



The Orchid

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

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

Published 9 times yearly
Publication Mail Agreement #4005104
Box 1532, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7H7

Volume 56, Number 4, May 2010
Reg. Charity: BN#119091908RR0001
www.peterboroughnature.org

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

Sundays in May	<p>Spring Sunday Morning Wildlife Walks</p> <p>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> <table><tbody><tr><td>May 9th</td><td>Tony Bigg</td></tr><tr><td>May 16th</td><td>Jerry Ball</td></tr><tr><td>May 23rd</td><td>John Bottomley</td></tr><tr><td>May 30th</td><td>Jerry Ball (all-day trip to Carden Plain, 7a.m. start, details below)</td></tr></tbody></table>	May 9 th	Tony Bigg	May 16 th	Jerry Ball	May 23 rd	John Bottomley	May 30 th	Jerry Ball (all-day trip to Carden Plain, 7a.m. start, details below)
May 9 th	Tony Bigg								
May 16 th	Jerry Ball								
May 23 rd	John Bottomley								
May 30 th	Jerry Ball (all-day trip to Carden Plain, 7a.m. start, details below)								
Wednesday May 12 th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Public Library	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Oceans? There's no oceans in Peterborough!"</p> <p>Did you know that Fisheries and Oceans Canada has an office in Peterborough? Tracy Allison a Fish Habitat Biologist/Species at Risk biologist will speak about who DFO is, what they do, and different types of impacts on fish habitat due to development that DFO sees regularly in the Kawartha Lakes. General mitigation measures that are commonly used to minimize disturbance on fish and fish habitat will also be briefly discussed. So whether you have a cottage, are interested in larger developments (such as hydroelectric) or just love our lakes it should be an interesting and informative presentation.</p>								

**World Migratory Bird Day is May 8-9, 2010
International Year of Biodiversity is May 22nd, 2010**

COMING EVENTS continued

Sunday May 30 th 7:00 a.m. Meet in the Sobeys Parking lot (Lansdowne)	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 which 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 Sobeys parking lot on Lansdowne Street at 7a.m.
June 13 th 9 am – 3 pm Camp Kawartha Environment Centre	Ontario's Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Guided Field Day Many naturalists will be familiar with the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario. But did you also know that there is an Atlas of Ontario's Reptiles and Amphibians? Join us to learn how to identify and search for amphibians & reptiles, and how to report your observations to the atlas. Atlas Coordinator Joe Crowley will give a slide show from 9am to 10am, then we will carpool to field sites to search for salamanders, snakes, turtles, frogs - and Ontario's only lizard the 5-lined skink! Please bring a bagged lunch and plenty of water. Questions: Contact Gina Varrin at gina@theorem.ca. Location: Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 2025 Pioneer Rd (in the Trent Nature Area) Directions: http://www.campkawartha.ca/about/directions.htm

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

Sunday May 16 th 2:00 p.m.	Butterflies and Limberjacks! We are going to meet at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre on May 16th at 2:00 pm for a variety of great activities. There is a butterfly garden there that needs some attention so we will get our hands dirty and do some planting and weeding. Glen Caradus is going to provide some nature music and help us make a petit bonhomme or dancing limberjacks. If you are interested in attending and making a limberjack, please contact Neil @ nkfortin@sympatico.ca or at 292-6185 so we can plan out supplies. Hope to see you there...Neil & Dan	
--	---	---

PFN Officers and Directors

President	John Bottomley	johnbottomley@sympatico.ca	742-1524
Secretary	Emily Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@bell.net	750-1145
Membership	Don Pettypiece	donem.pettypiece@bell.net	750-1145
Newsletter Editor	Rebecca Zeran	rebecca.zeran@mail.mcgill.ca	743-2660
Program (indoor)	Janine McLeod	janine@sdf1.net	778-1479
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
Special Projects	Gina Varrin	gina@theorem.ca	761-7787
Webmaster	Chris Gooderham	webmaster@peterboroughnature.org	740-2081
FON Rep	Lynn Smith	smithfam@nexicom.net	944-5599

Other Volunteers

Book Sales	Anne Storey	743-0345
Orchid Diary	Tony Bigg	652-7541
Orchid Mailout	Bob Quinn	
JFN Trip Leader	Neil Fortin	



Other Events of Interest

May 8	Celebrate Migratory Bird Day at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna . See page 9 for more info.
May 8 9:30 – 11:30	Peterborough Horticultural Society's Annual Plant Sale The annual plant sale will be held on Saturday, May 8th, 9:30-11:30 AM at St. Alban's Church, 567 Monaghan Rd. Rain or shine. Get some great plants to start your garden. Come early for best selection.
May 8 10 am - 3 pm Markham	The North American Native Plant Society is holding its annual sale at the Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, on May 8th from 10 am to 3 pm. Wildflowers, ferns, grasses, sedges, trees and shrubs, suited for every garden will be on sale. Native plants attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators, and help restore local ecologies. Experts will be on hand to help you find the plants for light and soil conditions in your garden, and the habitat you want to recreate. So come and browse our selection, talk to the experts, take in the free presentations and be inspired! Information about the sale and NANPS other activities can be found online at www.nanps.org .
May 14 7-10 pm	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.
May 16 9-10:30 am	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 Jobes 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.
May 23 1-4 pm	Ecology Park Spring Plant Sale Beautiful native plants, heirloom tomatoes and much more at this popular annual fundraiser. Give your garden a boost and support local environmental education at the same time!
May 26 7:30 pm	Peterborough Horticultural Society 's hosts their monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 26th 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 Dawn Tack of Gardens Plus.
May 28-31 & June 3-6 Bruce Peninsula	Huron Fringe Birding Festival This eight-day Birding and Nature Festival is uniquely placed to explore the Huron Fringe coastline of Lake Huron and the Bruce Peninsula. Events include guided bird and nature hikes, workshops and much more. Visit http://www.friendsofmacgregor.org for more information.
June 4 – 6 Carden Plains	Carden Nature Festival Visit http://cardenguide.com/index.php/carden-nature-festival for more information.

Saw-whet Owl Banding at Trent University Property on Pigeon Lake, 2009 Report

- by Eleanor Proctor, Chris Risley and Erica Nol

The Northern Saw-whet Owl banding season at Trent University's James Maclean Oliver Ecological Centre on the north shore of Pigeon Lake caught 60 new birds in October 2009. Owls were caught between October 7th and 28th, with peaks on the 13th (7 new birds), 14th (7 new birds), and 16th (9 new birds). These consisted of 28 hatch year birds, seven second year birds, and 25 after-second years (three of which were definitively aged as after third year). Forty-four of the new birds were female, 10 were of unknown sex, and 6 were males.

The sex of the owls is determined by comparing wing size and weight measurements with measurements from known males and females based on a method developed by a bander in Maryland (David Brinker). The comparison may not be completely reliable and results in more females than males being identified as caught at most banding stations. It is not known if this is truly what is happening.

We also caught 6 foreign recaptures, all after second year females. One was banded at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (Ontario) in 2006, and another was banded in Massachusetts in 2008. We are still waiting on the data from the other recaptures.

A very exciting piece of information generated from this year's efforts was that one of the birds we banded on October 22nd was recaptured in Barnesville, Georgia on December 5th! That is the longest distance (~1400km) any of the owls we have captured and banded has ever travelled!

And in the shorter distances traveled, an owl banded on Oct 12 was recaptured about 95 km away to the WSW at a banding station on the west side of Lake Simcoe near Gilford on Oct 19.

The banding station welcomed about 100 volunteers and guests this year, including some high school students from Cobourg and the Kawartha Field Naturalists.



Want to Become a Member?

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.

Bluebirds, Sapsuckers and Palm Warblers

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

With the early warm weather, seems as if the birds are a bit ahead of schedule. Dianne and Larry Jopson emailed that their Bluebirds, that nearly always arrive on April 4, turned up on March 25, 11 days early! Sapsuckers have been seen – won’t be long before Hummingbirds will be at the tree holes they have opened, both species eating the sap that oozes out. Now it is May, the big month for the warblers to return. One little (41/2” – 51/2”) beauty is the Palm Warbler with its rusty cap, yellow eyebrows and yellow under parts. Its most noticeable feature is its pumping tail (up and down), as it hunts on and from the ground for seeds, berries, ants, beetles, caterpillars, gnats, mosquitoes, flies and shad flies – eating as many as 60 per minute. The Palm Warbler is just passing through in May and then back again in September, to and from its nesting grounds in the Northern Shield and Tundra and its wintering grounds in south-eastern U.S.A. with some going as far south as Central America and the Caribbean. No nests have been recorded in the Kawarthas (to 2005) but a few in the Bruce Peninsula and Ottawa areas in its preferred habitat of spruce bogs with brushy areas. Rare for a warbler, it nests on or near the ground, the nest well-hidden, often under dense shrubs or hidden in moss – very difficult to find. It is estimated that there are about 7 million in Ontario. We have seen and heard them, on the ground in the fields along Jack Lake Road during migration, pumping their tails and singing their flat, buzzy trill, somewhat like the song of a Chipping Sparrow. We saw many in Cuba and Alabama on their wintering grounds. Count yourself lucky if you see one this May!

Great Blue Heron

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

It is always a calming experience to watch a Great Blue Heron make its leisurely way across the sky, flying at 18 to 29 miles an hour, neck folded back and legs straight out, looking as if it had all the time in the world. This heron is aptly named “Great”, being Canada’s largest heron with a wing span of 46” and when standing, is 4 feet tall. Most of them winter in the U.S.A. but a few stay in Southern Ontario near open water, making it a much shorter trip to their nesting grounds, thus saving their energy. These birds nest in colonies, averaging 35 nests (can be up to 150), at the top of dead trees which are frequently in a beaver pond. Often other types of herons and even cormorants have nests below in the same tree. There is safety in numbers! Nests, made of sticks, can be up to 39” across, with several in just one tree – quite a weight for the tree. We never did find the colony at our Jack’s Lake cottage but then it can be from 5 to 25 km away. This works because the parents know that many other birds are back at the nests watching for danger while they are able to eat copiously at their feeding area, then fly to the nest, lower their head to enable the young to grab their bill to put it into their throat, where the parents regurgitate the partially digested food into the young – then the parent moves on to feed the next baby. When the young are old enough, the parents just drop the food in the nest and the babies do the rest. In 10 weeks, the young are independent. A Great Blue often came to our shore, looking for small mammals such as mice, chipmunks. When we disturbed it, it would fly away, its harsh squawking sounding like a string of swear words, aimed at us for intruding. These wading birds also eat fish, frogs, reptiles, aquatic insects, sometimes standing motionless except for eyes and head, then plunging down to catch its prey. If they are walking around in shallow water, they are trying to force prey out from hiding places. Occasionally, they swim in deep water, catching fish near the surface. Enjoy those Great Blue Herons as you sit watching them from a deck chair this summer.

Help Us Document Ontario's Reptiles and Amphibians

-by Joe Crowley, Ontario Nature, from Nature Network News (April 15, 2010)

Spring is finally here; frogs are calling, turtles are basking and snakes and salamanders are on the move. With Ontario's reptiles and amphibians out and about for another season, it's time to start reporting your observations to the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas!

We need your help to document occurrences of Ontario's reptiles and amphibians throughout the province. Observations can be submitted using our online reporting form (oraa.ca/observationform.asp), e-mailed in an Excel spreadsheet to joec@ontarionature.org, or mailed on printed reporting cards. All of these reporting forms are available on our website at www.ontarionature.org/atlas. Observations can also be reported by calling (416) 444-8419 ext. 243. Last year almost 20,000 records were submitted to the atlas by over 120 individuals and groups. Thanks to everyone who has already contributed!

The information collected by the atlas is urgently needed to monitor trends in species distributions and abundance, assess species status and identify and manage important habitat for rare species. For more information about Ontario's reptiles and amphibians or the atlas program, please visit www.ontarionature.org/atlas.

Serious disease of bats spreads to Ontario

-submitted by Paul Elliott

A disease that is estimated to have killed over a million hibernating bats in the North-East USA over the past four winters has spread to Ontario. In March of this year bats suffering from White Nose Syndrome were discovered at a hibernation site near Bancroft. This was the first incidence of the disease in Canada. Subsequently, other cases have been recorded elsewhere in Ontario and Quebec.

White Nose Syndrome refers to a growth of white fungus that occurs around the snout of effected individuals. The fungus also occurs elsewhere on infected individuals, especially on the wing membranes. Although some individuals survive, the mortality rate at infection sites is typically 80-100%. The exact pathology of the disease is, as yet, unknown. The main theory is that the fungus, which grows at unusually low temperatures, infects hibernating bats and causes them to rouse from the deep sleep of hibernation. Waking from hibernation is very expensive for a bat because it has to raise its temperature from around 40C to 370C. Bats only have enough fat reserves to do this a few times during a winter. Infected individuals are left underweight and susceptible to exhaustion. At the moment it is still not clear whether the fungal infection is the cause of the mortality or whether it is a secondary symptom. There is no evidence that humans or any other animals are at risk.

The syndrome was first discovered in up-state New York in 2006 and has been spreading at approximately 300km per year since. Some rare species are at risk of being driven to extinction and there is the potential for the disease to precipitate a major ecological disaster. It is estimated that the bats that have already died would have consumed over 600 tons of insects per night, including mosquitoes and agricultural and forestry pest species.

There is no known treatment for the syndrome, although research is on-going. The only action that is being implemented at the moment is to restrict access to hibernation sites and ensure that bat workers and others entering caves and dis-used mines follow a strict decontamination protocol to avoid human transmission of fungal spores to other sites.

Anyone encountering dead or distressed bats should report the incident to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Free Guide to North American Hawks

from an Bird Studies Canada Latest News, 16 April 2010

A new silhouette *Guide to Hawks Seen in North America* is now available free from the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). The two-page guide helps users compare the shapes and key field marks of 21 species of migratory hawks seen throughout most of the continent. The guide is a handy field reference for all hawk watchers, and a great start for beginning hawk watchers.

The guide is available in two forms: as a free downloadable PDF (for single-copy printout for personal, non-commercial use), or as a professionally printed copy on durable card stock, laminated for long-term use in the field. Individual laminated copies cost \$5.00 each plus \$1 for shipping and handling. Special bulk prices are also available on the website.

Proceeds from sales support HMANA's effort to promote research, education, and conservation regarding our birds of prey. For complete information, and to order or download the new guide, visit <http://www.hmana.org/>.

Preventing Birds from Colliding with Homes

from an Bird Studies Canada Latest News, 16 April 2010

Scientists estimate that over 300 million birds die each year from collisions with glass – and particularly, windows on homes. These fatalities occur more frequently during spring and fall migration periods, and can be prevented.

A publication recently released by the American Bird Conservancy offers techniques homeowners can use to help birds see windows. The *How to Prevent Birds from Colliding with Home Windows/Doors* brochure offers quick and cost effective ways to protect birds from your windows, while minimizing obstruction of your view. Adding lightweight netting to your window, applying tempera paint, using tape to create patterns, and using prefabricated decals are some of the options explored in the informational guide.

Access the brochure (http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions_flyer.pdf) and learn more about preventative measures that can be taken to ensure birds are safe in your neighbourhood.

International Biodiversity Day is May 22nd, 2010

Each year, the world celebrates its biodiversity on a single day in May, one month after Earth Day. Each new Day is themed, and 2010's theme is *Biodiversity and Development*. The United Nations proclaimed May 22 **The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)** to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. For more information on the IBD, visit:

- Convention on Biological Diversity - <http://www.cbd.int/idb/>
- Canadian Biodiversity Information Network - <http://www.cbin.ec.gc.ca/>
- Biodiversity in Ontario - <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/index.html>

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2010

-from the WMBD website (<http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org>)

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the **International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)**. This is an appreciation of the value of biodiversity for our lives. However, it is not only a celebration, but also an invitation to take action to safeguard the variety of life on earth. Our planet's biological diversity is very rich and amazing. It is the result of billions of years of evolution and forms the complex web of life of which we are part and upon which we totally depend. Humankind relies on this diversity, because it provides us with food, fuel, medicine and other essentials which we need every day.

Regardless of that, species are disappearing because of human activities and there are a lot of species that are in danger of becoming extinct. These losses are irreversible and the decline of biodiversity endangers our livelihood. The current rate of extinction is a thousand times faster than the natural one. Normally, only one bird per century becomes extinct, but during the last thirty years 21 bird species disappeared. At the moment 192 birds are classified as Critically Endangered as a result of habitat loss, hunting, pollution, climate change, human disturbance and other reasons. These threats are directly or indirectly man-made. Without immediate action, many of these endangered species will not be here in a few years time.

Therefore in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, World Migratory Bird Day focuses on Globally Threatened Migratory Birds and especially on those thirty-one migratory bird species, which are classified as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List. These are birds, which face extinction.

Migratory birds rely on several different habitats; they need different locations for breeding and raising their young, and for feeding. Some of them migrate up to thousands of kilometers to find suitable areas and cross many different habitats, regardless of any political borders. Thus, saving migratory birds means saving their required habitats and that benefits other species as well. Because birds are found nearly everywhere and, with more than 10,000 described species, being the best known and best-researched taxon, they serve as vital indicators of distribution and state of biodiversity and the ecosystems they inhabit. If a bird species becomes threatened by extinction it is a clear sign that the conditions of, or the ecosystem itself, have changed and that other species that depend on this ecosystem may be affected as well. Saving every species is therefore essential, because if one species becomes extinct, the whole ecosystem will be affected.

To raise awareness on the close links between people, migratory birds and their habitats, join us in celebrating WMBD 2010 under the theme:

Save migratory birds in crisis – every species counts!

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the June issue: Friday, May 28th, 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



The partners in the Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative, including Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Alderville First Nation and Lower Trent Conservation, invite you to join us for the 4th Annual Rice Lake Plains International Migratory Bird Day Workshop – featuring presentations on Bird Conservation and Grassland Sparrow Identification, and including tours of the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, NCC's nature reserve lands, and the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre.

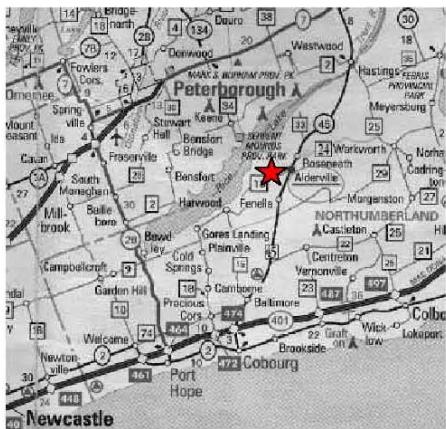
Saturday, May 8, 2010
Join us for one, or all, of the activities –
Meet at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna, 8467 County Rd 18 for all activities

Early Bird Walk at Alderville Black Oak Savanna	8:00 a.m.
Bird Conservation and Grassland Sparrows	9:30 a.m.
Tours of NCC properties and the Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre	12:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided but please bring your lunch, bird field guide, binoculars and wear comfortable closed toe shoes.

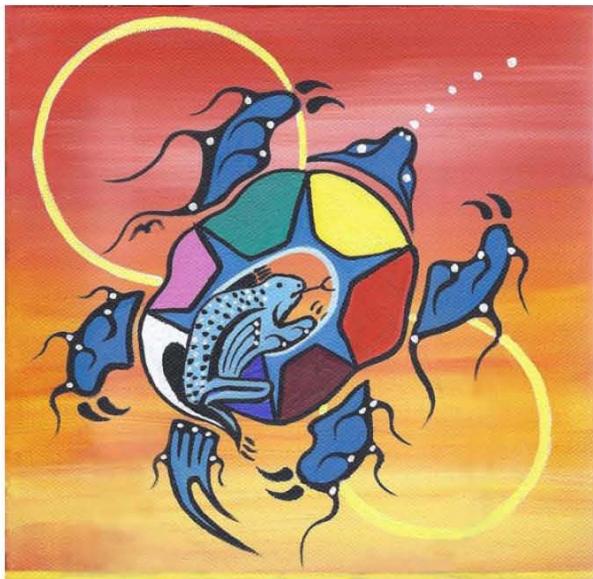
**Please contact the Alderville Black Oak Savanna at 905-352-9996
or savannatours@eagle.ca for more information or to register.**

The event is funded in part thanks to generous support from the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.



Alderville is located
20 minutes north of Cobourg





"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

painted turtle®

Dedicated to producing award-winning films
and protecting our environment.



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

In Celebration of





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.wymcatoronto.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@ontarienature.org or by phone at 416-444-8419 x 241.

Ontario
Nature

Sponsored by:

THE ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION **LA FONDATION TRILLIUM DE L'ONTARIO**

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP®



The ORCHID DIARY for 26 March - 30 April 2010

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

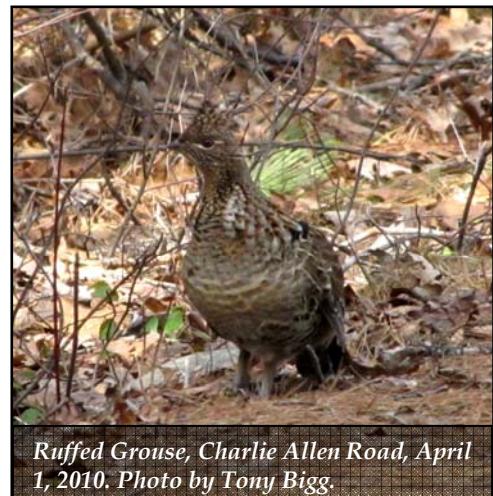
After an influx of migrants and many reports during a warm spell at the beginning of the month things slowed down considerably as colder weather returned for the rest of the month.

- Mar 24 Colin Jones heard three **Eastern Meadowlarks** singing in the fields at the southern edge of Lakefield A **Turkey Vulture** was seen by Travis Cameron at the junction of Hwy 155 and Cty Rd 28. Later in the afternoon he also found a **Midland Painted Turtle**, a **Green Frog**, and a **Mourning Cloak** butterfly off Coon Lake Rd north of Burleigh Falls.
- Mar 25 Randy Smith watched a single **Sandhill Crane** flying north-west over Chemong Lake towards Lakefield. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball watched a **Little Brown Bat** flying in daylight over Cty Rd 46 north of Round Lake.
- Mar 30 A **Bald Eagle** was seen by George Maynard preening on a power pole on River Rd South, and also heard a **Killdeer** flying around Stewart Hall.
- Mar 31 Luke Berg found a **Tree Swallow**, two **American Wigeons**, and a **Great Blue Heron** in the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary by the canal. George Maynard also saw a **Tree Swallow** checking out bird boxes in Stewart Hall, with attendant **House Sparrows** fending it off. Kingdon Baker saw a **Broadwing Hawk** flying over with a snake in its talons. He also saw a **Mourning Cloak** butterfly. Two **Fox Sparrows** were seen by Colin Jones at least one of which was singing, near the viewing tower at Lakefield Marsh. He also heard a few **Chorus Frogs** calling in the flooded fields south of Lakefield.
- Apr 02 Stephen Bigg had two **Sandhill Cranes** flying low over his house in Lakefield, and Tony Bigg saw one flying overhead on Cty Rd 44. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and several **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found by Scott McKinlay in Cavan Woods. Tony Bigg and Jerry Ball saw an **Eastern Garter Snake** on Sandy Lake Rd.
- Apr 03 A very busy day! Whilst walking his dog along the old rail trail between Base Line and David Fife Line in the south of the county Tony Bigg observed the following: three **Wilson's Snipes** calling, doing their display flights, and one sitting on top of a Hydro pole. Two pairs of **Osprey** were disputing ownership of a nest right at the start of this section of the trail (west end). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was doing its characteristic drumming on a dead tree, and several **Eastern Meadowlarks** were sitting up, singing, and taking in the first warm rays of the rising sun. A male **Northern Harrier** was coursing the open fields, two **American Kestrels** were sitting on the wires, and **Killdeers** were calling. Along the trail he saw one **Ruffed Grouse** and heard four others drumming. Whilst 'pishing' out two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** a **Fox Sparrow** popped into view. Eastern Phoebe had taken up a couple of stations along the way, **Pileated Woodpeckers** and **Northern Flickers** were active in the trees. The high pitched calls of the **Golden-crowned Kinglets** could be heard in the cedars and a helpful pair foraged in the top of an open
- Apr 03 tree. On the route home he added two **Tree Swallows**, a **Swamp Sparrow** singing, and the now common **Turkey Vultures** perched above the road in a dead tree. Sue Paradis reports that the **Merlins** are back to their nesting area in Nicholls Park, the male **Osprey** was doing his sky dance above his nest at the soccer field on Ashburnham Rd., and a female **Northern Cardinal** is busy gathering material for a nest in one of the Spruces. Don Sutherland, on the way to walk his dog in the Petroglyphs PP saw an **Osprey** on the Otonabee River in downtown Peterborough. In the park he observed lots of **Brown Creepers**, **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, and **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a single **Eastern Phoebe** and two **Northern Flickers** were calling. He heard two **Evening Grosbeaks** calling in flight overhead. He also saw four **Compton's Tortoiseshells**, three (?) **Commas**, a **Mourning Cloak**, and **The Infant** moth. There were lots of **Wood Frogs**, **Chorus Frogs** and **Spring Peepers** calling. **Midland Painted Turtles** and an **Eastern Garter Snake** were seen. In the swampy area on Mervin Line, Scott McKinlay saw

- Apr 03 **Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker**, and a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** excavating a hole. There were several **Rusty Blackbirds** foraging with **Red-winged Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles**. Lots of **Leopard Frogs** were calling. Rick Stankiewicz saw two **Ospreys** over nesting platforms close to the north shore of Rice Lake and another eating a fish on a Hydro pole at the junction of Cty Rd 2 and Cty Rd 35. Janice Melendez, visiting from Whitby, counted fifteen **Ospreys** in total in the same area. In the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary Luke Berg saw a **Northern Goshawk** circling over the canal. He also saw a **Northern Skrike, Tree Swallows, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker** and **Eastern Phoebe**. Tony Bigg had a **Cabbage White** in his garden.
- Apr 04 Stewart Stick searching for reptiles and amphibians found **Eastern Garter Snakes** in Burnham Wood PP, the Trent Wildlife Sanctuary (TWS), and on the Trent-Lakefield rail trail. He saw a baby **Milk Snake** in the TWS, an adult **Snapping Turtle** at Sawyer's Creek by the rail trail, and **Midland Painted Turtles** in the same area. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were photographed by Tony Bigg at the junction of Birdsall Rd and Lakeshore Rd.
- Apr 05 On Northey's Bay Rd Stewart Stick found lots of amphibian activity during the rainy evening. - hundreds of **Spring Peepers**, dozens of **Leopard Frogs**, a few **Gray Tree Frogs** on the roads, one **Red Eft** (terrestrial juvenile **Eastern Newt**), and several **Blue Spotted Salamanders** and **Spotted Salamanders**.
- Apr 06 A **Spring Azure** visited Tony Bigg's garden as did a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**.
- Apr 07 Whilst **Coltsfoot** has been in bloom for some time, today Tony Bigg noted **Whitlow Grass** (parking lot in Lakefield), **Sharp-lobed Hepatica** (Charlie Allen Rd), **Common Speedwell** (garden), and **Leatherwood** (Charlie Allen Rd) in bloom. He also saw Rusty **Blackbird** on Charlie Allen Rd.
- Apr 08 A **Blue-winged Teal** was seen by Tony Bigg from the rail trail between Villiers and Blezard Lines. Ben Walters counted 63 **Tree Swallows** hunting over the river and sitting on a powerline by Trent University.
- Apr 09 A **Muskrat** was seen by John Bottomley safely crossing the Parkway south of Lansdowne Rd. John also saw a pair of **Turkey Vultures** circling over the water tower on High St.
- Apr 12 Sheryl Smith and her husband watched a **Peregrine Falcon** fly over their house on Young's Point Rd.
- Apr 18 Chris Risley leading the PFN Sunday morning bird walk reported that the birding was relatively quiet and lacking in variety and numbers. The group visited Promise Rock (P) at the north end of Trent campus, the marsh where Sawyer Creek enters the Otonabee River (S) and Buckley's Lake east of Lakefield (B). Birds seen included: **Canada Goose** (SB), **Mallard** (PS), **Common Goldeneye** (S), **Bufflehead** (S), **Common Loon** (P), **Pied-billed Grebe** (heard B), **Ring-billed Gull** (S), **Ruffed Grouse** (B), **Red-tailed Hawk** (Zoo), **Merlin** (PS), **Cooper's Hawk** (P), **Killdeer** (S), **Belted Kingfisher** (S), **Downy Woodpecker** (P), **Northern Flicker** (P), **Eastern Phoebe** (P), **Tree Swallow** (S), **Black-capped Chickadee** (PB), **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (P), **American Robin** (PB), **European Starling** (P), **Blue Jay** (PB), **American Crow** (PSB), **Red-winged Blackbird** (PSB), **Brown-headed Cowbird** (P), **Northern Cardinal** (P), **American Goldfinch** (P), **Song Sparrow** (P), **Swamp Sparrow** (PSB), **Chipping Sparrow** (B).
- Apr 22 Ben Walters reports seeing three male and two female **Northern Shovelers** on Johnston Drive south of Hwy 115.



Sandhill Cranes, Lakeshore Road, April 4, 2010. Photo by Tony Bigg.



Ruffed Grouse, Charlie Allen Road, April 1, 2010. 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:	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="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:

<input type="radio"/> Joining the PFN Executive	<input type="radio"/> Sitting on research or conservation committees	<input type="radio"/> Working on field projects
<input type="radio"/> Helping with refreshments at meetings	<input type="radio"/> 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							
<input type="radio"/> Under 20	<input type="radio"/> 20-29	<input type="radio"/> 30-39	<input type="radio"/> 40-49	<input type="radio"/> 50-59	<input type="radio"/> 60-69	<input type="radio"/> 70-79	<input type="radio"/> 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 terms on behalf of all of my underage children.

Signature: _____