



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>Sundays</p> <p>April 10th to May 29th</p> <p>Meet in parking lot of Ptbo Zoo</p> <p>8:00 am</p>	<p>Spring Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks</p> <p>These popular walks will take place every Sunday from April 10th to May 29th, unless otherwise advertised. Most will start at 8.00a.m. We will normally carpool from the parking lot of Peterborough Zoo on Water Street. The outings generally last around three hours in total. Bring some change to donate toward gas costs and remember binoculars. In most cases the destination(s) will be confirmed on the day.</p> <p>Walk leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 10th - Tony Bigg - April 17th - Mike McMurtry ("Birds and early spring flowers") - April 24th - Jerry Ball - May 1st - John Bottomley - May 8th - Jayne's Walk (see separate entry) - May 15th - Drew Monkman - May 22nd - Jerry Ball - May 29th - Jerry Ball (all-day trip to the Carden Plain, see separate entry)
<p>Wednesday April 13th</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ptbo Public Library</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Sustainability Plan for Peterborough"</p> <p>The Greater Peterborough Area has recently embarked on the formal development of a Sustainability Plan. These planning initiatives are developed through, and shaped by, community input. James Knott of Sustainable Peterborough will attend our April meeting to get input from club members. To get the discussion started he will draw from his experiences in Norfolk County to provide examples of outcomes (as they relate to our natural environment) that can arise from the pursuit of sustainability.</p>

COMING EVENTS continued

<p>Friday April 22nd 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Martin's Peep Show The sign of spring is filling the night air with the calls of frogs and toads. On this outing Martin Parker will be visiting a number of locations in the Peterborough Region to listen for the songs of our spring calling frogs and toads. We will hear choruses of Spring Peepers and, hopefully, Chorus Frogs, Gray Tree Frogs and American Toads. Meet at the northern parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 7.00pm. See page 8 for information on some of the species that we might hear.</p>
<p>Saturday April 30th 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Sky Dance of the Timber-Doodle An evening outing to watch the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle: a spring spectacular in this region. The American Woodcock has an elaborate courtship display which consists of a calling on the ground and then a spiral flight into the sky and a fluttering flight to the ground. With leader Martin Parker, we will visit a location where we can watch the display. Meet at the northern parking lot at the Peterborough Zoo at 7.00pm.</p>
<p>Sunday May 8 (Mother's Day) 8:30 am</p>	<p>A River Runs Through It - A Jane's Walk Shoreline and pedestrian spaces accessing the Otonabee play a vital role in our sense of place in Peterborough. Join us as we discuss mixed land-uses along the Otonabee River in downtown Peterborough. We'll take in a portion of the Millennium Trail, pass by the Ministry of Natural Resources office, Quaker Oats factory, head through a residential area in East City and cross the pedestrian path on the railway bridge. We'll pause to listen to Warbling Vireos and Yellow Warblers singing along the banks for the Otonabee River and reflect on how the river has shaped our community. The walk will begin and end at the Silver Bean Café (130 King Street), located in Millenium Park at the foot of King Street on the west side of the Otonabee River. The loop we'll follow will be about 2km.</p>
<p>Sunday May 29 7:00 am Meet in Sobey's parking lot (Lansdowne)</p>	<p>Carden Plain Important Bird Area (IBA) 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 West at 7a.m.</p>

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

<p>Sunday April 17th</p> <p>1:45 pm</p>	<p>Environmental Puppet Show</p> <p>JFNs Come out and check out a new environmentally themed puppet show by Glen Caradus (a local musician and puppeteer) on Sunday, April 17th at 1:45 p.m. at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. The show will start at 2:00 p.m. and afterwards we will have a chance to make our own puppets. If time permits we can throw in a short hike or nature games. Come ready for some fun! See you then...Neil & Dan</p>	
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OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

<p>April 8</p>	<p>Peterborough Garden Show will take place starting Friday, April 8th, 6 PM - 9 PM, Saturday, April 9th, 10 AM - 6 PM, Sunday, April 10th, 10 AM - 4 PM at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Rd. Peterborough. Admission is \$6 per day. See www.peterboroughgardens.ca for more details.</p>
<p>April 9</p>	<p>Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre Annual General Meeting. Saturday, April 9, 1:00pm at the Riverview Park & Zoo, Orientation Centre. Memberships are available for sale online. Non-members are also welcome to attend. Visit www.kawarthaturtle.org for more details.</p>
<p>April 14</p>	<p>Free workshop: "Eating Local - How it Can Be Done". Thursday, April 14, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre. Guest Speaker: Paula Anderson, Peterborough Green-up; Producer, Staff & Board Member - By the Bushel Community Food Cooperative. RSVP to Sonja Rykers at 705-652-3860 or by email: info@campkawartha.ca For more information, visit: http://www.campkawartha.ca/environmentcentre/publicworkshops.php</p>
<p>April 15</p>	<p>Mike Morey, international educator and cultural engineer, will be speaking at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 6-9 pm. Mark is a leader in a groundbreaking international movement that connects people, culture, community and nature called "the Art of Mentoring". Visit www.pineproject.org or call 647-991-7463 for more information.</p>
<p>April 16</p>	<p>Ontario Nature Spring Regional Meeting on Saturday, April 16, 2011, hosted by the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN). See page 4 for more details.</p>
<p>April 27</p>	<p>The Peterborough Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, April 27th at the Peterborough Library, 345 Aylmer Street N. at 7:30 PM. Guest speaker, Paul Jenkins will be talking about "Growing Wild Flowers". Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and refreshments. New members always welcome.</p>
<p>April 30</p>	<p>8th annual Green Expo 2011. Saturday, April 30, 2011, Evinrude Centre, Peterborough</p>

Comparing Migration Areas (with thanks to the Peterborough and Hamilton Naturalists)

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

It is early March as I write this. Crows and Mourning Doves have been singing their Spring songs since late February here in Burlington – not to-day with 4" of snow on the ground! Highlights of a group of Hamilton birders this morning were a Red-winged Blackbird, hundreds of duck species on Lake Ontario and 56 Tundra Swans, on the ice, suggesting by their preening and calling that they had arrived from an all-night flight. Peterborough reports that on the Otonabee River near Lakefield, the numbers are building of Common Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers. A Red-necked Grebe was sighted February 27 and again on March 5 above Lock 25 along with the first Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, Canada Geese, Lesser Scaup, a Pied-billed Grebe, 40 Common Goldeneyes and 10 Common Mergansers. As for land birds, about 50 Common Redpolls have been enjoying the feeders at Bethany. I find it so interesting to hear about what birds are congregating on or around Lake Ontario and those already seen in the Peterborough area. By the time you receive this April article, most of these birds will be up north for you to enjoy. It is certainly the time to get your binoculars working!

NEWS from Ontario Nature

- Lynn Smith

Two upcoming meetings to mark on your calendars:

1) April 16, 2011.

The **Peterborough Field Naturalist Club is hosting the Ontario Nature Regional Meeting** at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre located at 2505 Pioneer Road, Trent University, Peterborough. Clubs from the Lake Ontario North district will discuss their projects, concerns and accomplishments. There will also be an update on the many projects that On Nature is involved with. Jacob Rodenburg, executive director of the Environment Centre, will talk about this unique building that is one of the most sustainable in Canada. A hike through the Trent University wildlife sanctuary will follow.

2) June 11-12, 2011. The **Ontario Nature's 80th Annual General Meeting**, located at the Ganaraska Forest Centre, north of Port Hope. Festivities include a gala dinner with live music, field trips, nature workshops and a kids nature camp. For more information contact Lauren Wright at

laurenw@ontarionature.org or 1-800-440-2366 ext. 271.

Ontario Nature's 20/20 Vision Biodiversity

Nearly 2500 people have already signed the charter, telling the Province how we can stop the loss of biodiversity by the year 2020. Please add your name to it and encourage others too as well! The 20/20 Vision will be presented to the Premier and ministers on May 22/11 the International Day for Biological Diversity. More information is available on the On Nature website at www.ontarionature.org/protect/campaigns/biodiversity_2020_vision.php.

Plan for the Greater Peterborough Area

The Greater Peterborough Area (GPA), including both the City and County of Peterborough, along with its eight Townships, has recently embarked on the formal development of a Sustainability Plan. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the major funding body for the initiative, defines a Sustainability Plan as “...a plan developed through public consultation that identifies a vision and includes environmental, social, and economic goals and targets for the community. The plan also describes the short-, medium-, and long-term strategies for reaching its goals and targets, and integrates all areas of municipal concern...”

Providing an ‘umbrella’ framework for moving forward, the GPA’s Sustainability Plan will focus on six key theme areas, being: waste, energy, transportation, water, land use planning, and natural and cultural assets. However, the Plan is not limited to these themes, and can be broadened to include other issues such as local food production or social inclusivity.

The development of a Sustainability Plan starts with the community. From the onset, these planning initiatives are developed through, and shaped by, community input. The GPA’s Sustainability Plan has just now entered its ‘visions and goals’ phase, wherein the community is afforded the opportunity to provide the scope and direction that the plan takes. Given the explicit implications that such a plan will have for the GPA’s natural environment, James Knott of Sustainable Peterborough will be coming to speak at April 13th’s Peterborough Field Naturalists Meeting. A long-time resident of Norfolk County, James will draw from his experiences there in an effort to provide examples of outcomes – as they relate to our natural environment – that can arise from the pursuit of sustainability.

For more information contact:

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<http://sustainablepeterborough.ca>

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@luraconsulting <http://twitter.com/#%21/LuraConsulting>



ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the May issue: Monday, April 25th, 2011

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

PFN Trip: Birds of the Lakeshore – Sunday, March 27, 2011

-by Tony Bigg

A large group of thirty-one participants left Peterborough in nine cars at 8 am heading for Cobourg on a bright sunny but cold morning. Birding without stopping we were up to ten common species by the time we arrived at Cobourg harbour. Amongst the many Canada Geese and Mallards in the harbour we added Greater and Lesser Scaup, American Coot, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, and Redhead. The only gulls were Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull. Song Sparrows were singing in the scrub beside the harbour. Our next stop was along the lakeshore just east of the core of Port Hope. Here we picked up Mute Swan, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Northern Cardinal, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, and American Tree Sparrow. From Port Hope we drove Lakeshore Road to Bond Head. A cooperative Northern Shrike sat quietly on top of a small tree giving everyone a good chance to see him. We expected to see numerous Horned Larks but had to make do with brief views of a couple flitting about in one field. For many in the party they also had their first view for the spring of a Turkey Vulture. Some among the party added an Eastern Bluebird as we drove. The usual large numbers of geese were missing from Bond Head as the river was lined with fishermen enjoying their first day of Rainbow Trout fishing.

From here we leapfrogged to Timmy's/Wendy's at Thickson Road north of the 401 for lunch. Our next stop was at Hall's Road in Whitby where friendly Black-capped Chickadees fed from our hands. Here we added Common Merganser, White-throated Sparrow, American Wigeon, and American Black Duck. The birding grapevine informed us of a pair of Harlequin Ducks off Whitby harbour. So off we rushed and everyone was able to have a distant but adequate view of our best birds of the day, lifers for some. Gadwall was also added at this spot. Our next and final stop was at Second Marsh in Oshawa where a known Great Horned Owl's nest was studied. Elsewhere around the marsh we added Brown Creeper, Northern Pintail, Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Great Black-backed Gull, Killdeer, and for one small group a Northern Mockingbird.

It was a successful day that might have been better if the cold front and a northerly wind had not halted the migration. A total of fifty-four species was seen:

American Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, American Robin, European Starling, Canada Goose, Blue Jay, Ring-billed Gull, Mallard, Greater Scaup, Herring Gull, Song Sparrow, American Coot, Long-tailed Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Redhead, Mute Swan, Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck, Northern Cardinal, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, American Tree Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow, Northern Shrike, Turkey Vulture, Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch, Horned Lark, Eastern Bluebird, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Merganser, White-throated Sparrow, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Harlequin Duck, Gadwall, Great Horned Owl, Brown Creeper, Northern Pintail, Great Blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Great Black-backed Gull, Killdeer Northern Mockingbird.



Welcome New Members:

Darryl and Cheryl Tobey

Carol Bulmer

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the PFN's annual bucket draw!

A big thank you to our donors, including: Kelly Dodge (numbered lithograph), Ian Heale (original waterfowl painting), Sean Smith (2 new books), Robbie Preston (new book and camera slinger), Berc's Steakhouse, Enid Mallory (2 new books), Gina Varrin (turtle kit), Pizza Factory, Ruth Hunter (beeswax hand cream), Emily Pettypiece (pottery canoe), Janine McLeod (note holder and umbrella/bag), Terry Hunter (bag of walnuts), Rebecca Zeran (books), and Joyce Allison. We also had a large number of items donated 'anonymously' this year and we thank everyone who brought an item in. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Jerry Ball's PFN outing "Return of Waterfowl at Presqu'île Provincial Park". 20 March 2011.
Photo by Martin Parker.

PFN Officers and Directors

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Other Volunteers

Anne Elliot	Publicity	
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	



Songs of Frogs and Toads

-by Martin Parker

A sign of the arrival of spring to naturalists is the chorus of Spring Peepers. The sign of frost free nights is the call of the American Toad. The warm summer months are the time for the calls of Green Frogs and Bullfrogs.

In preparation of the evening outing on April 22 this article will review the calls of the commonly heard frogs and toads in the Peterborough Region. The list is from the earliest to the latest callers.

Early Callers

Spring Peeper

The amphibian harbinger of spring. The call of this small frog is a clear loud 'peep', which is rapidly repeated in one second intervals. Their chorus can be very loud when there is a group of many males calling. At times when there is a large chorus it is possible to hear them as one is traversing a wetland in a moving vehicle with the windows closed. Spring Peepers start calling in late March and will continue until late May and early June. Some individuals will also call in the late September and early October when the day length is the same as the spring.

Wood Frog

The Wood Frog is a very early breeder in open pools in woodlands of the region. Their mating season lasts for a few weeks only. As soon as the pools are open their calls can be heard, a low, often rapid mallard-like quack. A group of Wood Frogs reminds one of a group of ducks in the woods.

Stripped Chorus Frog

The sub-species in this region is called the Midland Chorus Frog. They start calling as soon as the snow starts to melt and the daytime temperatures rise to 5oC to 10oC or higher. Their call is a long raspy call which sounds like one dragging their nails across a pocket comb. Their preferred habitat is open fields and clearings. Hearing them calling is much easier than finding individuals.

Northern Leopard Frog

The most abundant and widespread frog in the region. They breed in lakes, ponds, marshes and flooded areas. Its spring song period is later than Wood Frogs. Its call sounds like a long, drawn out snore or a gruff 'chuckling' varied with resonant moan and grunts. Sometimes there are several rapid short grunts at the end.

Later Songsters

These frogs and toads start calling once the nights start to be frost free. The calling of the American Toad is an excellent indication that warm nights have arrived.

American Toad

The call of the American Toad is a long high pitched melodious trill. It fills the night air in all areas where toads are found including residential areas. It will call from the later half of April well into May.

Gray Tree Frog

The Gray Tree Frog call is a long, slow trill. The spring calling will commence in late April. It can be heard calling from the branches of trees. This frog also calls during the summer months when the humidity rises. This is a good indication that rainy weather is pending. Although it is actively calling in May it does not actually breed until late June.

Late Spring and Summer Songsters

Green Frog

The Green Frog starts calling in late May and will continue until July. Its call is a 'twang' or 'chung', which resembles a note struck on a banjo. The Green Frog is found in a wide variety of wetland habitats in the region.

Bullfrog

The largest frog which occurs in the region. Its call is a resounding low 'jug-o'-rum' or 'oua-oua-ran'. It resembles the call of a bellowing bull, hence the name. It is found in large emergent wetland complexes in the region.

More great websites that download the natural world to your computer screen (part 1)

- by Drew Monkman (www.drewmonkman.com), from the column "Our Changing Seasons" in *The Peterborough Examiner*, Thursday, March 17, 2011.
www.peterboroughexaminer.com

1. The Land Between (www.thelandbetween.ca)

"The Land Between" is the transition zone which lies between the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands stretching across south-central Ontario from Georgian Bay to Kingston. In the central and eastern parts, it runs just north or south of Hwy. 7. This landscape is a mosaic of unique spaces including small connected lakes, remarkable rivers, rare alvars, fens, rocky barrens, meadow marshes, woodlands, and scattered settlements. However, the natural areas need to be properly stewarded and managed. You can get involved in the Land Between initiative through donations, monitoring, or even by entering into a conservation agreement with a land trust such as the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy.

2. Campsite 24 (www.campsite-24.ca)

Ontario Parks' Campsite24 aims to encourage kids, teachers and families to head outdoors, explore nature and go to parks. All content on the site is Ontario-specific. For example, you will find slideshows on the life history of eight different taxa (mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles birds, insects, trees, plants) as well as games celebrating the adaptations of each of these taxa (e.g., frogs catching mosquitoes.)

3. Natural Heritage Information Centre (nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca)

Located right here in Peterborough, the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) compiles, maintains and distributes information on natural species, plant communities and spaces of conservation concern in Ontario. The website makes much of this information available through the internet. You can also download NHIC newsletters and use the Biodiversity Explorer for querying records of biodiversity

information within Ontario. For example, you can find the latest, most detailed information on the status of the whip-poor-will in our province.

4. Explore Ontario's Biodiversity (www.rom.on.ca/ontario/index.php)

This Royal Ontario Museum site allows you to create your own field guide to animals of your local area, right on your screen. You can also obtain lists of Ontario species at risks, try a bird song quiz, and look as some specimens in the ROM research collections.

5. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (www.birdsontario.org/atlas/index.jsp)

By clicking the Data and Maps tap, you can find maps for both the breeding range and the breeding abundance for all of Ontario's breeding birds. You can also compare the second atlas (2001-2005) to the first (1981-1985). Try clicking on wild turkey and comparing the breeding evidence maps from the two atlases. The range expansion of this bird has been amazing. Click on whip-poor-will to see a species that has followed the opposite trend.

6. Toronto Wildlife Centre (www.torontowildlifecentre.com/index.html)

Toronto Wildlife Centre is a registered charity supported only by donations that helps people and wildlife by rescuing wildlife in distress, and providing medical care and rehabilitation to sick, injured and orphaned wild animals with the goal of releasing recovered patients back into the wild. You can also call them at 416-631-9942

7. Ontario Field Ornithologists (www.ofo.ca)

At the Ontario Field Ornithologist (OFO) website, you'll find photos of recent sightings, find out about upcoming field trips, view the official provincial bird checklist, become a member, and much more. You will also find ONTBIRDS, OFO's electronic mailing listserv that notifies birders of interesting Ontario bird sightings. This is an essential tool for anyone serious about birdwatching in Ontario.

(article to be continued in next Orchid)

Drew Monkman is a Peterborough teacher and author of Nature's Year in the Kawarthas. He can be reached at dmonkman1@cogeo.ca. Visit his website and see past columns at www.drewmonkman.com.

Greater Snow Geese on St. Lawrence River in Ontario

-Observations and Photos courtesy of Jean Iron (www.jeaniron.ca)

Several hundred thousand Greater Snow Geese were on the St Lawrence River on 28 - 29 March 2011. These were seen from the Second Line Road east of Lancaster on 29 March 2011. They stretched for several kilometres each side of here. Most Greater Snow Geese are white morph birds. In 1900 the population of Greater Snow Geese was only 2 - 3000 birds. In 1965 the Canadian Wildlife Service estimated the spring population staging in Quebec at 25,400 birds. The highest count was 1,428,000 in 2009. Last spring's count was 824,000. As spring advances the geese will move farther along the St. Lawrence into Quebec. They will depart for their high arctic breeding grounds in about one and half months.





Greater Snow Geese: first year (left), adult (centre) and adult blue morph. The blue morph is rare in the Greater Snow Goose subspecies and common in the Lesser Snow Goose subspecies.



White morph Greater Snow Goose and intermediate blue morph



The ORCHID DIARY for February 26 – March 28, 2011

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

The spring migrants began to straggle in, but a major influx late in the month was delayed by a cold front and northerly winds. Whilst waiting for my car in a local garage today (Mar 28) I saw in a Duoro weekly flyer that a pair of **Elk** was photographed recently in a field in Duoro-Dummer township. Something else to look out for in our area.

- Feb 27 Martin Parker found a **Red-necked Grebe** near Lock 23 on the Otonabee River. He also noted a build-up of **Common Goldeneyes** and **Common Mergansers** between Locks 25 and 26
- Feb 28 Helen Geimer reports a **Bald Eagle** flying over the Foodland store in Buckhorn. It was her first sighting of an eagle. Tony Bigg saw a **Horned Lark** on Cty Rd 2 just west of Bailieboro.
- Mar 03 Kathy Parker had an **Eastern Chipmunk** at her feeder on Westbrook Dr. in the west end of Peterborough. A flock of **Buffleheads** arrived north of Lock 25 and were joined by the **Pied-billed Grebe** that has been there since Christmas, and about forty **Common Goldeneyes** and ten **Common Mergansers**.
- Mar 04 Tony Bigg reports that the first small flock of **Canada Geese** ventured up above the bridge in Lakefield where the **Lesser Scaup** still holds court. Joanne O'Heron watched at a small pond at a private residence on Deramore Trail, just off Curve Lake Rd close to Buckhorn Rd., as a **Bald Eagle** dived at a flock of ducks. She watched for about 30 seconds until the eagle moved off into the distance away from the pond.
- Mar 05 The **Red-necked Grebe** was refound by Tony Bigg, between Locks 23 and 24 by the old bus barns. He also saw the first **Hooded Mergansers** above Lock 25.
- Mar 06 Lena Powell reports that the **Peregrine Falcon** is back at George Street United Church. The custodian is cleaning up carcasses.
- Mar 07 The **Barred Owl** was again seen by Ben Walters hunting along the side of University Rd in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. He also saw 15 **Bohemian Waxwings** at the entrance to the parking lot. Jerry Ball saw both adult **Bald Eagles** at their nest on Lake Katchewanooka.
- Mar 08 Bruce Kidd had his first **Red-winged Blackbirds** of the spring back at his feeders on his farm on Cty Rd 8 east of Duoro.
- Mar 09 A male **Ring-necked Duck** was seen by Martin Parker on Little Lake. Ben Walters had an adult **Bald Eagle** flying around the Trent campus. Ernie Bass(?) saw a **River Otter** playing on the ice just north of Lock 22 on the Otonabee River. Phil McKeating, on Creekwood Dr., backing onto Harper Woods watched his neighbourhood swarming with **American Crows**. There may have been several hundred roosting, facing the wind, flying about and giving one a feel that Alfred Hitchcock might be at work.
- Mar 10 A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** were seen by Martin Parker on the Otonabee River, by Martin Parker, between Locks 23 and 24. The **Red-necked Grebe** was still present at the same location and kept chasing the mergansers when they approached too close. Colin Jones reported three **Ring-necked Ducks** on the Otonabee River in Lakefield between the arena and the campsite. Bruce Kidd photographed a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** by a feeder at his farm on Cty Rd 8 east of Duoro. Jerry Ball saw a **Ring-necked Duck** on Little Lake, and a **Muskrat** by the Otonabee River near Lakefield. He also had a **Horned Lark** near Mathers Corners.
- Mar 11 Drew Monkman saw a flock of about eighteen Canada Geese flying over the north end of the city. He also saw a **Common Raven** in the same location.
Ken Rumble heard an **Eastern Screech Owl** calling at 8:30 p.m. on Ford Crescent, in Cavan.
- Mar 13 A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** was seen by Judith Nicholas over the 3rd Line of Duoro.
- Mar 15 A **Great Blue Heron** was seen by Maureen Smith by the Otonabee River near Lakefield. Martin Parker saw a **Common Grackle** at Young's Point, and Kathy Parker had a couple near the SSFC campus. Erica Nol heard a **Merlin** screaming at the corner of Rogers and Sophia Sts in East City, and also heard a **Red-winged Blackbird** on the Trent campus. Carrie Sadowski and her daughter enjoyed a couple of **Red-winged Blackbirds** and a **Common Grackle** in their backyard on the 7th Line of Smith.
- Mar 16 Kathy Parker found a flock of about 40 **Cedar Waxwings** in the tops of the trees behind her house on Westbrook Dr. Kathy also saw a flock of 15 **American Robins** near her house. Sixty Bohemian Waxwings were seen by Jerry Ball at Hiawatha on Rice Lake. He also saw the **Pied-billed Grebe** above Lock 25 on the Otonabee River. Sharon Simkins reports that two **Trumpeter Swans** have returned to Kent's Bay, Chemong Lake.

- Mar 17 In the pond at Mathers Corners Jerry Ball counted two **Trumpeter Swans**, three **American Black Ducks**, two **American Wigeons**, four **Northern Pintails**, and one hundred and forty **Canada Geese**. He also saw a **Turkey Vulture** flying over David Fife Line near Hwy 7.
- Mar 18 Maureen Smith watched a pair of **Wood Ducks** on the Indian River behind her house in Warsaw. The female was checking out a nest box. A check by Anne Anthony of the pond at Mathers Corner revealed a **Northern Pintail**, a **Northern Shoveler**, and a **Ring-necked Duck**. The heronry at the south end of Drummond Line had four **Great Blue Herons** on nests, and at the heronry Anne heard a **Killdeer** calling. Ben Walters saw a male **American Kestrel** displaying to a female kestrel near the rail tracks on Television Rd. A gad looking **Great Blue Heron** was standing hunched up on the still frozen creek near there. Ben also saw a **Turkey Vulture** soaring over the Trent athletics field. **Pine Siskins** were still on the campus and he could hear an **Eastern Meadowlark** singing north-east of the buildings. New ducks at the pond at Mathers Corners, seen by Jerry Ball were three **Green-winged Teal**. He also saw a **Redhead** in Little Lake.
- Mar 19 An **American Woodcock** was heard by Maureen Smith at 6:30 am on Cty Rd 4 near Warsaw. She also saw a **Turkey Vulture** over Webster Rd east of Cottesloe.
- Mar 20 A pair of **Trumpeter Swans** was photographed on the Otonabee River above Lock 23 by Colin Jones. John Bottomley first saw small groups of **Common Grackles** flying around in the Charlotte Street - Gilmour Street area. A **Red Fox** was seen by Jerry Ball on Drummond Line.
- Mar 21 Toni Sinclair and her friend saw three **Eastern Bluebirds** along the roadside by 6 Foot Bay Golf Course west of Buckhorn. There were nest boxes nearby. They were also seen two days later. Jerry Ball found a **Mink** active in Campbelltown Harbour on the Otonabee River.
- Mar 22 **Hooded Mergansers** were seen by Maureen Smith on the Indian River in Warsaw. Rob Welsh watched thirteen **Turkey Vultures** circling over Stony Lake. They were very high and gradually moving north.
- Mar 23 Three **Wood Ducks** were seen by Jerry Ball from Dobbin Rd west of Sir Sanford Fleming College.
- Mar 25 An **Eastern Meadowlark** was found by Jerry Ball on Eagleson Rd near Cavan.
- Mar 26 Mitch and Liliana Brownstein saw two **Red Foxes** in their yard on McCrea Drive. They believe they are denning under their neighbour's shed.
- Mar 27 An adult **Bald Eagle** was seen by Tony Bigg flying around the vicinity of the nest on Lake Katchewanooka, and an **Eastern Meadowlark** was on a Hydro line on Hwy 28 south of the Duoro Arena.



Above: Four Cackling Geese with Canada Geese, Otonabee River, Lakefield, 29 March 2011. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Left: Red-necked Grebe, Otonabee River, 9 March 2011. Photo by Tony Bigg.



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:		Receive Orchid by:	<input type="radio"/> snail mail <input type="radio"/> e-mail <input type="radio"/> both please
		Email(s):	

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & FEE SCHEDULE

Please make cheques payable to *Peterborough Field Naturalists*

1. Single Adult \$25 2. Single Student \$15 3. Single Child* (age 5-12) \$10

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

*Please give the name(s) and age(s) of the children you wish to be enrolled in the PFN Junior Naturalists

Name	Age*	Name	Age*

Hairy Woodpecker, Bridgenorth Trail, January 27, 2011. Photo by Tony Bigg.

Do you know the cause of all the fine feathers growing from its back?

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