well known, but it is the only cicada in northern areas that sounds like a buzz saw. Often found on or around pine trees.
Northern Bush Katydid	The most accomplished singer of the bush katydids. The very high pitched song, given only at night, is a series of soft ticks followed by about 5–10 lispy buzzes that are given in quick succession and are usually followed by a series of very loud ticks. The dominant frequency of the buzzes is about 12–15 kHz.	The first of the Scudderia katydids to sing during the summer, the Northern Bush Katydid prefers the tops of small trees or shrubs in open habitats or open woods. Difficult to capture because they are too high up, they are attracted to lights and may sometimes be collected near porch lights or on window screens at night. When found, there may be a large number of males gathered in one location. Their combined singing creates a very pleasing sound.

From the Archives

Submitted by Martin Parker

Cavan Swamp and Bog: A Significant Wetland Complex in 1985 Report

In 1985, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature) published a report entitled "Some Important Wetlands of Ontario South of the Precambrian Shield" by Mark Van Patter & Dr. Stewart Hilts. This report was published as part of a Provincial initiative to afford protection to wetlands. In the 1980s, wetlands were being drained and destroyed across the southern section of the Province.

Green Heron at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Photo: Cathy Douglas

From the Executive Summary:

The report details the development of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' list of important wetlands south of the Precambrian Shield. Fifty-three of southern Ontario's most important wetlands are identified and summarized."

One of the wetlands recognized in the report is Cavan Swamp and Bog, which is the one wetland in Peterborough County that was recognized. The following is from the report.

Formed through peat deposition, up to 4.5 meters over ancient glacial Lake Jackson, this wetland is especially noted for the almost pristine peatland bog (40 ha.) situated in the southeast lobe. It has outstanding botanical attributes. We find many uncommon plants and over 20 types of orchids. Outside of this small enclave, 1339 ha. of wetland, predominately swamp with some marsh and open water, exhibit significant wildlife and hydrological values.

Biological Features

- Undisturbed peatland bog
- Unusual plants plus 20 species of orchids
- Provincially significant flora: Ram's-head Lady's Slipper, False Mermaid
- Good habitat for waterfowl and furbearers
- Great Blue Heron colony (20 nests)
- Deeryard

Hydrological Features

- Highly important for reduction of Peterborough flooding
- Low flow augmentation for Jackson's Creek

Cultural Features

- Moderate use for duck hunting and nature observation

There has been considerable disturbance to the large swamp portion. Cattle grazing and logging have influenced forest succession. Agricultural drainage (3 ditches) has reduced floodwater storage and streamflow augmentation. Additionally, 12 miles of road are present. In this unique bog, much of the area has suffered overzealous individuals tramping vegetation and removing plant specimens. The future threat is considered high for the entire site due to potential peat extraction.

Currently [in 1985] 710 ha. are owned by the Otonabee Conservation Authority and 669 ha. by private owners. Notwithstanding the threat of peat extraction, the planning controls status is relatively strong. Cavan Township has zoned the area "Hazard Lands." The Conservation Authority Watershed Management

Plan designations are "Environmentally Significant Area" and "Hazard Lands." Fill line regulations cover 100% of the wetland. The Ministry of Natural Resources designation is "Area of Natural and Scientific Interest."

The Incredible Polyphemus Silk Moth

Submitted by Phil Shaw

Phil Shaw's daughter, Margaret, found an unusual caterpillar last autumn. Following is an e-mail message (sans videos) about the caterpillar's development that her teacher, Anria Loubser, sent out to the class in early June and agreed to share with us.

Larva of a Polyphemus moth (a giant silk moth). Photo: Anria Loubser

Here are some photos and short videos of our incredible female Polyphemus silk moth!!

Margaret found a giant green caterpillar (see photo attached) on September 16 on her way out to the bus at the end of the school day. Some of the children got to see the caterpillar before the buses left, but by the next morning it had spun its cocoon.

Empty silk cocoon of Polyphemus moth wrapped in leaves of the host plant. Photo: Anria Loubser

A Google search revealed that it was a Polyphemus moth caterpillar and that it would need to over-winter before the moth emerged. Fast forward to May 1, I retrieved the cocoon from my garage and set it up in a box (photo attached) to wait and see what happened. I faithfully checked the box every morning. By June 1st, I was thinking that perhaps the cocoon hadn't survived the winter. Then, yesterday morning, I thought I saw something through the mesh on the box! Unbelievable!! (see Papillon de nuit video below)

The other short videos below show the moth's release. I didn't get its actual take-off on video because I think the flash on my camera was disrupting its natural behaviour. Still, I think some of the children will be excited to see it fluttering its wings and almost taking off!

Polyphemus moth. Photo: Anria Loubser

There are a couple of close-ups of the empty cocoon attached as well. Here is a link to scientific information about the Polyphemus, if your little one is curious to know more:
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/MOTHS/polyphemus_moth.htm

I so wish we could have shared this magical experience in the classroom, but hope that these images help to convey some of its wonder to the children!

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

Trent the Trumpeter Swan. Photo: Barb Hatley

I absolutely love Trumpeter Swans! They are the largest native waterfowl in North America. They are incredibly beautiful and majestic, and they have quite the back story. Originally extirpated from Ontario in 1886, they were re-found and put under government protection in 1932. They were officially added to the Endangered Species Act in 1982, during the same year Harry Lumsden started a breeding and re-introduction program that began with 23 eggs shipped from Alberta. Over the next 38 years, the population in Ontario has grown to over 1,500 and continues to grow each year with the help of amazing volunteer organizations like Ontario Trumpeter Swans (OTS) and Trumpeter Swan Coalition watching over them.

Some of you may remember my story of R39, now known as "Trent," the Trumpeter Swan that was seen during our PFN outing on March 1. He is a six-year old male that arrived on the Otonabee River in February. He is easily identified with a very large yellow wing tag (as seen in photo above). Through research, I discovered that he didn't yet have a name. I e-mailed the suggestion of "Trent" because he was first seen by Trent University, and the name was officially accepted. Ever since then I have been hooked, and now I look for swans wherever I go. This summer, I have been able to assist with photographing several families in the Peterborough area, and I plan to get more involved with OTS in the future by tracking a wider geographical area.

This is where I could use some help. If you spot swans while you are out and about in nature (they are pretty hard to miss), please reach out to me and let me know. There are three species we could see in our area. Trumpeters, of course, are the largest. Tundra Swans are basically smaller versions of Trumpeters with a few key differences. The easiest tip is to look for yellow streaking just under the eye. Lastly, Mute Swans have orange colouring and a big, black knob on their bill. Please refer to the incredible photo below which was provided by Donna Lewis of Ontario Trumpeter Swans. She was very lucky to get all three species in the same shot!

Please send me sighting information by e-mailing stevepaul70@gmail.com. I will ask you a few questions to learn about numbers, location, etc. If you can provide photos of tags or of features to prove the species, that

would be greatly appreciated. I will submit the Trumpeter Swan information to OTS, but will keep sighting data on both Tundras and Mutes for future reporting.

In the coming months, I will use this space to help educate everyone on important facts, statistics, sightings and other information on swans seen in our area and across Ontario. I look forward to working with OTS to develop a strong partnership in protecting these beautiful creatures! If you would like to become an official Swan Spotter, let me know. I could definitely use more eyes to get this PFN project off the ground.

Freshwater Mussels: The Helpful Hitchhikers

Submitted by Mary Kate Whibbs

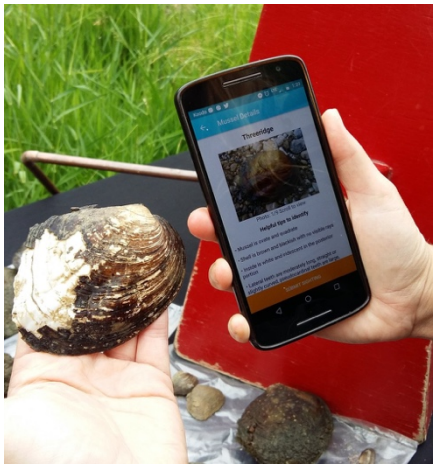
During the warmer months we are on high alert for some of nature's hitchhikers. Insects such as ticks and emerald ash borer may come to mind as troublesome travellers on land, and zebra mussels are a familiar aquatic pest. While many hitchhikers cause harm through their distribution, not all hitchhikers are bad. Freshwater mussels are a kind of hitchhiker where the larvae (called glochidia) must attach to the gills of a fish to complete their life cycle. This is also their main mode of dispersal in aquatic habitats. Unlike harmful hitchhikers, native freshwater mussels have a positive impact on ecosystems: they control algae and bacteria by filtering water to feed, they are an important part of the food chain, and the shells of dead mussels provide shelter for other aquatic life. Unfortunately, many freshwater mussel species are at risk due to competition from invasive mussels. To help protect native freshwater mussels, the Toronto Zoo and Fisheries and Oceans Canada developed the Clam Counter app for freshwater mussel identification and reporting. The app helps users identify adult freshwater mussel species. The data collected through mussel reports steers future conservation work to protect freshwater mussels and their habitats.

Promotional image from the "I am important! I am protected!" campaign to raise awareness about freshwater mussels.

Freshwater mussels do not spend their entire lives as hitchhikers. Adults are sedentary and live at the bottom of lakes and rivers in aggregate groups. To reproduce, male mussels release sperm into the water column which nearby females take in as they filter the water. When the larvae have developed into glochidia they are ready to hitch a ride! Female freshwater mussels have three strategies to ensure the survival and dispersal of their young, and the strategy varies depending on the species. Most species release the glochidia into the water column and the free-floating larvae attach to nearby fish. The second strategy increases the chances of glochidia attaching to the host. In some species, the female mantle tissue is shaped like a small fish. The female pulses this 'lure' to attract a larger fish and when it takes a bite the glochidia are released into its face. The third and most energy intensive strategy is rare. In this strategy, the mussel will grasp a nearby fish and release the glochidia to ensure maximum infestation. While hitchhiking on the gills of the fish-host, glochidia absorb nutrients, avoid predators, and have access to a greater area of the ecosystem. Once the larvae grow into juveniles, they drop off the gills and settle in the substrate where they begin to create their shell using calcium found in the water. Some mussels live for up to 100 years and can filter nine litres of water per hour as they feed on algae and bacteria, such as E. coli. These hitchhikers cleverly distribute themselves to play an essential role in promoting healthy ecosystems. Unfortunately, mussels, like the aquatic ecosystems they inhabit, are sensitive to changes brought on by human activity and invasive species.

Ontario is home to 41 of the 55 freshwater mussel species found in Canada, and 65% of Canada's freshwater mussels are listed as at risk. Like many species, freshwater mussels face numerous threats including habitat loss and degradation. The presence of invasive zebra mussels exacerbates these issues. Zebra mussels have

been in the Great Lakes for 40 years and they have significantly impacted our waterways. They are extremely efficient filter-feeders causing an increase in water clarity which leads to increased light penetration and excess plant growth, all while depleting the food sources of native species. Unlike our native freshwater mussels, zebra mussels do not hitchhike on a fish host. Instead, they rely on humans for distribution. Zebra mussels form dense colonies and attach to all kinds of surfaces, including boats. By hitching a ride on boats and fishing gear, zebra mussels have become abundant in the Great Lakes, impacting human recreation and wildlife. Zebra mussels will colonize on exposed freshwater mussels making it difficult for native species to take in water for food and oxygen. A zebra mussel colony can also prevent native mussels from burying in the substrate to effectively survive the winter. Stopping the spread of invasive zebra mussels by cleaning, draining, and drying all boating equipment is an essential step in conserving native freshwater mussel populations. Learning more about and raising awareness of native freshwater mussels is also an important part of conservation work.



User identifying mussel on the Clam Counter app

In 2013, the Toronto Zoo launched a five-year field study to examine freshwater mussel populations in the inland watersheds of Lake Ontario. This was a novel research project. Five species of mussels were documented in five of the seven watersheds surveyed. To complement this field study, the Toronto Zoo also initiated the 'I am Important! I am Protected!' public campaign to raise awareness about these fascinating animals. Part of this campaign included the development of the Clam Counter citizen science app for freshwater mussel reporting and identification.

In collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Toronto Zoo developed and launched the Clam Counter app to guide users in identifying and reporting freshwater mussel sightings. Clam Counter can be downloaded on Apple or Android smartphones. Whether you are an expert at mussel identification or a novice, the app uses a questionnaire to help you determine the species and offers many tips and images to compare your finds. This bilingual app can be used anywhere in Canada and you can limit the range to aid in identification of species that are commonly found in your area. By using Clam Counter, you can contribute to important research on these helpful hitchhikers so scientists can continue to improve efforts to conserve our freshwater mussels!

Any questions about the Clam Counter app, freshwater mussels, or other aquatic species at risk can be sent to greatlakes@torontozoo.ca

Sign up for a Citizen Science Workshop

Interested in learning more about using species reporting platforms, such as eBird and iNaturalist?

Jenn Baici, a PhD Candidate at Trent University, is offering a three-hour introductory workshop all about eBird, iNaturalist, and other commonly (and not-so commonly) used species reporting platforms. She will cover 1) How to create profiles, 2) How to add observations, and 3) Who uses these reporting platforms and why.

Jenn Baici is studying wild turkey social structure and behaviour in the Peterborough area. Part of Jenn's research also involves estimating the size and distribution of Ontario's wild turkey population with the help of citizen scientists. For the past several winters, Jenn has requested and curated wild turkey observations submitted through eBird and iNaturalist and is using this data to

model where turkeys are today and where they may go in the future. She has extensive experience navigating these platforms as a user and as a researcher and is extremely excited to share her knowledge of them with the Peterborough community to further wildlife research while fostering community engagement with nature.

Contact Jenn Baici directly for more information at jenniferbaici@trentu.ca

The Land Between is Looking for Photos of Species at Risk

For those of you who are unfamiliar with The Land Between, this organization is dedicated to protecting this ecotone, which includes much of Peterborough and Haliburton Counties. They have sent the following message looking for help with their project. If you have photographs that might be of use, please contact Grace Wiley at tlb@thelandbetween.ca or 705-854-3578 for further information. Their website is: www.thelandbetween.ca

The Land Between is creating a Species at Risk guide that we are directing towards landowners. The purpose of this guide will be to educate landowners about the species at risk that they may encounter on their property and how they can help to protect these species.

We are looking for photos to include in the guide for identification purposes. We would give credit to the photographer/field naturalist club in the guide. We are also looking for people who can review the guide before it is distributed.

If you are interested in partnering with or assisting us on this project, please let us know. We appreciate your support.

Reed Fitzsimmons Wins Ontario Nature's Margaret and Carl Nunn Camp Scholarship

Submitted by Ted Vale

Reed Fitzsimmons, PFN's nominee for the Margaret and Carl Nunn Camp Scholarship, is the 2020 recipient of this award from Ontario Nature.

This scholarship, sponsored by Ontario Nature, is awarded to a youth who "display[s] promise and interest in natural history interpretation or education and [has] the potential to take an increased role in club programs" (Ontario Nature 2020).

The recipient receives a place in Camp Kawartha's Nature Camp which "blends our highly regarded nature programming with recreation, adventure and games in a jam-packed 4-day/3-night session" (Camp Kawartha 2020).

Reed Fitzsimmons. Photo: Lauren Fitzsimmons

Reed is an enthusiastic nature photographer with a special interest in invertebrates. He has helped lead field sessions on invertebrates for other youth.

PFN congratulates Reed on his award and hopes he will continue his studies in the natural world.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Nature Camp has been cancelled for this summer. However, Reed is guaranteed a place in the 2021 session.

Come Walk With Us

By Sonya Richmond and Sean Morton

Come walk with us on a 4-year pilgrimage along the 24,000 km Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail) - the world's longest trail. In collaboration with Birds Canada, we will connect individuals, families, and youth to nature through birding and promote diversity in the outdoor community.

Excerpts from Blog Post from June 14, 2020: Peterborough to Lindsay

We awoke this morning to find out that a wonderful article had been written about our trek by Sue Dickens of the Trent Hill Now community news magazine! We are so touched by how much interest people from coast to coast to coast have taken in our hike!

It was a gloriously cool, sunny morning when we headed out around 7:00 am to find breakfast. Afterwards, we followed the extremely well-marked Great Trail along the Otonabee River, through the quiet streets of Peterborough, and then along a wooded corridor to Jackson Park. This urban park offers wide gravel trails and footpaths through cedar stands, open areas, deciduous and mixed forests, small wetlands, and along Jackson Creek. The variety of habitats makes it a great place to go birding.

Sonya Richmond and Sean Morton

We were supposed to meet a few enthusiastic members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists at 8:00 am for a socially-distanced bird walk through the park. Embarrassingly, we managed to get lost on the way to the parking lot, so were a few minutes late. Since it was the first gathering of PFN since the COVID-19 lockdown, the group politely indicated that our error provided time for socializing.

Not only was our walk through Jackson Park a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the PFN, but we also kicked off our Bird Count for Racial Justice in support of the Toronto Chapter of the Feminist Birders Club's efforts to raise money for the Black Legal Action Center. This non-profit organization provides free legal services to no or low-income Black residents of Ontario.

We were joined by an enthusiastic group of eight members of the PFN, and as we made our way through a mixed stand of trees, an open grassy area, and a small marshy patch we managed to see or hear 23 species of birds in about an hour and a half. Some of the highlights included hearing a Pine Warbler, watching a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at close range, getting a good look at several American Redstarts, enjoying a good view of a male Common Yellowthroat, and seeing a Hairy Woodpecker pair moving about in the canopy.

Sonya Richmond, Sean Morton and PFN members on Great Trail in Jackson Park. Photo: Reem Ali

It was a wonderful opportunity to exchange stories with members of the PFN, and to share a bit of inside info on our hike. We would like to thank several members who made generous donations in support of our hike, and to Reem for working hard to organize the hike on very short notice (and for her group picture of the day). It was a wonderful way to begin the day!

After the bird hike we walked the 3 km back downtown to pick up our gear, and have a second breakfast at the Silver Bean cafe on the banks of the river. Thus fortified, we headed back to Jackson Park on our way out of Peterborough. There we met Erica, my former M.Sc. supervisor and her husband Chris. They both attended the bird walk, and it was lovely to have an opportunity to catch with them both. Chris very kindly baked a delicious banana loaf for us, which helped fuel what turned into a long day of walking. We felt humbled and spoiled!

The trail leading out of Peterborough was a beautiful, flat, crushed stone dust trail. On this warm, sunny Sunday afternoon it was extremely busy, with many cyclists enjoying the weather. Contrary to what we expected from the satellite imagery, the trail did not take us through open corn fields, but rather took the form of a partially shaded trail, running between shrubs and bushes, and occasionally passing through stands of white cedar, paper birch, and trembling aspen.

During the hot afternoon there wasn't a lot of bird activity, but we did spot a few Brown Thrashers darting across the trail, a pair of Turkey Vultures soaring overhead, and many small groups of American Goldfinches bouncing in and out of the trail-side shrubs. Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks were singing in the rolling hay fields, and a particular highlight was seeing a Barn Swallow sitting atop a fence on the edge of a pasture.

Before we came to the community of Omemee we crossed the famous Doube's Trestle Bridge which sits along the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail system. This impressive bridge spans 200 m, and runs 29 m above Buttermilk Valley. A small stream meandered through the emerald green, forested valley far below. Above, the bright blue sky was streaked with puffy white clouds. Many people were out on the bridge, enjoying the view.

To read more about Sonya's and Sean's hike across Canada on the Great Trail, please visit https://www.comewalkwithus.online/

Orchid submissions are encouraged!
The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, September 18
Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org
or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7

https://trentu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aabHDeFKY1izZBz

Peterborough * Field * Naturalists
80th Anniversary
1940 - 2020

The Peterborough Field Naturalists are celebrating their 80th anniversary this year. The lapel pin shown here has been produced in honour of this momentous occasion. They are being sold for the reasonable cost of $5 each, and will be available at our next monthly meeting - whenever that may be!

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

June and July were dry and hot. The COVID-19 pandemic eliminated outings and meetings and reduced the sharing of information on our natural heritage.	
May 25	Susan Weaver had a **Snapping Turtle** nesting in her flower bed in East City. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed in the Trent Nature Area by Conner Thompson & Gill Homes. This was at the same location as last year and observations continued from that area throughout the summer. Cameron Travis had a **Common Tern** near Lakefield. Several reports of **Philadelphia Vireo** -- north end of the City by Dan Chronowic, West Eel's Lake Rd, Aspley area by Dave Milsom, Bridgenorth Trail by Cameron Travis. Dave Milsom also had an **Orange-crowned Warbler** on West Eel's Lake Road.
May 26	Ken Abraham observed an **Orchard Oriole** on the Lagn-Hastings Trail in the vicinity of Redmond Road. It was present in the area throughout the next two months. Iain Rayner spotted a **Golden Eagle** passing over his yard south of Lakefield.
June 1	Jerry Ball reported his FOY **Clouded Sulphur** on Jacks Lake Road.
June 2	Jerry Ball counted 501 blooms of **Yellow Lady's-slipper** along Mervin Line.
June 3	Jerry Ball had FOY **Silvery Blue, Northern Crescent, Hobomok Skipper** and **Little Wood Satyr** on the Lang-Hastings Trail between Cameron Line and the city.
June 4	Iain Rayner had a **Great Egret** on Buckhorn Road, Selwyn Twp.
Clay-coloured Sparrow Many reports in June from locations through the southern part of the county including Dummer Alvar, Lakefield water tower area, Jones Quarter Line, and Douro Park.	
June 5	Initial report of **Cerulean Warbler** at usual location along Deer Bay Reach Road, Buckorn, by Dave Milsom. Observed by any other observers during period. Jerry Ball had **Northern Cloudywing, Silver-spotted Skipper, Common Ringlet** & **Tawny-edged Skipper** along the Lang-Hastings Trail.
June 7	A **Blackpoll Warbler** was observed in Beavermead Park by Daniel Williams. Iain Rayner had 5 **Red Crossbills** in his yard near Lakefield. A late **Lesser Scaup** off Arnott Drive, Chemong Lake by Matthew Garvin. Along Sandy Lake Rd, Jerry Ball had FOY **Arctic Skipper & Indian Skipper.**
June 8	Drew Monkman observed a **Great Egret** along Centre Line, Dummer near Warsaw.
June 9	A late migrating **Least Sandpiper** in the Thompson Bay area in city by Scott Gibson.
Red-headed Woodpecker Reports in June from many locations including Trent Nature Area, Cordova Lake, Dummer Alvar, east shore of Pigeon Lake, Duncan's Line, Ennismore area, and 3 coming to feeder near Keene. Are numbers increasing due to invasion of Emerald Ash Borer?	
June 11	Jerry Ball had a **Painted Lady** on Lang-Hastings Trail between Blezard & Cameron -- was a well-worn individual which he feels just migrated into the region.
June 12	Ruth Davenport submitted photos of a female **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on the nest at Jack's Lake (see photo elsewhere in this issue). Jerry Ball had FOY **Long Dash, Silver-bordered Fritillary** & **Viceroy** along the Lang-Hastings Trail between Cameron and Cty Rd 38.

June 15	Jerry Ball had **Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** & **European Skipper** along the Lang-Hastings Trail between Cameron and Blizzard.
June 16	Jerry Ball had FOY **Least Skipper & Silvery Checkerspot** along Lang-Hastings Trail between David Fife & Settlers Line. He also had a **Northern Goshawk.**
June 17	Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet had a **Black-crowned Night Heron** in area of Nassau Mills dam.
June 19	Ben Taylor & Shelia Collett had a **Black-crowned Night Heron** on the river off Engleburn Avenue in East City. Jerry Ball had a **Giant Swallowtail** on Lang-Hastings Trail between Cameron & Cty Rd 38.
June 21	John Carley had a **Common Tern** on Sandy Lake, Buckhorn. Jerry Ball at Jacks Lake Road had **Crossline Skipper** & **Common Roadside Skipper.**
June 23	Kathryn Sheridan had an **Orchard Oriole** on the Lang-Hastings Trail near Redmond Line. Terry Rees reported on Monkman Sightings that in the Kasshabog Lake area there was an outbreak of invasive **Gypsy Moths** -- they were defoliating the oaks, poplars & White Pines. By mid-July second growth leaves & needles were present on the trees.
June 24	At the member's Zoom meeting, Don McLeod reported that two pairs of **Common Loons** are nesting on Lancaster Bay (Chemong Lake). Marilyn Freeman reported observing two **Muskrats** while canoeing on the Indian River. On June 15, she observed 15 **Wild Turkeys** on a lawn at a dwelling along Northey Bay Road. At the Lakefield Marsh, Paul Elliott observed a 'train' of **Mallards** -- a female being following by 22 young. Jerry Ball & Martin Parker along Hubbell Rd had FOY **Northern Pearly-eye** on Sandy Lake Road and **Eyed Brown** and a young bull **Moose** with antlers in velvet.
June 26	Andrea Kingsley located a singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** in a fen along Sandy Lake Road north of Havelock. Seen over the next few days by many observers. Hance Ellington had a **Great Egret** in the Keene area. Seen later by others.
June 28	Jerry Ball along Lang-Hastings Trail had **Meadow Fritillary** & **Question Mark.**
June 29	Jerry Ball had **Giant Swallowtail** along Lang-Hastings trail between Cameron & Cty Rd 38.
June 30	Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had **Pepper and Salt Skipper, Harris's Checkerspot, Two-spotted Skipper** & **Pink-edged Sulphur** along Sandy Lake Road.
Peregrine Falcon Periodically during the month, Marie Duchesneau has been reporting on the Peregrine Falcons on Anstruther Lake. They again successfully nested again this year and three young fledged.	
July 1	Along the Lang-Hastings Trail from David Fife to Setters Line, Jerry Ball had **Summer Azure**, **Canada Warbler** & **Porcupine.**
July 2	Along the Lang-Hastings Trail from Cameron Line to Cty Rd 38, Jerry Ball had **Gray Comma** & **Baltimore Checkerspot.**
July 4	Jerry Ball had **Black Swallowtail** along Center Line of Douro.
July 4	Jerry Ball with Ken Morrison saw 32 species of butterflies at various locations in North Kawartha Twp including **Dun, Peck's** & **Delaware Skipper, Mulberry Wing, Northern Broken Dash** & **Acadian Hairstreak**.
July 6	Jerry Ball had 34 species of butterflies in the Catachoma area including **Common Wood Nymph, Broad-winged Skipper, Bronze Cooper, Banded Hairstreak** & **Atlantis Fritillary.**
July 7	A singing **Sedge Wren** was located in the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area by Gill Holmes, Connor Thompson & Sarah Bonnett. Jerry Ball and Ken Morrison had 35 butterflies along Sandy Lake Rd including **Striped Hairstreak, Edward's Hairstreak** & **American Lady.**
July 12	Carl Welborn spotted a **Least Bittern** in a wetland on the 3rd Line of Douro. On July 20, he was able to photograph the individual.

July 13	Jerry Ball & Rene Gareau had 32 species of butterflies along Sandy Lake Rd including **Bog Copper, Dion Skipper** & **Coral Hairstreak.**
July 14	Jerry Ball visited the Charlie Allan Rd area and had 35 species of butterflies.
July 15	Jerry Ball observed blooming **Cardinal Flower** & **Buttonbush** near the Airport.
July 16	Katie Tremblay had a **Black-crowned Night Heron** at Rotary Park in the city. Seen at same location on July 26 by others.
July 17	Jerry Ball had **Eastern Tailed-Blue** along the Lang-Hastings Trail from Cameron to 38.
July 18	Petroglyphs Butterfly Count -- see separate report in this issue.
July 17	Wendy Hogan heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling in the Catchacoma Lake area.
July 20	Jerry Ball along 3rd line of Asphodel Twp found **Wild Indigo Duskywing.**
July 21	Jerry Ball & Ken Morrison had **Grey Hairstreak** in the Sandy Lake area, Cty Rd 46 North.
July 22	Stan Phippen observed a **Northern Goshawk** in the Young's Point area.
July 27	Jerry Ball & Martin Parker had an **Orange Sulphur** along the Bridgenorth Trail.

Clockwise from right: Golden-winged Warbler (Dave Milsom), a very small Gray Treefrog near Jack Lake on July 18 (Ruth Davenport), Northern Map turtles on Lower Buckhorn Lake (Ken McKeen), family of foxes along Deer Bay Reach Road, Buckhorn (Dave Milsom), Io and Cecropia moths in June (Basil Conlin), Hummingbird Clearwing moth near Jack Lake on July 18 (Ruth Davenport), and a Northern Watersnake on Anstruther Lake on June 16 (Marie Duchesneau).

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
- ☐ Birds
- ☐ Insects
- ☐ Reptiles and Amphibians
- ☐ Aquatic Life
- ☐ Astronomy
- ☐ Botany
- ☐ Geology
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Assist with meetings
- ☐ Help the Junior Naturalists
- ☐ Sit on research or conservation committees
- ☐ Work on field projects
- ☐ Give a presentation
- ☐ Help with the Orchid publication
- ☐ Lead an outing

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:** _____