



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

"Know ♦ Appreciate ♦ Conserve Nature In All Its Forms"

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Regular monthly meetings are held the 2nd Wed. of the month in the downstairs auditorium of the Peterborough Public Library at 345 Aylmer Street N.

COMING EVENTS

Wed, June 8
7:30 p.m.

Ptbo
Public Library

Monthly PFN Meeting: Air Pollution in the Kawarthas

Dr. Tom Hutchinson is a professor emeritus from Trent University where he has taught a variety of courses dealing with environmental pollution. Dr. Hutchinson's talk will consider the air pollution situation that has developed in the Kawartha region over the last 10 years. Air masses coming in from Toronto now pose a very significant threat to forests, crops and public health especially. He will discuss the research being done at the Oliver Centre and at Trent University.

Sun, June 5 and
Sun, June 12
8:00 a.m.

PFN Spring Sunday Morning BIRD WALKS

This time-honoured club tradition will continue for another two weeks. These "walks" last about 2 hours. From novice to expert, these outings are sure to please anyone interested in seeing, hearing and learning about local birds. Meet in the parking lot of the Ptbo Zoo on Water St. at 8:00 a.m. and we will carpool from there. Bring some change to contribute for gas and don't forget your binoculars.

Sun, June 26
11:00 - 3:00

Hike in the Forest

The Breathing Tree Program is hosting guided hikes through the Heber Rogers forest on Clear Lake. The hike will promote forest stewardship and education. If you are interested in attending the event or if you have naturalist expertise in plants and/or wildlife and would like to volunteer your time, please give Bob a call at 742-2185.

Wed, Sept 21
9:00 - 4:00
Carden Recreation
Area

Future of the Carden Alvar Natural Heritage Conference

The Couchiching Conservancy, the Carden Plain Important Bird Area Committee and the Carden Field Naturalists are hosting a conference to discuss the future direction for the Carden Alvar. Presentations will include representatives from industry, government and conservation organizations. Registration is \$20. For more information or to register, call the Couchiching Conservancy at (705) 326-1620.

Sun, Sept 25
2:00 p.m.

PFN Annual Family Potluck Picnic at Camp Kawartha

This year's potluck will once again be held at Camp Kawartha, just north of Lakefield. The camp is situated on Clear Lake, offering beautiful vistas and inspiring nature trails. Camp Kawartha is a long-time supporter of the PFN and has generously hosted countless Junior Field Naturalist outings over the years. Please bring a potluck item, a lawn chair, a plate and utensils.

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

Sunday,
June 19th
2:00- 4:00 p.m.



Fun with Weather Prediction

"Whether the weather be cold, whether the weather be hot; We'll weather the weather whatever the weather, Whether we like it or not"

Wondering how to predict a summer day? Come on out and learn some weather prediction techniques, build some handmade weather instruments, make a cloud and other cool (or hot) activities. Meet at the Jackson Park entrance off Fairbairn, see you there! (Reminder: this will be the last JFN program activity until the fall).

SAVE TREES BY MAKING YOUR OWN RECYCLED PAPER

- from *Ecokids Online* (www.ecokids.ca)

Everyday we use something that is made from trees. One of the things we use most often — especially in school — is paper. Although paper can be made from a variety of natural materials including cotton, hemp, grass, banana plants, tobacco and even elephant dung in some parts of the world, paper is most often made from pulp that is produced by grinding up trees.

Because paper is so important to us and because we use so much of it, we need to make sure we don't waste it. It only takes a second to use a paper napkin or tissue, but decades for a tree to grow. Fortunately, we can save trees by using less paper and by recycling paper. Here's how you can make your own homemade paper.

What You Need

- scrap paper &/or newspaper
- a blender or wire whisk
- water
- a bucket
- a big square pan that's at least 8 cm deep
- a piece of window screen that fits inside the pan
- an iron or rolling pin
- a measuring cup
- tea towels
- vegetable scraps or dye for colour

What You Do

1. Tear the scrap paper into tiny pieces and soak them in a bucket of hot water for about 30 minutes. Put a handful of the soaked paper into the blender and mix until mush. Or if using a whisk, beat the mixture until it is a creamy pulp. Add a small amount of vegetable scraps or dye for colour (or even leaves for added texture).
2. Pour the blended pulp into a measuring cup. Pour roughly 3 cm of water into the pan. Put the screen into the pan and pour one cup of the paper pulp onto the screen.
3. Spread the pulp evenly in the water with your fingers. It should feel kind of mushy. Lift the screen and let the water drain.
4. Lay the pulp-covered screen face down on a cloth (tea towel) or in between some newspaper. Lift the screen away, leaving the paper pulp on the cloth. Cover with another cloth and iron with a hot iron, or use a rolling pin to flatten and press out excess moisture. Let the pulp dry for at least 24 hours.
5. Once it's dry, use the newly made paper to create greeting cards for your friends and family, or use it to write a letter to your member of parliament encouraging more recycling in your community.



BUFFERING THE BUFFALO – by Alessa Callegarini

The morning of May 7th was one of those gorgeous spring Saturdays that make you want to get your hands dirty doing something. This might be why almost 50 volunteers turned out that morning to work on restoring a stretch of the Jackson Creek shoreline that is part of Dr. Bill Belch's Buffalo Farm on Sherbrooke Street.

The animals had been fenced out of two muddy, manure-filled fields, and volunteers proceeded to plant over 700 seedlings of hydrophilic, or water-tolerant, shrubs. Nearest the water, red osier and silky dogwood, nannyberry and meadowsweet went in. Further back, we planted eastern white-cedar, elderberry and choke cherry. The soil was so rocky with cobble-sized glacial till that, often, a pick axe was needed to loosen it for digging.

With so many volunteers, the planting went quickly. Several children helped out as well, holding seedlings in place and digging with shovels. In about an hour, most of the seedlings had been planted! Many hands, as they say . . . All that was left was to broadcast rye grass seed over the whole area. Rye grass is an annual that will help to stabilize the soil and grow while there is still sun, but be gone once the shrubs are established and generating some shade.

Once work was finished, volunteers listened to owner Bill Belch talk a bit about the history of the farm, the first in Ontario to raise buffalo.

The results of this enjoyable morning will be the protection of Jackson Creek from agricultural runoff and the creation of wildlife habitat. The native plants will shade and cool the water, and reduced sediment runoff will improve water quality.

Thanks go out to Cathy Dueck of Peterborough Green-Up and Mike Barker of the Wetland Habitat Fund who coordinated the project, and to the many volunteers who gave of their time.

Message from the Editor

As always, I am interested in hearing your thoughts and suggestions on the newsletter content and I would encourage anyone to send in stories, pictures, poetry, artwork, articles, reviews or PFN outing write-ups. Please remember that if the submission is not your own work, I need to receive original author and publication information in order to give proper credit for the piece.

*Deadline for submissions for the September issue:
Monday, August 22nd, 2005*

Please send submissions to: Rebecca Zeran, 188 Parkhill Road East, Main Floor, Peterborough, ON, K9H 1R1, phone: 876-9399, rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca



Welcome! New Members:

**Alessandra Callegarini
Jocelyn Calvert & John
Bottomley
Barbara Logan
Mary Jane Parker
Barbara Pearce**

**Welcome Back:
Mary Beth Aspinall & Bryan
Whitfield**

ORONO CREEK RESTORATION

Mike McMurtry participated in a stream rehabilitation project on Orono Creek on April 19th, representing the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The event was capably organized by Tara Borwick of OFAH and well attended. The group planted the shores with red-osier dogwood, willows, white cedar, high-bush cranberry and some additional herbaceous species. All of the plants were native species common to stream banks in southern Ontario. OFAH staff members reinforced portions of the eroded bank with cedar boughs tied to stakes. (See below for a group photo [photo courtesy of Tara Borwick] and photos of participants planting and installing stakes [photos courtesy of Mike McMurtry]). The landowner was very appreciative of the work being done on his property, lent a hand to the work and provided fine hospitality. Once the plantings start to grow, there is a good chance that this portion of Orono Creek will provide suitable habitat for brook trout, a coldwater species. Funding for this project was provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The PFN board is interested in placing more emphasis on hands-on participation by club members in such ecological restoration projects and will make members aware when opportunities arise. **Please contact Mike McMurtry at 705-748-5353 if you would like to help restore the former glory of natural areas in the Peterborough area.**



**Interested in
participating in
restoration projects to
restore the natural
beauty of Peterborough
and surrounding area?**

**Give Mike a call at (705)
748-5353**

Member Report: LAKE ONTARIO NORTH REGIONAL MEETING

Our regional Ontario Nature meeting was held on April 30th at the Hillside Outdoor Education Centre in Scarborough, a great place for a nature-oriented day-camp experience. Stan Reiten & I attended as representatives for the PFN. It was a bit disappointing that most of the clubs were from the south--none from our area or north. The big topic of the morning was a discussion regarding Ontario Nature Greenways, the protection of natural areas & the corridors joining them. Rising human populations and expanding development ("People Corridors") are encroaching on natural areas, especially the Oak Ridges Moraine. After lunch & a walk outside, the Friends of The Rouge River discussed a local issue about a sewage pipe going down the length of the Rouge Valley to Lake Ontario. A ditch 35ft. deep is being dug and is actually draining the Rouge Valley (the small tributaries are drying up and the river itself is going down in depth). Some of the other clubs, including ours, gave reports of activities. We met the new Executive Director, Babak Abbasadeh, recently a senior policy advisor for the MNR. A full story on the area clubs can be found on NATURE NETWORK at www.ontarionature.org/home/nnnews.html

- Rhea Bringeman, PFN Rep.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS - PFN Board of Directors Meeting - 4 May 2005



Orchid: The June Orchid will be the last issue prior to the summer. Discussions occurred regarding how to make a pdf version of the Orchid available to members who want one - perhaps posting to web within a 'members only' section.

Junior Naturalist: Two families (total of 7 children) came out for the last JFN event. We will start to look at ways to build up our JFN participation.

Financial: The LWCC project is a bit 'under spent' due to the time it took to fill the coordinator position.

Membership: There were 124 Orchid (May issue) mailings. No membership renewals; 2 new members. Normally if someone submits PFN membership payment through regular mail, a tax receipt is issued with the next Orchid - this has led to constant mailings of tax receipts throughout the year. Also, if members opt for a pdf Orchid, we will not be able to send their tax receipts as per the normal procedure. It was suggested that all tax receipts be held until January of each year and mailed to members at that time (this will help cut down on cost and effort and ensure that everyone has a receipt in time for their tax returns).

Projects: LWCC is looking for a wood lot suitable for a demonstration project. The LWCC's Port Hope meeting was attended by about 30 people. Several non-PFN projects are looking for volunteers; we will report this opportunities/events in the Orchid as they may be of interest to our members.

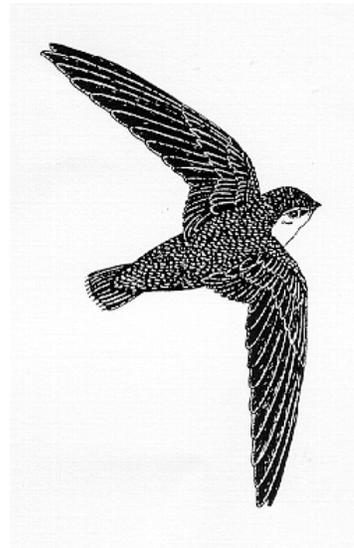
Publicity: We will look into PFN membership recruitment at Trent University and Sir Sanford Fleming College. The club needs a new flyer (we could possibly include one in the orientation packages that new students receive). Since students are usually only in the around for the academic year, we may be able to offer a reduced membership fee to students with valid ID. We will also look at awarding the outstanding students identified through Ptbo Green-up with a complimentary PFN membership.

New Business: Consideration as to whether the Peter's Woods Walk should be considered an annual event. Ontario Nature will hold their annual meeting/conference in North Bay this year, June 2-3; anyone interested in attending is welcome - visit the Ontario Nature website for registration information. The PFN will be hosting the fall Ontario Nature meeting in October.



WATCH FOR SWIFTS IN 2005!

Is the Chimney Swift in decline? Birders from Ontario, Quebec and other provinces are seeing fewer swifts. Is it lack of insects, lack of chimneys or something happening on their winter grounds? If this is a real decline we should try to learn where they are nesting and roosting in Peterborough and the Kawarthas so that we can track their numbers. Would you like to help us?



Add interest to your birding this summer by looking and listening for swifts as they chitter and swirl in the skies. If you can watch where they go, and perhaps discover which chimney a particular group is using.

Nest chimneys will general be:

- made of brick,
- unlined and usually at least 25 cm in diameter
- unused during the breeding season (i.e. no smoke)

Chimneys like this are often found on older commercial industrial and educational buildings. In Peterborough we have seen them going into old Central School and the old Post Office. Where have you seen them going to roost or nest?

If you do find a chimney used by swifts in the summer please record the dates and numbers entering. Dusk is a good time to make such observations. As July flows into August young swifts take to wing and you may see increased numbers using a chimney. Observations in August and Sept will document which chimneys are major or minor roosts for migrating swifts.

In August and September we would like to organize a survey of chimneys used as roosts to do a simultaneous count over a few days. To do so we need to know in advance which ones are being used as roosts? If you would like to help with the survey let us know which chimney you would like to watch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Risley (crisley@cogeco.ca; 705-755-1838), Erica Nol (enol@trentu.ca) or Alan Dextrase (helen.ball@sympatico.ca)

Do you want your Orchid electronically?

Several members have expressed interest in receiving their monthly Orchid via e-mail. If you are interested in receiving a PDF version of the Orchid instead of a paper copy in the mail, send an e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca



**REMEMBER: the Orchid will be on hiatus until September
– check the PFN website periodically for updates
(<http://www3.sympatico.ca/jbyoung/pfnhome.htm>)**

2005 PEREGRINE FALCON SURVEY - REQUEST FOR SIGHTINGS

Volunteers, conservation groups and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are once again working together to conduct the 2005 province-wide peregrine falcon survey in Ontario, as part of the national peregrine falcon survey which is conducted every 5 years. The objective of this survey is to locate and monitor all peregrine falcon nesting activity throughout the province. The results of this survey will be very important in helping to assess the status of this species in Ontario and across Canada.

We would appreciate the help of all birders in promoting the survey and reporting signs of possible peregrine falcon nesting activity during the March-August breeding period. Information of interest includes:

- possible or confirmed signs of an occupied territory, territorial pair or nesting attempt;
- nest location;
- information on banded birds;
- information on the number of eggs or young; and
- observations of fledged young.

We are interested in reports from both urban and cliff sites, and are especially interested in learning of new, previously unreported nesting areas. There are a number of established local falcon watch programs, especially in urban centres, and observers are encouraged to continue to report their sightings to those programs; this information is shared with the 2005 survey program. Reports can also be provided directly to local OMNR district offices, or they can be submitted directly by fax (807-473- 3023, ATTN: Peregrine Survey) or e-mail to: peregrine.survey@mnr.gov.on.ca

For more information on the 2005 peregrine falcon survey, contact:

- Ted Armstrong, OMNR Thunder Bay (807-475-1127) ted.armstrong@mnr.gov.on.ca,
- Brian Ratcliff, OMNR Thunder Bay (807-475-1596) brian.ratcliff@mnr.gov.on.ca, or
- Chris Risley, OMNR Peterborough (705-755-1838) chris.risley@mnr.gov.on.ca .



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES FOR KAWARTHA HIGHLANDS SIGNATURE SITE PARK

Buckhorn Community Centre: **Saturday June 4, 2005** from 10-3pm

In preparation for management planning, the focus of these two open houses will be on Charter elements which have prescribed time lines. Specifically, this includes:

- the identification of those roads and trails within the area that may be considered pre-existing, as well as
- the potential for two new access roads into the Park.

A consultant has been hired to evaluate the potential for two new access roads into the Park. The consultant will be available to explain the Environmental Assessment process and discuss any questions, concerns or comments you may have.

Current trail mapping will be displayed for public input and review. It is important that anyone with knowledge of existing trails and roads in the Park examine the information collected for completeness and accuracy. Information concerning the history and use of individual roads and trails is welcome.

Information is also being sought from individuals who may:

- have kept annual notes of freeze up and ice out on the park lakes, species check lists, and any other information on the natural history of the area, and/or
- have knowledge of the cultural history of the area.

This information will provide a better foundation for planning the future of the area.

In addition to the above, staff and Management Advisory Board members will be on hand to discuss the management planning process and schedule.

Contact Us: Park Superintendent (613) 332-3940 x 255

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HELP ONTARIO'S SHOREBIRDS

- from the Welland Tribune, Thurs, 5 May 2005

Inclement weather delayed the shorebird migration into Ontario but now many birds are on the move.

Killdeer are crossing wet pastures calling out their names or the equally familiar "Deee, deee, deee." Wilson's snipe are winnowing overhead. Upland and spotted sandpipers, willets and greater yellowlegs and many other shorebird species are flowing through the province.

Most of the shorebirds are headed for the lowlands and coasts of Hudson Bay and James Bay, where concentrations of some species are internationally and likely hemispherically significant.

A total of 35 shorebird species migrate regularly through Ontario, 29 of them commonly. Twenty-two species are known to breed in the province. It sounds like a bonanza but all but one of the 22 regular breeders are suspected or confirmed to be declining in population. Only killdeer are thought to be increasing in numbers.

The reasons for the declines are many, but loss and degradation of habitat both here and in their southern wintering areas top the list.

It's difficult for shorebird populations to rebound quickly. These species typically have small clutches, the nesting season in Ontario is short with little time for re-nesting, and most have long and arduous migrations.

To try to reverse the population declines, an Ontario Shorebird Conservation Plan was prepared in 2003 by a committee representing a range of government and non-government organizations. The principal players were the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Gateways Centre, and Bird Studies Canada.

The goals of conservation plan are to sustain and restore the distribution, diversity and abundance of breeding and migrating shorebirds in Ontario, guarantee them sufficient high-quality habitat to support healthy populations, and coordinate other conservation issues.

Shorebirds are highly migratory so our made-in-Canada actions are linked to the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan and Mexican Shorebird Conservation Initiative. Like pieces of a giant avian jigsaw puzzle, these plans are further integrated under the overall umbrella of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), which includes the

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), Partners in Flight (PIF) for landbirds, and Wings Over Water (WOW) for other waterbirds.

All the acronyms make it sound like a military operation. What it really means is that through NABCI, biological planning is being integrated for all North American waterfowl, waterbirds, landbirds and shorebirds.

Ontario provides critical habitat for many North American shorebirds, particularly the intertidal mudflats and marshes along the Hudson and James Bay coasts, where hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stage and nest. This area supports hemispherically significant populations of breeding red knot and perhaps 50 percent of Canada's population of Hudsonian godwit, with significant breeding populations of marbled godwit and dunlin. Short-billed dowitchers are known to nest in the area but their numbers are a mystery.

The once widely spread piping plover now is endangered in Ontario, with just two nesting sites occasionally used in recent years near Kenora and Rainy River. We've claimed or destroyed their historic nesting areas elsewhere in the province, the sandy beaches of the lower Great Lakes where so many Ontarians now live and holiday.

Southern Ontario has six species of breeding shorebirds. Killdeer, spotted sandpiper and Wilson's snipe are the most common. Wilson's phalarope are less common but appear to be expanding their range. Of special concern to the conservation plan steering committee are American woodcock and upland sandpiper.

Shorebirds spread out in small numbers in southern Ontario, possibly because they have no choice. They use whatever wetlands they can find including damp fields and sewage ponds. The OSCP identified Presqu'ile Provincial Park, the Western end of Lake Ontario, Long Point, areas around Point Pelee, and the fields and marshes near Lake St. Clair as some of their critical staging and nesting sites.

Various agencies and scientists currently are researching the distribution, populations and habitat requirements for shorebirds that breed or migrate through Ontario, along with the effects of human disturbance, climate change and other issues.

Not surprisingly, what shorebirds need most is more places protected for them, places where they can safely feed, rest and breed, with adequate stopover sites for their migration north in spring and south in late summer and fall. The birds will do their part, given the chance.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT BIRD FEATHERS

- from *Toronto Star*, Saturday May 7, 2005 - Jay Ingram

Colour, UV light fend off predators

This is the best part of the year for birdwatchers. The birds are coming back, and most are displaying their best and brightest plumage for the mating season. Humans think they are beautiful; predatory birds think they look delicious.

The brighter and more obvious the bird, the better target for birds like raptors, who are eager to pluck other birds out of the air for lunch. Two recent studies have shown how the intended victims employ clever strategies to avoid this fate.

Songbirds, especially warblers, are very brightly coloured at this time of the year, and their colouration extends even into the ultraviolet part of the spectrum of light. We're blind to that, as are other mammals, so advertising oneself in the UV part of the spectrum is a prudent move for vulnerable birds.

On the other hand, birds can see ultraviolet light quite well, but unfortunately for those which are displaying their plumage in UV, hawks will be among the interested spectators. A female warbler might be enthralled by the patches of bright, UV-reflecting feathers on a male; a hawk would be, let's say, intrigued.

However, a group of Swedish scientists has now shown how songbirds manage to disguise themselves from hawks: They display their bright colours in shades of UV that hawks can't see.

And the UV "colours" that the songbirds use for their mating garb differentiate them from the background of the birds' natural habitat. Those living in deciduous forests have forehead and breast feathers that reflect different shades of UV than birds living in conifers. The UV light reflected from those feathers makes the birds show up against the background for other members of their species, but disguises them from predators. They are communicating with prospective mates using a covert communication channel.

A separate piece of research shows that even the lowly pigeon has developed defensive patterns of feathers.

Pigeons have few predators in cities, but one that is slowly becoming more common is the peregrine

falcon. Peregrines are still rare but are gradually increasing their numbers in the downtown core of cities, where pigeons represent one of their favourite food items.

They catch them by attacking from above, diving at speeds of more than 200 kilometres an hour.

Scientists in the United States recorded nearly 1,500 attacks by peregrine falcons on pigeons in Davis, Calif., and found that one plumage type, called "wild," survived attacks much better than any other. The unique feature of "wild" is a white patch at the base of the tail.

Suspecting that the wild version's unusual survival rate had something to do with that white patch, the scientists performed a transplant operation, switching the white patch from more than 700 wilds to another type called "blue-barred." The results were clear-cut: The mortality of the now de-patched wilds soared, while the formerly vulnerable blue-barred were protected to the same degree as the wilds normally are.

But what exactly is the white patch doing?

The researchers speculate that it might attract pursuing falcon's attention during the twists and turns of high-speed pursuit. While that sounds like a bad thing for the pigeon, it might not be. Concentrating on the white patch and ignoring the rest of the bird might actually be the falcon's undoing.

All pigeons execute the same maneuver when being pursued by a falcon: They dip one wing and roll out of the falcon's path. If the falcon is concentrating single-mindedly on the white patch, it might not see the beginnings of the wing motion leading to the roll and lose the pigeon as a result.

So, why don't all pigeons have the white patch? Possibly because pigeons have only recently begun to encounter significant numbers of peregrines; possibly because a white patch, although nearly perfect for foiling pursuing peregrines, might actually attract the attention of other predators who don't resort to high-speed chases.

These two studies are a useful reminder that no matter how much expert birdwatchers pride themselves on being able to see the slightest variations in colour that distinguish one warbler from another, they are seeing only the human side of things. Birds live in their own visual world.

Jay Ingram hosts Daily Planet on the Discovery Channel

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED!

We are looking for pictures from PFN outings in 2005. If you are heading out for one of our outdoor adventures, think about taking along your camera. We are hoping to collect pictures from PFN members to put together a slide show for either a monthly meeting or the next AGM. Please submit any photos to Rodney Fuentes at rfuentes@sympatico.ca or bring them to a monthly meeting and give them to a board member. Digital images are preferred, but we will accept printed images as well.





The ORCHID DIARY for June 2005

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, TandDBigg@aol.com

ORCHID DIARY for the period from April 24 to May 22, 2005

***Note that because of the large number of reports this month only the first sighting of each bird species during the month was reported.

- Apr 27 John Cavanagh (JC) reported an **Eastern Phoebe** and **Yellow-rumped Warbler** in the Fowler's Corner area.
- A **House Wren** returned to Tony Bigg's (TB) yard, investigating the nest box it occupied last year. JC and Doug Sadler (DgS) had a **Rough-legged Hawk** near Stewart's Hall. Don Sutherland (DnS) heard a **Northern Waterthrush** singing near the Pet Hotel near Airport Rd.
- Apr 28 A **Wood Thrush** was singing in the woods behind TB's house in Lakefield. Drew Monkman (DM) had **White-throated Sparrows** singing near his house in the west end of Peterborough for a few days. DnS, walking in the Petroglyph's PP, saw/heard the **Red Crossbill** again, still near the entrance kiosk. He also had **Pine Warbler, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple Finch**, and choruses of **Northern Leopard Frog**, and **Chorus Frog**. **Round-lobed Hepatica, Common and Marsh Dandelion** were in flower. Karen Gowanlock, concentrating on the flowers, reported **Bloodroot, Round-lobed Hepatica, Carolina Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, Large-flowered Trillium** and **Wild Leek**, all but the last in flower.
- May 1 in the Warsaw Caves CA.
- 'Angela' reports a new **Osprey** nest on the Old Keene Rd. at County Rd. 2. She watched an amazing aerial battle between this pair and another Osprey.
- May 2 TB saw a **Yellow Warbler** on the Duoro 8th Line.
- May 5 A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited the feeder in TB's garden in Lakefield. DnS had **Chimney Swifts** over downtown Peterborough.
- May 6 TB's garden yielded a **Palm Warbler** and a **Nashville Warbler**. DnS reported **Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole, Black-and-White Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, and **Least Flycatcher** along the trail north of Trent University. Mori Blue had her first sighting of a **White-crowned Sparrow** at her feeder in Lakefield. Giles Dagenais (GD) reports **Barn Swallows** looking at nesting sights, a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** feeding on sunflower seeds in Bethany, and a **Belted Kingfisher** near the Rail Trail in Cavan. Martyn Obbard (MO) heard a **Brown Thrasher** singing at St. Mark's Anglican cemetery in Warsaw. Colin Jones also had a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and a **Baltimore Oriole** in his yard in Lakefield. Dan Mansell (DM) had
- May 7 **Eastern Bluebirds** inspecting next boxes near Stewart's Hall but they later left.
- DnS had a **Pine Siskin** in a neighbouring yard. Harold Baal had an **Indigo Bunting** at his feeder at Mahood Court in Lakefield.
- May 8 DnS bicycling the Jackson's Park Trail heard a **Blue/Golden Winged Warbler** (singing the BWWA song - note that these birds sing each others songs and must be seen for a positive identification). He also added **Great Crested Flycatcher, and Gray Catbird**. MO heard **Gray Tree frogs** calling as well as **Spring Peepers** and **American Toads**.
- DgS reported a **Chimney Swift** over Rubidge Hall in downtown Peterborough. DnS bicycling along the Jackson's Park rail trail saw many birds including **Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Flicker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, American Redstart, Rusty Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow**. He also had a **River Otter** in Lily Lake
- May 10 DM had a half dozen **Evening Grosbeaks** coming to the feeders at Camp Kawartha, and a half dozen **Eastern Towhees** coming to a feeder on Birchview rd, opposite the camp. His group of school children were also able to get within two metres of an **American Woodcock** by repeatedly sneaking up on its departure point as it launched itself into its display flight. DgS had a secondhand report of two **Green Herons** in the Curtis brickyard ponds just east of the canal on Parkhill East. Holly Bickerton (HB) heard a **Whip-Poor-Will** calling in Burnham Woods
- May 12 GD had a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** taking a **Mourning Dove** at his feeder. DnS again on the Jackson's Park rail trail heard a **Ruffed Grouse**.
- Andrew Jobes (AJ) leading a bird walk through Burnham Woods PP saw **Wood Ducks** among a total of 25 species. They also saw **Red Trillium, Large-flowered Bellwort, Solomon's Seal, False Solomon's Seal, and Rose**
- May 14 **Twisted-stalk**.

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was sighted by Mary-Beth Aspinall and Bryan Whitfield by the Otonabee River south of Peterborough. Mike McMurtry saw a **Solitary Sandpiper** standing on a stump in Jackson's Creek just west of Ackison Rd. DM leading a PFN bird walk had 47 species of birds including a **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Common Yellowthroat**, **Northern Parula**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Blue-headed Vireo**. GD reported three very late Fox Sparrows at his feeder in Bethany (outside Peterborough County where the previous late date for this bird is May 1).

May 15 DM heard a **Sandhill Crane** overhead near Stewart's Hall

May 16 DnS, on the trail again, heard/saw an **American Bittern**, and **Magnolia Warbler**.

May 17 DnS, on the trail again, had a **Wilson's Warbler**.

May 17 DnS, on the trail again, had a **Canada Warbler**.

Bob Spearman saw a rare **Mountain Bluebird** at his home on Pigeon Lake on this day and the following day. HB had a **Bay-breasted Warbler** on the Jackson's Park rail trail. On the same trail DnS added **Swainson's Thrush**.

May 19 'Kkloftus' saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** south of Hwy 7 near the Pet Hotel and a **Wilson's Snipe** by the airport.

On a butterfly trip along Sandy Lake Road Jerry Ball reported **Olympia Marble**, **Chryxus Artic**, **Dreamy Duskywing**, **Juvenal's Duskywing**, **Eastern Pine Elfin**, **Hoary Elfin**, and **Henry's Elfin** amongst other more common butterflies. He also reported a **Golden-winged Warbler** near Norwood, and **American Black Duck**, and **Ring-necked Duck** on territory near Sandy Lake Rd. DnS on the rail trail in Jackson's Park had a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and **Philadelphia Vireo**. AJ had a **Sora** calling from the wetlands on University Road, and an **Eastern Wood Pewee** calling in Burnham Woods PP.

May 20

Whilst doing his birdathon Drew Monkman reported the sighting of an eaglet on the **Bald Eagle's** nest on Lake

May 21 Katchewanooka. This is the first known record of this bird breeding in the county for at least a century.

Rhea Bringeman reported a lingering **White-crowned Sparrow** at her feeder (previous late date for this

Peterborough County is May 20), and a **Downy Woodpecker** who appeared to be thriving on her sunflower seeds.

May 22 DM had the **Red-bellied Woodpecker** back at his feeder near Stewart's Hall



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Heather Smith – 533 Paterson St, Ptbo, K9J 4P9	heatheraesmith@yahoo.ca	749-0304
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FON Rep	Rhea Bringeman – RR2, Ptbo, K9J 6X3		742-1035

BIRD FOLKLORE

(<http://birding.about.com/library/weekly/aa041801a.htm>)

Owls are sometimes viewed as evil omens, sometimes as wise sages. A few North American Indian tribes believed that witches could assume the bodies of owls and fly about at night. In Africa, owls were thought to kill for witch doctors. Owl eggs were believed to be a cure for alcoholism in many parts of Europe while the ancient Greeks thought that the owl was the husband of Athena, the goddess of wisdom.



MEMBERSHIP

Memberships may be obtained at the monthly meeting from George Maynard or by mailing a copy of the application form below to **George Maynard – 20 Elgeti Dr., RR#11 Ptbo, K9J 6Y3**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel. Home _____ **Work** _____ **Email** _____

Type of Membership and Fee Schedule (2005) – Please make cheques payable to: Peterborough Field Naturalists

1. () Single (1 adult or 1 child*) \$25

**Membership in the PFN automatically includes membership in the Junior Naturalists*

2. () Family (couple or family with children) \$30

Please give the names and ages of the children you wish to be enrolled in PFN Junior Naturalists programs:

Name _____ age _____ Name _____ age _____
Name _____ age _____ Name _____ age _____

Main Interests (Tick only 3):

- (a) Birds _____ (b) Butterflies/Insects _____ (c) Wildflowers/Trees/ Shrubs _____ (d) Astronomy _____ (e) Aquatic Life _____
- (f) Geology _____ (g) Field Trips _____ (h) Hiking _____ (i) Conservation _____
- (j) Other (please specify) _____

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following area(s) _____ and would be prepared to: () lead an outdoor session, () give an indoor presentation, () prepare an article for *The Orchid*

I am interested in the following:

- () Joining the PFN executive () Sitting on research or conservation committees
- () Working on field projects () Helping with refreshments at meetings
- () Please have a member of the executive call me

Age groups

This information is optional but helps us to understand the needs of our membership. If yours is a family membership, please check for each adult. Under 20 (), 20-24 (), 25-29 (), 30-34 (), 35-39 (), 40-44 (), 45-49 (), 50-54 (), 55-59 (), 60-64 (), 65-69 (), 70-79 (), 80 & over ().

Comments

We are always looking for ways to improve the club. Please attach a separate sheet listing any ideas that you may have.

DONATIONS: Membership fees cover the general operating costs of the club while other sources of revenue are needed to fund special projects such as ecological restoration. You can assist the club by making a donation to help further our work in such areas. The PFN is a registered charity and issues receipts for income tax purposes. All donations are gratefully received and any member of the executive will be happy to speak to you concerning the use of such funds.

LIABILITY WAIVER: 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 of my underage children.

Signature _____