



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

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| <p>Wednesday November 10th 7:30 p.m. Ptbo Public Library</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Photographic journey to the Galapagos and Amazon" Eileen Nolan and Lorne Kelsey will speak to us about their trip to the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest in eastern Ecuador. The Galapagos archipelago is located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and are world-renowned as the seed of inspiration for Charles Darwin's controversial and insightful theory on Natural Selection. Some of the animals encountered include blue footed boobies, frigate birds, giant tortoises, iguanas, penguins, sea rays and turtles and of course Darwin's finches! The islands and the rainforest are also a photographer's paradise - join us for a photographic journey to this extraordinary part of the world.</p> |
| <p>Sunday December 5th 6:00 a.m.</p> | <p>Bird Watching Trip to the Niagara Region Join a full-day's outing to the Niagara region for some winter bird watching, especially the rarer gulls. Participants will meet at Tim Horton's on Landsdowne St. in the Canadian Tire Plaza at 6:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, lunch (we will also make stops at convenient Tim Horton's) and be sure to dress warmly. Leader: Tony Bigg, 705-652-7541 or tanddbigg@sympatico.ca</p> |
| <p>Wednesday December 8th 7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Members Slide Show" Have you traveled somewhere recently? Taken any greats photos that you would like to share with PFN members? Come on out to our annual slide show by PFN members! Anyone wishing to show slides should contact Janine at 705-778-1479 or janine@sdf1.net</p> |

COMING EVENTS continued

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|--|--|
| <p>December 19th & December 27th</p> | <p>Christmas Bird Counts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peterborough CBC: Sunday December 19th• Petroglyphs CBC: Monday, December 27th <p>Participants should let Tony Bigg know as soon as possible if they are available for either or both. For the Peterborough count the compilation will be at Kelsey's, opposite the Canadian Tire plaza on Lansdowne St. at 5:00p.m. and for the Petroglyphs count it will be held in Hamblins in Lakefield also at 5.00 p.m. Contact Tony at tanddbigg@sympatico.ca or phone 705-652-7541. Newcomers to the area, and newcomers to birding, are welcome to participate. They would be partnered with more experienced local birders. More eyes result in more birds seen! This count is an all day affair starting at daylight, or preferably earlier if you wish to add owls to the day's list and finishing in time to make the compilation.</p> |
| <p>January 21st (tentative)</p> <p>5:30 pm</p> <p>Baker's Hill Centre</p> | <p>71st PFN Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Join us for the PFN's Annual General Meeting – a tradition you won't want to miss. Keep up to date on club business, elect the next executive, enter the raffle for fabulous prizes, enjoy a delicious meal and stay for an entertaining presentation. Social hour begins at 5:30, supper starts at 6:00, meeting at 7:00, raffle at 7:30 and speaker beginning at 8:00pm. To reserve your tickets, call Don & Emily Pettypiece at 750-1145, or purchase them at the December meeting. Look for more information in the next Orchid.</p> |

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS

How Do Animals Prepare for Winter?

Sunday, November 21st, 2:00 p.m. at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre

To old and new JFN's: It was great to see such a large and interested turnout to the reptile show. The presenters were pretty impressed that you got 7 of 8 Ontario turtles. Here's a question for the next JFN outing: How many acorns can you stick in your mouth to get ready for the winter? Maybe we'll find out at the next outing when we are going to look at how animals prepare for winter. Come ready for some games, a hike, and to sniff out your acorns. See you there...Neil & Dan



Peterborough Horticultural Society's hosts their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 24th 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 Vicky Taylor-Scott. Her topic is "Nursery Rhymes & Riddles - Solving Garden Problems with Tenacity and Laughs".

Mourning Doves Part 3

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

“My” Mourning Doves started another family in August. – only one egg this time. On September 10, I could see the little face and neck of the squab peeking out from under the adult. On September 17, both adults were on the edge of the nest, concentrating on the squab – the first time that I had seen them together. An hour later, all were gone: nesting season was over for this year. One bird expert who has heard this story of a pair of Mourning Doves fledging one young before the other egg, laid at the same time, is even hatched, is new to her. Perhaps the consistently-hot weather allowed the parents to leave for periods of time while they concentrated on feeding the one that had already left the nest. If they return next year, or any other species nest where I can see them, my top priority will be to keep more dates of their progress because strange things do happen! Mourning Dove eggs hatch in about 15 days and the squabs leave the nest about 16 days later. From my notes, this is the 2010 history of this pair of Mourning Doves:

The first nest, early June, was unsuccessful – probably predators. Two eggs were laid about June 20 and one of the squabs fledged July 20; the second egg that the parents were still brooding (in very warm weather), hatched and left the nest August 17, although the egg was laid June 20, 58 days before instead of the normal 30 days or so ; another egg, last of the season, was laid shortly afterwards and fledged (left the nest), September 17. If anyone has an answer to this long incubation, it would be most appreciated.

ORCHID SUBMISSIONS WANTED

Deadline for submissions for the December issue: Friday, November 26th, 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

PFN Officers and Directors

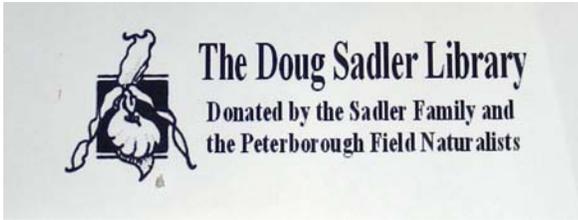
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|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| President | John Bottomley | johnbottomley@sympatico.ca | 742-1524 |
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Other Volunteers

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



At the unveiling of the Doug Sadler Library at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, friends and colleagues were invited to reminisce on Doug's life. The following is from Martin Parker:



A Tribute to Doug Sadler

-by Martin Parker

Doug Sadler was a friend and the leading naturalist of the Peterborough Region. Doug was renowned for his knowledge of our local and national flora and fauna. If one had a question about birds in our region one just had to ask Doug - he knew the answer.

When I initially joined the Peterborough Nature Club, now the Peterborough Field Naturalists, at the age of 13, Doug was the President of the Club. At that time he was one of several key naturalists in the club - Harry Williams, Claire Williams, Dudley Hewitt and Larry McKeever. These individuals were the leaders of the natural history community and consistently challenged each other and the members of the club to be better naturalists. The legacy continues with this club. I was fortunate, as a junior member, to be driven home after each meeting by Doug. This was a chance to discuss bird observations. Doug always had time to assist a young beginning birder.

Doug had time to help anyone to become a better naturalist. He listened and provided advice and encouragement. At the club's annual members slide night there were always some photos of species that members wanted the identified. Doug was always ready to identify the species, thus expanding the member's knowledge.

My first recollection of Doug was his column 'Come With Me Quietly' in the Peterborough Examiner. The earliest article was one concerning one of the miracles of August - the changing of a black and yellow Caterpillar into a green chrysalis and then into an adult Monarch Butterfly. Doug described how his young daughter marveled at this change in form of one insect. We have done the same with our children over the years and as Doug did, we released the butterfly back to the wild.

Doug wrote an impressive 2,390 columns for the Peterborough Examiner, commencing in the 1950's and lasting for 47 years. A little known fact is that the editor of the paper, who encouraged Doug to write the column was Robertson Davis, a Canadian literary legend. Doug's legacy of columns, done without the aid of computers and word processing software, will never be met again. Coming up with different topics for each column is another impressive feat and noted previously by Drew Monkman and ourselves who do a birding column for the North Bay Nugget.

Besides the columns in the Examiner, Doug also prepared a monthly summary of bird observations in the Peterborough region for the club's newsletter, The Orchid. Doug also took the time to write a number of books as well.

At an annual meeting in the 1960's it was stated in the introduction of the speaker, that the Board, in selecting the banquet speaker, aimed at obtaining one of the leading naturalists in the province to be the speaker. That year there was discussion on whom to invite - the answer was easy and obvious - Doug Sadler.

I remember one meeting in 1963 or 1964 where Doug showed some photos of his birding trip to the Dakotas. He showed a photo of another birder photographing a nest. This birder was Roger Tory Peterson. Doug

has spent part of his birding trip with Peterson. As a young member I was impressed.

Doug was also active in naturalists' organizations outside Peterborough. In 1965-68 he was President of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. In 1968 they held their annual meeting in Peterborough and at the meeting the Minister of Lands and Forests announced the establishment of a new Provincial Park for Ontario - Polar Bear. The FON under Doug's leadership had advocated for the establishment of this park and it was announced during Doug's Presidency. Doug went on to be a founding director and first Treasurer of the Canadian Nature Federation, now Nature Canada. His network of contacts in the natural history movement extended across the country.

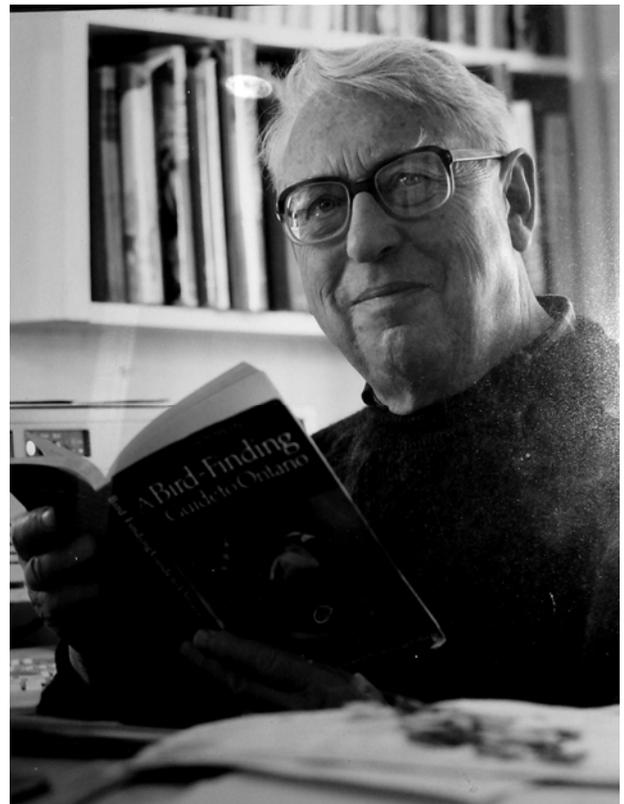
Doug was a regular leader of field outings for the Peterborough Field Naturalists. He led annually both spring and fall trips to Presqu'ile Provincial Park and a February trip to Algonquin Provincial Park. I recall one trip to Presqu'ile in 1966 where we followed Doug's scope poking above the vegetation as we made our way to the beach at Owen's Point to see a shorebird which I had not heard of - a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. We saw the bird. This is not a species I observe annually. Doug spent the time to emphasize the uniqueness of this observation. Another interesting outing Doug led in the mid-1960's, was to document breeding of species in the region. On one of these outings Doug was able to find the first Chestnut-sided Warbler nest recorded in the county.

At a dinner to celebrate Doug's columns in the late 1990's, Peter Adams, then MP for Peterborough, commented that 'Doug's collection of columns has created an environmental awareness with the citizens of

Peterborough'. Doug had been previously awarded with an honorary doctorate from Trent University for his work in creating environmental awareness in the community.

We should also take time to thank Joan and Heather for sharing their husband and dad with the club and others. Joan always made young naturalists welcome.

Tonight I hope we all take time to think about the legacy of Doug Sadler, a friend, author, and naturalist. Doug's legacy continues with the young people he mentored, who are still active in the natural history community and mentoring the next generation of field naturalists. The Doug Sadler Library will provide resources for future budding naturalists to expand their knowledge in and their interest in natural history, another legacy of Doug.



Rare Flowers for Peterborough County

-by Tony Bigg

Whilst leading the PFN Sunday walk on September 12th I noticed an unusual goldenrod. I looked it up when I got home and thought it might be a Sharp-leaved Goldenrod. Since the book I referenced (Goldenrods of Ontario by John C. Semple) stated that "only a dozen collections have been made to date" I thought I would go back and photograph the plant. I forwarded the photos to Mike Oldham at the MNR who confirmed my identification. Although the book did not indicate a finding in our county I later saw that Don Sutherland had identified the plant in 1995 (1998 Peterborough County Natural History Summary). I also recently came across my first Maidenhair Spleenwort, a fern, in the Warsaw Caves CA. This also is rare in the county.



Above photos: *Solidago arguta* (Sharp-leaved Goldenrod), Bridgenorth Trail, September 15, 2010.

Photo at left: *Asplenium trichomanes* (Maidenhair Spleenwort), Warsaw Caves Conservation Area, October 17, 2010.

Photos by Tony Bigg.

Changes In The Birds of the Backyard

-by Martin Parker

A constant in birding and nature is that there are always changes over time with changes in species composition and habitat over time. I left Peterborough in 1973 and returned the family home on Westbrook Drive in the fall of 2009 after an absence of 36 years. I have noticed changes in the composition of birds in the yard and neighbourhood.

The most noticeable change is the appearance of species which were rare or not present in the 1960's and early 1970's. During this period the Northern Cardinal was slowly moving into the Peterborough area. At the wrap-up for Peterborough Christmas Bird Counts in the 1960's there was hope that someone would manage to observe cardinals during the day. In the years from 1960 to 1970 Northern Cardinals were only observed on five of the 11 counts, with the maximum number of individuals being 10 in 1966. Last winter there were up to four Northern Cardinals at our backyard feeder at one time. In the spring there were approximately ten singing males in the adjacent neighbourhood.

Another species which arrived in Peterborough during the past 35 years is the House Finch. This species initially arrived in Ontario in the mid-1970's in the Kingston and Niagara Regions. The eastern expansion of this species originated from a small group of caged birds released in the Long Island area in the 1940's. In the 1970's the expanded throughout eastern North America and recently have met the western population. House Finches are now common in our yard. They are regular visitors to the bird feeder and their calls fill the spring air.

The Merlin in the 1960's was an uncommon bird in the region. It was in low numbers due to the effects on reproduction by various long-term pesticides. The Merlin is now a regular bird in our neighbourhood. In the summer of 2009 there was a nesting pair and the scolding of the Merlin could be heard daily. This year they were present at various times but did not appear to nest. Merlins can be found at numerous locations around the region.

Sandhill Cranes were not a bird one would expect to find in the region in the 1960's and early 1970's. Sandhill Cranes are now part of our avifauna and can be found at a number of wetland and open field areas around the region. Similarly Wild Turkeys have returned to the region as a result of reintroduction in various parts of the province.

On the other hand Yellow Warblers, which nested in the shrubs in the yard annually in the 1960's were absent for the past two summers. During the past winter there were no Evening Grosbeaks visiting the feeders during the winter months. In the 1960's one just had to make sunflower seeds available Last winter no Evening Grosbeaks visited our feeder. The decline to a stable population level for this species is the reason for the absence.

Even through Evening Grosbeaks were absent, the natural corridor had a small population of 30 or more American Robins last winter. According to others robins are present in the corridor each winter. They were feeding on the variety of wild berries present. This natural corridor has been partially cleared this August, to make way for the Hospital Access Road, so it will be interesting to see if the American Robins return this winter.

WINTER FINCH FORECAST 2010-2011

This winter's theme is that some finch species will irrupt into southern Canada and the northern United States, while other species will remain in the north. As an example, Common and Hoary Redpolls will move south whereas Pine Grosbeaks will stay in the north. See individual finch forecasts below for details. Three irruptive non-finch passerines are also discussed.

KEY FINCH TREE CROPS

Key trees in the boreal forest affecting finch abundance and movements are white and black spruces, white birch, and mountain-ashes. South of the boreal in the mixed coniferous/deciduous forest region, white pine and hemlock are additional key finch trees. Other trees play a lesser role, but often boost or buffer main seed sources. These include tamarack (American larch), balsam fir, white cedar, yellow birch and alders.

SPRUCE: White spruce cone crops are very good to excellent across the northern half of the boreal forest in Canada, except Newfoundland where crops are poor. However, spruce crops are much lower in the southern half of the boreal forest and poor in the mixed forest region of central Ontario such as Algonquin Park. The spruce crop is good to very good in central and northern Quebec, but generally poor in Atlantic Canada and northeastern United States. Spruce cone abundance is very good in the foothills of Alberta and eastern side of the Rocky Mountains in Canada, but poor in the southern half of British Columbia and in Washington State. A bumper white spruce cone crop in southern Yukon attracted high numbers of White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins this past summer and they may remain there through the winter. Spruce crops are generally poor in the Atlantic Provinces, New York State and New England States. **WHITE PINE:** Cone crop is spotty with scattered good to excellent crops across Ontario. White pine crops are low in Atlantic Canada, New York and New England States.

HEMLOCK: Cone crop is poor in Ontario and elsewhere in the East. **WHITE BIRCH:** Crop is poor across the boreal forest of Canada and in central Ontario, but birch crops are much better in southern Ontario south of the Canadian (Precambrian) Shield. **MOUNTAIN-ASH:** Berry crops are generally excellent across Canada and Alaska, but poor in Newfoundland.

INDIVIDUAL FINCH FORECASTS

Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario, but neighboring provinces and states may find they apply to them.

PINE GROSBEAK: The Pine Grosbeak breeds in moist open habitats across northern Ontario. It is most common in northeastern Ontario which receives more precipitation than northwestern Ontario (Peck and Coady in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). Most Pine Grosbeaks should stay in the north this winter because the mountain-ash berry crop is generally excellent across the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska, except for a poor crop in Newfoundland. The feeders at the Visitor Centre in Algonquin Park usually attract Pine Grosbeaks even in non-flight winters. If Pine Grosbeaks wander into southern Ontario they will find good crops of European mountain-ash berries and ornamental crabapples.

PURPLE FINCH: This finch winters in the north when the majority of deciduous and coniferous seed crops are abundant, which is not the case this year. Most Purple Finches will migrate south of Ontario this fall. A few may frequent feeders in southern Ontario. Purple Finch numbers have declined significantly in recent decades due in part to a decrease of spruce budworm outbreaks since the 1980s (Leckie and Cadman in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007).

RED CROSSBILL: This crossbill comprises at least 10 "call types" in North America. Each type has its particular cone preferences related to bill size and shape. These crossbill types may be at an early stage of evolving into full species

and some may already qualify for species status. They are exceedingly difficult to identify in the field and much remains to be learned about their status and distribution. Types 2 and 3 and probably 4 occur regularly in Ontario (Simard in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). Most Red Crossbill types prefer pines, but the smallest-billed Type 3 (*sitkensis* subspecies of AOU Check-list 1957) prefers the small soft cones of hemlock in Ontario. It will be absent this winter because hemlock crops are poor. Type 2 may be the most frequently encountered Red Crossbill in the province. Some Type 2s should be found this winter where white pine crops are very good such as northeastern Algonquin Park and along Highway 69 north of the French River in Sudbury District. Possible this winter are other Red Crossbill types associated with red pine, which has some locally good crops.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: High numbers of White-winged Crossbills are currently concentrated in southern Yukon where the white spruce cone crop is bumper. These may remain there this winter. This crossbill's highest breeding abundance in Ontario is in the spruce dominated Hudson Bay Lowlands and adjacent northern Canadian Shield (Coady in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). Most Ontario reports this past summer came from this area where the white spruce cone crop is heavy. Some were singing and presumably nesting. They might remain in northern Ontario this winter if seed supplies last. Some may disperse southward as spruce seeds run low and could appear in southern Ontario and northern United States. However, they will be rare or absent this winter in traditional areas such as Algonquin Park where spruce and hemlock cone crops are very poor. Unlike the Red Crossbill, the White-winged Crossbill has no subspecies (monotypic) or call types in North America. Its nomadic wanderings across the boreal forest mix the populations and allow gene flow, which inhibits geographical variation and the formation of subspecies.

COMMON REDPOLL: Redpolls should irrupt into southern Canada and the northern United States this winter. The Common Redpoll's breeding range in Ontario is mainly in the Hudson Bay Lowlands from the Manitoba border southeast to southern James Bay (Leckie and Pittaway in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). Redpolls in winter are a birch seed specialist and movements are linked in part to the size of the birch crop. The white birch crop is poor across much of northern Canada. Another indicator of an upcoming irruption was a good redpoll breeding season in 2010 with double and possibly triple broods reported in Quebec. High breeding success also was reported in Yukon. Samuel Denault of McGill University has shown that redpoll movements at Tadoussac, Quebec, are more related to reproductive success than to tree seed crops in the boreal forest. Redpolls will be attracted to the good birch seed crops on native white birch and European white birch in southern Ontario and to weedy fields. They should be frequent this winter at feeders offering nyger and black oil sunflower seeds. Watch for the larger, darker and browner "Greater" Common Redpolls (*rostrata* subspecies) in the flocks. It is reliably identified by its larger size and proportionally longer thicker bill and longer tail in direct comparison with "Southern" Common Redpolls (nominate *flammea* subspecies).

HOARY REDPOLL: The breeding population in northern Ontario is the most southerly in the world (Leckie and Pittaway in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). Careful checking of redpoll flocks should produce a few Hoary Redpolls. There are two subspecies. Most Hoaries seen in southern Canada and northern United States are "Southern" Hoary Redpolls (*exilipes* subspecies). During the last large redpoll irruption in 2007/2008, several "Hornemann's" Hoary Redpolls (nominate *hornemanni* subspecies) were found and supported by photographs. Hornemann's Redpoll was previously regarded as a great rarity south of the Arctic, but it may be more frequent than formerly believed. Hornemann's is most reliably identified by its much larger size

in direct comparison with *flammea* Common Redpolls or *exilipes* Hoary Redpoll. Note that white birds loom larger than life among darker birds and size illusions are possible.

PINE SISKIN: Similar to the White-winged Crossbill, there are currently high numbers of siskins in southern Yukon attracted to a bumper white spruce cone crop. They could stay in Yukon for the winter. Siskins show a tendency for north-south migration, but are better considered an opportunistic nomad (Pittaway in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). Banding recoveries show that siskins wander from coast to coast searching for conifer seed crops. They were uncommon this past summer in Ontario and the Northeast. Some might winter in northern Ontario where the white spruce crop is heavy. However, siskins are currently uncommon in the Northeast so there are potentially only very small numbers that could irrupt south in eastern North America.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Highest breeding densities in Ontario are found in areas with spruce budworm outbreaks. Current breeding and wintering populations are now much lower than a few decades ago mainly because large spruce budworm outbreaks have subsided since the 1980s (Hoar in Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007). If some come south this winter, they will find large crops of Manitoba maple (boxelder) seeds and plenty of black oil sunflower seeds at feeders waiting for them.

THREE MORE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES

BLUE JAY: This will be an average flight year with smaller numbers than in 2009 along the north shorelines of Lakes Ontario and Erie. Beechnut crops are poor to none. Acorn crops are spotty, but considerably better than last year. More Blue Jays will winter in Ontario than last winter due to caches of acorns and other mast crops.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: This nuthatch is a conifer seed specialist when it winters in the north, thus its movements are triggered by the

same crops as the boreal winter finches. The southward movement, which began in the summer, signaled the generally poor cone crops on spruces, balsam fir and white pine in the mixed coniferous/deciduous forest region across Ontario and in Atlantic Canada, New York and New England States. Red-breasted Nuthatches will be very scarce this winter in central Ontario such as Algonquin Park. White spruce crops are excellent in the northern half of the boreal forest, but it is uncertain how many Red-breasted Nuthatches will winter that far north.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Most Bohemians Waxwings will stay close to the boreal forest this winter because mountain-ash berry crops are excellent across Canada, except in Newfoundland. Some should wander south to traditional areas of eastern and central Ontario such as Ottawa and Peterborough where planted European mountain-ashes and ornamental crabapples are frequent. If you get the opportunity to visit northern Ontario this winter, you may see Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks feeding together on mountain-ash berries. The grosbeaks eat the seeds and discard the flesh whereas the waxwings swallow the entire berry and sometimes eat the fleshy leftovers of the grosbeaks. The similar coloration of Bohemian Waxwings and female Pine Grosbeaks may be functional, perhaps reducing interspecific aggression when they feed together.

WHERE TO SEE FINCHES

A winter trip to Algonquin Park is a birding adventure. The park is a three hour drive north of Toronto. Finch numbers will be low in Algonquin forests this winter, but the feeders at the Visitor Centre should attract redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Grosbeaks. Gray Jays frequent the suet feeder and sometimes Pine Martens and Fishers feed on the suet and sunflower seeds. A high observation deck overlooks a spectacular boreal wetland and black spruce/tamarack forest. Eastern Timber Wolves (*Canis lycaon*), which until recently was a subspecies of the Gray Wolf (*C. lupus*), are seen

occasionally from the observation deck feeding on road-killed Moose put out by park staff. The Visitor Centre and restaurant at km 43 are open on weekends in winter. Arrangements can be made to view feeders on weekdays. For information, call the Visitor Centre at 613-637-2828. The Spruce Bog Trail at km 42.5 near the Visitor Centre and the gated area north on the Opeongo Road are the best spots for finches, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Spruce Grouse and Black-backed Woodpecker.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: I thank staff of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources from across the province designated by an asterisk* and many others whose reports allow me to make annual forecasts: Dennis Barry (Durham Region and Washington State), Eleanor Beagan (Prince Edward Island), Ken Corston* (Moosonee), Pascal Cote (Tadoussac Bird Observatory, Quebec), Mark Cranford, Samuel Denault (Monts-Pyramides, Quebec), Bruce Di Labio (Eastern Ontario), Carrolle Eady (Dryden), Cameron Eckert (Yukon), Brian Fox* (South Porcupine), Francois Gagnon (Abitibi, Lac Saint-Jean, Saguenay, Quebec), Marcel Gahbauer (Alberta), Michel Gosselin (Canadian Museum of Nature), David Govatski (New Hampshire), Charity Hendry* (Ontario Tree Seed Plant), Leo Heyens* (Kenora), Tyler Hoar (Central and Northern Ontario), George Holborn* (Thunder Bay), Eric Howe*, Peter Hynard (Minden), Jean Iron (Northeastern

Ontario and James Bay), Bob Knudsen (Sault Ste Marie, Ontario), Bruce Mactavish (Newfoundland), David McCorquodale (Cape Breton Island), Erwin Meissner (Massey), Andree Morneault* (North Bay to Renfrew County), Brian Naylor* (North Bay to Renfrew County), Martyn Obbard*, Stephen O'Donnell (Parry Sound District), Fred Pinto* (North Bay to Renfrew County), Dean Phoenix*, Rick Salmon* (Lake Nipigon), Harvey and Brenda Schmidt (Creighton, Saskatchewan), Don Sutherland* (Northern Ontario), Ron Tozer (Algonquin Park), Declan Troy (Alaska), Gert Trudel (Gowganda), Mike Turner* (Haliburton Highlands), John Woodcock (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory), Alan Wormington, and Matt Young of Cornell University, who provided detailed information about seed crops in New York and other eastern states. Jean Iron and Michel Gosselin made many helpful comments and proofed the forecast.

LITERATURE CITED: Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario 2007 by editors M.D. Cadman, D.A. Sutherland, G.G. Beck, D. Lepage and A.R. Couturier.

<http://www.birdsontario.org/atlas/index.jsp>

Ron Pittaway
Ontario Field Ornithologists
Minden, Ontario
23 September 2010



Photos from October's JFN meeting (Reptiles at Risk).
Photos courtesy of Neil Fortin.





The **ORCHID DIARY** for **September 27 - Oct 25 2010**

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

Of note during this period is appearance of two Peregrine Falcons in downtown Peterborough. One or two birds were seen on at least three occasions. The Peregrine Falcon seen early last month may have been one of these birds. Several new Fall migrants appeared during the period.

- Sep 26 The two **Peregrine Falcons** reported in the Peterborough Examiner of September 25 were seen this evening by Andrew Lipscombe. This time, they were perched on the top of George Street United Church. Apparently, they took off and flew out of sight almost immediately. The birds had previously been seen on Mark Street United Church. Jerry Ball observed **Rusty Blackbirds** and a **Blue-headed Vireo** on the David Fife to Blezard Line rail trail.
- Sep 27 On the Cameron Line to Cty Rd 38 rail trail, Jerry Ball found an **Eastern Phoebe, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Towhee, and Palm Warbler**.
- Sep 28 Drew Monkman had his first **Dark-eyed Juncos** for the season feeding in his yard
- Sep 29 A **White-crowned Sparrow** was found on Hubble Rd by Jerry Ball.
- Sep 30 On River Rd in Asphodel Tsp, Jerry Ball saw 25 **American Pipits**.
- Oct 01 Three **White-crowned Sparrows** (two adults and one immature) fed among the 20 or so **White-throated Sparrows** in Drew Monkman's yard. Several **Dark-eyed Juncos** were also present. Mitch Brownstein and his wife, Liliana, saw a single **Peregrine Falcon** at about 5:00 p.m. on George Street United Church. The bird was on the southwest side of the church tower.
- Oct 02 Karen and Stewart MacDonald saw an **American Bittern** by Julian's Creek Rd near Stoney Lake. Six **Eastern Meadowlarks** were seen by Jerry Ball on Scriven Rd in the south of the county.
- Oct 03 During a morning walk of PFN members lead by Tony Bigg, the group found a **Ring-necked Duck** just above Lock 23, and seven **Lesser Scaups** in the Lakefield Lagoons. Also of note they found two flocks of **Rusty Blackbirds**, a **Blue-headed Vireo**, many **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a few **Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Green-winged Teal, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Purple Finches**, and a **Northern Harrier**. Karen and Stewart MacDonald saw an adult male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** by Julian's Creek Rd near Stoney Lake
- Oct 04 Pierre Gilbert found an **Eastern Towhee** on Oriole Crescent in Peterborough. He was eating on the ground under his feeder, which is located near thicket like shrubs at the back of the property. It was feeding alongside **Dark-eyed Juncos** and **Mourning Doves**. Tony Bigg saw a female **Common Merganser** resting on a rock in the Otonabee River just south of Lakefield.
- Oct 05 Randy Smith reported two **Sandhill Cranes** flying over his house on Gifford Drive in Ennismore. He also saw several **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, an **Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow**, and **Brown Creeper** in the area
- Oct 06 On Boundary Rd in Ennismore, Randy Smith found 25 **Rusty Blackbirds** and the first **American Tree Sparrow** of the season.
- Oct 08 Jerry Ball found a **Winter Wren** on the Cameron to Blezard Line rail trail
- Oct 09 Pierre Guilbert of Oriole Crescent in Peterborough, saw an **Eastern Phoebe** land on the wire just outside his sunroom. It sat there for a minute or two and then flew off.
- Oct 11 Near the 6th hole tee of the Peterborough Golf & Country Club, Sean Smith saw an **Eastern Towhee**
- Oct 14 Randy Smith listened to a **Carolina Wren** singing on Elwyn Drive in Ennismore
- Oct 16 Bryan Whitfield and Mary-Beth Aspinall found a **Gray Jay** not too far from their home south of Peterborough. The bird was on Mervin Line west of Airport Rd. Questioned about the possibility of it being a Northern Shrike they went through the details of what they saw and confirmed that it was indeed a Gray Jay well south of its normal range.
- Oct 19 David Critchlow counted an amazing 26 **Sandhill Cranes** flying south over the north end of Peterborough.
- Oct 20 Fifty **American Pipits** and three **Fox Sparrows** were seen by Jerry Ball on the Cameron Line to Cty Rd 38 rail trail.
- Oct 22 Whilst walking the Bridgenorth trail Tony Bigg noticed a big influx of both **American Tree Sparrows** and **American Robins**. This new trail has abundant berries and should be good for Bohemian Waxwings if and when they arrive.

- Oct 23 Touring the southwest of the County, Jerry Ball saw two **Fox Sparrows**, a **Hermit Thrush**, and two **American Tree Sparrows** on the Cameron Line to Cty Rd 38 rail trail. On David Fife Line at the Indian River he found a **Northern Shrike**, an **American Pipit** on Duoro 3rd Line north of Centre Rd, and a male and a female **Common Goldeneye** on the Otonabee River south of Lakefield.
- Oct 25 One male and seven female **Common Goldeneyes** were seen on the Otonabee River south of Lakefield , by Tony Bigg
-

KHC Photo Contest 2010: Celebrating the Diverse Landscapes of the Kawarthas.

In celebrating the unique landscapes of the region, **Kawartha Heritage Conservancy** is hosting its annual photography contest titled "*Celebrating the Diverse Landscapes of the Kawarthas*". Contest details and photo submission forms can be downloaded from our website at: www.kawarthaheritage.org or picked up from KHC's office. You can submit your entries in three ways: 1) complete the on-line form and upload your digital photo on our website; 2) drop off your submission form and digital file or printed photo, or 3) mail your submission form and printed photos to the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy at 416 Chambers Street, P.O. Box 2338, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7Y8. If you have questions regarding the contest, you may call 705-743-5599 or send us an email to khcphotocontest@kawarthaheritage.org

By participating in the Contest, you will be helping this locally-focused organization in protecting the natural and cultural assets of the Kawarthas. Winning photos will receive recognition through our website, and on a collage-style poster and hardbacked composite. All winners will receive a poster with the winning photos. These posters and hardbacked composites will be vital to KHC's annual fundraising efforts. Submissions are due on **November 5, 2010 by 4 pm** in order to be considered for the competition.

Kawartha Heritage Conservancy is a non-government, not-for-profit community based charity that is dedicated to the mission of protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage features of the Kawarthas.



Showcase your photos!

The member's slide show at our December meeting is only as good as our members make it! This is your opportunity to showcase your talent and share unique experiences with the club. Show fellow PFN members photos of a recent trip you took. Display some of the great nature photos that you've taken recently.

Contact Janine at 705-778-1479 or at janine@sdf1.net to sign yourself up!



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 | <input type="radio"/> snail mail |
| | | Orchid by: | <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* |
|------|------|------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

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:

- 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: _____