



# The Orchid

**Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists**

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

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[www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org)

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

## COMING EVENTS

Saturday June 6 <sup>th</sup> 8:45 p.m.	<b>Bat watching in Jackson Park</b> Meet Paul Elliott in the parking lot where Fairbairn Street meet Parkhill West. We will use ultrasonic bat detectors to find local bat species on the wing and watch them catching insects over the pond. Bring a flashlight if you wish. Accompanied children are welcome.
Wednesday June 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.  Ptbo Public Library	<b>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Turtles of the Trent-Severn: Research on a Species-At-Risk"</b> Speaker: Amanda Bennett (MSc. Candidate, Laurentian University) Seven of the eight species of turtles in Ontario are considered to be at risk of extinction. Of these, six occur on the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW). My research concerns whether the locks and dams on the TSW are fragmenting Northern Map Turtle habitat, and what that means for the persistence of these populations.
Sunday June 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bioblitz at Trent</b> Save the morning of Sunday, June 14 <sup>th</sup> to participate in a bioblitz adventure at the Trent University Nature Areas, in the land adjacent to the ecology centre under construction this spring by Camp Kawartha and its partners. We'll be exploring the area on foot and expanding an existing list of flora and fauna to produce a resource for groups using the new centre. Contact Mike McMurtry (748-5353, michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca) if you have questions.

**This is the last issue of the Orchid before the summer - we'll be on hiatus for July and August and will return in September. Enjoy your summer!**

## COMING EVENTS continued

Date/time TBD (possibly June 21 <sup>st</sup> )	<b>Trip to Ganaraska Forest</b> Join us for a visit to Ganaraska Forest. We will be led by Ben Walters, a research student at Trent University. Ben is investigating the impact of trails and roads on the bird community of the forest. At the time of Orchid printing, the time, date and meeting place are still being confirmed (Sunday 21 June is likely). <b>Please check the PFN website in advance or phone Paul Elliott (740-0501).</b>
September 6 to October 25	<b>Sunday Morning Bird Walks in Autumn</b> The Sunday morning bird walks this Autumn will start earlier than previous years to make better use of the migration season. The first walk is planned for September 6th and the last for October 25th. Volunteer leaders will be sought shortly and details posted nearer the time.

## JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

Sunday June 14 <sup>th</sup>  Trent Nature Centre	<b>Bio Blitz and Other Fun at the Trent Nature Centre</b> Our final JFN outing will be at the Trent Nature Centre on June 14th where we will help out with a Bio Blitz that happened earlier in that morning. We will also have some time to play with all sorts of flight related toys, like stomp rockets, and giant bubbles. If possible we will get a campfire going to roast some marshmallows. A great way to finish off the JFN season until the fall. See you at 2:00pm at the Trent Nature Centre (portable) just off Pioneer Road on the Trent Campus. See you there!...Neil & Dan
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### Volunteer at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna & Tallgrass Prairie this Summer.

This is your chance to participate and share in the preservation, restoration and enhancement of a globally imperiled ecosystem.

Volunteer dates include a tour of the savanna and tallgrass prairie with special emphasis on the plants, birds and other interesting residents that are blooming or active at that time. Volunteers will help us plant seedlings, remove invasive plants and later in the summer, harvest seeds.

There is no charge for these events but please register by phone or email as the date may have to be changed due to poor weather and we need to know how many to expect. We will meet at the green gate on County Road 18, 2 km west of Hwy 45 at 10:00am. Plan to stay until 2:00. Wear closed toed shoes and bring a lunch. We will provide a light snack and drinks.

Join us on any or all of the following dates:

Wednesday June 3

Sunday June 7

Sunday July 19

Wednesday July 22

Wednesday August 12

Saturday August 15

Sunday September 20

Sunday September 23

To register call Janine McLeod at 705-778-1391 or email [savannatours@eagle.ca](mailto:savannatours@eagle.ca).



## Other Local Events of Interest

<p>June 12</p> <p>Buckhorn Community Centre</p>	<p><b>The Land Between: Third Annual Research Forum</b></p> <p>Learn about the unique species and spaces in your region....and take a tour of the night sky. Presentations by biologists, researchers, First Nations and conservation groups.</p> <p><b>\$5 at the door, or lunch with us and RSVP/register by emailing <a href="mailto:tlb@thelandbetween.ca">tlb@thelandbetween.ca</a></b></p> <p>For more information go to: <a href="http://www.thelandbetween.ca">www.thelandbetween.ca</a>. See page 9 for more information.</p> <p><i>The Land Between is the name of the region that extends from Georgian Bay to Frontenac.</i></p>
<p>June 21 7 pm</p> <p>Ptbo Ecology Park</p>	<p><b>Ecology Park Nature Album Release: "Song Gardens" by Glen Caradus</b></p> <p>This album was recorded at the Ecology Park using a solar digital system. The songs are about the park and all proceeds go to the park. Native Blues Singer Brock Stonefish will open up for Glen and his band. What better way to celebrate the solstice and National Aboriginal Day.</p> <p><b>There is no cost and refreshments will be provided.</b> For more info call Glen at 748 6672</p>
<p>Preview: July 3</p> <p>Exhibit: July 4 - 24</p> <p>Gallery on the Lake</p>	<p>Gallery on the Lake presents an exhibition of paintings by artist <b>Kelly Dodge</b> titled "<b>My Backyard and Beyond</b>". Join Kelly on a visual journey to the Himalayas, Kenya, Galapagos and our own backyard. <b>If you would like to receive an invitation to the opening reception and exhibit preview Friday, July 3, at 7:30 p.m. please contact 1 705 657 1108 or <a href="mailto:info@galleryonthelake.com">info@galleryonthelake.com</a></b></p> <p>Exhibit continues through July 4 - July 24<sup>th</sup> (Artist in attendance on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 1 - 4)</p>

## Other Events of Interest: Kingston Area

<p>June 27</p> <p>9 - 5 pm</p> <p>Sharbot Lake</p>	<p><b>Loon Workshop</b> (@ the Oso Recreation Hall &amp; Anglican Church Hall, Sharbot Lake)</p> <p>Join us for a day-long workshop with experts in the fields of loon behaviour, natural history and conservation management from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada, the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists and more. View exhibits, hear loon calls, see photographs and browse among materials from the Nature Lovers' Bookstore in Lanark. Door prize for attendees and, for lake associations, a draw for a loon nesting platform built and contributed by Ontario Power Generation (Environmental Sustainability Division). Sponsored by the Frontenac Stewardship Council, Friends of the Salmon River, Kennebec Lake Association and Sharbot Lake Property Owners' Association. For additional information contact Gray Merriam (613) 335-3589.</p>
<p>Sept 29 to Oct 2</p> <p>Queen's University Biological Station</p>	<p><b>Fabulous Fall Fungi</b></p> <p>Discover the wonderful world of mushrooms and other fungi in this 2½ day workshop. Suitable for all levels, from beginner to advanced. Hands-on identification, plus discussions on ecology, uses and etymology. <b>Dates: Sept 29 to Oct 2, 2009. Cost: \$295; includes tuition, meals, accommodation, use of lab space &amp; microscopes.</b> Location: Queen's University Biological Station. Details: <a href="http://www.queensu.ca/biology/qubs/events.html">www.queensu.ca/biology/qubs/events.html</a>. Instructor: Richard Aaron (<a href="mailto:natureteacher1@gmail.com">natureteacher1@gmail.com</a>).</p>



# Peterborough's treasured tree hunt

[www.treasuredtreehunt.com](http://www.treasuredtreehunt.com)

Peterborough is hunting for treasure! Do you have a favourite tree? Tell us about it! As long as it's within the City of Peterborough, you could win a prize!

Nominate a Tree • Write a Story • Enter a Photograph!

A tree can be a treasure for many reasons...

unusual tree

kid-friendly tree

tree with great history

beautifully-shaped tree

great habitat tree

big tree

## Join Peterborough's Treasured Tree Hunt:

Visit our website [www.treasuredtreehunt.com](http://www.treasuredtreehunt.com) for more information and to download a nomination form. Nomination forms can also be picked up or submitted to Peterborough Green-Up (address below).

*Entries must be received by Wednesday, July 1, 2009*

Winners will be announced during National Forest Week (September 21-25)

WIN A PRIZE!

Peterborough's Treasured Tree Hunt is brought to you by:



**PACAC**  
Peterborough Architectural Conservation  
Advisory Committee

THE PETERBOROUGH  
**EXAMINER**

THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION

LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO



**PETERBOROUGH  
GREEN-UP**



## For more info

visit: [www.treasuredtreehunt.com](http://www.treasuredtreehunt.com)

email: [info@treasuredtreehunt.com](mailto:info@treasuredtreehunt.com)

drop-by: **Peterborough Green-Up**  
378 Aylmer St. N, Unit 4  
Peterborough ON K9H 3V8  
705-745-3238 x 211

## ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

**Deadline for submissions for the Sept issue:  
Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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](mailto:rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca)

## New Members

*Aaron and Bree Walpole*  
*Freda Thompson & Kees Van*  
*den Hueval*  
*Wendy Frise*  
*Laura Irving*

**Welcome!**



*Crab Spider (Misumena vatia) with dipteran prey on Sarsparilla flower at Stony Lake. May 25, 2009. Photo by Michael Butler.*

### PFN Officers and Directors

President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
Treasurer	Jim Young	jbyoung@persona.ca	292-5444
Secretary	Emily Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca	750-1145
Membership	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@sympatico.ca	750-1145
Newsletter Editor	Rebecca Zeran	rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca	743-2660
Program (indoor)	Roger Jones	rjones@trentu.ca	742-0132
Program (outdoor)	Paul Elliott	paulelliott@trentu.ca	740-0501
Jr. Naturalists	Neil Fortin	nkfortin@sympatico.ca	292-6185
Special Projects	Mike McMurtry	michael.mcmurtry@sympatico.ca	748-5353
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
Member @ Large	Janine McLeod	janine@sdf1.net	778-1479

### Other Volunteers

Book Sales	Anne Storey	743-0345
FON Rep	Rhea Bringeman	742-1035
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	



## First record of Arctic Tern from Peterborough County!

- Colin Jones, Natural Heritage Project Zoologist, MNR

At 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2009, five teams began a 24-hour Big Day in an attempt to see as many bird species as possible within Peterborough County. In the city, over the Otonabee River we saw a small tern. I quickly called out "Common Tern". After looking at it for a little while, however, I began to think that it wasn't a Common Tern. The first thing that jumped into my mind was Forster's Tern because of the long tail feathers and the paleness of the wings. At the time, I also commented to the group that Arctic Tern was a possibility. I rushed back to our vehicle to grab my camera and I took a series of photographs.

Later that evening, while looking at the pictures on the camera's viewing screen, we ruled out Forster's Tern because the upper wing tips were clearly not white enough and the bill was too red and too short. It was difficult, however, to see the subtleties of Common vs. Arctic tern ID on the camera's small viewing screen and we decided that it was likely a Common Tern.

I wasn't able to download my photographs until the next night, but once I looked at them more closely, I quickly began to realize that this was, in fact, an Arctic Tern and not a Common Tern!!!



A few things to note:

- the black trailing edge of the primaries is very thin (this would be thicker in Common Tern)
- the long, thin wings are translucent in the primaries and outer secondaries
- the outer tail feathers are very long (they would be shorter in Common Tern)
- the belly is gray with a contrasting white cheek patch
- the bill is red with little to no black at the tip (Common Tern usually has a more pronounced black tip)

Also, the behaviour of this bird was pretty classic for Arctic Tern - slow, bouncy flight over the river hawking insects. It did not plunge dive for fish at all - something that Common Terns often do. Lastly, the date and weather patterns were perfect for Arctic Tern - late May with an advancing cold front.

## Encountering a Lost Carolina Wren Leads to Artistic Inspiration

Canadian artist Kelly Dodge regards her inspirations and artistic talent as gifts from God and considers it a great blessing to be surrounded by this natural world of beauty and discovery. Little did she foresee how an encounter with a lost Carolina Wren in the winter of 1995/96 would change her life forever. This excerpt from her recent limited edition book "Friends of Mine" is about that first life changing blessing, the countless relationships with wildlings to follow and the art inspired by them. For information about "Friends of Mine" and to view Kelly's art please visit her online at [www.kellydodgeart.com](http://www.kellydodgeart.com)

*Zippity Doo Dah is a fledgling I once had the pleasure of assisting. Zippy's parents nest each year in our bluebird box and are among the many spring birds that come for handouts to my back patio. Or rather they are among the many that have managed to train me to drop everything, run out and serve them whenever they flutter at my back window. I have an old suet cage stapled to the outside of our bluebird box. It functions as a great predator guard, allowing the bluebirds to easily come and go while keeping them safe from dangerous predators like cats, raccoons, squirrels etc. The parents don't seem to mind it. The day the babies fledged, this particular one tried to fly out backwards. The parents repeatedly called to their young and appeared to withhold feeding in an attempt to entice them to leave their now cramped quarters and join them in the real world. This little guy was the last of his 4 siblings to fledge and somehow he managed to get himself turned around. Leaping out backwards he landed on the lawn and did not have enough strength to gain altitude. I picked him up and returned him to the edge of the box, this time facing the correct direction. He still landed on the lawn. He was quite tuckered out from having made two failed attempts. He was also in a very visible and vulnerable open space on the lawn. His parents continued to call to him attempting to entice him to a safer location. Unable to comply on his own steam I took him to the bottom of the basswood tree that his siblings were perched in figuring he could just hop his way up through the branches to join his brothers and sisters. He promptly fell off the branch! We repeated the attempt and he promptly fell off a second time. It turned out that Zippy's wings weren't fully developed and to add to his troubles, he was born with a*

*crippled hind toe not at all conducive to balancing with underdeveloped wings. It was turned backwards and folded under his front toes however I was sure that once his wings strengthened he would be able to compensate for his wobbly foot.*



*I now joined the parents in a co-parenting venture. Daily I would put Zippy out in an old cockatiel cage from which I had removed the lid. His waiting parents would take the mealworms down into the cage to feed him. They would also bring him grasshoppers, crickets, caterpillars and other such delicacies.*



*I would supplement his diet in the house with mealworms when I was unable to supervise him outside. I would also keep him in during the night. Each morning his parents would greet us and faithfully continued to feed him at intervals while he perched on a branch in my old cockatiel cage. They would alternate his feedings with those of his siblings who were perched high in the trees around our home.*

*After a week Zippy's wings strengthened enough for flight and balance. It was a privilege to escort Zippy to the middle of the lawn where he successfully launched himself into the stratosphere! It was a blessing to see him join his parents and siblings in the sky.*

*I credit my mom with the idea for this concept. She had co-parented 3 very young Baltimore Oriole nestlings many years ago on the farm. Blown down during a storm she was worried about the farm cats*

*getting them so kept the nestlings in the house taking them out several times a day to perch in a low branch. The parents continued to feed them at these intervals until they had gained enough wing strength to successfully fledge. The last time I saw my little bluebird friend he was sitting on a hydro wire with his 4 brothers and sisters and Mom and Dad. I bet you are wondering how I knew which one was Zippy. Well, you see, when Zippy had an itch ...he would wobble just a bit as he scratched!*



Gallery on the Lake presents an exhibition of paintings by artist

**KELLY DODGE**  
**My Backyard and Beyond**

You are cordially invited to join Kelly  
on a visual journey to the Himalayas, Kenya, Galapagos  
and our own backyard.

If you would like to receive an invitation to the opening reception and exhibit preview  
Friday, July 3, at 7:30 p.m. please contact 1 705 657 1108  
or [info@galleryonthelake.com](mailto:info@galleryonthelake.com)

Exhibit continues through July 4 - July 24th  
(Artist in attendance on Saturday, July 4th 1 - 4)





# The Land Between

3rd Annual Research Forum

Friday, June 12, 2009

Buckhorn Community Centre



**Learn about the unique species, spaces, peoples and histories. Find out about tourism, development, and stewardship ...and take a guided tour of the night sky!**

*This is a public event held each year to showcase discoveries in the realms of nature, culture and the economy across this region- from Georgian Bay to the Frontenac Arch*

**\$5 at the door or \$10 for lunch and with registration\***

**\*to register please email [tlb@thelandbetween.ca](mailto:tlb@thelandbetween.ca) or call 705-457-4838**

*Locally grown foods will be sourced where possible*

## Presentations

9:00 COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

**The Vision of Peter Alley  
The Culture, Nature, and Economy of The Land Between  
Where is The Land Between  
Breeding Bird Distribution and Abundance  
Exploring Natural Heritage in The Land Between  
The Plight of Ontario Turtles- How Old are Ontario Turtles  
The American Eel**

LUNCH

**Haliburton Gold- A Relic Lake Trout in the Highlands  
Aquatic Diversity and Ecosystem Function- Lake Studies  
Lake Planning- Engaging the Shoreline Community  
Climate Change for Afforestation**

COFFEE

**Protecting the Night Environment  
Exurban Development Threats  
Land Trusts and Conservation Options  
Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge  
Ecotourism in The Land Between  
Heritage and History along the Trent Severn Waterway**

**NIGHT SKY TOUR**

*Presentations by: Bird Studies Canada, The Ontario Ecotourism Society, Natural Heritage Information Centre, Plenty Canada, First Nations, University of Toronto, Guelph University, University of Carleton and Ottawa University, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Parks Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources, Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, and the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society.*

## Interactions in Nature

- by June Hitchcox, for *The Apsley Voice* ([www.apsleyvoice.com](http://www.apsleyvoice.com))

Don Sutherland's report on April 11, about seeing a Sapsucker in the Petroglyphs Provincial Park, brought to mind the interactions in Nature. Sapsuckers drill holes in trees to be able to eat the sap that oozes out as well as the insects that are attracted to the sap. A couple of weeks later, migrating Hummingbirds will arrive and are able to survive on this sap and insects until flowers start to bloom. They are even seen following Sapsuckers to find the holes that they have made. Later in the season, by trial and error, they find the nectar from red and orange flowers has just the right concentration of sugar for their needs. Many of these flowers, such as Bee-Balm and Columbine, are tubular in shape which insects avoid, but the long tongues of the Hummers are able to get at the nectar; at the same time, their head feathers pick up pollen, providing a valuable service of cross-pollination as they go from flower to flower. Another interesting interaction involves deer. Twigs are their main winter food and as they walk along, they eat a twig here and another there. Just like when we trim a hedge to make it thicker, the bushes become thicker – perfect to conceal a bird nest. Abandoned Woodpecker nest holes are ideal for cavity nesters that have bills that are too weak excavate a hole – Nuthatches, Bluebirds, Swallows etc. This evolved interdependence of birds, animals and plants, has produced the survivors we see and enjoy today. Isn't Nature wonderful!

P.S. The heavy snowstorm on April 4, the date that their Bluebirds return, prevented the Jopsons from seeing if they had arrived, but they were certainly there the next day, checking out the Bluebird nest boxes to decide where their first nest would be!

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## Trip Report: Sunday bird-walk to Herkimer Point - 10 May 2009

*John Bottomley*

Fourteen brave souls were prepared to risk hypothermia and turn out on the coldest Mother's Day in years. We stopped at wetlands on University Road and Keene Road and at a woodland site on Hiawatha Line on our way to our destination. We saw or heard a total of forty species including seven wood warblers. We had very good looks at three Scarlet Tanagers, two males and a female, all in their best and brightest plumage. The species seen and heard (h) were as follows:

Great Blue Heron	Mallard	Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier	Osprey	Ruffed Grouse (h)
Greater Yellowlegs	Ring-billed Gull	Mourning Dove
Northern Flicker	Great Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Kingbird
Tree Swallow	Barn Swallow	Black-capped Chickadee
Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Robin	Wood Thrush (h)
Brown Thrasher	Blue Jay	American Crow
Cedar Waxwing	Warbling Vireo (h)	Black and White Warbler (h)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Pine Warbler (h)	Blue-winged Warbler (h)
Yellow Warbler	Common Yellowthroat	Northern Waterthrush (h)
Scarlet Tanager	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	American Goldfinch
White-throated Sparrow (h)	Chipping Sparrow (h)	Swamp Sparrow
Common Grackle	Red-winged Blackbird	European Starling
Baltimore Oriole		

## Trip Report: Sunday bird-walk to Smith 9th Line - 17 May 2009

*John Bottomley*

A small group of members walked west from the end of Smith ninth line on a cold and windy morning. Once we were inside the woodland we were partially sheltered from the wind. As the sun peeked through we experienced some surprisingly good birding. The highlight was without doubt a Canada Warbler. This is a rare bird anywhere and not frequently seen in the Kawarthas. Overall we saw and heard ten warblers. We also had beautiful looks at three Scarlet Tangers; two males and one female. Overall we saw or heard (h) thirty-four species as noted below:

Turkey Vulture	Canada Goose	Ruffed Grouse (h)
Wild Turkey	Ring-billed Gull	Pileated Woodpecker (h)
Least Flycatcher	Eastern Phoebe	Red-eyed Vireo (h)
Blue Jay (h)	American Crow	Red-breasted Nuthatch
American Robin	Gray Catbird (h)	European Starling
Tennessee Warbler (h)	Nashville Warbler	Yellow Warbler (h)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Black-and-white Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler (h)	American Redstart	Ovenbird (h)
Canada Warbler	Scarlet Tanager	Savannah Sparrow (h)
Song Sparrow (h)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird	Common Grackle	Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch		

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## Trip Report: Sunday bird-walk to Trent Nature Reserve - 24 May 2009

*John Bottomley*

A group of close to twenty members enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning in the area of the Nature Reserve to the east of University Road. Seeing birds was difficult in the wooded areas as the trees are now well and truly leaved. Thanks to members with much better ears than me we managed to identify most of the birds we heard calling. In more open areas we enjoyed good looks of a number of species. Collectively we saw or heard some forty species of which eight were warblers. Species seen are listed below:

Ring-billed Gull	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Wood-Pee-wee (h)
Great Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Kingbird (h)	Red-eyed Vireo (h)
Blue Jay	American Crow	Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee (h)	White-breasted Nuthatch (h)	House Wren
Winter Wren (h)	Veery (h)	Wood Thrush (h)
American Robin	Gray Catbird (h)	Brown Thrasher (h)
European Starling	Cedar Waxwing	Tennessee Warbler (h)
Yellow Warbler (h)	Magnolia Warbler (h)	Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart	Ovenbird (h)	Northern Waterthrush (h)
Common Yellowthroat	Chipping Sparrow	Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow (h)	Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (h)	Indigo Bunting (h)	Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird (h)	Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch		



*The* **ORCHID DIARY** for 25 April - 28 May 2009

Compiled by Tony Bigg, 652-7541, [tanddbigg@sympatico.ca](mailto:tanddbigg@sympatico.ca)

Migrants continue to come into and pass through the area. Sighting reports are generally restricted to new species for the year unless the sighting is especially interesting.

- Apr 25 A rare **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found by Bill Crins in the Lakefield sewage lagoon. Paul & Jen Burke reported a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at their feeder, and an **Ovenbird** singing in the woods opposite their house on University Rd. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was seen by Tony Bigg on the utility wires just north of Trent University. Bill McCord observed a pair of **Merlin** on Kawartha Drive adjacent to St Theresa's school yard. A nest may be seen in a White Pine from the schoolyard. An unusually far north **Red-bellied Woodpecker** is coming to Linda Fierheller's feeder near Lasswade, east of Aplesey. The **Bloodroot** in Drew Monkman's garden was in full bloom, along with **Hepatica**. Drew also reports **Coltsfoot** is in full bloom, too, along roadsides throughout the area.
- Apr 26 Tony Bigg heard a **Black-and-white Warbler** singing by the rail trail between Blezard and Cameron Lines, and had a **Cabbage White** butterfly in his garden in Lakefield. A **Purple Martin** returned to the martin house on Bryan Wyatt's property on Kinsale Rd, Gannons Narrows. Myles Falconer reports that this was the last day of Spring that he recorded an **American Tree Sparrow** at his feeder.
- Apr 27 Don Sutherland had a single **Bohemian Waxwing** sitting on top of a flowering American Elm near the university. He also saw the **Barrow's Goldeneye** at the Lakefield SL. More emerging butterflies were seen by Tony Bigg - **Olympia Marbles** on Hubble Rd, Devil's 4 Mile Rd, and Sandy Lake Rd, an **American Lady** on Sandy Lake Rd, and a **Gray Comma** on Tangamong Rd. On Sandy Lake Rd he also heard a **Blue-headed Vireo** singing, a **Broad-winged Hawk** calling, and he photographed an **Eastern Hognose Snake** crossing the road. Colin Jones had a **House Wren** in his neighbour's yard in Lakefield.
- Apr 28 Myles Falconer saw two male **Baltimore Orioles**, and a **Yellow Warbler** in his Yard on Young's Point Rd. A pair of **Canada Geese** with a small flotilla of goslings was seen swimming across the Otonabee River by Tony Bigg. At the Trent Nature Area on the canal side today, Luke Berg saw **Pied-billed grebe** (2), **Green Heron** (2) doing courtship display, **Yellow-rumped warbler** (15), **Hooded Merganser** (1), female **Ring-necked pheasant** (1), **Brown Thrasher** (1), **Northern Mockingbird** (1), **Caspian Tern** (2) two weeks now, **Blanding's Turtle** (1).
- Apr 29 Two **Northern Shovelers** were seen by Tony Bigg in the Lakefield SL. Luke Berg saw an **Eastern Kingbird** this morning at the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. There were also **Palm Warblers** (3) **Whip-poor-will** (1 heard), **House Wren**, (1) **Winter Wren** (1), and a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (1).
- Apr 30 Tony Bigg reports that at least two and possibly three **American Bitterns** and two **Soras** were very vocal at Miller's Creek, and a single **Virginia Rail** was calling from the Lakefield Marsh. A **Warbling Vireo** was singing from the trees behind the Doug Sadler Tower. Peter Beales reports a **Greater Scaup** below Lock 19 in Peterborough.
- May 01 The first **Eastern Kingbird** of the year was reported by Randy Smith near the junction of Cty Rd 20 and Cty Rd 23. Drew Monkman saw the first **Chimney Swift** of the year flying above the intersection of Hunter and George Sts in downtown Peterborough. Sandra and Dick Burri had a visit from a mother **Black Bear** and her cub to their feeders at Kawartha Park on Clear Lake.
- May 02 In Cavan Woods Scott McKinlay saw **Black-and-white Warblers**, a **Northern Waterthrush**, **Black-throated Green Warblers**, and a **Great Crested Flycatcher**.
- May 03 Today Scott McKinlay added an **American Redstart** to his list of birds seen in Cavan. In the morning a group of PFN members led by Tony Bigg saw/heard two **Green Herons**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, and **Bobolinks**, amongst many other species. On Sandy Lake Rd Tony, Andrew and Zene Bigg found three new butterflies for the year - **Juvenal's Duskywing**, **Questionmark**, and **Clouded Sulphur**. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was also seen there.
- May 04 Between Locks 24 and 25 on the Otonabee River Tony Bigg saw a **Least Flycatcher** and a **Spotted Sandpiper**. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 'buzzed' Toni Sinclair's red cap whilst she was gardening in her garden near Buckhorn Lake.
- May 05 A **Baltimore Oriole** was seen by Luke Berg near the Tree Swallow boxes in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary.

- May 06 Both **Least Bittern** and **American Bittern** were heard calling in the Lakefield Marsh by Tony Bigg. A **Sandhill Crane** and three **Pied-billed Grebes** were seen by Luke Berg nnear the canal in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary. The grebes and a **Hermit Thrush** were heard by Jennifer Budgell in the same area.
- May 07 Drew Monkman heard his first **American Toads** of the year "trilling" this evening in the west end of Peterborough.
- May 08 Jennifer Budgell noted that the **Great Blue Heronry** on University Rd back in the marsh had increased to seven nests
- May 10 Whilst on a walk with John Bottomley and other PFN members Bart Young heard the song of a **Blue-winged Warbler**. He was unable to see the bird so could not confirm that it was not a Golden-winged Warbler or hybrid (Note: these birds sometimes sing each others songs). In Cavan Woods this morning, Scott McKinlay had 10 new year birds including: male **Scarlet Tanager**, **Vesper Sparrow**, **Nashville Warbler**, **CommonYellowthroat**, and **Willow Flycatcher** ("whit" call).
- May 13 Michael Butler found a singing **Cerulean Warbler** near Woodview
- May 15 Whilst birding the Lakefield SL Myles Falconer found **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Tennessee Warbler**, **Blackpoll Warbler**, and **Magnolia Warbler**. He also had a **Canada Warbler** at the Selwyn CA.
- May 17 Near Kawartha Park Marina Karen MacDonald saw three male and one female **Scarlet Tanagers** in the same tree. She also saw a **Black-billed Cuckoo** on the Nephton Ridge.
- May 18 Whilst cycling Cty Rd 44 and Hubble Rd Michael Butler heard **Sandhill Cranes** calling (Hubble Rd), heard a **Red-headed Woodpecker** calling (Cty Rd 44 opposite the entrance to Quackenbush PP), saw two **Philadelphia Vireos** (in QPP), saw and heard a **Blue-winged Warbler** (Cty Rd 44), saw and heard two **Golden-winged Warblers** (Cty Rd 44), and heard another Golden-winged Warbler song (Hubble Rd). A **Common Nighthawk** was seen by Myles Falconer flying over his house on Young's Point Rd. Ken Rumble had an **Indigo Bunting** at his feeder in Cavan. New migrants seen by Sue Prentice and Andrew Jobs on the Hilliard Street extension were **Blackburnian Warbler**, **Gray Catbird**, and **Brown Thrasher**. Tony Bigg saw a **Black Swallowtail** on Johnston Drive south of Peterborough
- May 19 About twenty **Black Terns** were seen by Stephen Bigg feeding over the Otonabee River at the intersection of Cty Rds 32 and 33 in Lakefield. Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg found **Mustard White** and **West Virginia White** butterflies on Tie Mountain Rd and a **Canadian Tiger Swallowtail** on Charlie Allen Rd.
- May 20 Looking for butterflies on Sandy Lake Rd Jerry Ball and Tony Bigg found **Chryxus Arctics**, **Common Roadside Skippers**, a **Dreamy Duskywing**, **Columbine Duskywings**, and a **Gray Hairstreak**.
- May 22 Jerry Ball found a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and **Dunlin** in the fields off Johnston Drive south of Peterborough.
- May 24 On the rail trail between Blezard and Cameron Lines Tony Bigg saw **Meadow Fritillaries**, **Pearl Crescent**, **Monarch**, and **Silvery Blue** butterflies. A **Wood Thrush** was seen/heard by the PFN group in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary
- May 25 The first record of an **Arctic Tern** for the County was made by Colin Jones, Fiona McKay, Pete Sorrill, Aileen Rapson, Lucie Mussakowski, and Nick Bourassa-Young! It was seen over the Otonabee River between the MNR building and the railpoad bridge. (See page 6 for more info on this sighting)
- May 26 A young **Black Bear** was sighted by many near the East City Bowl. It was tranquilized and then transferred to the north of the county.



LEFT: Eastern Hognose Snake, Sandy Lake Road.  
ABOVE: Olympia Marble, Hubble Road.  
Photos by Tony Bigg, April 27, 2009.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM