

The Orchid

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Virginia Opossum in Cavan backyard on February 26. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

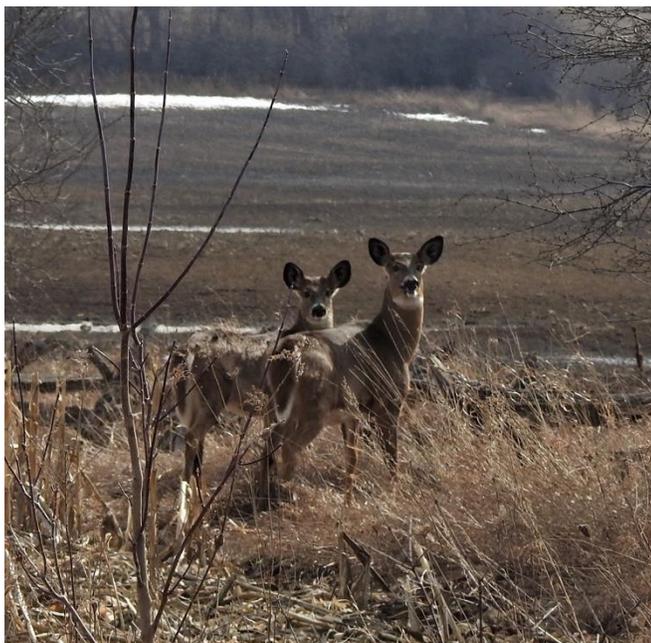
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Welcome new PFN members!

- Ping Deters
- Phyllis Naccarato
- Sarah Robbins
- Pamala Martin
- Marta Hanlon
- Martha Khan
- Anat Kidron
- Joanne & Gary Driscoll
- June & Mike Illes
- George Stirrett-Wood
- Hanis Kelly



Clockwise from above: White-tailed Deer, Eastern Coyote and Barred Owl. Photos: Dave Milsom

PFN Coming Events

Spring has arrived and after canceling so many outings last year due to COVID-19, we are pleased to be able to offer opportunities to get together safely outdoors. Numbers will be kept small, preregistration will be necessary, and carpooling will not be arranged.

To give equal opportunities to those who receive the Orchid later by mail, registration will not begin until April 7. Please do not contact the leaders before that date.

<p>Thursday, Apr.8 7:30 p.m. Virtual meeting on Zoom Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>PFN Meeting: Back in the Ecosystem, Trumpeter Swans in Ontario</p> <p>Donna Lewis, member of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Group, has been working at Adena Springs North as the Swan Keeper since 2005. Not originally hired as such, she said that it was an interesting learning curve. The Trumpeter Swans are now a passion project that has been going on for 16 years. The swans are also the passion of hundreds of regular people involved with their restoration. Learn how everyone can help with the swans' continuing expansion in Ontario and hear about the ongoing trials and tribulations of this ongoing odyssey.</p>
<p>Sunday, April 11 8 to 10 a.m. 10 participants</p>	<p>Lang Hastings Rail Trail - Part 1</p> <p>The LHT offers so many opportunities to see nature up close and enjoy great views of the countryside south of Peterborough. Steve Paul will lead this walk on the Heritage Line to Nelson Road section which crosses Indian River and goes alongside a pine forest and a meadow habitat. There will be great chances to see and hear some returning spring birds including Eastern Meadowlark, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe and maybe even the local Osprey returning to their nesting platform. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. Register by email to stevepaul70@gmail.com Details on the meeting place will be sent when Steve confirms your spot.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy along level rail trail 2.8 kms</p>
<p>Saturday, Apr. 17 Evening outing This outing is full.</p>	<p>Kermit's Friends and Timber-doodles!</p> <p>The dusk air of the spring carries the mating songs of various species of frogs and the sky dance of the American Woodcock or Timber-doodle. Join Martin Parker and Karina Bissonnette (Trent U. placement student with the PFN) for a two-hour outing to learn to distinguish between the different species of calling frogs and to listen to the courtship flights of the American Woodcock within the provincially significant Cavan Swamp wetland.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking along a closed roadway.</p> <p>Contact Martin at mparker19@cogeco.ca in order to register for this outing. The participation limit will be in accordance to public health requirements on the date of the outing. Details will be sent to those members who have registered.</p>
<p>Sunday, April 18 8 to 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Lang Hastings Rail Trail - Part 2</p> <p>Steve Paul will again lead a walk along the LHT, this time from Keene Road to Technology Drive and back. This section of the Lang-Hastings Trail travels</p>

PFN Coming Events	
10 participants	<p>through two beautiful marshland sections with a deciduous forest in the middle. This mixed habitat is great to see all that spring has to offer with the chance to see lots of returning birds. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. Register by email to stevepaul70@gmail.com. Details on the meeting place will be sent when Steve confirms your spot.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking along a level rail trail. 2.6 km</p>
Tuesday, Apr. 20 10:00 am 5 Participants This outing is full.	<p>Miller Creek and Bridgenorth-Ennismore-Lakefield (BEL) Rotary Trail</p> <p>Spring migration is underway, and these are two prime locations for birders. The trails travel through several different habitats which are ideal for variety. You should also be hearing calling frogs like Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs in the wetlands. Join expert birder, Cathy Douglas, for this mid-week, mid-morning walk. Members who would like to join Cathy can contact her by email at cddouglas77@gmail.com for details on where to meet.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
Sunday, April 25 8 to 11 a.m. 5 participants	<p>Johnston Drive Pond trail</p> <p>This area is a hidden gem few people know exist, and provides a great opportunity to see and hear some shy and elusive herons, bitterns and rails. There were 34 species seen on this walk last spring.</p> <p>This outing definitely requires rubber boots, and provides a few crossing challenges, so is rated as moderate difficulty. Also, one must be VERY quiet to NOT disturb wildlife. Register by email to stevepaul70@gmail.com Details on the meeting place will be sent when Steve confirms your spot.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate, 3.2 km</p>
Sunday, May 2 8 to 11 a.m. 6 participants	<p>Springtime in the Cavan Hills</p> <p>Participants will meet at the home of Lynn & Larry Smith, on Tapley ¼ Line in Cavan township. Enjoy a looped hike along a rail trail, ATV trails and along Dranoel Road. Migration will be near peak so there should be lots of birds to see and hear. Be sure to bring binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. To register contact Lynn at smithfam@nexicom.net</p> <p>Accessibility: Some hills, therefore easy to moderate.</p>
Sunday, May 9 1 to 3:30 p.m. 8 Participants	<p>Early Wildflowers at Fleming</p> <p>Starting around mid-April, there is a constant, changing display of beautiful, spring ephemeral wildflowers. In this little forest located on the Sutherland campus of Fleming College, early May has good variety. Join Sue Paradisis to reacquaint yourself with some of the most enchanting wildflowers and possibly see something new. Dress appropriately for the weather of the day and wear sturdy shoes. There will be good photo opportunities and hopefully some birds. To register contact Sue at sueparadisis@hotmail.com</p>

PFN Coming Events

	<p>Accessibility: easy to moderate. There is a fairly steep bank to go down and a hill to climb</p>	
<p>Thursday, May 13 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting on Zoom</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>PFN Meeting: Holey Leaves: Gardening for Caterpillars and Other Insects</p> <p>Basil Conlin is a lifelong naturalist based in Peterborough and Haliburton, and a member of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. An avid “moth-er” for many years, Basil began native plant gardening four years ago when he realised the incredible importance of native plants to insects and other pollinators. In this talk, he will share his successes and failures gardening with native plants, what plants are best for attracting insects, and what insects you can expect to find on your plants in the Peterborough area.</p>	 <p>Luna moth caterpillar photo by Basil Conlin</p>
<p>Thursday, June 10 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting on Zoom</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>PFN Meeting: Shifting Distributions of Canada Lynx and Bobcat</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Bowman is a Senior Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and also an Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life sciences Graduate Program at Trent University.</p> <p>He completed his Ph.D. at the University of New Brunswick in 1999, and has been with MNRF since August 2001. Jeff leads Ontario’s furbearer and small mammal research programs, and has expertise in population and landscape ecology, and landscape genetics. He has conducted research on many species and ecosystems, including work on fishers, martens, lynx, wolverines, mink, wild turkeys, flying squirrels, and a variety of bat species.</p> <p>Jeff will present the findings of recent research on the shifting distributions of Canada lynx and bobcat in Ontario, including a description of a live-trapping and collaring study on the North Shore of Lake Huron.</p>	

Other Events of Interest

<p>Virtual presentations on Zoom</p>	<p>Peterborough County Stewardship Speaker Series</p> <p>Apr. 14: Brent Patterson - Wolves and Coyotes: The Wild Dogs of the Kawarthas</p> <p>Apr. 28: Susan Wood-Bohm - How Trees Communicate (tentative date)</p> <p>Keep an eye on the events page at peterboroughcountystewardship.org for updates on speakers and dates.</p>	
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Other Events of Interest

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, Apr. 28 7 to 9 p.m. Virtual meeting on Zoom</p>	<p>Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting</p> <p>Sarah Rang, Executive Director from the Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, is the guest speaker. Sarah will share the latest advances in preventing and managing invasive species, opportunities for community science, followed by an open discussion. Learn about new free resources that may help your group with invasive species, a growing biodiversity challenge.</p> <p>There will be time to allow discussion and hear from Lake Ontario North club reps and presidents about how the groups are faring during the pandemic. All are welcome to attend. If interested, please e-mail barbaraw@ontarionature.org</p>	
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PFN Certificates of Appreciation

At the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, certificates of appreciation were awarded by the PFN to the following individuals:



Lynn Smith

Lynn has a long history of service with our PFN Board of Directors. She joined our board in 2010, and has now completed 11 years of service as a board member, including 2 years as our PFN President. She has also participated in a number of other activities including the coordination of our PFN booth set-up and staffing at various events, such as the flower and garden show, Buckhorn fine arts festival, and the annual MNR Open House. She has managed the membership desk at our PFN meetings over the last couple of years, and has led some PFN member outings and also helped out with the PFN Juniors. Her recent activities have included being a member of the city of Peterborough's Harper Park sub-watershed committee. Congratulations, Lynn, and thank you very much for all your help over the past several years.

Marie Duchesneau

Marie has served on the PFN Board of Directors since 2015, for a total of 6 years. During that time, she has been the guest speaker coordinator for our PFN members' meetings and annual general meetings. She has lined up an amazing variety of interesting speakers for dozens of our PFN meetings, and our members have very much enjoyed and appreciated this. She has also helped coordinate our Annual General Meetings and has coordinated our PFN book sales. She also hosted some "day of reflection" special meetings for board members at her home, and has been an active participant at our board meetings. "Un très grand merci, Marie. Très bien fait! Au revoir, et à la prochaine!"

Jim Cashmore

Jim Cashmore has been a long-term member of the PFN and was a former PFN President. This certificate is in recognition of his efforts and involvement with the planning process dealing with the proposal to develop lands on Lily Lake Road into two housing subdivisions. With Jim's leadership, the PFN met with Planning Department staff at the secondary planning stage, which resulted in some significant elements of the plan, including the development of a walking trail along the top of the ridge to the Jackson Creek valley. This ensured that the top of the ridge and the slope leading down to Jackson Creek and the Trans-Canada Trail were excluded from development. The developers also have dedicated trails from the subdivision to

the Trans-Canada trail which permits easy pedestrian and cycling access to the downtown area of the city. In addition, a significant amount of land has been added to the corridor of natural lands along Jackson Creek. Jim has demonstrated that by getting involved early, the planning process can result in protection of natural areas and the provision of no-motorized access.

Donald A. Sutherland

This certificate of appreciation is presented to Donald Sutherland for his years of service to the naturalist community in Peterborough. For ten years, he has been an eBird reviewer for Peterborough County. For more than 25 years, he has maintained the provincial database of rare vertebrate species for the Natural Heritage Information Centre and authored many reports and articles. He has answered countless enquiries on the identification of birds and other unknown species received from local observers. His exceptional knowledge of plants and animals is unparalleled and greatly respected.

PFN Community Project Grants: Applications Now Open

The Peterborough Field Naturalist (PFN) Community Projects Grant initiative was created to support members or community partners in enhancing the naturalist community or natural environment in Peterborough and the Kawarthas.

These grants would not be possible without the generous bequests and donations from our members which have been deposited in the PFN Legacy Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This is an endowment fund which provides an annual income to the PFN. The Board has allocated part of the annual income to support members and community partners in projects they wish to undertake.

This year the PFN is able to offer a limited number of grants up to \$200. Each application will be reviewed by our selection committee. Please attach any supporting documents such as letters of permission if your project is on private or public lands.

The objectives of the PFN Community Projects Grant align with the PFN motto:

“To know, appreciate, and conserve nature in all its forms”

Full details on this grant programme and application form are available on the PFN website at peterboroughnature.org/pfn-nature-grants or from the PFN President Rene Gareau and Secretary Martin Parker.

The deadline for applications for the 2021 grant applications is May 15.

Outing Report: Winter Birds Near Peterborough's City Centre

Submitted by Scott McKinlay

Nine PFN enthusiasts met under the Hunter Street Bridge on Sunday, February 21, for the first PFN outing of 2021. It was a beautiful sunny morning and our first bird was a peregrine falcon: one of two residing at the Quaker Oats buildings this winter. Amongst the 300 or so Mallards at the river were four American Black Ducks, some Canada Geese, a female Hooded Merganser, and a lonely Common Goldeneye, joined later in the morning by several others. The next highlight was an immature Cooper's Hawk, which sat pretty while we discussed all its various identifying traits.



Peregrine Falcon atop Quaker Oats. Photo: Don McLeod

Further along on the Rotary Trail were Redpolls, Goldfinches, Chickadees, a Downy Woodpecker, both Nuthatches, House Finches, House Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Juncos, Blue Jays, Crows, Pigeons, Starlings, three other PFN naturalists looking for a White-winged Crossbill (which was not found), and numerous singing Northern Cardinals (spring is in the air). It wasn't a huge list, but we had a good time exploring this fine example of nature in the city.



Left: Four American Black Ducks and a Mallard. Right: Immature Cooper's Hawk. Photos: Don McLeod

Outing Report: A Hike on the Smith Property in Cavan

Submitted by Lynn Smith

On Sunday, February 28, the display of hoar frost and eerie fog added to the ambiance as we donned ice grips and headed into the woodlot. Unfortunately, there was a sad tale to discuss as we observed iconic tree species struggling for survival against the attack of introduced invasive fungi and beetles. Generally:



Beech bark disease. Photo: Scott McKinlay

Beech Bark Disease is caused by an introduced Beech scale insect and an introduced fungus. The Beech scale insect punctures holes into the tree in order to feed. The tree is able to manage the insect. However, a fungus penetrates through the holes and grows, killing the inner bark and cambium. Spores are released by the wind. Symptoms of disease include cracking of the bark and formation of cankers as well as beech snap, where the trunk snaps above head height, under stress from wind as a result of the fungi weakening the wood.

Butternut Canker is caused by an introduced fungus. Spores are spread by insects, wind and rain splash. It infects trees through buds, leaf scars, insect wounds and other openings in the bark. It usually spreads down the tree by rain-splash and even into the roots. Many of the butternut trees fall over from their base.



Hoarfrost photo by Scott McKinlay

Dutch Elm Disease is caused by an introduced fungus and is spread by both a native elm bark beetle and an introduced European bark beetle. The beetles create galleries through the bark of trees allowing the fungus to colonize the galleries. The fungus blocks the water system within the tree and kills it. When beetles emerge as adults from the trees, fungal spores hitch a ride as the beetle flies to the next elm tree.

Emerald Ash Borer Disease is caused and spread by an introduced beetle. No fungus is involved. The larvae of the beetle feed on ash trees between the sapwood and bark, eventually killing the tree. Larvae emerge as adults and fly to the next ash tree.

Invasive species are taking a dramatic toll on Beech, Butternut, Elm and Ash. It is imperative that we “do better” in preventing these introductions.

On a happier note, the birds were out and about!

Wild Turkey (2), Herring Gull (1), Crossbill sp. (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), American Goldfinch (20), Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted) (1), Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored) (4), Blue Jay (4), Northern Cardinal (2), American Crow (8), Common Raven (1), Black-capped Chickadee (18), White-breasted Nuthatch (2), American Robin (10), Cedar Waxwing (7), and Common Redpoll (20)



A common sight in Peterborough County at the moment: evidence of woodpeckers searching for emerald ash borer in infected ash trees. Photo: Scott McKinlay

Outing Report: Returning Waterfowl on the Otonabee

Submitted by Anda Rungis

On Sunday, March 14 at 10 a.m., Cathy Douglas led a group of five PFN members on a drive along the Otonabee River to Lakefield and Young’s Point. The morning was sunny with a balmy 0 °C temperature; however, with increasing winds, the temperature dropped several degrees over the duration of the three-hour outing. The group made several stops along the east bank of the Otonabee River and observed numerous Canada Geese (114), Common Goldeneye (32) and Mallard (28) between Trent University and Lakefield. On a tip from a passing motorist, we scanned the west bank upstream of Lock 23 and spotted a Great Blue Heron. Along



Great Blue Heron.

Photo: Cathy Douglas



Common Goldeneye photo by Don McLeod

this section we also added Pied-billed Grebe, Hooded and Common Merganser, and Bufflehead to the list of species. By the time we got back into our vehicles at the Lock 25 gazebo, we had spotted American Robin and Red-winged Blackbirds, and numerous bird species that can be seen in the Peterborough area year-round (Mourning Dove, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee and European Starling).

Following a quick coffee stop in Lakefield and a drive by the waterfront, we travelled Young’s Point Road along a section of the Otonabee River that is known as Katchewanooka Lake to our next stop west of Highway 28. Here we had an opportunity to catch a glimpse of a mink racing for cover and a bald eagle swooping high into a white pine not far from the nest site. The Young’s Point and

Stenner Road stops added: Mute Swan, Ring-neck Duck, Bufflehead, Common Redpoll, Hairy Woodpecker, Common Grackle and Northern Cardinal to the list of bird species.

The final species total for the outing was 24 including: CAGO (173), MUSW (1), MALL (56), RNDU (1), BUFF (10), COGO (77), HOME (16), COME (26), PBGR (2), MODO (15), RBGU (1), HERG (4), GBHE (1), BAEA (1), HAWO (1), BLJA (3), AMCR (30), BCCH (7), EUST (4), AMRO (1), CORE (10), RWBL (29), COGR (14), NOCA (2).

Thank you to Cathy for volunteering to lead this group and welcome to Tessa, a new PFN member!

Editor's note: For those of you who aren't familiar with the system of four-letter codes for birds, you might be able to crack the code by ruminating over the above bird list.

Nature Almanac for April: Frog Song and Sky Dancers

By Drew Monkman

April's identity comes down to one thing - SONG. Be it the courtship hammering of yellow-bellied sapsuckers or the chorus of robins, cardinals, and mourning doves that awaken you at 6 a.m., April is very much a month of the sounds of birds advertising their presence to potential mates. Ruffed grouse drum intermittently all day long as northward-bound geese call like barking dogs from high overhead. When evening comes, the nasal "beent" of the woodcock is joined by the incessant calling of spring peepers, wood frogs, and leopard frogs. Learning nature's myriad sounds greatly enhances one's enjoyment of the changing seasons.



Wood Frog. Photo: Don McLeod

1. Local wetlands will soon awaken to the calls of chorus frogs and spring peepers. The former sounds like someone running a thumb over the teeth of a comb, while the latter sings a short, loud "peep" which is repeated once a second.
2. Migrating waterfowl continue to pass through the Kawarthas. Check out Little Lake, the Otonabee River, Lake Katchewanooka and Buckhorn Lake for species such as ring-necked ducks, buffleheads, mergansers, scaup, and goldeneye.
3. Silver maples, a common city tree, will be putting on quite a show. Dense clusters of flowers in tinges of red, yellow and green festoon the twigs. The winged samaras (keys) will appear in June.
4. If you want to see salamanders, wait for a mild, rainy night in early to mid-April when the first frogs are calling. Drive slowly along back roads that pass through low woodlands with nearby swampy areas or flooded ditches. Be careful, however, so as not to run over any of these beautiful amphibians crossing the road. You should be able to see both the spotted and blue-spotted salamanders making their way to breeding ponds.
5. Watch for the yellow, dandelion-like flowers of coltsfoot growing along roadsides. Later in the month, the white, fluffy seed heads also resemble those of dandelions. Coltsfoot initially produce only flowers; the leaves won't appear until later in the spring.
6. Don't be too surprised if a half-crazed robin or cardinal starts pecking at or flying up against one of your windows at this time of year. Being very territorial birds, they instinctively attack other individuals of the same species - in this case, their reflection! Both male and females are known to do this. The banging can start at dawn and last until dusk - for weeks on end! The simplest solution to this problem is to tape a piece of cardboard over the section of the outside of the window where the bird is pecking.

7. In the evening, look for the beautiful yellow-orange star, Arcturus, in the eastern sky. This time-honoured harbinger of spring is the second brightest star visible from northern latitudes. Arcturus is believed to be one of the first stars named by ancient observers. Its name is translated as "Guardian of the Bear", a reference to nearby Ursa Major.
8. After their late-winter mating season, cottontail rabbits are giving birth. The young, naked and blind, are usually found in a fur-lined depression under a shrub. They grow so fast that they are ready to live on their own after only a month.
9. Now is a good time to learn the songs of early spring birds like the chickadee, robin, cardinal, mourning dove, grackle, starling, house finch, and song sparrow. I find the best way to remember each song is to use a mnemonic or memory aid. For example, the American robin seems to say: "cheer-up, cheer-a-lee, cheer-ee-o".
10. Close to 30 species of local birds are already nesting this month. Among these is the American robin. The female (the one with the dull orange breast) selects the nest site and does most of the nest building. Robins have two and even three clutches of eggs each year. The same nest is sometimes used for multiple clutches. The male actively defends the territory around the nest through all clutches. You can often see him aggressively pursuing another male that has intruded onto the territory.
11. Up until the early 2000s, there were usually several days in mid-April when tens of thousands of migrating tree swallows could be seen flying over the Otonabee River and adjacent roads and fields. Now we're lucky to see more than several hundred. Some biologists believe that the decline in swallows is related to a decline in the number of flying insects as a result of pesticide use.
12. April sees the return of our only migratory woodpecker - the yellow-bellied sapsucker. It loves to hammer on resonant surfaces such as street signs to advertise ownership of territory. Butterflies, as well as other bird species, feed at the shallow holes the sapsucker makes in trees in order to get sap. For this reason, it is considered a "keystone" species, namely a species that has a larger impact on its community or ecosystem than would be expected from its relatively small numbers.
13. Along shorelines and the edges of wetlands, alder trees are now producing male catkins that grow into long, hanging, caterpillar-like structures that shed puffs of bright yellow pollen when touched.
14. Eastern bluebirds are nesting now. Thanks to the success of well-designed bluebird boxes, this species is once again relatively common. Weather is now the biggest factor influencing bluebird population fluctuations, especially cold, wet springs which cause nest failures.
15. April is a very busy time for feeders. Northward-bound tree sparrows and dark-eyed juncos move through the Kawarthas in large numbers. Listen for male juncos singing their even, musical trill. The song is quite similar to that of the chipping sparrow.
16. When water temperatures reach 7 °C, walleye begin to spawn. Along with white suckers, they can sometimes be seen spawning at night at Lock 19 in Peterborough or below the pedestrian bridge in Young's Point. Take along a strong-beamed flashlight.
17. Hepatica are usually the first woodland wildflowers to bloom in the spring. The flowers can be pink, white or bluish in colour. Look for them on south-facing forest hillsides or right at the base of a large tree. The name hepatica comes from the fact that the three-lobed leaves reminded early naturalists (who were often also physicians) of the lobes of the human liver.
18. The courtship flight of the American woodcock provides nightly entertainment in damp, open field habitats such as some of the fields near the Peterborough Airport. Listen for their nasal "peent" call



Eastern Bluebird. Photo: Steve Paul

which begins when it's almost dark. When the male launches itself into the air, listen for the twittering of the wings in flight.

19. On average, most local lakes are ice-free by this date. This year, however, the ice has already gone out on most lakes.
20. The ruby-crowned kinglet is a common but little-known April migrant. Smaller than a chickadee, this hyper-active gray bird has a distinctive white eye ring and a long, boisterous call that would seem to come from a much larger bird.
21. White-throated sparrows are passing through and are easily attracted to feeders if you put seed on the ground. They're also a great entree into the world of birdsong, since the wavering whistle of their "Oh-sweet-Canada-Canada-Canada" song is one of the easiest to learn.
22. Elm trees are now in flower and look like they are covered with myriad brown raindrops. The small, wind-pollinated flowers are clustered in tassels.
23. Otonabee Conservation and the Otonabee Conservation Foundation invite community volunteers most years for their Annual Jackson Creek Clean Up. For information call 705-745-5791.
24. The muffled drumming of the ruffed grouse is one of the most characteristic sounds of April. The birds drum to advertise territorial claims and to attract a female. After mating, the male has nothing more to do with reproduction; the female raises the young alone.
25. Bloodroot joins the wildflower parade about now. Eight large white petals make it stand out, as do the large, deeply cut leaves. The juice from the root was used as a body paint and dye by Native Americans.
26. After a winter in the southern United States, yellow-rumped warblers return to the Kawarthas. The male is quite stunning in his blue-gray back feathers, black breast and yellow patches on the rump, sides and crown. These birds usually show up in flocks in spring. Listen for a loud "check" call note.
27. Watch for early butterflies such as the mourning cloak, eastern comma and, by month's end, the dainty spring azure. It is all blue.
28. The night of April 28 is the full moon. If you happen to be out enjoying the moonlight and hear a snoring sound coming from the marsh, it's probably the call of the leopard frog.
29. The first tropical migrants are arriving back from Central and South America. Among those to be expected right now are northern waterthrush, broad-winged hawk, and chimney swift.
30. Northward-bound loons fly over Peterborough on late April mornings. Even if you don't see the bird, you may hear its yodelling call which is often given on the wing.

Discussions About Global Warming

PFN members, Drew Monkman and Scott McKinlay, recently collaborated on an article on global warming which was published in The Peterborough Examiner on March 19. The article summarizes the results of a recent query Drew put out to his readers on why people are averse to discussing climate change.

The article begins with the big picture:

- People feel overwhelmed by the size and complexity of the climate crisis. Suffice it to say that many see themselves as powerless.
- There is a huge amount of frustration by the lack of climate leadership from governments, corporations, and the media.
- When it comes to talking about climate, people see it as a "downer" and therefore avoid the topic, be it in personal conversations or on social media.
- Only a handful of responses could be labelled as denial or downplaying the seriousness of the threat.

- I was struck by the many thoughtful solutions that were proposed. People are definitely thinking about what needs to change. A common theme here was the need to break climate engagement down into small, do-able actions.

The article finishes off with:

As for the recurring question, “What can I do? I’m just one person,” groups like “For Our Grandchildren” have some answers. Go to <https://forourgrandchildren.ca/> and click on the ACTION button.

The full article can be found on Drew’s website at: www.drewmonkman.com/why-we-dont-engage-with-climate-change/

Bird Behavior at Feeders

Submitted by Jim Cashmore

Over the winter, I’ve been watching the reaction of species around our feeders, then European Starlings started to dominate the suet in mid-March! Most of the usual “feeder birds” do not like being near them and fly away, but I’ve observed that the Starlings don’t mind sharing. I’ve watched a Red-breasted Nuthatch happily feeding on one side of the suet while a Starling pecked away on the other side. Then I saw a female Hairy Woodpecker at the suet when a Starling arrived on the other side. The Hairy stopped feeding and then leaned around the feeder and began to peck at the Starling! The Starling did not fight back but simply moved out of range and carried on feeding. The Hairy gave up and flew away!

I’ve also noted the behavior of several species that seem to be paired up. In most cases the male bird will dominate the female by feeding first. This is true for Cardinals and both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. Back in December 2020, we were blessed with a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers that visited the suet feeder several times over a period of a few weeks. They usually came separately, but one day I saw the male bird land on the nearby tree trunk where he immediately began to call. Moments later, his lady friend landed next to him on the tree trunk, and then flew over to the suet. After a good long feed, she flew away and only then did her mate fly in and start to feed. It would appear that male Pileated Woodpeckers are real gentlemen!

You can learn a lot from watching the interaction between birds around a feeder.



Female Downy Woodpecker waiting for the male to finish at the suet block. Photo: Ken McKeen

Wildlife Rehabilitation

PFN Board member, Phil Shaw, is recommending a new show called “Arctic Vets” airing on CBC TV on Fridays at 8:30 p.m. and also available on the CBC Gem app. Phil writes, “It features the work of a team of vets who dedicate their lives to rescuing, conserving, healing, and rehabilitating the animals of Canada’s frozen north when they are most in need. The veterinary team is stationed out of a unique veterinary clinic that specializes in caring for Canadian Arctic wildlife. I thought our members would be interested to hear about this Canadian series as it features great cinematography of wildlife and uplifting stories about how they are helped.”



On the subject of wildlife rehabilitation, here is your yearly advice:

From <https://www.kawarthawildlifecentre.ca/>



Found an Animal?

Before you lend a hand, please make sure the animal actually needs your help. What you are witnessing may be perfectly normal behaviour.

Removing a wild animal from its natural habitat might actually do more harm than good, so before you “rescue” any wild animal, please make sure they actually need your help. If you’ve found a wild animal in distress, please contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre near you.

Contact us for wildlife advice, education and inquiries at 705-292-9211.

Editor’s Notes: During the COVID-19 crisis, KWC has closed the centre to the public and has requested that people reach them via their web page form or on Facebook.

Other wildlife rehabilitation centres in the area who are probably taking phone calls (normally the preferred method of communication about wildlife emergencies since it is direct, timely and efficient) include:

Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge

87 Routley Ave, Pefferlaw, ph: 705-437-4654, shadesofhope.ca

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

2146 Duck Lake Rd, Minden, ph: 705-286-1133, woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (turtles only)

1434 Chemong Rd #4, Peterborough, ph: 705-741-5000, ontarioturtle.ca

Bat Boxes

You may recall reading the article “Canadian Bat Box Project” by Karen Vanderwolf published in the November 2020 edition of *The Orchid*. Concerning Karen’s two-year bat project, Anne Barbour of the Kawartha Field Naturalists had this to share:

Here is the link to sign up as a monitor for your own box:

wcsbats.ca/Our-work-to-save-bats/Batbox-Project/BatBox-Project-Canada-wide

And if you don't already have a box on your property, and don't want to build one yourself, here is a suggestion for buying a pre-built bat-box made locally (Cavan-Monaghan) using 100% reclaimed wood (birch).

<http://www.prebuiltbirdhousekits.com/products.html>

Home Hardware carries this local product. I bought the one in stock in Coboconk and ordered 2 more; they will arrive next week. After I paint them, they are small and light enough for me to erect myself, but Brian has given me favorable input. There are 3 compartments that can hold 12-20 bats, so they can be placed in different locations to experiment, as Karen suggested. The landing platform is scored for easier gripping that are helpful to bats.

Bats return in May, so there is time to plan.



Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

Spring has sprung and love is in the air! Many of the paired Trumpeter Swans have left their wintering sites and are making their way back to their summer nesting locations. With the early melt, some have already started building their nests! If their nesting areas are still frozen over, they are very likely in a nearby cornfield, meltwater pond, or some other open body of water keeping a very watchful eye on their territory. Most eggs are laid between late April and early May and are usually incubated for between 35 and 41 days, so we still have at least two months before we see any young cygnets around.

If you recall, last month I mentioned that "Trent," our local Trumpeter Swan ambassador (tag # R39), had spent the winter in Aurora. Well, on March 2, three of our PFN Directors - Marilyn Hubley, Sue Paradisis and Cathy Douglas - were birding in Hastings, and they drove down to the end of Drysdale Road, a local birding hotspot. Trent showed up and hung out with them for a while, totally unexpected. It was quite symbolic that after being named for his first sighting near Trent University, he has now been seen hanging out on the Trent River. The name definitely suits him! At almost seven years old now, he is the ultimate swan bachelor. I hope he finds a mate and settles down soon, so he can help carry his lineage forward for future generations of PFN to track and study his legacy!



Trumpeter Swan R39 on the Trent River near Hastings in March. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

Release of the 2020/21 Wintering Monarch Population Data from Mexico

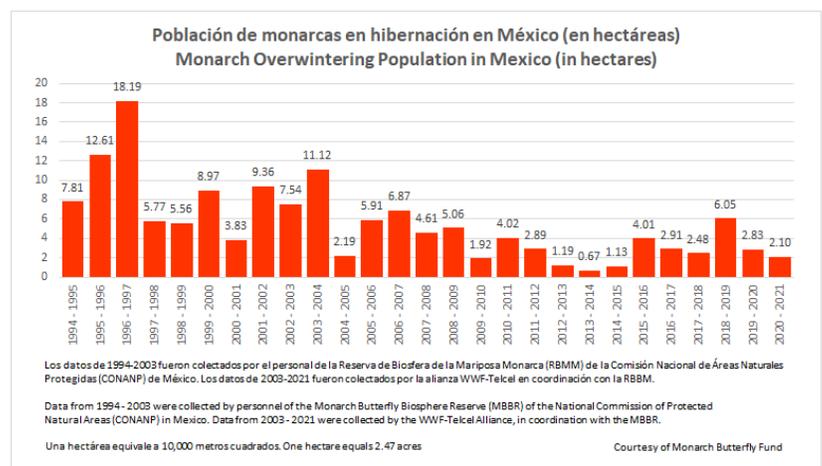
From Don Davis of the Toronto Entomologists' Association

On Feb 25, 2021, WWF Mexico, in collaboration with their partners, released the latest population data for Monarchs wintering in Mexico in 2020-21. Monarchs occupied 2.10 hectares in December 2020, compared to 2.83 hectares in 2019 – a 26% decline from the previous year.

Major factors that impact the Monarch population include climate and habitat availability.

Also released was data related to the degradation of the Monarch wintering forest in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve from 2019-20. Best calculations suggest that the percentage of degradation quadrupled from the previous year, mostly due to illegal logging but also because of drought and wind falls.

Observers in Canada and the United States were not surprised by the reported Monarch population decline, having observed reduced numbers on July 1st counts and also during the annual fall migration.



Earlier, on January 29, 2021, Xerces Society announced that only 1914 wintering Monarchs were counted along the California coast – a decline from the 1980s of 99.9%.

Many are concerned about the dire consequences of winter storms and record cold temperatures in Texas and northern Mexico during the period Feb. 10 – 20, 2021. Nearly all above ground vegetation and insects died back. We know that the size of the summer Monarch population in Canada is driven by the early reproductive success of Monarchs in Texas and the southern United States.

As scientists and others monitor the return and reproductive success of Monarchs in their northern breeding grounds, your reports and observations for all life stages of Monarchs to Ontario Butterfly Atlas and Journey North will be particularly important in 2021, as will your efforts to provide nectar sources and breeding habitat for Monarchs.

Monarch Butterfly Fund, a U.S. based non-profit organization chaired by Don Davis, will again be funding reforestation projects in the Monarch Reserve, and workshops to benefit local communities. These workshops will include building high efficiency wood stoves and water cisterns, and sustainable farming and forestry practices. MBF recently held a highly successful webinar about Monarchs in Mexico and will soon be posting an informative fact sheet to questions posed by participants. Go to: <https://monarchconservation.org/>

Link to MBF webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnddC_qulc8&t=187s

Birds and Well-Being

From an article by Juliette Marczuk in Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre newsletter from January 2021

According to research by the German Centre for Integrative Biology, being around birds is linked to higher levels of happiness, and greater biodiversity brings greater joy to people. “The happiest Europeans are those who experience numerous different bird species in their daily life,” the study concluded. The scientists also calculated that proximity to 14 additional bird species provides as much satisfaction as earning an additional \$150 a month. The symbol of a bluebird as the harbinger of happiness is found in many cultures. Given the recent research, that could now be true of many other species.

The German findings are now being circulated by prestigious organizations around the world. We saw them first in a newsletter from the World Economic Forum based in Switzerland. Its annual meeting in Davos attracts global leaders from far and wide, including our own Prime Minister.

The National Audubon Society is another important group that has embraced the German findings about the positive impact that birds have on humans. As it recently reported, “A growing body of scientific evidence shows that the joy delivered by birds isn’t just anecdotal. Research increasingly links exposure to nature – and specifically, exposure to birds – with improved wellbeing.”

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/12/201204110246.htm

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

From The Blazing Star, newsletter of the NA Native Plant Society, Winter 2021

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The aim of this ambitious endeavour is to “massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity.”

Through communications, events and a dedicated web platform, the UN Decade will provide a hub for everyone interested in restoration to find projects, partners, funding and the knowledge they need to make their restoration efforts a success.

The types of ecosystems to be protected and restored as part of this initiative fall into three broad categories: peatlands; shrublands, grasslands and savannas; and urban ecosystems (especially forests). The strategy embraces ten recommended actions: empower a global movement; finance restoration on the ground; set the right incentives; celebrate leadership; shift behaviours; invest in research; build up capacity; celebrate a culture of restoration; build up the next generation; and, simply, listen and learn.

To become involved or learn more, visit decadeonrestoration.org.

Hard Times for A Hardy Bird

With the name of *Melospiza melodia*, you must be thought a special bird:

Brown streaks on a white breast, but best appreciated when you're heard.

A handsome song sparrow, one of North America's most common of its clan,

You can broadcast your territorial announcements in breathtaking élan.

Usually solitary, now you want to court and pounce upon your mate -

You'll even pounce upon those of neighbours in other territories to procreate.

Wings and tail spread, feathers puffed out to appear the biggest one ever saw,

You prevent other males from entering your plot, sometimes with beak and claw.

Claiming this opening in the woods made verdant by this shallow stream,

You sing up to ten different songs as bright as the flowing water's gleam.

But it's a cool morning in early May; it seems few insects can be found,

For I see you foraging in the shallowest places, making little sound.

I hope you're finding aquatic invertebrates, enough to meet your needs

Of beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, dragonflies, wasps, ants, and seeds!

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2017



Song Sparrow photo by Steve Paul

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	705-741-4560	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
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Treasurer	Ted Vale	treasurer@peterboroughnature.org	705-741-3641	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
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Liaison with Juniors	Anda Rungis	rungisa@gmail.com	613-298-9062	Petroglyphs CBC	Colin Jones
Board Intern	Maela Kaminski	maelakaminski@trentu.ca	639-571-4638	Peterborough Butterfly Count	Jerry Ball
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



Overwintering wrens in East City: Winter Wren (left) and Carolina Wren (right). Photos: Cathy Douglas



The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in the Peterborough region.

Please submit your interesting observations to Martin Parker
at mparker19@cogeco.ca or phone 705-745-4750

The COVID-19 pandemic eliminated many outings and all in-person meetings, reducing the sharing of information on our natural heritage.

Short-eared Owl

The Short-eared Owls which were initially located at the eastern end of the Peterborough Airport on Dec. 2 by Drew Monkman continued to put on a show each dusk through this reporting period. Up to five individual birds have been reported on some evenings. This has been a winter birding highlight for many people.

On March 2, Rick Stankiewicz had a Short-eared Owl fly over Keene Road.

Feb 16 The **Northern Mockingbird** initially reported on BB Beach Road continued to be seen periodically until Feb 28.

Mike Burrell reported a female **Purple Finch** was still visiting his feeders.

There was a **White-throated Sparrow** at the feeders of Bruce Kidd near Douro.

Eastern Bluebird

Eastern Bluebirds were being reported almost daily from many locations across the southern part of the County including on Feb 17 to 18 on Keene Road by Kim Bennett & Mike Coyne; on Feb 17, 5 on Hannah Rd and another 5 on 2nd Line near Bailieboro by Jane Kroes; and on Feb 18, 5 on the Keene Rd at Drummond Line by Dave Milsom. This species was reported almost daily during the period.

Feb 17 Mike Burrell had a **Pine Siskin** visiting his feeder on the 8th Line of Douro which continued during the period.

White-throated Sparrow reports from Moncrief Line by Rosemary Minns & Zach Wile.

Jerry Ball & Ken Morrison had **Bohemian Waxwings** on BB Beach Road.

Feb 18 **Pine Grosbeaks** were still present in Lakefield by Travis and Noah Cameron.

White-winged Crossbills were reported at a number of locations including 3 on Armour Rd. by Brendan Boyd & Alexandra Israel and 5 on BB Beach Road by Donald Sutherland.

Pine Siskin reports include 15 near Allandale by Pam Martin and 1 by Matthew Toby in the Forester Avenue area.

Feb 19 Jeanne Brown had a **Northern Goshawk** along River Road at Keene

Pine Grosbeaks continued to be reported including 2 at Millbrook Prov. Fishing & Recreation Area by Marilyn Hubley; 1 at Petroglyphs Provincial Park by Zack Wile, Rosemary Minns & Dolan; and 6 in Lakefield by Iain Rayner. Sightings occurred through the region during the rest of the reporting period.

Donald Sutherland had 1 **Hoary Redpoll** on Old Orchard Road.

White-throated Sparrows were present at feeder at DNA building by Chris Risley, and along Television Road by Dave Milsom.

White-winged Crossbill

On Feb 19, White-winged Crossbill reports were 1 in Rotary Park by Patrick Kramer and 20 at Petroglyphs Prov. Park by Zack Wile, Rosemary Minns & Dolan Bohnert. On Feb 20, five were observed feeding on cones at Rotary Park by Dave Milsom & Patrick Kramer. Observed by many observers at Rotary Park until Feb 26. On Feb 26, also reported from Barnardo Avenue, Beavermead Park and the airport area by multiple observers.

On March 7, there were reports in Highland Park & Riverview Park and Zoo by multiple observers.

On March 8 & 9, White-winged Crossbill reports were from Highland Park, by multiple observers.

<p>On March 10, there were 5 flying over in the Parkhill Rd/George St area by Luke Berg. On March 13, Cathy Douglas had 3 in the Hazel Crescent area, Otonabee/South Monaghan.</p>	
<p>Carolina Wren</p>	
<p>The Carolina Wren in the south end of Rotary Park in the City has been reported periodically through the period. On March 11, Jessica Chappell reported that a Carolina Wren had been visiting her feeders on 7th Line of Asphodel for most of the winter. Mike Coyne reported a calling Carolina Wren in Lakefield on March 18, still present on March 20 according to Chris Risley & Erica Nol.</p>	
Feb 20	<p>A Northern Saw-whet Owl was found on Champlain Cres by Andrew Brown & Olivia Malliet and also observed by several other observers. The Snowy Owl on the Center Line of Smith, Cty Road 24 continued to be reported by Tim Haxton & Ethan Dobbs. Pam Martin had 6 Pine Siskins near Lang Pioneer Village.</p>
Feb 21	<p>Luke Berg reported the Winter Wren in the south end of Rotary Park was still present and continued to be reported by others until the end of the period. Pine Grosbeak reports on this date: 2 in Lakefield by Travis Cameron; up to 25 individuals in Beavermead Park by multiple observers; and 12 near Lakefield by Iain Rayner. Tim Haan had 4 Purple Finches near Corrigan Hill. Travis Cameron had a Hoary Redpoll at his feeders in Lakefield and Donald Sutherland had 2 in a flock of Common Redpolls along Scriven Line. Pine Siskins were reported from Whitefield Road by Tony Barrett. Cathy Douglas had 15 Red-winged Blackbirds on David Fife Line.</p>
Feb 23	<p>Cathy Douglas reported the Tundra Swan present in the Lakefield area was still on the Otonabee River above Lock 25. A Redhead was spotted on the Lakefield Waterfront by D. Orbell. Donald Sutherland located a Hermit Thrush on Thorn Road, Otonabee Twp. -- probably an overwintering individual. The White-crowned Sparrow reported earlier in Rotary Park and walkway was relocated again by Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin.</p>
<p>Northern Saw-whet Owl</p>	
<p>A Northern Saw-whet Owl was located in the conifers within Rotary Park on Feb 23 by Patrick Kramer and observed by many others. Based on footprint patterns of birders, it appears 2 birds were present according to Patrick Kramer. One individual was observed daily until March 6. March 1: The earlier bird in the Champlain Drive area was relocated by Andrew Brown & Olivia Malliet. March 5: One was located at Barnardo Ave by Hannah Dodington, Henrique Pacheco & Zach Wile. March 8: One was in yard of Iain Rayner in the Lakefield area.</p>	
Feb 24	<p>A winter plumage Common Loon was on the Otonabee River at the north end of Armour Road initially by Matthew Gavin and seen by 10+ observers the same day. Continued in area until March 6.</p>
Feb 25	<p>Guy Hanchet observed a Short-tailed Weasel in the Lakefield Marsh. He also noted Debbie Jenkins observed one from her residence window in Lakefield.</p>
Feb 26	<p>Marilyn & Glen McFarlane spotted a Beaver in the creek in Beavermead Park.</p>
Feb 27	<p>Hoary Redpolls were reported at feeder on 8th Line, Douro by Mike Burrell and in Rotary Park by Steve Paul & Laurie Healey and others. Reports continued until March 20. A Golden Eagle was observed at the Kawartha Nordic Ski Trails by Bill Crins & Natasha-Carr. Sue Paradisis reported an Eastern Chipmunk in her yard that had emerged from hibernation.</p>
Feb 28	<p>Jeff Stewart had a FOY (first-of-year) Turkey Vulture off South Monaghan Parkway.</p>

	Marilyn Hubley also had a Brown-headed Cowbird in the Cavan Swamp area. Dave Milsom observed and photographed a female Barrow's Goldeneye on the Otonabee upriver from Lock 28 until March 3. Observed over the next few days by many observers and later was observed off Meadowvale Park commencing March 6 by many observers until Mar 8.
Mar 4	Cathy Douglas had a Turkey Vulture over Rotary Park. Donald Sutherland had a Golden Eagle in the Millbrook area.
Mar 5	Carl Welbourn had several flocks of Horned Larks on Scriven Road. Ross Jamieson observed a Mink in Jackson Creek where it goes under Aylmer Street.
Mar 7	The Savannah Sparrow reported earlier in the winter on Smithson Road was relocated by Connor Thompson. Marilyn Hubley photographed a Pine Warbler visiting a feeder on River Rd west of Hastings -- still present on March 12. Jerry Ball spotted a Long-tailed Weasel on the Centre Line of Douro and a female Cooper's Hawk with prey on the 3 rd Line of Douro.
Mar 9	Jerry Ball had a Muskrat on the ice off the Indian River on David Fife Line.
Mar 10	Dave Milsom located two Greater White-fronted Geese on the ice of Little Lake with hundreds of Canada Geese. Seen by over a dozen observers that day. Cackling Geese observations include 1 on the Otonabee above Lock 25, and 1 in a flock of Canada Geese flying over BB Beach Road. Donald Sutherland had 4 Tundra Swans flying over the airport and an Eastern Meadowlark in the Cedar Valley Road area, Millbrook. Another Eastern Meadowlark was present at the end of Stenner Road by Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin. A Rusty Blackbird was observed by Matthew Toby in Stenson Park. A male Redhead was with the flock of Mallards off Beavermead Park by many observers. Iain Rayner had a Sandhill Crane fly over his house near Lakefield. Bill Snowden reported a Red-winged Blackbird had arrived at Lower Buckhorn Lake. Last year, this species arrived on March 8. He also noted his winter Song Sparrow which arrived in December was still present.
Mar 11	Donald Sutherland found a Snow Goose in the Millbrook area. 2 American Wigeon were present off Beavermead Park and seen by many observers. Red-breasted Mergansers were reported off Dalhousie St by Gerry Bird and off Millennium Park by George Henry Stirrett. Jerry Ball had 2 Killdeer along Assumption Road. Iain Rayner had a Red-shouldered Hawk fly over near Lakefield.
Mar 12	A Greater White-fronted Goose was found on 2 nd Line east of Bailieboro by Donald Sutherland - still present the next day. Multiple Cackling Geese reported for this date including four on 2 nd Line, Bailieboro, one on Duncan's Line South, one flying over the City, and two at Mather's Corners pond by multiple observers. Multiple observations at various locations in the days afterwards 7 Tundra Swans were on the Mather's Corners meltwater pond by 15+ observers. Northern Pintails were also present as well. Laurie Healey & Cathy Douglas had a Sandhill Crane on Duncan's Line south. Donald Sutherland had 2 Sandhill Cranes on Scriven Line & another 2 near Asphodel Beach.
Mar 13	Sandhill Cranes continued to be reported at various locations.
Mar 14	Reports of Redheads from several locations in the area with a maximum of 8 on Little Lake by multiple observers.

	Jerry Ball reported there were hundreds of waterfowl in the open water at Gannon's Narrows -- primarily Common Goldeneye, Common Mergansers & Hooded Mergansers . Bill Snowden reported that Common Grackle arrived on this date at Lower Buckhorn Lake; they arrived on March 10 last year. He also noted the lake is opening up and Canada Geese, Common Goldeneye, Common Mergansers, Wood Ducks, Buffleheads and Herring Gulls have arrived.
Mar 15	Along Drummond Line, Jerry Ball had a flock of 200 Red-winged Blackbirds along with some Common Grackles & Starlings .
Mar 16	Doug McRae had a Snowy Owl at the airport. Daniel Williams had a Hermit Thrush on Maria Street.
Mar 17	Gadwall arrived with 2 off Stenner Road, Lakefield by Iain Rayner & Travis Cameron. Patrick Kramer had a Red-shouldered Hawk in the Darling Wildlife Area.
Mar 19	Matthew Tobey and Luke Berg had 2 Red-breasted Mergansers off Asphodel Beach. Travis Cameron had a Red-shouldered Hawk fly-over in Lakefield.
Mar 20	Butterflies have emerged: Cathy Douglas had a Mourning Cloak in the S.E. end of Stoney Lake and Jerry Ball had an Eastern Comma on the Galway-Cavendish Forest Access Road.

Thank you to PFN from Otonabee Conservation

The PFN joined many other groups in the province to object to the changes the Ford Government made to reduce the role of Conservation Authorities in natural area and heritage protection. The following response was received from Dan Ma, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer of Otonabee Conservation.

"Thank you so much for your recent advocacy efforts on behalf of Ontario's thirty-six Conservation Authorities. This is a challenging time and having your support is much appreciated."

CELA Webinars

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) has been mounting a series of webinars on the relationship between Indigenous knowledge and conservation. The presenter is Gary Pritchard, an Indigenous restoration conservation consultant with 4 Directions Conservation Consulting Services. Pritchard is part of the Curve Lake community and speaks from the perspective of the Michii Saagig – our area of the province. Underlying these webinars is the concept of Natural Law. This construct goes beyond colonial legal descriptions and boundaries and encompasses the idea of customary use areas. In fact, the word "use" is paramount in that it embraces the balances between stewardship and resource use.

Pritchard is a good presenter (and photographer) who likes to use humour in his teachings. If you're interested in watching any or all of the hour-long webinars they can be accessed here:

<https://cela.ca/indigenous-ways-of-knowing-in-conservation-webinar-series/>

I found the second webinar, "Indigenous Conservation Strategies and Practices," to be informative. I look forward to watching the third, "Decolonizing Ecology."

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, April 23.

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: orchid@peterboroughnature.org

or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



Winter Finches in Peterborough:



Female and male Pine Grosbeak at Beavermead Park on February 21. Photos: Cathy Douglas



Female and male White-winged Crossbills at Rotary Park on March 1. Photos: Dave Milsom



Left: Female Red Crossbill at Rotary Park on February 27 (Steve Paul). Right: Hoary Redpoll on Duncan's Line on February 26 (Laurie Healey)

Membership Application Form

Memberships may be obtained by mailing this completed form to:

Peterborough Field Naturalists
PO Box 1532
Peterborough Ontario K9J 7H7



PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Contact Information:

Name(s):	Phone(s):
Address:	Email(s):

I would like to receive The Orchid by (pick one): Mail Delivery Email Both

Membership type and fee schedule:

Notice: Membership fees provide only a small part of the funds required to operate the Peterborough Field Naturalists. Donations from members like you help us offer a diverse range of programming for everyone. Please consider including a donation with your membership so that we can continue to serve you and the Peterborough community. **Please make cheques payable to Peterborough Field Naturalists.**

I have included a donation with my membership fees:

Yes or No

If yes, amount: \$ _____

1. Single Adult \$30 2. Single Student or Youth \$15 3. Family \$40*

* Please give the names and ages of children wishing to enroll in the Junior Field Naturalists:

Name	Age	Name	Age

◀◀◀ New Member Information ▶▶▶

Main interests:	How do you hope to participate?
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles and Amphibians <input type="checkbox"/> Botany <input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life <input type="checkbox"/> Geology <input type="checkbox"/> Insects <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Science <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Naturalists

Volunteers are always needed. Are you interested in any of these activities?

- Join the PFN Board Sit on research or conservation committees Lead an outing
 Assist with meetings Work on field projects Help with the Orchid publication
 Help the junior naturalists Give a presentation

Liability Waiver (New and Returning Members):

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 my underage children.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____