

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Virginia Rail in Flooded Field on Keene Road on April 17. Photo: Cathy Douglas

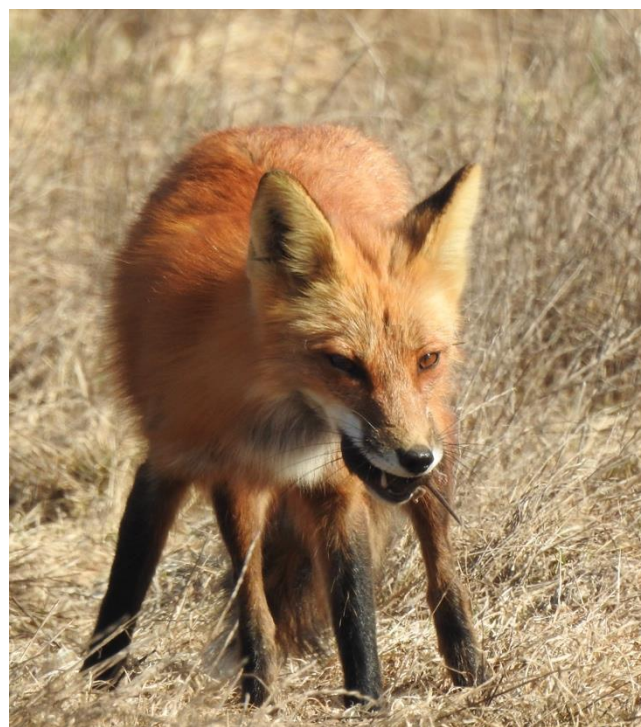
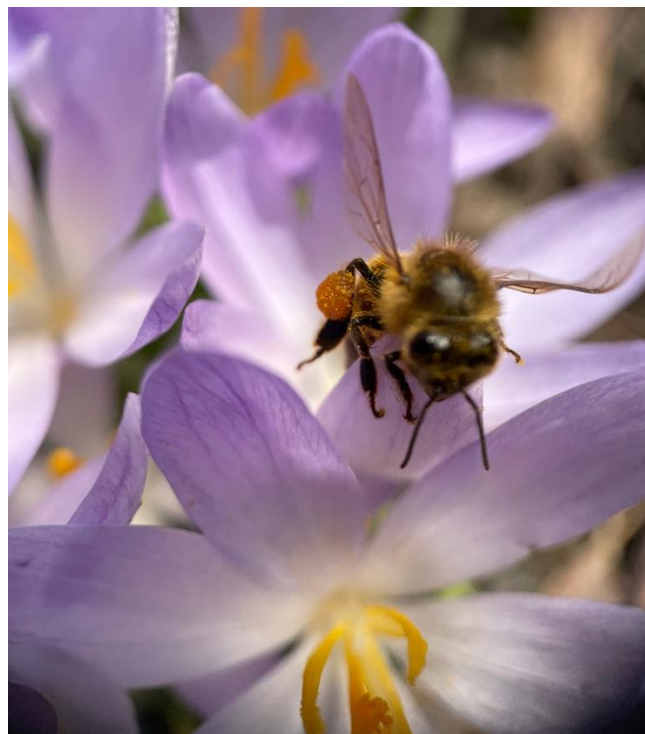
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A House Finch Family in the Making
The Bird Friendly Peterborough Initiative
Reporting Trumpeter Swan Sightings

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Welcome new PFN members!

- Alan Cole
- Valerie Francella
- Hilary Tyne




Clockwise from above:

"Snowy owl" sighted in Peterborough on April 21 (Susan Bartsch). Honeybees pollinating backyard crocuses in East City on April 5 (Kathryn Sheridan). Red fox with a freshly caught meal near Trent University on April 5 (Dave Milsom).

PFN Coming Events

Due to the provincial mandate prohibiting outdoor gatherings, the PFN will not be offering outings until further notice. It is unfortunate that we can't celebrate spring together but hopefully with the vaccinations increasing we will soon be able to meet.

<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>	
<p>Thursday, July 8 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>PFN Meeting: Kevin Tipson on the Native Orchids of Ontario</p> <p>PFN's first-ever summer meeting. Details to follow in the next Orchid.</p>	

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, May 21.

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

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



Introducing Bird Friendly Peterborough!

Submitted by Reem Ali

In the last 50 years, North American bird populations have dropped more than 25%. Three billion of our birds, including common species that live in our towns and cities, are gone. Saving bird lives starts with local action! We can reverse bird declines with coordinated, science-backed action.

Across Canada, people are coming together to create Bird Friendly Cities. Nature groups, municipal officials, and other community groups are teaming up with Nature Canada to ensure our urban environments are safe havens for birds rather than a source of threats.

Nature Canada has developed a certification standard to certify eligible cities as Bird Friendly Cities, to recognize and celebrate the contributions they have made to save bird lives in their municipalities. The goal of certification is to provide local partners with a clear standard that reflects what a city needs to do to make it safe for birds. Certification is a badge of honor and a source of community pride. It tells the world that your city or town does things to help birds and reverse their declines in your own backyard.

Bird Friendly cities are communities where:

- Key threats to birds are effectively mitigated;
- Nature is restored so native bird populations can thrive;
- Residents are actively engaged in admiring and monitoring local bird populations;
- Organizations are creating events to protect birds;
- Progressive municipal policies are created to protect urban bird populations; and
- A Bird Team has been created to oversee and lead these initiatives.

The PFN is proud to announce the Bird Friendly Peterborough initiative in partnership with Nature Canada and our local partners: Kawartha Wildlife Centre, Camp Kawartha, Riverview Park and Zoo, and GreenUP! Our website will be officially launched on May 1, with online activities and videos available on our Facebook page leading up to World Migratory Bird Day on May 9. Stay tuned this summer as our local Bird Team works on certifying Peterborough as a Bird Friendly City!

Follow us on Facebook: BirdFriendlyPeterborough

Visit our Website: www.birdfriendlypeterborough.ca

#BirdFriendlyPeterborough #BFP #BirdSafe #PeterboroughOntario #Kawarthas #MakeWindowsBirdSafe #FeatherFriendly #NatureCanada

Editor's Note: Reem Ali is Chair of the Bird-Friendly Peterborough Committee as well as being PFN's representative.



JB Jaboor and his helpers, the Young family grandchildren (future junior members), top up the Ecology Park feeders to help see our birds through to spring. JB and Kathryn Sheridan share the long-standing PFN commitment to winter-feeding birds in the park.

PFN Award Winners at Peterborough Regional Science Fair

Submitted by Martin Parker

Each year, the Peterborough Field Naturalists sponsor four awards at the Peterborough Regional Science Fair. For over 50 years, the Peterborough Regional Science Fair (PRSF) has encouraged students to embrace and explore scientific thought and have fun doing it. Projects require all aspects of learning: inquiry,

experimental design and execution, literacy, math and art to create the dynamic poster boards. Students take part in a friendly science competition, showing off their investigations. This year the PRSF was held virtually due to the pandemic.

The PFN award is presented to two projects in the Elementary (Grades 4 to 6) Division and two projects in the Junior (Grades 7 & 8) Division. The awards are for projects that increase interest in and stimulate study in nature & wildlife, environment, conservation, pollution research and restoration of ecosystems.

Elementary Division Award Recipients:

- Ella Sehn for her project "Ocean Devotion: Cleaning Up Oil Spills"
- Connor George for her project "Virus vs Bacteria"

Junior Division Award Recipients:

- Shreya Passery for her project "Unlocking the Legacy: Can Mycorrhiza and Spent Mushroom Substrate Activate Legacy Phosphorus?"
- Calvin Karthik for his project "A Mighty Mushroom and the Power of Poop: Testing Biogas Production Using Spent Mushroom Substrate"

Shreya Passery also won a number of other awards including 5th place overall at the fair and a trip to the Canada-Wide Science Fair. Calvin Karthik's project won the Kathleen Peacock Award for Best of Fair and a trip to the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

Each of the recipients of the PFN Award received a monetary prize of \$40 and a copy of the PFN publication *Mammals of Peterborough County*. Funding for the PFN Science Fair awards is from the annual grant from the PFN Legacy Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

Request for European (Brown) Hare Sightings

By Shelby Cohen

The 1987 PFN publication, *The Mammals of Peterborough County*, by Geoff Carpentier states the following regarding the status of the European or Brown Hare in the County: "Firmly established in the county, the species is restricted to the southern agricultural area."

As part of my placement with the Peterborough Field Naturalists for the completion of the requirement of the Conservation Biology course at Trent University, I prepared and updated the status of the various mammal species in the county. After discussions with some local experts, it appears the European Hare has declined significantly. There is a lack of recently reported observations, and none on iNaturalist.

The European Hare is a mammal species that was introduced to Ontario from Europe. The Ontario population started with an accidental release in the Brantford area in 1912. A total of seven individuals escaped: 5 bucks and 2 does. From this small release, they expanded across the southern agricultural areas of the province. By 1920, they had made it to the Port Hope area.

As a follow-up to my research project, I would appreciate reports of sightings of European Hares from the area for the past two years and this year in order to better understand the change in populations in Peterborough County.

Please send observations to Shelby Cohen at shelbycohen@trentu.ca or to Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca for inclusion in The Orchid Diary.



European Hare (aka Brown Hare) in Reabro, Kawartha Lakes. Photo: Donald Sutherland

Nature Almanac for May

By Drew Monkman

May usually begins with tree branches bare to the sky. But, as the trees leaf out, the spectrum of pastel greens, whites, browns and reds offers a colour spectacle that almost equals that of fall - at least to those who take the time to appreciate its subtleties and nuances. When warm weather finally arrives, change occurs at a dizzying pace. Woodlots come alive with rafts of trilliums, fields glow with dandelion gold and roadsides and trails beckon us to savour the lovely fragrance of blooming lilacs. Southerly winds this month will push avian migrants north to take advantage of the billions of insects feasting on the smorgasbord of new leaves. The arrival of the birds of May is no less than a reaffirmation of life.

This is a sample of typical nature events in the Kawarthas to watch for. Although many of the dates are only an approximation, the order of events generally remains the same, especially in spring. Some events occur over the entire month, while others are more restricted in time. Many are dependent on the vagaries of the weather and our changing climate.



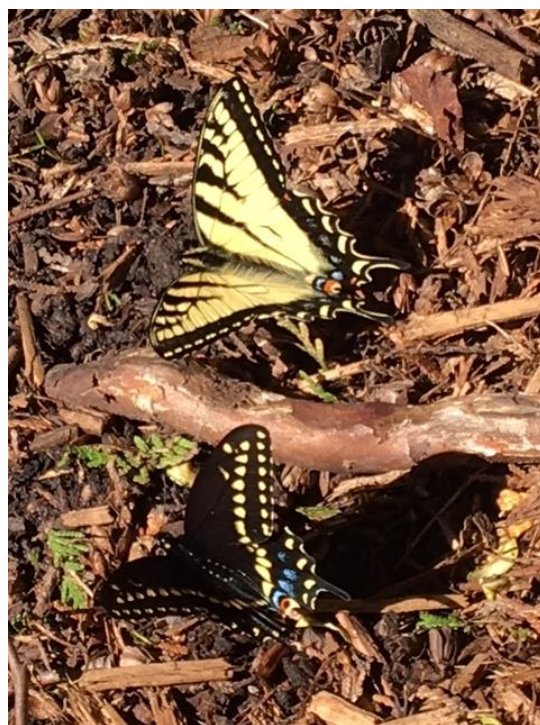
Sharp-lobed hepatica and bloodroot in bloom. Trout lily and trillium about to bloom. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

1. Watch for skeins of high-flying northern Canada geese passing as they make their way to nesting grounds on James Bay. Most are seen east of Peterborough.
2. This is the time to see the "spring ephemeral" butterflies such as the *Olympia* marble, the *chryxus* arctic and the elfins. Try Sandy Lake Road off County Road 46.
3. The white blossoms of serviceberries, also known as Juneberries, are a common sight along country roadsides.
4. Large, pregnant queen bumblebees forage at flowers and fly low over the ground, searching out an underground chamber in which to start a new colony.
5. Hummingbirds return from the Yucatan and make a beeline to our feeders. Their natural food at this time includes tree sap oozing from sapsucker drillings.
6. High in the north-east, Ursa Major appears "upside down," with Polaris and Ursa Minor below it.
7. Blackflies are usually at their worst about now. One square metre of a fast-running stream can produce over 30,000 in a season!
8. The long, fluid trills of the American toad are a characteristic sound of early May. The high-pitched song can be heard both day and night and often lasts up to 30 seconds without a break!
9. Along trails and roadsides, watch for the light brown stems of horsetails (*Equisetum*) rising from the ground in colonies. Spore cones are visible on the tips.
10. Sugar maples appear light yellow from the thousands of yellow flowers in bloom. Within a week or so, they will fall to leave a yellow floral confetti on the ground.
11. The first dragonflies change from forbidding aquatic nymphs to gracious adult flying machines. The first species seen is usually the common green darner, our only migratory species.
12. The damp morning air is rich with the fragrance of balsam poplar resin, a characteristic smell of spring in the Kawarthas.
13. With many species nesting, baby birds are inevitably found and believed to have been abandoned. Rarely is this the case. The cardinal rule is to leave them alone.

14. The male white-tailed deer's antler growth accelerates dramatically as a result of the increased daylight. Males keep a low profile at this time of year and allow does a wide berth.
15. Songbird migration is at its peak. The greatest numbers of migrating warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles and flycatchers pass through between May 10 and 25.
16. Pin cherries bloom in mid-May at about the same time as lilacs. Mosquitoes become quite noticeable, too, since the males feed heavily on the nectar of cherry blossoms.
17. Gray treefrogs, green frogs and bullfrogs join the amphibian chorus. Treefrogs sound remarkably like birds and will even call during the day. Listen for them in suburban areas, too.
18. The last frost in the Kawarthas usually occurs about May 18. Frost will generally not occur again until September, giving our area an average of 135 frost-free days.
19. Woodlots display a profusion of wildflowers including yellow trout lily, large-flowered bellwort, spring beauty and, of course, white trillium.
20. Migrating rose-breasted grosbeaks and indigo buntings sometimes show up at sunflower feeders, so keep your feeders stocked up at least until month's end.
21. Tent caterpillar infestations sometimes reach epic proportions in late May. The eastern tent caterpillar builds a tent into which it retreats at night. Forest tent caterpillars do not make a tent. These are both native species and very rarely ever kill the tree that they feed upon.
22. May is the time to see moose. Try northern Peterborough County, especially along County Road 507 near Pencil Lake. Algonquin Park is still the surest bet, however.
23. Birders start looking and listening for the last of the warbler species to arrive, namely the blackpoll, mourning, and Canada. The blackpoll is only passing through, however.
24. Common nighthawks return to the Kawarthas. This species, which used to be common in downtown Peterborough, is suffering a major decline. It can still be found at Petroglyphs and Kawartha Highlands Provincial Parks.
25. White ash, American basswood, and both red and white oak finally come into full leaf.
26. Members of the sunfish family such as the small-mouth bass and the pumpkinseed begin to spawn.
27. Trembling aspens release their seeds, filling the air with white "parachutes". The seeds of elms, Norway and silver maples spin to the ground as well.
28. Frothy, white masses of spittle become a common sight on the stems of field plants. They are excreted by spittle-bug nymphs, possibly as protection from predators.
29. With many grasses now in bloom, grass pollen is a major irritant for allergy sufferers. Most pollen is released in the morning between 8 a.m. and noon when the anthers dry and burst open.
30. White-tailed deer fawns are usually born in late May or early June.
31. Canadian tiger swallowtail and black swallowtail butterflies appear by month's end. They are sometimes seen "puddling" for minerals along trails and dirt roads.



Green frog. Photo: Marla Williams



Canadian tiger swallowtail and black swallowtail butterflies. Photo: Ken McKeen

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

I hope you all enjoyed Donna Lewis's presentation on April 8 entitled "Back in the Ecosystem: Trumpeter Swans in Ontario." I very much appreciate the time and dedication she has put in over the last 16 years as a swan keeper at Adena Springs and as a member of the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Group (OTSRG). In fact, the passion from all the people I have met in OTSRG is what drew me to their group, and is the driving force behind my desire and focus to bring more attention to Trumpeter Swans in the Peterborough and Kawartha Lakes area.

The timing for this project is also perfect with the launch of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas 3. The goal of Atlas 3 is to map the distribution and abundance of approximately 300 species that breed in Ontario over the next 5 years (2021 to 2025). My hope is that many PFN members will help collect important data on Trumpeter Swans breeding activity in our area, and that this will help shape important conservation efforts into the future.



Trumpeter swans courting. Photo: Donna Lewis



Wing tag and leg band. Photo: Donna Lewis

Wing tags and leg bands are used to help identify and track individual Swans as they move around the province, and can even be tracked if they migrate south into the United States over the winter. Many are predictable, returning to breed in the same area year after year. Younger Swans will travel around until they settle down, just like R39 ("Trent") is doing right now. (I keep waiting for him to find a mate and settle down.) Wing tags are relatively easy to see (unless they are worn or faded), and there are many Swans with tags that breed in and around Peterborough and the Kawartha Lakes. But, as their population increases, more are left untagged or unbanded (referred to as UTUB for short), which of course makes it much harder to identify individual birds. I had the pleasure of spending time with four UTUB cygnets the other day as they flew into the waters right at Auburn Reach as I was driving to work. Of course I had to stop and see them!

Please consider reporting all sightings of Trumpeter Swans that you see. There are many different ways to do this:

- Report using eBird.
- If you are registered for Atlas-3, you can report using the NatureCounts app or the Atlas website.
- Report through the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Restoration Group that Donna Lewis is part of (aka OTSRG). They are easily found on Facebook. Gary Lane and Joy Poyntz are the main data trackers.
- Report through the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. (Google "Wye Marsh Swan Sightings.")
- Report through the Trumpeter Swan Society. (USA-based but will direct data to the OTSRG).
- You can also report them to me via email, and I will pass that information along. Please send as much detail as possible: date and time, the specific location you saw them (even with GPS coordinates if you have them). Confirmation photos are very helpful as well.

If you have any additional questions, or would like to get more involved with monitoring Trumpeter Swan activity, please reach out to me. Everyone knows that I *love* talking about Trumpeter Swans, and I'm always happy to chat more!

A Pair of Finches in a Christmas Wreath

Submitted by Don McLeod and Colleen Lynch

House Finches have been relatively common near Fowlers Corners, but observing their courtship, nest building and eggs in the nest are new experiences. Even better, given COVID-19 restrictions, finding the nest near the front entrance resulted in great nature observation from the living room window. There is a Christmas wreath hanging from the brick wall located in the front porch. That is where the nest is located.

This exciting event almost did not happen. At about the time Christmas lights came down, Colleen and I had a discussion about the wreath. At issue was the periodic appearance of a singing male House Finch perched on top of the wreath! Colleen suggested that it would be a good idea to leave the wreath up and see if the Finches build a nest. With visions of bird poop, I replied that it might be a bit hard on the wreath. Colleen chuckled and said, "You can always buy another wreath but you will never buy a Finch nest!" How true!

So the wreath stayed up and will likely stay up until summer. The first visit by the male House Finch was on February 2. He visited the wreath periodically and on his own for the first couple of weeks. Then one day he brought along his mate. The behaviour at this point was limited to checking out the digs. One or both would burrow into the wreath for minutes at a time presumably to find a suitable nesting location in the wreath. These periodic visits to the wreath took place though February and March with occasional



The expectant couple. Photos: Don McLeod

week-long absences. The male would often sing from the wreath! During the first couple of weeks in April, not much happened. Perhaps they favoured another location? That all changed on April 14 when they were present in earnest. The female was bringing nest materials while the male stood guard. Over the next two days, nest building proceeded at a good pace despite two interruptions that took place on April 15. One time a second male House Finch tried to join the party but was chased away. On another occasion a male-female pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds showed up. They fluttered briefly around the front porch as if to check out whether a nest was being built - more about them later.

On April 16 and 17, the nest required only minor tweaks. Note that during this entire time all nest building was done by the female. The male was always present and on guard. That was a good thing since the female was singularly focussed on the task at hand and likely would have missed any approaching predators. After the nest was finished, the female would spend several minutes at a time just sitting in it as if giving it a test run. Then the pair largely disappeared for a couple of days which at the time was disappointing.

The female House Finch started sitting on the nest regularly on April 20. She did not sit all the time and would often be away from the nest. The male's behaviour also changed from being on guard to taking on the job of feeding the female. The other big development on the 20th is that the female laid her first egg! It



Male House Finch atop the Christmas wreath. Photo: Don McLeod

was a small but pretty egg, pale blue with small brown spots at the one end. Brooding does not start with the first egg, otherwise that egg would have a head start on the others. On the night of the 20th, the female was absent from the nest. How was the egg going to survive an April snow storm all on its own? Only time will tell.



The male House Finch feeding the female on the nest atop the wreath. Photo of this tender moment taken by stealth through the blinds by Don McLeod

On April 21, two more eggs showed up in the nest and the female was regularly brooding. She did leave the nest to feed and at other times was fed by the male. During one absence I took a quick photograph of the eggs and discovered that there were two Finch eggs and one Brown-headed Cowbird egg! The female stayed in the nest through the night of April 21, a good thing as the winter blast continued with wind chills of -8°C.



An unexpected assortment of eggs in the nest. Photo: Don McLeod

What comes next? Is the female finished egg laying at two eggs? Will the Cowbird egg hatch before or after the Finch eggs? Will all three nestlings survive? Stay tuned for an update in the next Orchid!

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.

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 aligns 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 <https://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. Please consider submitting a project proposal for a grant.

From the Archives -- 1992 Waterfowl Viewing Weekend

From *The Orchid* Vol. 38, No. 4 -- April 1992

April 11 & 12, 1992: Waterfowl Viewing Weekend in Little Lake Cemetery & Roger Cove:

Experts will be on hand to help with viewing, identifying and answering your questions in three locations. Displays by Michael Dumas, David Johnston, Terry Carpenter, Lynn Given, wood carvers and others in the Holiday Inn foyer. More information available from Earle Hushagen.

From *The Orchid*, Vol. 38, No. 5 -- May 1992

Our Waterfowl Viewing Weekend by Earle Hushagen

Our Waterfowl Viewing Weekend was greeted by the foulest weather. The two painters were unable to bring their work because of poor road conditions. Few people defied the elements to come to our show (or any other) on Saturday. On Sunday things were a little better but the numbers were still disappointing.

Having said that, there were still many positive aspects. All volunteers showed up on schedule and had some good birding in spite of the weather. The display room at the Holiday Inn was ideal. Surprisingly, a few people had come from out of town and stayed at the hotel to participate in the weekend. The hotel management was pleased with the event and showed an interest to be involved in the future.



Wilson's Snipe near Keene Road on April 4. Photo: Dave Milsom



Sora in wetland near Preston Road on April 17. Photo: Cathy Douglas

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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AGM and Zoom Coordinator	Reem Ali	reemest@hotmail.com	705-868-0060	Harper Park Stewardship Committee	Lynn Smith, Rene Gareau, Marilyn Hubley, Ted Vale, Sue Paradisis, Anda Rungis
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Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7					



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.	
Mar 20	<p>Daniel Riley saw a Snow Goose in a flock of Canada Geese on Hannah Road.</p> <p>Matthew Tobey had 30 Tundra Swans flying over & 1 Red-shouldered Hawk in area of railroad and Airport Road.</p> <p>Redheads were observed by multiple people on Little Lake</p> <p>A Carolina Wren was in Lakefield by Erica Nol & Chris Risley - seen by many others in days following -- continued in area throughout the reporting period.</p> <p>Pine Grosbeaks reported from several locations by multiple observers.</p>
Mar 21	<p>A young male Barrow's Goldeneye was found at Birdsall Wharf by Mike Burrell and others -- still present until March 24.</p> <p>Kaitlynn McMillan reported a very early Barn Swallow on Matchett Line, Otonabee.</p> <p>A Glaucous Gull on Little Lake was seen by Steve Paul.</p> <p>Gary Berg heard a Long-eared Owl calling off the Trent Rotary Trail.</p>
Mar 22	<p>Luke Berg saw 15 Tundra Swans flying over Birdsall Wharf.</p> <p>A Gadwall on Little Lake was observed by multiple observers (26 reports on eBird) - still present until March 24.</p> <p>A Horned Grebe on Little Lake was observed by 17 observers - still present to March 28. Donald Sutherland had a Canvasback & Red-breasted Merganser off the Birdsall Wharf.</p> <p>A Hoary Redpoll was present along South Bay Rd, Stoney Lake by Cathy Douglas.</p> <p>A Chipping Sparrow was reported by Peyton Sunderland along Water Street.</p> <p>Drew Monkman had a Common Snipe near north end of Douro 4th Line and a calling Northern Saw-whet Owl along Douro 1st Line.</p>
Mar 23	<p>Jerry Ball reported Great Blue Herons are standing on nest platforms at Drummond Line. Along Hubble road he spotted 2 Mourning Cloak & 1 Eastern Comma (butterflies).</p> <p>Scott Gibson had a White-winged Scoter off Birdsall Wharf.</p> <p>A Greater White-fronted Goose was at the Lakefield Marsh - 17 reports on eBird.</p> <p>A Ruddy Duck was at the Lakefield Marsh by Mike Coyne and at least 17 others.</p> <p>Susan Chow heard the calls of American Woodcock on her property between Peterborough and Lakefield.</p> <p>Iain Rayner had a fly-over by a Rough-legged Hawk near Lakefield.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland located a Long-eared Owl in the Barrette Lake area north of Havelock. He also had a Northern Saw-whet Owl calling in the area of Juniper Island.</p> <p>Eastern Phoebe reports from Blind Channel, Pigeon Lake by Donald Sutherland; yard near Lakefield by Iain Rayner; and Birdsall Wharf by Steve Paul, Laurie Healey & Cathy Douglas.</p> <p>Kathryn Sheridan had 2 Tree Swallows over the Lakefield Lagoon.</p> <p>Chipping Sparrow in Champlain yard by Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet.</p> <p>Fox Sparrows were reported from yard on 8th of Douro by Mike Burrell & Erica Barkley and from Millbrook yard by Jeff Stewart.</p>
Mar 24	<p>Bill Snowden reported Turkey Vultures returned to the Ennismore area.</p> <p>Mike Burrell and Iain Rayner both reported a fly-over by a blue phase Snow Goose -- both reported the individual flying south-east at two separate locations about 15 minutes apart.</p> <p>Samantha Dunlop saw a Snow Goose fly-over on Hunter Street West.</p>

	<p>Dave Milsom had a Greater White-fronted Goose in a flooded field east of Bailieboro - 2 present on March 29 by many observers.</p> <p>Numerous observers saw a Gadwall in the Lakefield Marsh.</p> <p>Common Snipe reports from Lang-Hastings Trail by Luke Berg, and Keene Road by Laurie Healey, and Airport pond by Cathy Douglas.</p> <p>Dave Milsom had Double-crested Cormorant on Rice Lake off Hall's Landing.</p> <p>Reports of Osprey from Hunter Street by Samantha Dunlop and Otonabee River between Trent U and Lakefield by Olivia Maillet, Andrew Brown, and Henrique Pacheco.</p> <p>Multiple reports of Tree Swallows in the region.</p>
Mar 25	<p>Marla Williams observed two bats flying fairly low and a bit erratically along the Rotary Trail near Nichols Oval. The observation was about 30 minutes after sunset.</p> <p>Golden Eagle reports include one on 2nd Line, Bailieboro by Zach Wile & Rosemary Minns and one near Lakefield by Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin.</p> <p>Twelve reports of Eastern Phoebe from various locations in southern part of County.</p> <p>Pam Martin found a very early Eastern Kingbird near Keene.</p> <p>Anda Rungis reported an early Hermit Thrush.</p> <p>Late departing winter finches include Pine Grosbeak at Lakefield by Travis Cameron and White-winged Crossbill near Lakefield by Iain Rayner.</p>
Mar 26	<p>Common Loon observed on Little Lake by multiple observers.</p> <p>Northern Saw-whet Owl calling in Trent Nature Area by multiple observers.</p> <p>Jerry Ball had a Wood Duck in pond near Pinecrest Golf Course.</p> <p>Gerry Bird had an early Sedge Wren in Lakefield.</p> <p>Lingering Pine Siskin in Lang Road area, Keene.</p> <p>Swamp Sparrow reports from Preston Rd wetland (Cavan Monaghan) by Sue Paradisis and Lakefield Marsh by D. Orbell - reported regularly since.</p> <p>Long-tailed Duck on Little Lake by multiple observers (19 reports on eBird).</p>
Mar 28	<p>Cathy Douglas had a Blue-winged Teal in 2nd Line wetland, Bailieboro. Seen next two days by many observers</p>
Mar 29	<p>Up to 6 Tundra Swans present in Lakefield Marsh by multiple observers - up to 11 the next day by multiple observers.</p> <p>An American Bittern was in the Johnson Dr. ponds by Connor Thompson.</p> <p>Pine Siskin -- 3 at Lakefield by Peter Simons and 2 near Cavan by Lynn Smith.</p>
Mar 30	<p>Bonaparte's Gull (up to 3) seen by Donald Sutherland and others during the day.</p> <p>An American Bittern was in the Miller Creek Wildlife Management Area by Sue Paradisis -- numerous observations the next day</p> <p>2 Short-eared Owls were still present at the airport by Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet.</p> <p>Late departing Hoary Redpoll by Matthew Gavin & Ben Taylor in two locations in the city.</p> <p>Luke Berg, Matthew Tobey & Gerry Bird had Field Sparrows in the fields east of Bailieboro.</p>
Mar 31	<p>Iain Rayner & Travis Cameron had a Horned Grebe at the Lakefield Marsh.</p> <p>Iain Rayner had a Lesser Black-backed Gull in field on the 5th Line of Douro.</p> <p>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen in Trent Nature Area by Olivia Maillet & Andrew Brown.</p> <p>Jim Cashmore had a Yellow-rumped Warbler in his yard in the city.</p> <p>Hoary Redpoll still in Lakefield by Kim Bennett & Mike Coyne.</p>
Apr 1	<p>Patrick Kramer had a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Rotary Park.</p>
Apr 2	<p>Bill Snowden reported the ice has left Lower Buckhorn Lake -- early this year.</p> <p>Laurie Healey had Rough-legged Hawk along Bensfort Road.</p> <p>Another Carolina Wren present in Keene according to Scott Gibson.</p>
Apr 3	<p>Luke Berg had an Iceland Gull in field along Lang-Hastings Trail (Bleazard to Cameron).</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had migrating Rough-legged Hawk along Centre Line of Smith.</p>
Apr 4	<p>Bill Snowden reported Common Loons in Lower Buckhorn Lake.</p>

Apr 5	<p>Bill Snowden in the Ennismore area observed Mourning Doves gathering nesting material and courting. He also noted the flowers on pussy willows are well advanced; however, the stamens on the male flowers are not yet showing. He noted the Red and Silver Maple flower buds are well expanded -- he speculated they were in bloom in the south end of the county.</p> <p>Matthew Tobey had a White-crowned Sparrow & Savannah Sparrow along the rail corridor off Airport Road.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had a Vesper Sparrow at the Airport ponds - continued in area.</p>
Apr 6	<p>An extensive report from Bill Snowden from the Ennismore area -- a pair of American Kestrels returned to the nest box on Listowel Road, Tree Swallows at nest boxes on Harrington Line, and Ladybird Beetles are starting to emerge from hibernation. He also noted a pair of Common Raven are still present in his area.</p> <p>Chipping Sparrows at 2 locations in city by Matthew Gavin & Sarah Jamieson.</p> <p>Marty Obbard had Field Sparrow in the Lakehurst area.</p> <p>Patrick Kramer had a Broad-winged Hawk near Whitfield Landing.</p>
Apr 7	<p>Jerry Ball, Ken Morrison, Kathy & Martin Parker visited sites north of Havelock and observed 15 Painted Turtles, 5 Blanding's Turtles, 44 Mourning Cloak, 8 Eastern Comma & 2 Compton's Tortoiseshell butterflies, 1 Eastern Garter Snake and a dead Fisher.</p>
Apr 8	<p>Bill Snowden noted the Bumble Bees have emerged.</p> <p>Virginia Rails were present along Preston Rd wetland, Cavan Monaghan by several observers -- continued regularly in that area afterwards.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had an Eastern Towhee along the Centre Line of Dummer.</p>
Apr 9	<p>Along the Lang-Hastings Trail south of Technology Drive, Marla Williams heard Wood Frogs calling at 2 locations, Spring Peepers were in abundance and one Leopard Frog was calling. A Painted Turtle was also present.</p> <p>Bill Snowden noted Bloodroots were in full bloom in sunny locations and Ospreys have returned to the nest platform on Emerald Isle Road.</p>
Apr 10	<p>Jerry Ball visited the side roads in the Catchacoma area and saw 3 species of butterflies -- Mourning Cloak Eastern Comma & Compton's Tortoiseshell along with 3 Blanding's Turtles and 137 Painted Turtles.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had a Short-eared Owl near Bailieboro.</p> <p>Virginia Rails were reported from nine wetland areas in the county - now being reported daily from numerous locations.</p>
Apr 11	<p>Bill Snowden noted American Elm are in full bloom, and on many bush willows (Salix sp.) the male flowers are glowing with yellow pollen.</p>
Apr 12	<p>Bill Snowden reports both species of Hepatica (<i>H. triloba</i> & <i>H. americana</i>) are in bloom. The male flowers on Alders have elongated and will be releasing pollen soon. He noted the warm weather has resulted in unusual early growth which may be damaged if there is frost.</p> <p>Kathy Parker observed a Brown Thrasher in her yard in the city.</p> <p>Gerry Bird had a Great Egret in the Sawyer Creek Wetland & Wildlife Management area.</p>
Apr 13	<p>Donald Sutherland had 3 Red-necked Grebes off Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake.</p>
Apr 14	<p>Sora (rails) were found at 3 locations -- Sawyer Creek Wetland & Wildlife Area by Jerry Ball, Kathy Parker & Martin Parker; Johnson Drive ponds by Connor Thompson; and Preston Road wetland by Laurie Healey.</p>
Apr 15	<p>A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in a field with Ring-billed Gull on the 5th Line of Douro by Iain Rayner & Matthew Gavin -- seen by many other observers.</p> <p>A Cliff Swallow was on the river between Lock 25 and Lakefield by Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet.</p>

Sphyrapicus, the Hammer-Woodpecker

It's just me and my pappy, morning-fresh and sappy, up high in a basswood tree.
As I practice the tradition of sapsucker nutrition, I feel how laborious tree-tapping can be.
Yes, sapsuckers we're called, but we are appalled because we certainly do not suck;
Our tongues are for licking, not impaling or sticking, but the old settlers' name has stuck.
As we circle tree boles, and drill rows of small holes to the cambium layer inside,
We drink the sap that's dripping, and eat insects sipping our hard-won food liquified.
Whether hemlock, birch or maple, tree sap is our staple that sustains us until we migrate,
Though I was fed at the nest many insect pests, and even wasps have met such a fate.
Early in spring when few plants are flowering, our sap keeps many hummingbirds alive;
Their refractive coloration caught in shafts of illumination is a pleasure all must derive.
With red crown aflame and throat patch the same, and a breast blushing yellow ...
Contrasts of black and white, set off by sunlight, make Papa a striking fellow.
How you jerk and stammer as the stovepipe he hammers in a loud, staccato tattoo!
Never before have you heard a more spunky bird, but his drum solo isn't meant for you.
He bangs out a proclamation of his occupation, telling all others within hearing distance:
"Trespass on my territory, and you will be sorry - I'll defend it with fierce persistence".
But life can be precarious for *Sphyrapicus varius*, as boorish men must guard 'their' trees,
Seldom does our light drilling result in any killing - the trees usually die from disease.
The forest Pappy protects from injurious insects would be without him a duller place;
When springtime rolls in, the Hammer-Woodpecker din is sure to brighten anyone's face

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2012



Photo: Murray Palmer

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:

☐ Natural Environment

☐ Reptiles and Amphibians

☐ Botany

☐ Birds

☐ Aquatic Life

☐ Geology

☐ Insects

☐ Astronomy

☐ Mammals

Other: _____

How do you hope to participate?

☐ Outings

☐ Citizen Science

☐ Meetings

☐ 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: _____