



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, May 11
7:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: The Breeding Bird Survey

Connie Downes, coordinator of the North American Breeding Bird Survey for Canada, will discuss the landbird monitoring program in Canada, describe the Breeding Bird Survey and a few other selected surveys (e.g. Nest Records, Checklists, Atlas) and describe how data from these surveys has been used in bird conservation activities. She may also demonstrate some of the software currently being used to improve bird-song identification skills [Meet at the Peterborough Public Library]

May 1, 8, 15, 22,
And 29 (Sundays)
8:00 a.m.

Spring Sunday Morning BIRD WALKS

This time-honoured club tradition returns for another season. These "walks" last about 2 hours and will be held every Sunday until mid June. 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, May 15
7:00 a.m.

Trip to Ganaraska Forest

Ganaraska is a majestic 10,500 acre forest situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine. An extensive network of hiking trails connects the Forest Centre to the natural wonders of the forest. The site is comprised of rolling scenic hills, large tracts of mixed hardwood and pine forests, spring-fed creeks, beaver ponds and a variety of wildlife species. This trip will be a joint outing with the Peterborough Field Naturalists, the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and the Durham Field Naturalists. Our club will need to pay \$17 for access permits, so please bring some cash and we will split the cost of the permit between the participants. For more information, visit www.grca.on.ca. Meet in the Sobey's parking lot on Lansdowne St. at 7:00 a.m.

Sat, May 28
7:00 a.m.

Trip to the Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)

Guided by Jerry Ball, we will head out to the Carden Plain, a rare alvar habitat that supports an abundance of rare grassland birds. Meet in the Sobey's parking lot on Lansdowne St. at 7:00 a.m. Further information can be found on the next page...

COMING EVENTS continued...

Sat, May 28
7:00 a.m.

Trip to the Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)

The Carden Plain is a popular destination for bird, butterfly and plant watchers alike. At only 65 kilometres from Peterborough, it is home to a globally rare alvar habitat, supporting an abundance of grassland birds. Birds present in the alvar include: the endangered Loggerhead Shrike, the rare Goldenwing Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wrens, Yellow Rails, Upland Sandpipers, Blue Birds, Eastern Towhees and Brown Thrashers. Our trip will be guided by Jerry Ball and is sure to be an wonderful time. For more information on the Carden Plain IBA, visit www.cardenplainimportantbirdarea.com. We will meet in the parking lot on Lansdowne St. at 7:00 a.m.

Wed, June 8
7:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting: Presentation by Dr. Tom Hutchinson

Topic to be announced. Please see the June edition of the Orchid for more information.

CALLING ALL PLANTERS!

When: Saturday May 7th, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

Where: the Buffalo Farm on Sherbrooke Street

Why: Replanting native vegetation along Jackson Creek



Here is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while making an important contribution to stewardship.

We've all been made aware in the past few years of the importance of protecting waterways from agricultural runoff. When cattle have access to streams, lakes and rivers, shoreline buffer vegetation is destroyed and water quality is downgraded by animal droppings. Local farmers are working with many conservation agencies to fence cattle from waterways and replant degraded shoreline. There is a perfect opportunity for you to play a role in this restoration process this spring!

On Saturday, May 7th, Peterborough Green-Up is looking for volunteers to help replant native vegetation along a stretch of Jackson Creek. The Buffalo Farm on Sherbrooke Street (a short distance west of Crestwood Secondary School) is the site of the planting. The property owner, Dr. Bill Belch, has been working with Mike Barker of the Wetland Habitat Fund to fence the buffalo out of the creek, and now the finishing touch is to provide native plants to protect the waterway, and restore habitat for wildlife.

The planting starts at 10:00 a.m. on May 7th, and will continue until mid-afternoon. Stop by for as long as you're able, and bring a shovel if you can. Rubber boots and snack would also be a good idea. The plants are small, and mostly bare-root, so the planting should be quite simple. Bring the kids! The farm is easy to find. Just drive west of Crestwood Secondary School on Sherbrooke St. and look for the Buffalo Farm sign on the north side of the road.

Dr. Belch has offered to give planters a short tour of the farm – the oldest buffalo farm in Canada. So come out and join us for a great day! For further information, call Cathy Dueck of Peterborough Green-Up at 778-3530 or Mike Barker of the Wetland Habitat Fund at 743-5327.

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

Sunday,
May 15th
2:00 p.m.



An Ambitious Awesome Amphibian Adventure

Join us on May 15th for an ambitious awesome amphibian adventure. We will checkout a wonderful wetland at Camp Kawartha for frogs, newts, eggs, tadpoles and anything else. Bring your rubber boots, some water, and your enthusiasm. Meet at 2:00 p.m. in the camp parking lot. Camp Kawartha is located 7 kilometres along Birchview Road, off Hwy 28N from Lakefield.

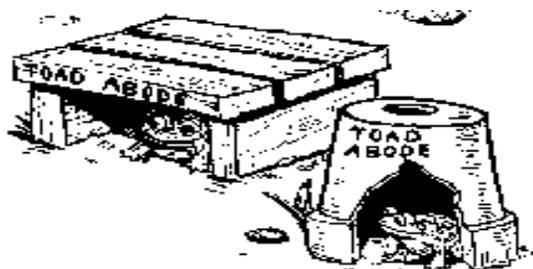
Thanks to all the Junior Naturalists who braved the damp and chill Sunday of April 24th! Miller Creek Conservation Area looks a lot cleaner for your efforts. We also found some early dragonfly and damsel fly nymphs as well as snails and bloodsuckers. The highlight was seeing two Sandhill Cranes. - Neil

BUILDING a 'TOAD ABODE'

Toads need a place to cool off during those hot summer days. Rocky retreats for toads can be made by placing stones to form a rocky burrow about 10 centimetres high with a sandy floor where toads can dig. Use small sections of brick drain pipe covered with rock or pieces of concrete blocks broken to allow access to the toad chamber. Even pieces of wood can be used to make toad shelters. Plant ferns to shade the area or, if it is too dry, a garden sprinkler can be used to increase moisture levels.

Some nurseries now sell clay toad shelters, but you can make one yourself out of a large clay flower pot. Just drill a series of holes where you want your toad size opening to be and chip out the drilled section with a hammer (ask an adult for help with this part). Place one or two of these upturned flower pots in shady locations in your garden.

You might also want to put a toad light (1 m high or less) between a plant or rock garden and a lawn area to attract insects for the toads to eat. The light should not be placed near or in a garden though, as it may attract unwanted pests to your garden.



Information from "The Urban Outback – Wetlands for Wildlife: A guide to wetland restoration and frog-friendly backyards" by Gosselin and Johnson, 1995, Metro-Toronto Zoo.

For more info visit the Adopt-a-Pond Programme website:
www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is something special about spring that gives us that desire and compulsion to get outside and look for all those surprises of new plants coming up, birds migrating back and mammals and herps coming out of hibernation. Spring is in full swing and we're on our way to what will prove to be a fun and exciting (and no doubt informative) season of activities thanks to Rodney Fuentes who has taken on the job to co-ordinate our outdoor activities.

This spring will also be a great opportunity for you to come out and join the club with the new direction we are taking for our projects. The PFN board is actively participating in a new restoration umbrella group here in Peterborough headed up by Cathy Dueck at the Peterborough GreenUp. We are fortunate in this area to have access to so many groups that are doing good work with restoration projects and the PFN board is interested in providing opportunities for club members to become more actively involved in these worthwhile hands-on ecological restoration projects that many of these groups are working on. Many of these groups have authorities in the field for the specific restoration project and provide a good opportunity to learn and develop new skills. We would like to start compiling a list of members that are interested in volunteering their time, so if you think you're interested, please contact Mike McMurtry at 748-5353 or email him at mike.mcmurtry@mnr.gov.on.ca if you are interested in making a difference in restoring sites in the Peterborough area to their former natural glory. We will announce various restoration projects and outings in up-coming editions of the Orchid.

Heather Smith

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 June issue:
Saturday, May 21st, 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

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:

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.



ONTARIO ODONATA ATLAS

The Ontario Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) Atlas website (<http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/odonates/atlas.html>) is now available. The Ontario Odonata Atlas is a joint project between the Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), the Toronto Entomologists' Association (TEA) and the editors of *Ontario Odonata*.

The Atlas of Ontario Odonata project was initiated in 1995 by Don Sutherland of the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in an effort to compile all available information on the distribution and abundance of the Odonata of Ontario. In 1996, Matt Holder was contracted by the NHIC to conduct a further survey of Odonata collections at ROM, CNC and University of Guelph, primarily to compile additional specimen data for rare species. Beginning with the 1999 season, as a result of increased interest in dragonflies and damselflies, and in order to have a means of compiling records on an annual basis, Paul Catling, Colin Jones and Paul Pratt began an annual summary of Odonata recorded in Ontario. These records are published by the Toronto Entomologists' Association (TEA) in an annual publication entitled *Ontario Odonata* (see <http://www.ontarioinsects.org/publications.htm>). *Ontario Odonata* also provides a means of publishing papers and notes on interesting observations and behaviour, range extensions, regional lists, and other subjects related to the study of Odonata in Ontario. The Ontario Odonata Atlas Database currently contains over 40,000 geo-referenced records of Odonata from Ontario and each year the records submitted through the annual Ontario Odonata summary (usually 5,000 records or more per year) are added to the Ontario Odonata Atlas database.

The Ontario Odonata Atlas website is hosted on the NHIC website and features distribution maps (plotted by 10x10 km squares) for each of the 167 Odonata species known to occur in Ontario, as well as a few subspecies/forms (e.g. *Aeshna interrupta interrupta* and *A. i. lineata*). Two species new to Ontario that were discovered in 2002 and 2003 (*Somatochlora linearis* and *Neurocordulia michaeli*, respectively) currently do not have maps. The species maps will be updated at least on a yearly basis, following the completion of each year's *Ontario Odonata*

summary, and will be updated shortly with the 2003 summary data. If when viewing the maps, they are automatically resized by your web-browser in order to fit into your window, the text in the legend usually becomes hard to read. If this is the case, simply zoom in and the text becomes readable (this is done by hovering the cursor over the map until the resize symbol appears, and then clicking on the resize symbol).

The site also features background information on the Ontario Odonata Atlas and the annual Ontario Odonata summary, information on how people can contribute records (including a template for data submission), a list of contributors, acknowledgements, and the conservation ranks for Ontario's Odonata.

Additionally, the Ontario Odonata Atlas website contains information on the 2005 Dragonfly Society of the Americas Meeting to be held in Arnprior, Ontario from July 8-12, including information on how to register and the current list of attendees. If you are planning on attending the meeting, please visit the site and follow the instructions on how to register.

With time, the NHIC hopes to add photographs to the website for each of Ontario's species.

For more information contact:

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NATIONAL FOREST WEEK, 1-7 MAY 2005

- from <http://www.canadianforestry.com> and <http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/cfs-scf/NFW/NFW2005>

National Forest Week is a time to reflect on the vital role the forest plays in our daily lives. The first full week of May each year, Natural Resources Canada, through the Canadian Forest Service, celebrates National Forest Week. Canada's forests contribute significantly to the high standard of living, clean air and water that we enjoy. The week was established in 1926 by the Canadian Forestry Association and originally called Forest Fire Prevention Week.

This year's National Forest Week theme focuses on the boreal forest ("The Boreal Forest: A Global Legacy"). Canada's boreal forest stretches across our northland from Newfoundland and Labrador to northeastern British Columbia and up into the Northwest and Yukon Territories. It comprises 70 percent of Canada's entire forest cover and makes up 30 percent of the global boreal forest that circles the northern hemisphere, extending through Norway, Finland, Sweden, Russia, China, Japan and Alaska.

The boreal forest is important to Canada's economy as a source for forest products. It also fulfills important environmental functions by acting as a filter for much of our water, a habitat for wildlife and plants, and a major buffer against the effects of greenhouse gases through its role in the carbon cycle.

National Forest Week challenges Canadians to learn more about their forest heritage and supports the greater recognition of this valuable resource. Here are a few things that you can do to celebrate National Forest Week:

- Arrange a tree planting: www.treecanada.ca
- Take a walk in woods nearby and get to know your forest
- Care for a newly planted or neglected tree, and study its species
- Identify all the things at home or school that are made of wood
- Learn about and support organizations that demonstrate sustainable forest management
- Learn about the prevention of forest fires

In 1992, the Canadian Forest Service launched Canada's Model Forest Program to undertake research and site demonstrations that would help in sustainably managing our forests for the future. The Model Forest Program aims at building partnerships locally, nationally and internationally to generate new ideas on-the-ground, innovative solutions to sustainable forest management issues. Canada's 11 model forests are spread across the country in a variety of forest types. Each is unique and important. To learn more about Canada's model forests, visit: www.modelforest.net.



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, 14 MAY 2005

- from <http://www.birdday.org>

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird -- its journey between its summer and winter homes. Today, it is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day!

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 22 May 2005

- from <http://www.biodiv.org>

The world is changing faster than ever before. Growing human populations and expanding consumption are placing great pressure on biological diversity. This year's theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity is: "Biodiversity: Life Insurance for our Changing World". The theme reminds us that, in addition to providing the physical conditions for all life, biodiversity also plays an important role in protecting life and making it more resilient to the pressures brought about by change.

Biodiversity is the source of essential goods and ecological services that constitute the source of life for all. The annual celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity is an occasion to reflect on our responsibility to safeguard this precious heritage for future generations. Spend some time today contemplating the number of different birds that visit your feeder or the number of different calls you hear at dusk...just enjoy the wonderfully diverse natural world all around you!

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

PFN Board of Directors Meeting – 6 April 2005



Orchid: In future editions of the Orchid we will give members the option of receiving the Orchid via e-mail as a PDF instead of a paper copy through regular mail channels.

Financial: We have experienced a slight increase in club income; however, there are several large expenses expected in the near future which should put us back on budget.

Membership: 116 Orchid issues were mailed to club members in April; 34 memberships have still not been renewed for 2005. The club is averaging one to two new members a month and many are offering to give presentations.

Program: An Earth Day walk will be held on April 22nd. The Sunday morning bird walks start on April 24th. We are still planning a field trip to Ganaraska forest for mid May. Two other field naturalist groups will be participating in this outing and it will cost club \$17 to attend. We will ask members who wish to attend this field trip to contribute money towards paying the PFN's portion of this fee.

Projects: The LWCC open house in Port Hope was held on March 5th and generally went well. It was suggested that we invite the LWCC project coordinator to a meeting to give us an update on the project. We are looking into projects that will give PFN members an opportunity for hands-on participation. One potential project could involve inventory and restoration of a property that the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy is currently acquiring north of Lakefield.

Publicity: We will be up-dating the PFN web-site in the near future. The PFN display at the PTBO Library will be in July (not April as previously reported).

New Business: As in the past, the club will be making a donation to the County Science Fair held at Trent University (donation will include: \$50 cash and \$50 worth of nature-related books).

REPORT ON THE VALUE OF NATURAL CAPITAL IN SETTLED AREAS

A new report, published by Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, urges governments to develop a system that puts a price tag on the services nature provides in our settled areas, before it is too late. Four case studies demonstrate that protecting natural capital in the settled areas of Canada may save society hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars every year. The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.ducks.ca/aboutduc/news/archives/pdf/ncapital.pdf>



The **ORCHID DIARY** for **May 2005**

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

- Mar 23 Jerry Ball reported a **Black Duck** on the Otonabee River and a **Common Grackle** on Drummond Line. Enid Mallory spotted a **Northern Shrike** near Little Lake. Chris Risley and Alan Dextrase had a **Barred Owl**, a **Great Horned Owl**, and **Coyotes** calling as they did an owl survey along Hubble Road. They also saw 3 **Raccoons** and 6 **White-tailed Deer** under a full moon.
- Mar 24 Doug Sadler reported a **Rough-legged Hawk** over his apartment in downtown Peterborough. On a trip around our area Andrew Jobes reports the **Merlin** again in Little Lake, a couple of **Great Gray Owls** on the back roads between Marmora and Peterborough, and his first **Common Grackle** of the year. Colin Jones had a **Killdeer** fly over his house in Lakefield. Don Sutherland again had a **Red Crossbill** near the entry kiosk. He also had a **Brown Creeper**, **Common Ravens** performing courtship aerobatics, and **American Crows** carrying nesting material. Mark Browning reports **Great Blue Herons** examining old nests in the heronry on the large beaver pond just south of Coon Lake.
- Mar 27 Seven **Tundra Swans**, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** (earliest record for Ptbo County) and several **Green-winged Teal** were found amongst many Canada Geese and other ducks, by Jerry Ball in the flooded field at Mathers Corners. He also had **Red-necked Grebe** and **Pied-billed Grebe** on Little Lake. "Angela" had the **Great Gray Owl** back on the Old Keene Road. just south of Assumption. Andrew Jobes and Sue Prentice reported **Common Grackles** back in full force along the Rotary Trail north of Parkhill Rd., and 2 **Turkey Vultures**, and a **Belted Kingfisher**, all along the Otonabee River. The pair of resident Sandhill Cranes returned to the Kent's Bay Rd. area on Monday March 28, near the Otonabee River just south of Campbelltown on Cty Rd. 2.
- Mar 28 Again at Mathers Corners, Jerry Ball had 21 **Northern Pintail**. This number jumped to 43 by the next day. Drew also saw the Pintails plus the 7 **Tundra Swans**, **Eastern Bluebirds**, **Killdeers**, and **Great Blue Herons**. Carrie Sadowski was fortunate to see an **American Bittern** fly low across Hwy 29, just about 100m N of 7th Line Smith, and land in the small cattail marsh (still mostly frozen) on the east side of the highway beating the previous earliest date of April 6.
- Mar 30 Jerry Ball reported 3 **Blue-winged Teal** and an **American Wigeon** on Little Lake, 6 **Pied-billed Grebes** in various places along the Otonabee system, and 2 **Tree Swallows** at the junction of Cty Rd. 6 and Dummer 5th Line. Cathy Darevic also noted two **American Wigeon** on Little Lake. Don Sutherland saw a **Killdeer**, dozens of **Song Sparrows**, and an **Eastern Meadowlark**, and a **Great Blue Heron** flying north whilst walking the trail north of Trent University. Kata Bavrlic and Erica Nol heard about 5 **Song Sparrows**, 2 **Killdeer** and an **Eastern Phoebe** on the east bank of the Otonabee River near the university. Colin Jones reports a small group of **Tree Swallows** over his house in Lakefield. Maureen Smith had her first **Osprey** of the season scouting out the river in Warsaw. **American Woodcock** were seen just south of the airport by Anne Anthony. Martyn Obbard saw **Great Blue Herons** standing on nests at the colony near Sandy Lake. He also had a **Barred Owl** calling in the evening.
- Mar 31 Karen Ness reported that a **Great Gray Owl** was at her son's house on Dummer 3rd Line. Anne Anthony saw a **Common Loon** and 2 **Red-necked Grebes** on Little Lake, a small flock of **Rusty Blackbirds** on Duncan Line, an **Osprey** on one of the nests on County Rd. 2 west of Baillieboro, and **Tree Swallows** over the Otonabee River by Sawyer Creek just south of Lakefield.
- Apr 01 Ed Czerwinski saw a **Fox Sparrow** at his feeder in Stewart Hall
- Apr 02 Drew Monkman watched a small flock of **Tree Swallows** feeding along the Otonabee
- Apr 03 In the Gifford Drive area north of Chemong Lake, John Cavanagh saw 3 **American Kestrels**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, and 2 **Rufous-sided Towhees**. Jerry Ball also had a hybrid **Canada Goose X Snow Goose** at Mathers Corners. Don Sutherland reported hearing a **Merlin** displaying over the Avenues area of downtown Peterborough. Anne Anthony had a **Horned Grebe** in Little Lake. Ed Czerwinski reports a **Fox Sparrow** at his feeder at Stewart Hall.
- Apr 04 Doug Sadler and John Cavanagh saw an **Osprey** on its nest on Cty Rd.2. They also had a **Northern Harrier** and 2 **Purple Finches** in the same area. Doing a wide sweep of the county Jerry Ball had 2 **Fox Sparrows** on McFaddens Rd. in Apsley, 8 **Wild Turkeys** near Lasswade, 2 **Eastern Bluebirds** and a **Northern Shrike** near Oak Lake on Cty Rd. 46, and 2 **Sandhill Cranes** at Mathers Corners.
- Apr 05 Brian Wyatt saw many **Buffleheads**, **Common Goldeneyes**, **Common Mergansers**, as well as 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** and a **Common Loon** at Gannons Narrows. He also saw three **Eastern Bluebirds**, 2 males and a female, a **Savannah Sparrow** and a **Vesper Sparrow** at Chase Hill just north of the narrows. Dan Mansell reported **Purple Finch**, **Tree Swallows** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** passing by his house near Stewarts Hall. Chris Risley and Erica Noll reported our first **Chipping Sparrow**, now resident in their yard on Gilmore St. in Peterborough. They report that it was eating the millet seed which other birds were ignoring. **Chorus Frogs** were heard calling from flooded pastureland by Don Sutherland, on the trail north of Trent University. Also seen by Don were a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, several small flocks of **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, and 3 **Tree Swallows**. Also a student of Erica Nol's made an intriguing report of an adult **Bald Eagle** carrying nest material just north of the Landsdowne St. bridge at the Naval yard south of Little Lake.
- Apr 06 Another student of Erica's, Ben Walters, reported a **Great Egret** south of Hwy 155 near Bensfort Rd.

- A **Belted Kingfisher** and a **Turkey Vulture** were seen along the Old Young's Point Rd. north of Lakefield by John Cavanagh. On Kinsale Rd. in Ennismore, Brian Wyatt saw 3 **Rusty Blackbirds**. Carrie Sadowski listened to her first **Spring Peeper** in a small wetland near her home on the 7th Line of Smith, and an **American Woodcock** displayed over an adjacent field. In a run-off pond on the Duoro 8th Line Tony Bigg found 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs** (earliest record for Ptbo County) along with 4 **Green-winged Teals**. He also had 2 **Double-crested Cormorants** and a **Common Loon** just north of Lock 25 near Lakefield. His garden provided looks at a **Fox Sparrow**, **Purple Finch**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. Erica Nol reports that the Merlin is back in her neighbourhood where one nested last year. She saw it in the top of a blue spruce at the corner of Park and Hunter St. West. Mike McMurtry had a good morning at Little Lake seeing **Red-necked Grebe**, **Horned Grebe**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Common Loon**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Bufflehead**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Common Merganser**, **Mallard**, **Canada Goose**, and **Ring-billed Gull**.
- Apr 07 Dan Mansell had a great day at his home in Dick's Hill west of Stewart's Hall. He had a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, a pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** (regular there), and 9 **Wild Turkeys**, 2 displaying males and 7 females. Elaine Bell saw 13 **Wild Turkeys** parading single file across a field off Sherbrooke St., on Longview Dr. Ptbo. They may have made their home in a small woods at the bottom of this street.
- Apr 08 John Cavanagh reported a **Fox Sparrow** at his feeder in Fowler's Corners. Jerry Ball found a **Greater Yellowlegs** on a mud-flat in Baxter Creek alongside Cedar Valley Rd. of Hwy 28 south of Peterborough. Anne Anthony and Maureen Smith found 4 **Snow Geese** at the Briar Hill pond on Cty Rd. 21 just west of Hwy 28. A few **Wood Frogs** were heard calling half-heartedly last evening from the pond north of Martyn Obbard's house west of Buckhorn.
- Apr 09 Anne Anthony had a **Hermit Thrush** in her backyard in Peterborough. Drew Monkman reports he has **Coltsfoot** in bloom in his garden. Don Sutherland had a **Blue-headed Vireo** (earliest record for Ptbo County) singing at the entrance to the Petroglyphs PP. Other birds seen or heard in the park included: **Brown Creeper** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (many singing), **Purple Finch** (several singing), **Winter Wren**, **Eastern Phoebe**, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (several calling/drumming), **Chipping Sparrow** (1, singing), **Fox Sparrow** (1, singing), **Dark-eyed Junco** (several singing), **Pine Siskin** (several flyovers, calling), **Evening Grosbeak** (2 flyovers, calling), and **Hermit Thrush** (1), along with many of the usual residents. John Fisher reported the pair of **Merlins** on the very tall spruce near the intersection of Aylmer and Geraldine. Drew Monkman saw a **Mourning Cloak** flying along Maple Crescent in the west end of the city.
- Apr 10 Karen Ness reports the **Great Gray Owl** back at Duoro 3rd Line, Warsaw.
- Apr 11 Dan Mansell reports a pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** displaying to each other, **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** displaying, and female **Purple Finches** feeding on honeysuckle buds.
- Apr 12 Along the rail trail north of Trent University Don Sutherland heard both **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** singing. Also seen/heard were **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, **Northern Flicker**, **Tree Swallow** (lots), **Pine Siskin** (1 flyover, calling), good choruses of **Chorus Frog** along with a few **Wood Frogs**.
- Apr 13 David Swales had two **Fox Sparrows** on the ground beneath his feeder in the city on Westbrook Drive.
- Apr 14 A **Mink** was seen by Monika and Seren Tan on the little bit of ice right at the Lakefield Lock. It was surprisingly unafraid of the humans watching it. Wasyl Bakowsky saw an **Osprey** diving into the goldfish pond behind the MNR building.
- Apr 15 Jerry Ball found a **Pine Warbler** at Young's Point.
- Apr 16 Don Sutherland recorded the following birds of interest in Petroglyphs PP - **Pine Warbler** (8), **Sandhill Crane** (1), a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Barn Swallow** (2), **Wild Turkey** (10), **Swamp Sparrow** (1), **Blue-headed Vireo** (1), **Hermit Thrush** (3), **Chipping Sparrow** (1), **Eastern Towhee** (1), **Pine Siskin** (1, flyover calling) and a **Pileated Woodpecker** excavating a nest. He also saw one **Spring Azure** and **The Infant** (*Archieris infans*), **Midland Painted Turtle** (26 in one pond, 4 in another) and a small vernal pool with lots of **Fairy Shrimp** (*Eubranchipus* sp., probably *bundyi*).
- Apr 17 Jerry Ball and Drew Monkman spent a full day birding in Peterborough County and saw a total of 73 species. The highlight of their day was an adult **Bald Eagle** on the osprey nest on Lake Katchewanooka. In addition to the eagle, birds of interest included **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Pine Warbler**, **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, **both kinglets**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **Swamp Sparrow**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **Eastern Bluebird**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Winter Wren**, **Evening Grosbeak** and **Northern Pintail** (Mather's Corners). They found at least six **Infant Moths**. There were also **Chorus and Wood Frogs** calling in numerous locations. On Sandy Lake Rd., they found a **Red-bellied Snake**, sunning itself on the road.
- Apr 18 Dan Mansell had a pair of **Sandhill Cranes** passing overhead at their house on Dick's Hill west of Stewart Hall. Enid and Gord Mallory had two **Northern Harriers** doing dramatic courtship aerobatics just North of the rail trail between Lily Lake and Achison Road. Michael Ecob sighted a pair of **Common Loons** on L. Katchewanooka near the marsh area on the west side of Hague Pt, Lakefield.
- Apr 19 Andrew Jobes heard **American Toads** singing from his bedroom window in Donwood
- Apr 22 Karen Gowanlock watched from the MNR building in Peterborough as an **Osprey** captured a goldfish from the pond behind the building. It then flew away and then dropped the goldfish in the Otonabee River.
- Apr 23 Tony Bigg watched the pair of **Merlins** copulating in Little Lake Cemetery.
- Apr 24 Martyn Obbard reports a DOR **Blue-spotted Salamander** on the road by his house.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Heather Smith – 533 Paterson St, Ptbo, K9J 4P9	heatheraesmith@yahoo.ca	749-0304
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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 _____