



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

<p>Wednesday April 14th 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Why did the frog cross the road?" Christina M. Fridgen, a Ph.D Candidate at Trent University, will give a presentation covering amphibian calls and local issues influencing amphibian population health including road crossing, spread of virus and chytrid fungus and pesticide use. Location: Peterborough Public Library</p>
<p>Sundays April 11th to May 30th</p>	<p>Spring Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks Walks normally last around three hours and take in one or more sites. Each is led by a member who is an experienced ornithologist. As well as bird watching there will be opportunities to explore local habitats and encounter a wide range of flora and fauna. Unless otherwise indicated, we meet at the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo, on Water Street at 8.am. and carpool from there. Bring some change to contribute for gas and don't forget to bring binoculars. Destinations are usually confirmed near the time.</p> <p>Schedule of walk leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 11th Drew Monkman April 18th leader tba April 25th leader tba May 2nd Mike McMurtry (meet at Jackson Park - see Jane's Walk, below) May 9th Tony Bigg May 16th John Bottomley May 23rd leader tba May 30th Jerry Ball (all-day trip to Carden Plain, 7a.m. start, details below)

The 40th anniversary of Earth Day is April 22, 2010

COMING EVENTS continued

<p>May 2nd</p> <p>Meet in the Jackson's Park parking lot (intersection of Parkhill & Monaghan)</p> <p>8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Jane's Walk - Nature in the City: Jackson's Park</p> <p>Join walk leader Mike McMurtry for the PFN Jane's Walk. Experience early migrant songbirds and wildflowers and talk about natural areas in Peterborough. We'll start by listening for Pine Warblers in the tall White Pines next to the parking lot. Then we'll make our way down the ravine slope to the trails of Jackson's Park, listening for other birds, looking for wildflowers and enjoying the spring weather. Along the way we'll talk about our favourite natural areas in Peterborough, the functions they provide and how we can to maintain them in the future. Bring your binoculars, a coat in case it rains, and walking shoes. All ages are welcome. The walk will be about 2 km in length and take about 1-2 hours.</p> <p>Jane's Walks are in honour of Jane Jacobs, well-known writer and defender of the interests of local residents and pedestrians over a car-centered approach to planning. For more general information on Jane's Walks, check out the website at http://janeswalk.net/.</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p>May 12th</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting</p> <p>Did you know there is a Fisheries & Oceans Office in Peterborough? Tracy Allison works there and will be sharing with us information about her job and how various land use projects affect fish habitat.</p> <p>Location: Peterborough Public Library</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>May 30th</p> <p>7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Meet in the Sobey's Parking lot (Lansdowne)</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA)</p> <p>An all-day visit to the Carden Plain, an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Jerry Ball will guide us through this globally rare habitat is only 65km from Peterborough. The trip offers the chance of seeing such birds as the Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-wing warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Blue Bird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher. Bring some lunch, water and binoculars. Meet at Sobey's parking lot on Lansdowne Street at 7a.m.</p>

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

<p>Sunday</p> <p>April 25th</p> <p>2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Earth Day at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre</p> <p>The JFN will hold their April outing on April 25th at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre at 2:00pm to mark the recent Earth Day with a variety of nature activities, some weather experiments and some alternative energy activities. If possible, we will see if Glen Caradus can come and help us build limberjacks. Spring will have sprung, let's see what's stirring....Neil&Dan</p>
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Other Events of Interest

<p>April 9th, 10th, 11th Evinrude Centre</p>	<p>Peterborough Garden Show "for the Love of Gardening" will take place April 9, 10, 11th at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd., Peterborough. Admission \$5. Over 150 vendors & exhibitors, prestigious garden lecturers, floral arrangements and demonstrations.</p>
<p>Monday April 12th 7 - 9 p.m. Ptbo Public Library</p>	<p>Peterborough Green-Up presents: "Health and the Outdoors" 7:00 - Get Outdoors; Get Involved! Looking for ideas for things to do in the outdoors in Peterborough? Get acquainted with some great local people and programs to help you thrive in the fresh air. Trails, gardens, hikes, planting, cycling and more... make the most of your summer this year. 7:30 - "Well Grounded: The Unexpected Benefits of Being Close to Nature" We welcome Brenlee Robinson of the Ontario Urban Forest Council for a fascinating discussion of why vibrant greenspaces make us healthier and happier. You'll be astounded by the results of recent research! This uplifting and empowering presentation is suitable for interested laypeople, outdoor enthusiasts, environmentalists, urban planners and others. 8:30 - Discussion, Displays, Get Acquainted</p>
<p>Saturday April 10</p>	<p>KTTC Annual General Meeting Each year the KTTC has an annual general meeting to update its members on the activities of the past year, as well as plans for the coming year. Although you don't have to be a member to attend the AGM, you do need to be a member to vote at the meeting. You can purchase KTTC memberships through the online store: http://www.kawarthaturtle.org/online_store.php</p>
<p>Tuesday April 13th</p>	<p>The annual Peterborough Regional Science Fair will be hosted by Trent University. Local school students of all ages will be displaying and talking about science projects that they have been working on. Projects in each category win prizes and the best of the older students win a place in the Canada-Wide Science Fair. For further details go to: http://peterboroughsciencefair.org/</p>
<p>April 18 & April 25 Peterborough Museum & Archives Lecture Series</p>	<p>Peterborough Museum & Archives "Words on the Hill" Lecture Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 18: Finis Dunaway (talking about the very first Earth Day, 40 years ago) • April 25: Julia Harrison (talking about the Middle Class at the Cottage). <p>All lectures are held at the Museum (300 Hunter Street, East) (705)743-5180. Cost is \$5 per person. Admission includes a catered reception after the lecture - catering by Electric City Gardens. Each event takes place from 2-4pm on their respective Sundays. The lectures are usually about an hour and then about an hour for the reception. http://www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca/whatson.htm</p>
<p>Sunday April 25 1 - 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Ecology Park Market Opening Day for the Ecology Park Market. Stock up on compost, buy a native tree, enjoy the trails and fresh air!</p>
<p>Wednesday April 28 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Peterborough Horticultural Society's hosts their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 28th at the Peterborough Public Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 for socializing and refreshments. This month's guest speaker will be Paula Anderson and her subject will be Organic Vegetable Gardening.</p>

Other Events of Interest

<p>May 1 & May 2</p> <p>10 am – 4 pm</p>	<p>Adopt-A-Pond’s 11th Annual Spring Toad Festival at the Americas Wetlands The Spring Toad Festival takes place every year on the last weekend of April and/or the first weekend in May at America's Wetlands at the Toronto Zoo. This festival is hosted by the Adopt-A-Pond Programme and celebrates the American Toad and arrival of spring. The frenzied breeding activity of the American Toad at America's Wetlands during the festival makes for a valuable educational experience. There are a variety of activities to teach visitors about amphibians and wetlands. As part of Toad Festival, Frogwatch-Ontario is also introduced as a way visitors can get involved in wetland conservation in their communities within Ontario. Visit the EVENTS section on the Zoo’s website (http://www.torontozoo.com) to find out more!</p>
<p>May 14</p> <p>7-10 pm</p>	<p>The Art of the Turtle - A Fundraiser for the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre Peterborough Public Library Auditorium (345 Aylmer Street North, Peterborough) Tickets \$30/\$20 for KTTC members. Memberships and tickets for sale online: http://www.kawarthaturtle.org/online_store.php Tickets also available at Titles Bookstore, 379 George St. Ptbo.</p>
<p>May 16</p> <p>9-10:30 am</p>	<p>Peterborough Green-Up Spring Birding Walk (meet in the parking lot at Beavermead Park off Ashburnham Drive). Back by popular demand, Sue Prentice and Andrew Jobses will lead a discovery walk of the various urban habitats at Beavermead and the Ecology Park. Novice birders are especially welcome. Mid May is the height of bird migration in this area so you can expect to see plenty of warblers, thrushes, sparrows and perhaps some surprises.. They’ll also discuss migration behaviours and mechanisms of navigation as well as the impact of climate change on migratory birds. Rain or shine, come dressed for the weather and bring binoculars if you can.</p>
<p>May 23</p> <p>1-4 pm</p>	<p>Ecology Park Spring Plant Sale Beautiful native plants, heirloom tomatoes and much more at this popular annual fundraiser. Give you garden a boost and support local environmental education at the same time!</p>
<p>May 28-31 & June 3-6</p>	<p>Huron Fringe Birding Festival The Huron Fringe Birding Festival is held annually on the first two weekends after the May 24th long weekend. This eight-day Birding and Nature Festival is uniquely placed to explore the Huron Fringe coastline of Lake Huron and the Bruce Peninsula. Mornings are usually filled with guided hikes both in and outside the Park concentrating on not only birds, but wildflowers, butterflies and insects. Afternoons are filled with additional hikes, workshops covering bird identification, nature photography, and enough various natural interests to please everyone. Evenings are highlighted by illustrated programs featuring excellent speakers, night hikes and "Owl Prowls". Visit http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org for more information.</p>
<p>June 4 - 6</p>	<p>Carden Nature Festival Visit http://cardenguide.com/index.php/carden-nature-festival for more information.</p>

PFN Sunday Spring Outing - March 14, 2010

- by Tony Bigg, Trip Leader

On a cool spring day which started out wet but slowly improved as the day went on, a group of eight members met at 8 a.m.. We drove south to Cobourg harbour and worked west along the Lake Ontario shoreline as far as Hall's Rd in Whitby. The small number of birds seen in Cobourg harbour was indicative of how the most of the day would go. The only ducks present were Mallard, American Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Long-tailed Duck, Greater Scaup, and a female Ruddy Duck. Port Hope was again disappointing only adding Red-breasted Merganser to our waterfowl sightings. The road to Bond Head was more rewarding with sightings, amongst other more common birds, of Horned Lark, and the author's first Brown-headed Cowbird of the year. At Bond Head Mute Swan, Hooded Merganser, and Great Black-backed Gull were added to our list. We then left the shore for a quick drive along the 401 to Hall's Rd in Whitby where the number of sightings improved. Here we added our first White-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Harrier, and Gadwall for the day. Whilst backtracking to Thickson's Wood we encountered a Northern Mockingbird and an American Kestrel. In Thickson's Wood everybody enjoyed a good view of the resident Great Horned Owl, and we also added Cooper's Hawk, Brown Creeper, House Finch, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. Despite the slow start a total of 44 species were seen, only four less than in 2009.

Trip List:

Canada Goose	Mute Swan
Gadwall	American Black Duck
Mallard	Greater Scaup
Long-tailed Duck	Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye	Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser	Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck	Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel	Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull	Great Black-backed Gull
Rock Dove	Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl	Downy Woodpecker
Blue Jay	American Crow
Horned Lark	Black-capped Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch	White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper	American Robin
Northern Mockingbird	European Starling
American Tree Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco	Northern Cardinal
Red-winged Blackbird	Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird	House Finch
American Goldfinch	House Sparrow

Spring Birds

- by June Hitchcox, for *The Apsley Voice* (www.apsleyvoice.com)

It is interesting having these articles in "The Apsley Voice", and, by permission, also in "The Peterborough Field Naturalists" and "The Hamilton Naturalists" monthly newsletters and a Burlington Birding Group called "Larks". The last article was about migrating birds expected in March. I received an email, February 15, from one of the Larks, saying that the move had already started: 2 Killdeer in Toronto; Red-winged Blackbirds and Cowbirds at Long Point; a dozen Robins singing their Spring song; a Chickadee calling "Sweetie"; House Finches and Cardinals singing and a Woodcock. Peterborough reported its first Robin 17 days later - about March 4. Here, in Burlington, I heard Robins singing their Spring song March 1 and Mourning Doves their "coo-coo-coo" since March 3, one bird deep in a Blue Spruce probably staking out his territory and calling for a wife. About the same time, a House Sparrow took over the gourd nest box hanging from my eaves outside the living room window. He chirps at me when I walk by. Thursday, March 4, as I drove along one of Oakville's main streets, a Turkey Vulture flew over the car, flying low, hoping for a road kill. Turkey Vultures learned that animals are killed on roads and these smart birds started to follow roads, taking them into new northern territory. They adapt well to new situations - no wonder they have survived for millions of years. They were never seen in North Bay, my home town, when I was growing up - not many vehicles in the 1930's. A friend and I visited LaSalle Park, Burlington, on March 5. Bev Kingdon, the Trumpeter Swan Lady, had told us that these swans were congregating there, as they do each year, before their flight to nesting grounds now in the southern half of Ontario. They were successfully reintroduced in the 1980's, after being killed-off a century ago in Ontario. There they were, being fed whole kernel corn by adults and children, the food that gives them the most energy. Trumpeters have pure black bills unlike most swans that have some orange on the bill. Perhaps you are already enjoying them in the Apsley area. The 2001-5 Birding Atlas showed them to be very close-by at that time. Google for the story: [Bev Kingdon Pig Pen](#)

Calling All Teen Birders!

-by Elaine Secord, *Bird Studies Canada*, from *Nature Network News* (March 15, 2010)

Bird Studies Canada Invites Teen Birders to Apply for the 2010 YOW! The 2010 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund's Young Ornithologists' Workshop will be held at Long Point Bird Observatory near Port Rowan, Ontario, from Friday, July 30 to Sunday, August 8. Participants will receive hands-on field ornithology training, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 30, 2010. For more information and an application form, email lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit the Bird Studies Canada website at www.birdscanada.org/longpoint.

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the May issue: Sunday, April 25th, 2010

Please send all submissions to: **Rebecca Zeran, PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7**
or via e-mail to: rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca

Birding for Conservation with the Baillie Birdathon

-by Kristine Dobney, Bird Studies Canada, from Nature Network News (March 15, 2010)

Spring is coming soon, and bringing with it the wonderful return of our migrant birds. The annual Baillie Birdathon is your chance to have fun birding while helping Canada's wild birds. It is also your opportunity to raise funds for your naturalist club. The Birdathon is an important fundraiser for Bird Studies Canada (BSC), and participants can also designate the conservation organization of their choice to receive a portion of the money they raise (from 25-50%, depending on the total amount raised for the club). BSC is Canada's only national charitable organization dedicated to advancing the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of wild birds and their habitats. BSC coordinates the event and handles the administration, including issuing income tax receipts to all sponsors.

You don't need to be an expert birder to get involved in the Birdathon. Participants simply collect sponsor pledges, and then spend up to 24 hours in May searching for as many species of birds as possible. You can bird for just a few hours on your own from your backyard, or challenge other club members to a friendly competition. Some fantastic prizes are available to be won by participants, including an all-inclusive trip through Eagle-Eye Tours, or a pair of binoculars or spotting scope from Eagle Optics. Participants also receive an official Baillie Birdathon t-shirt just for registering!

Many great things have been accomplished for birds through the Baillie Birdathon. This national fundraiser has provided important finances to local clubs for everything from land purchases and habitat work to bird feeding trails and youth nature camps. Funds received by Bird Studies Canada are used to support Canada-wide volunteer surveys that track bird population changes over time, such as Project FeederWatch and the Christmas Bird Count, as well as owl surveys, beached bird surveys, Species at Risk projects, and much more. BSC scientists use this information to draw attention to serious declines and assist with conservation planning. The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund also receives a portion of revenues for its granting program to support special research projects.

For more information and to register, visit Bird Studies Canada's web page at:

www.birdscanada.org/support/birdathon or contact Kristine Dobney at 1-888-448-2473, or email birdathon@birdscanada.org. Baillie Birdathon registration forms, kits, and brochures are available upon request.

U.S. State of the Birds 2010

-from Bird Studies Canada Latest News – 19 March 2010, www.bsc-eoc.org

The United States' Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the release of the *State of the Birds 2010* report at a press conference on March 11. The publication follows a comprehensive report published a year ago, which indicated that nearly a third of the 800 bird species of the U.S. are endangered, threatened, or in significant decline. The 2010 report concludes that climate change threatens to further imperil hundreds of species of migratory birds, already under stress from habitat loss, invasive species, and other environmental threats.

The publication is the product of a collaborative effort as part of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, between federal and state wildlife agencies and several scientific and conservation organizations. Visit <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/> for more information and to read the full report.

The case for a Greenway of interconnected natural areas in southern and eastern Ontario

-from an e-blast by Ontario Nature, http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/habitat/greenway_eblast_1.php

By declaring 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, the United Nations challenged us to do our part to chart a new course for protecting our natural heritage. With this in mind, Ontario Nature is excited to announce the release of our *Green Way Forward* report, which examines provincial policies aimed at natural heritage protection in southern Ontario relating to biodiversity, planning, aggregate extraction, environmental assessment, and land use.

This comprehensive report is a milestone in our campaign to protect Ontario's rich diversity of plant and animal life; it puts forward our vision for policy reform to support a Greenway of interconnected natural areas across southern and eastern Ontario.

Why is a Greenway important? A Greenway will conserve sensitive ecosystems, protect waterways, improve air and soil quality, protect and restore natural areas for wildlife and species at risk, enhance human health and well-being and, critically, enable wildlife to adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change.

In the *Green Way Forward*, Ontario Nature presents 24 recommendations that address the problems underlying current provincial policies aimed at natural heritage protection.

According to the report, Ontario can no longer afford, either economically or ecologically, to use a piecemeal approach to natural heritage protection. As the province's human population grows, and the likelihood of negative impacts from climate change increases, we need courageous and forward thinking initiatives like the Greenway to safeguard the biodiversity of southern and eastern Ontario.

Attention Bird Watchers!

-by Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, NRDC & Miyoko Chu, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, from Nature Network News (March 15, 2010)

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Cornell Lab of Ornithology we would like your help in our project, We Love Birds.org. We are launching a new social networking site to attract bird-lovers and bird-watchers. This site is a joint effort of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You will see that BSN member BirdLife International has already contributed a news feed to the site. You can visit the site at www.welovebirds.org. Please go ahead and join the site and give us your feedback.

Our launch date was February 11 - in time for the Great Backyard Bird Count. WeLoveBirds is meant to be a place where bird lovers can come to post blogs about their bird watching activities, post photos, and connect to other bird lovers. We invite your ideas about outreach and your comments on the site. We would also be interested in talking further with you about ideas you may have for coordination around this initiative. Your thoughts are welcome as we launch this exciting new project. Please let us know if you are interested as we would like to speak with each of you in more detail about your ideas. Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, NRDC, tel: 202-289-2366, sclefkowitz@nrdc.org Miyoko Chu, Cornell Lab, tel: 607-254-2451, mcc37@cornell.edu

Finis Dunaway

“Crisis and Renewal: The First Earth Day and the Visual Politics of American Environmentalism”



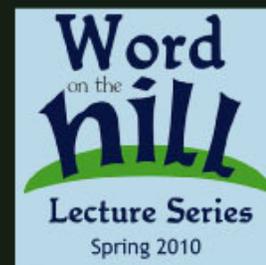
Sunday,
Apr. 18^{'10}
2-4 pm
at the
**Peterborough
Museum &
Archives**

April 22 will mark the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. This lecture will look at a wide range of visual images - including photographs in popular magazines, political posters, editorial cartoons, advertisements, and television news - to consider how Americans imagined, understood, and argued over the meanings of the environmental crisis during a pivotal moment in the history of modern environmentalism.

Limited Seating.
Order your tickets
at the Museum.
705.743.5180
Tickets: \$5 each



Peterborough Museum & Archives
Located in Ashburnham Memorial Park
Museum Drive, 300 Hunter Street, East
Peterborough, ON. 705.743.5180
www.peterboroughmuseumandarchives.ca





"A Gift from My Creator" by Freddy Taylor

The Art of the Turtle

A Fundraiser for the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre
Friday May 14, 2010, 7 -10 pm

Peterborough Public Library Auditorium
345 Aylmer Street North, Peterborough

A contemporary symbol of a healthy ecosystem and our Mother Earth, turtles are a universally-loved creature of the wild and the subject of many stories & myths worldwide. "The Art of the Turtle" will showcase a diversity of original art created by talented artists. Join us for an enjoyable evening of fine art, music, cocktails and elegant finger food! You will have an opportunity to acquire a beautiful work of "Turtle Art" by silent or live auction.

From 7 to 10 pm, viewing begins at 6
Silent auction ongoing, followed by live auction at 9
All proceeds support the work of the KTTC
Tickets \$30/\$20 for KTTC members



Seven of the eight turtle species in Ontario are classified as "at risk" and most turtle populations are declining. Since June of 2002 the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre has been saving injured native turtles and releasing them back into their natural habitat. The KTTC, located in Peterborough, is a registered Canadian charity and is largely funded by private donations. Your interest and financial support of our rehabilitation and recovery efforts will greatly help turtles in Ontario. You can help by becoming a member, volunteer or report turtle sightings.

Tickets available at Titles Bookstore, 379 George St. Ptbo

Also for tickets or info please contact Annita Newell fundraising@kawarthaturtle.org,
Anne Trimm 749-2269, Tracy McNaught(905)640-7367 (tmcnaught@bell.net)
or www.kawarthaturtle.org

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YOUTH SUMMIT FOR BIODIVERSITY



The year 2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Biodiversity is the rich diversity of all the life forms on this planet. Wildlife depend on healthy ecosystems that contain a range of plants and animals, and so do people.

In keeping with UNEP's efforts to raise awareness about the critical importance of biodiversity for a healthy planet, Ontario Nature is hosting the 2010 Youth Summit for Biodiversity.

WHAT IS IT? The Youth Summit will bring together high-school aged people from across Ontario to learn about the variety of life in our province, its importance to the health of the planet, and ways to protect it.

Guest speakers will discuss the challenges of preserving biodiversity for the next generation. Workshops led by inspirational youth leaders and nature experts will provide an opportunity to learn from one another and from those who have made a significant contribution to conservation.

WHERE: Camp Cedar Glen in Schomberg, ON
(www.ymcatoronto.org)

WHEN: Friday, June 4th to Sunday, June 6th, 2010.

CONTACT: For more information about the 2010 Youth Summit for Biodiversity, please contact Gabe Camozzi at gabec@ontarionature.org or by phone at 416-444-8419 x 241.



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The **ORCHID DIARY** for **21 Feb - 25 March 2010**

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, tanddbigg@sympatico.ca

Once again we welcome the first of the spring migrants. All seem to be arriving at their normal times despite the early warm weather.

- Feb 28 The **Fox Sparrow** and **American Robins** continue to visit Sue Paradisis's yard on Tudor Crescent near Beavermede. The birds at her feeder are now being harassed by a **Cooper's Hawk** In the morning, Enzo DiMatteo spotted two **River Otters** out on Buckhorn Lake. It looked like they may have been fishing near an unfrozen section of the causeway near Buckhorn village when a **Common Raven** arrived. One of the otters spent a few minutes shooing the raven away, who seemed very interested in whatever nibbles the otters had dragged onto the ice.
- Mar 02 Luke Berg reported that on Nassau Road in Peterborough, there were 100 **Bohemian Waxwings**, and the **Merlins** were back at his house (near Inverlea Park),
- Mar 04 The **Northern Hawk Owl** was reported as still present but had moved about 500m north of Baillieboro, reports John Bottomley.
- Mar 11 Tony Bigg saw two male **Red-winged Blackbirds** taking up their posts on the cattails in the Lakefield Marsh. A pair of **Merlins** was flying around the campsite with the male calling. A **Killdeer** flew overhead, also vocal. Four male and one female **Hooded Mergansers**, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** were on the lake. And the pair of **Bald Eagles** could be seen sitting by their nest out on the island. Colin Jones reported a **Common Grackle** in Lakefield, and VicHenderson reported one in the south-east of Peterborough. Ken Rumble also had a busy day of sightings with **Ring-necked ducks**, **Common Goldeneye**, **Bufflehead**, and **Common Mergansers** in Little Lake at 8:00 a.m., 25 to 30 **Wild Turkeys** just off Beardsmore Drive at 9:00 a.m., **Hooded Mergansers** and **Merlin** at noon by the Little Lake Cemetery, and 15 **American Robins** and a **Red-winged Blackbird** in Ford Crescent, Cavan, at 6:00 p.m.
- Mar 12 Colin Jones reported that the number of **Red-winged Blackbirds** had risen to 25 in the Lakefield Marsh. A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen by Jerry Ball where Miller Creek crosses Young's Point Rd. He also had a **Merlin** eating prey on Perry St in Peterborough
- Mar 14 Jerry Ball found a **Hooded Merganser** in Squirrel's Creek, and a **Pied-billed Grebe** in the Otonabee River by the Riverview Zoo..
- Mar 15 A **Song Sparrow** was heard singing by Colin Jones near the viewing tower at Lakefield Marsh. **Northern Pintail** were seen by Jerry Ball in the run-off pond at Mathers corners
- Mar 16 A trip to Petroglyphs PP by Colin Jones and his kids noted a **Killdeer** flying over, at least six **Brown Creepers**, several **Red-winged Blackbirds**, and one **Red Crossbill** calling in flight. He also saw his first butterfly of the year, a **Compton's Tortoiseshell**., and, in Woodview, a **Big Brown Bat**, flying over the road. A **Mourning Cloak** butterfly was seen by Don Finigan in his yard on Gallagher St in Peterborough. **American Wigeon** and **Wood Duck** were seen at Mathers Corners by Jerry Ball
- Mar 17 Colin Jones reports a **Milbert's Totoiseshell** butterfly by the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Touring the county Jerry Ball had a busy day sighting a **Killdeer** on Cty Rd 504, two **Moose** on Sandy Lake Rd, three **Mourning Cloaks**, three **Eastern Commas**, and one **Compton's Tortoiseshell** on Hubble Rd., a **Big Brown Bat** on Mill st. in Keene, and five **Tundra Swans** at Mathers Corners.
- Mar 18 Five **Tundra Swans** were seen by Colin Jones on Chemong Lake on the Ennismore side. Touring the south of the county Tony Bigg saw a half-a-dozen **Northern Pintails** in the run-off pond at Mather's Corners on County Rd 2, in with many **Canada Geese**, **Mallards**, and six **American Black Ducks**. He also saw a **Groundhog** in a field just west of Mather's Corners, a late **Northern Shrike** near the junction of Cty Rd 2 and Wood Duck Drive (Hall Landing), an American Kestrel by Cty Rd 21 at Squirrel Creek, and a **Northern Harrier** just east of Cty Rd 28 on Moncrief Line.
- Mar 19 Two **American Woodcocks** were heard calling in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary by Tony Bigg, one over the new Kawartha Nature Centre (7:40 p.m.), and one by the main TWS parking lot (7:55 p.m.). In the afternoon in the TWS, Stephen Bigg photographed a male **Eastern Bluebird** by the bluebird/swallow boxes. Jerry Ball found a **Ruffed Grouse** on Tie's Mountain Rd, and a pair of **Eastern Bluebirds** on Belmont Tsp 7th Line. He also saw **Coltsfoot** blooming on the Galway-Cavendish Access Rd

- Mar 20 About 160 **Ring-necked Ducks** and two male **American Wigeon** were seen by Tony Bigg at the north edge of Lakefield Marsh, along with a few **Canada Geese, Mallards, Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes,** and **Buffleheads**.
- Mar 21 Rick Stankiewicz spotted a male **Northern Harrier** in a field one concession west of Keene on Cty Rd2. Sheila Hal had three **Pine Siskins** visiting her feeder on Westview Point Rd (off Cty Rd 20 by Chemong Lake). A **Green-winged Teal** was seen by Jerry Ball at Mathers Corners.
- Mar 22 Two **Sandhill Cranes** were watched by Jerry Ball as they flew over Mathers Corners. Jerry also saw two **Great Blue Herons** on their nest at the south end of Drummond Line.
- Mar 23 Near the junction of Baseline and David Fife Line, Jerry Ball saw two **Sandhill Cranes,** an **Eastern Meadowlark** , and a late **Northern Shrike**.
- Mar 25 Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball watched a **Little Brown Bat** flying in daylight over Cty Rd 46 north of Round Lake.



Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Membership in the Peterborough Naturalists gets you: a yearly subscription to the Orchid, enrolment in the Junior Field Naturalists for your children, notices advising you of interesting presentations and nature outings, knowledge that you are supporting a long-standing local club focusing on the appreciation and conservation of nature. Membership fees are used by the club in many ways, including the support of local initiatives that research, rehabilitate, and protect nature in all its forms.

PFN Officers and Directors			
President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
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Other Volunteers		
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Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	





PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

www.peterboroughnature.org

membership application form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing completed form and cheque to Peterborough Field Naturalists PO Box 1532, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H7

CONTACT

Name (s):		Home Tel:	
		Work Tel:	
Address:		Email(s):	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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

*Membership with 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 the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age	Name	Age

MAIN INTERESTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Butterflies/insects	<input type="checkbox"/> Botany (Wildflowers/trees/shrubs)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

I (name _____) am knowledgeable in the following areas _____ and would be prepared to

- lead an outdoor session
 give a 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 GROUP

This information helps us to understand the needs of our members. If a family membership, please check for each adult

Under 20
 20-29
 30-39
 40-49
 50-59
 60-69
 70-79
 80< over

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: _____