

# The Orchid



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## *Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



A Black Bear in Algonquin Park in June. Photo: Don McLeod

**Inside:** Ten Years at Ontario Nature  
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PFN Investing in Our Natural Heritage

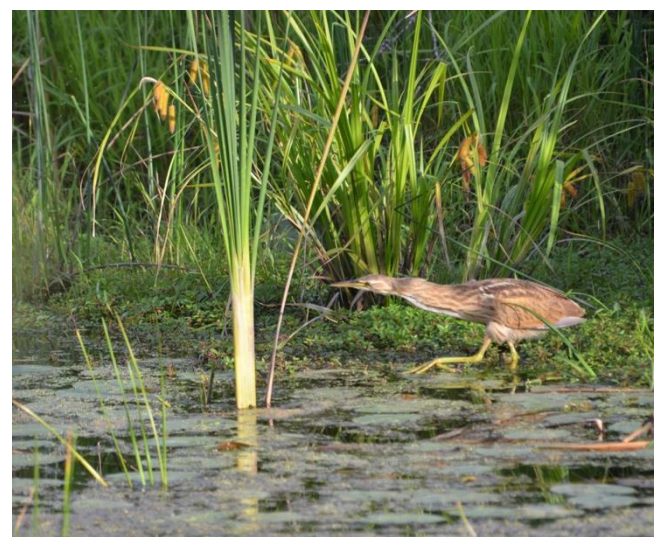


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### Welcome new PFN members!

- Bill & Sally Radigan
- Erika Steinhubl
- Mary & Jim Chester
- Joan & Robert DiFruscia
- Natalie Elliott-Friesen
- Marie Magee
- Rachel Baehr
- Kerry & Bill Danyluk
- Sacha Dho
- Jeff Bond



Clockwise from top left: American Bullfrog at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons on August 29 (Steve Paul). Giant Swallowtail butterfly (Dave Milsom). An American Bittern that Enid Mallory was lucky enough to observe fishing every evening for two weeks straight. A Bald Eagle near the narrows at Lower Buckhorn Lake on July 19 (Ken McKeen).

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Oct. 3</p> <p>8:30 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>10 participants</p>	<p><b>Fall in the Cavan Hills</b></p> <p>Enjoy a 5-kilometre looped hike along a rail trail, ATV trails and along Dranoel Road. Participants will meet at the home of Lynn &amp; Larry Smith on Tapley ¼ Line in Cavan township. We'll watch for later fall migrants and enjoy the onset of autumn colour. Be sure to bring binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. To register, contact Lynn at smithfam@nexicom.net after September 4.</p> <p>Accessibility: Some hills, therefore easy to moderate.</p>
<p>Saturday Oct. 9</p> <p>8:30 to 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>~10 participants</p>	<p><b>Lang-Hastings Trail</b></p> <p>Cathy Douglas is our leader for this Saturday morning birding hike along the Lang-Hastings Trail (LHT) between Blezard and Cameron Lines. This section of the LHT travels along farm fields and mixed forest as well as a small creek and wetland area. We will be looking for late fall migrants during the hike. All participants must be double-vaccinated and are encouraged to bring a mask and abide by social distancing guidelines. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. Register by email to cddouglas77@gmail.com after October 2. Details on the meeting place will be sent when Cathy confirms your spot.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy walking along level trail - approximately 4 km</p>
<p>Thursday, Oct. 14</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Virtual meeting</p>	<p><b>PFN Meeting: Reptile Rehabilitation and Biology</b></p> <p>Jeff Hathaway will present results from projects like Saving Turtles at Risk Today (START) and Conservation Action, Research and Education about Snakes (CARES), including habitat protection, population monitoring, filling data gaps, and mitigating threats. As these efforts now include northern Peterborough County, Jeff will discuss opportunities for people to get involved.</p> <p>Jeff Hathaway is the founder of Scales Nature Park, a conservation centre focused on Canadian reptiles, and also the Georgian Bay Turtle Hospital. Jeff is a regular guest lecturer at multiple universities and colleges on subjects related to reptiles and amphibians, and he is committed to training aspiring biologists through Turtle Boot Camp and the Herpetology Internship Program.</p>
<p>Sunday, Oct. 17</p> <p>1 to 4 p.m.</p> <p>20 participants</p>	<p><b>Fall Nature on the Farm</b></p> <p>PFN member Bruce Kidd invites members to join him and Martin Parker in an exploration of the field and woodlands of his farm property in Douro-Dummer Township. This outing will provide an opportunity to kick leaves, look at late-blooming flowers, find migrating birds and sample different types of 'wild apples' and discover the range in flavors. On last year's outing, highlights included a small flock of American Pipits and a tree that hummed (it contained a Honeybee hive). All participants are encouraged to bring masks and abide by social distancing guidelines. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather of the day.</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	Members wishing to participate should register with Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or (705) 745-4750. Details on reaching the Kidd farm will be provided to registered participants. Accessibility: Easy to moderate
Thursday, Nov. 11 7:30 p.m. Virtual meeting	<b>PFN Meeting: Canyon Valleys to Mountain Peaks: In Search of Arizona's Herpetofauna</b> Speaker, Joe Crowley, is a professional biologist with expertise in herpetology, species at risk conservation and policy development. He has worked as a species at risk specialist for the Ontario government since 2010, first with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and now with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Since 2011, Joe has been co-organizing and teaching an annual Ontario amphibian and reptile field course for conservation professionals.
Saturday, Nov. 13 Rain day: Nov. 14	<b>Mosses and Liverworts - What makes them special?</b> By November, most of the birds have left for warmer places and flowers are done for the year. Still, the woods in November have some interesting green left in the often-overlooked mosses and liverworts. This outing will help us appreciate these amazing little plants. Details and registration date will be provided in the next Orchid.
Note: Recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ</a> under the playlist menu.	

### Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, October 22.

Send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan via email: [orchid@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:orchid@peterboroughnature.org)  
 or post mail to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



### Volunteer Corner: Outing Leaders

#### Submitted by Sue Paradisis

One of the PFN's most popular benefits of membership is participating in the many outings, field trips and workshops. Due to COVID-19, some of our regular leaders are not comfortable participating and some of our long-standing leaders have decided to "retire" after many years of service. This is leaving us with a limited number of volunteers. If you or someone you know would be willing to get involved, please contact me. Expertise in an area of the natural world is nice but not mandatory. Perhaps, you have a property that you know well and would be willing to take some of us for a tour like Bruce Kidd on the October outing. In addition to spotting wildlife and learning something new, the camaraderie of fellow members that share your enthusiasm for nature is a big part of why outings are so well attended. Training will be provided and a seasoned leader can accompany you. I can be reached by phone at 705-559-2061 or email at [sueparadisis@hotmail.com](mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com)





## 2022 Membership Renewals

### Submitted by Ted Vale

The PFN is now accepting membership renewals for 2022. There are two ways to renew your membership:

- *The Old-Fashioned Way:* Fill out the Membership Form at the back of the Orchid and mail it along with your cheque to PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7
- *The New-Fangled Way:* Go online to the PFN website ([www.peterboroughnature.org](http://www.peterboroughnature.org)), and click on "Join Today," and then "Join Online". Fill out the form, submit it, and then click on "Donation." Your payment can be made through PayPal or credit card to Canada Helps, which will forward it to us.

We are in the process of setting up payment by e-transfer and will let you know when this is available.

Membership fees are Student/Youth - \$15, Single - \$30.00, and Family- \$40.

We look forward to having you with us in 2022, when hopefully we can return to a fuller range of programming.



Joe Crowley, speaker for November's PFN meeting, with a snapping turtle in Bruce County.

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## Nature Almanac for October

### By Drew Monkman

In early October, the sun still shines with warm benevolence. Yet, it is not the light of summer. Often hazy and surreal, October sunshine has a quality all its own. As crickets sing softly from meadows of aster, winter seems far away. But, as experience has taught us, the beauty of early October is both temporary and fragile. So, we try to hang on to these magnificent days before wind and rain scatter leaves and colder weather descends upon us. Perhaps it is the ephemeral nature of October's loveliness that makes it so special.

October mornings greet us with the first heavy frosts of the season. As the sun warms the cold night air, leaves shower down from trees, and vistas that were hidden all summer long once again become visible. This is the month of the rake, but there is a payoff for our labour. The familiar, spicy smell of the fallen leaves transports us back to childhood, evoking an instant flood of memories of autumns past.

As the month draws to a close, the only leaf colour that remains is the yellow of poplars and tamaracks and the browns, oranges and burgundy of oaks. Cornfields and cattail marshes become a sea of drab yellow, and fallen leaves quickly turn a ubiquitous brown. With cold, damp weather and markedly shorter days, it's not hard to imagine why the Celts chose this time of year to celebrate the various traditions that have become our Halloween.

1. Northern Canada geese continue to stream southward in large, high-altitude flocks.
2. Large, grey, Western conifer seed bugs (sometimes called leaf-footed or squash bugs) seek overwintering sites in homes this month; however, this insect cannot breed indoors. They can measure up to 2 cm in length and look rather imposing.

3. Sulphur and cabbage butterflies are active throughout October. The occasional monarch, too, can usually be seen until late in the month.
4. White, mauve and purple asters are the dominant wildflowers this month, bringing the roadside floral parade to a close. Watch for heath, panicked, and calico asters in particular.
5. This is sparrow month at feeders. Watch for white-throated and white-crowned sparrows, along with dark-eyed juncos. If you are lucky, a thrush-like fox sparrow may even put in an appearance. Be sure to scatter seed on the ground.
6. The full moon of October is known as the Hunter's Moon. In early fall, the moon rises only about 30 minutes later each evening and stays low in the sky. Fields and forests are bathed in moonlight allowing hunters of days past to pursue game late into the evening.
7. Golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets, along with yellow-rumped warblers, pass through in large numbers. They can be heard calling as they search for food.
8. Frogs and toads are often found sitting motionless on warm road pavement on wet, mild fall nights.
9. Fall colours are at their height. Quite often, the peak coincides with the Thanksgiving weekend. Sugar and red maples steal the show.
10. The Orion constellation towers over the southern sky as we head off to work in the early morning darkness. Like falling leaves, it is a sign that winter is fast approaching.
11. On warm, sunny October days, the light often has a hazy, almost dream-like quality. This is due to large amounts of water vapour in the air in fall and the fact that the fall sun is lower in the sky. The two factors combine to create a feeling of reverie.
12. Through late summer and fall, bird species that are usually found in more southern regions often drift northward into the Kawarthas. The most common of these is the great egret.
13. Watch for white-tailed deer feeding along the edges of fields and woodlots at dawn and dusk.
14. Trees are quickly shedding their leaves now, each species following its own timetable. Ash are often the first species to become leafless.
15. Starling-sized northern saw-whet owls migrate southward through the Kawarthas.
16. Bright yellow aspens and brown, red and burgundy oaks take over the fall foliage spectacle.
17. Star-nosed moles are very active in the fall. They tunnel just below the surface of the ground in search of earthworms. In the process, large quantities of soil are pushed up from below into mounds.
18. Muskellunge continue to feed heavily. This can make for great fishing.
19. The sporadic calling of spring peepers can still be heard on warm days.
20. Migrating diving ducks congregate on the larger Kawartha Lakes such as Pigeon Lake. Watch for large rafts of goldeneye and scaup along with mergansers.
21. Mating clouds of midges are still common, even on days when the temperature is close to freezing.
22. Because they are still mostly green and fully-leaved, the extent of non-native trees and shrubs becomes evident. Norway maple, lilac and European buckthorn stand out in particular.
23. Deer mice seek out winter accommodation. Human habitations are often chosen.
24. Eastern garter snakes are still active and can be seen basking in the mid-fall sun. They are the last of the snakes to retreat to winter quarters.



Snowgeese at Bensfort Road landfill pond on October 12, 2020. Photo: Steve Paul

25. The "fall turn-over" begins to re-oxygenate lakes this month and will continue until freeze-up. It occurs when the surface water cools and mixes with the uniformly-cold deeper waters below. At times, the mixing even brings dead weeds to the surface.
26. Chipmunks retreat to their secure, well-provisioned dens. Unlike groundhogs, chipmunks are unable to store large amounts of body fat and must therefore eat throughout the winter.
27. The first winter finches usually show up about now. Depending on the year, these may include pine siskins, common redpolls and pine grosbeaks.
28. Brightly-coloured brook trout spawn at gravel-bottomed sites in stream headwaters and along lake shores. They choose areas where spring water wells up through the gravel.
29. Daylight Savings Time ends on the last Sunday of October. Set your clocks back an hour. Total darkness is upon us now by 5:30 p.m.
30. The smoky, golden-yellow of tamaracks lights up wetland borders like so many candles. They represent the final act in the annual fall colour extravaganza.
31. Right on cue for Halloween, late October is often when people come across bats in older schools, churches and homes. These are usually big brown bats looking for wintering sites or animals that have been disturbed during their dormancy.



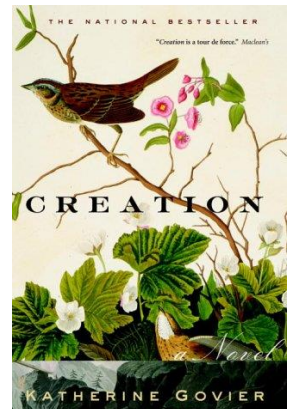
Photo of chipmunk by Ken Morrison.

## Book Review: Creation by Katherine Govier

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

As people who enjoy finding and watching birds, we all share a trait in varying degrees: singlemindedness. After all, what activity can reach from the sublime to the possibly ridiculous; from spending a couple of hours outdoors birding to traveling around the world – birding?!

Canadian author, Katherine Govier, documents singlemindedness in her novel about Jean Jacques (a.k.a. John James) Audubon's trip up the coast of Labrador to find the nesting areas of North American birds never before seen (at least not seen by European colonists). Beleaguered by horrible weather and a plague of "moschetoes" (mosquitos), Audubon is driven by his need for fame, his need to complete his opus of painting every bird life-sized, his need for money and his horror of what man does to the wild. It is paradox and complexity that drives this tale. Audubon is fully aware that when humans enter a scene, they change it.



J.J. Audubon is a complex character. Born out of wedlock in Santo Domingo, he is raised by his father's wife in France and spends his life hiding his Creole origins. The author writes that he is full of awareness of "his sins against the very creatures he worships. He has stalked birds. He has got them in his sights and shot them...He has sometimes caught birds with his bare hands and squeezed the life out of them, careful not to spoil their feathers. He has killed so many. He has wired their wings and mounted them on boards; he has tamed them, which is sometimes worse. He tells himself this is part of love's labour: to know birds."

This paradox is present in his relationship with humans as well, especially women. He is fond of his wife, Lucy, and children who are sequestered in Europe, but is enamoured of Maria Martin, his talented American assistant artist in Charleston, South Carolina. Maria provides exquisite renditions of plants and insects which Audubon places into his bird paintings. Does she get credit? No. Maria also challenges



Audubon morally and intellectually. As well as placing herself out of his grasp physically, she criticizes his need to kill. Audubon attacks back with his Victorian misogynistic sensibilities in this dialogue: *"An artist, are you?" he mocked... "No, Maria. You are talented. But there is talent and then there is genius. There is obsession. They don't occur in your sex."*

Another character that adds intellectual challenge to Audubon's quest is Henry Bayfield, the admiralty surveyor for North America. Bayfield was responsible for surveying Lake Superior, Lake Erie, and Lake Huron as well as being the commander on a voyage to Quebec to survey the St. Lawrence River. It is on this 'real' trip that he meets up with Audubon in the novel.

The central paradox of this novel is that while being passionate about birds and the wildness they embody, at every turn Audubon destroys their wildness. For Audubon, the act of creation is also an act of destruction.

Govier's writing is eloquent and she has written an atmospheric and enthralling historical novel. Her epilogue is also intriguing as it poses the question of what is real and what are facts. She does list facts for the factually minded amongst her readers.

Ptbo Library: FIC GOVIE (also available as an e-book)

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## **Peterborough Bird Sightings Accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee**

### **Submitted by Martin Parker**

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) is a committee of Ontario field ornithologists that reviews the observations of rare birds based on submitted documentation. In 2020, the committee reviewed 195 bird records, and accepted 85% of them. All documentation is placed in a permanent file at the Royal Ontario Museum. Several records were accepted from the Peterborough area:

#### **Magnificent Frigatebird**

A basic female from Chemong Lake by Matthew L. Gavin on September 13. It was reported in the October 2020 issue of The Orchid, Vol. 62, No. 7. This was the 7th accepted record for the province.

#### **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

This was the individual along Preston Road, Cavan Swamp area and which was reported in the May 2020 issue of The Orchid, Vol. 66, No. 4 with an article by Matthew Tobey and photo by Cathy Douglas. This is the 62nd accepted record for the province.

#### **Blue Grosbeak**

An individual was photographed by Stephan Ragaz in the Deer Bay area of the county. It was present from April 28 to 30 in 2020. A photo of this bird was published in the March 2021 issue of The Orchid, Vol. 67, No. 2. This was the 112th record for the province. As of 2021 it is no longer a species the OBRC will review for southern Ontario sightings.

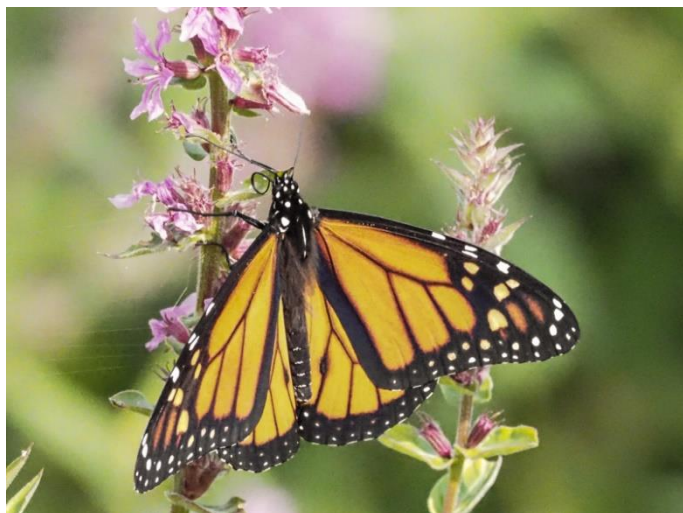


Prairie Warbler in early May. Photo: Dave Milsom



## Presqu'île Provincial Park Outing on September 11

Ken Morrison wrote, "Twelve members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists went to the park to look mainly for shorebirds which were very hard to find. Jerry Ball and I did see a few other interesting things however." A sampling of their sightings is shown below.



Clockwise from top: American Lady feeding on a buddleia (butterfly bush). Great Blue Heron with an interesting catch: a juvenile muskrat which it did actually eat. Male white-faced meadowhawk. Monarch feeding on a purple loosestrife. Photos: Ken Morrison

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## PFN Investing in Our Natural Heritage

### Submitted by PFN Board of Directors

In the last few months, on behalf of the members of the PFN, the Directors have approved grants for the continued protection of our natural heritage in the Peterborough Region. The following is a summary of the approved grants.

**Kawartha Land Trust** received a grant of \$1,000 to assist with the negotiation of a conservation easement for the farm property of Bruce and Georgia Kidd in Douro/Dummer Township. The intent of the easement is to maintain the rural nature of this farm property and maintain the productive agricultural lands and

natural areas as a representative landscape of the Dummer Moraine. The PFN has held a number of fall outings to this property with the next trip scheduled on October 18.

**Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre** received a grant of \$300 to assist in the purchase of twelve special UV light bulbs. The UV light is to ensure that the hatchling turtles receive the required amount of light to form healthy bones and shell. They estimate over 700 hatchlings turtles will overwinter at their facility. The hatchlings will be returned to the wild next spring.

**Brian Wales** received a grant of \$150 to purchase supplies to make Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser boxes which will be erected on trees in the vicinity of the Lakefield Lagoon. The lagoons currently host many ducklings each breeding season and this project will provide nesting cavities of these two species.

Funding from these projects is possible due to the generosity of PFN members. Part of the funds are from the PFN Legacy Fund managed on behalf of the PFN by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough. This Endowment Fund provides an annual grant which the Board has decided will be used for special projects.

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## **2020 Petroglyphs Butterfly Count Records Continental Highs**

### **Submitted by Martin Parker**

The 2020 Report of the NABA (North American Butterfly Association) butterfly counts provides a summary of the high counts for all species of butterflies recorded on at least one count. The report is issued the year after the counts are held.

The Petroglyphs Butterfly Count participants recorded continental highs for the following species

Columbine Duskywing -- 130 (recorded on 3 counts)

Mulberry Wing -- 130 (recorded on 37 counts)

Broad-winged Skipper -- 386 (recorded on 42 counts)

Dun Skipper -- 1,872 (were recorded on 179 counts)

In 2020, a total of 332 counts were conducted, with 14 of them being in Ontario.

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## **From the Archives: The Orchid, October 1991, Vol 37, No. 7**

### **Former Projects of the PFN and Members**

#### **Bird Seed Orders:**

The confirmed price of a 50 lb bag of birdseed is \$13 including taxes!

Orders must be reserved by Oct. 11/91. Call Pat Dunsire or Susan Malan. You will be called when the order comes in and it is to be picked up at the designated locations.

[Martin Parker's Note: How long did the PFN resell bird seed to its members?]

#### **Volunteers Needed:**

Volunteers are needed to coordinate the Mammal Atlas for the Peterborough area. It is not as much work as the Breeding Bird Atlas, but the work is similar. Contact Sue Malan if you can help.

[Martin Parker's Note: This project was completed in the mid-1990s.]



## Ten Years at Ontario Nature

By Noah Cole (from Ontario Nature Blog, September 2, 2021)

Over the course of a decade that I have worked at Ontario Nature, there have been too many significant accomplishments to list. However, I am delighted to present some of the ways Ontario Nature has been stewarding, advocating for and protecting the wild spaces and wild species that you love in Ontario.



Engaged members attending an Ontario Nature meeting in 2013. Photo: John Hassell (PFN members Ted and Marion Vale near the back on the right)

### 2011

We launched the first annual Our Special Spaces events. Led by Ontario Nature's Youth Council, and done in conjunction with community groups. These volunteering events restore natural spaces – including pollinator gardens and riparian zones.

### 2012

Ontario Nature publishes *The Road to Extinction: A call to end the snapping turtle hunt* with the David Suzuki Foundation and the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre. A collaborative report that successfully called for a ban on hunting of at-risk snapping turtles in Ontario.

### 2013

Together with Wildlands League and Ecojustice, Ontario Nature launches a lawsuit against the provincial government in opposition to industry exemptions under the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, the exemptions were allowed, enabling forestry, mining and other sectors to damage critical habitat with little oversight and virtually no requirements for habitat restoration.

### 2014

The Youth Summit for Biodiversity & Community Action focused on biodiversity, pollinators, the fragility of natural systems and mobilizing communities. Subsequently, a Youth Council and Bee City campaign established pollinator-friendly cities, schools and communities across Ontario.



Participants of Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Biodiversity observe an eastern garter snake in a workshop on salamanders. Photo: Noah Cole. (PFN's sponsored student Jacob Bowman in centre of photo)

### 2015

With extensive help from nature lovers and community members, the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas surpassed 334,000 records of observations of salamanders, snakes, turtles, frogs, lizards and toads, contributing to an upcoming report.

### 2016

Ontario Nature celebrated 85 years of conservation work, and established the Sydenham River Nature Reserve growing its network of 26 nature reserves now totaling 3,119 hectares (7,692 acres) across the province.

**2017**

Ontario Nature published the Indigenous Perspectives on Conservation Offsetting report, and worked with Indigenous partners to bring together members from 14 Indigenous communities and 19 environmental organizations to advance Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and reconciliation.

**2018**

Ontario Nature's Protected Places Declaration – asking the governments of Ontario and Canada to meet international commitments and 2010 Aichi Biodiversity Targets to protect at least 17% of land and inland waters by 2020 – was signed by more than 135 organizations and 5,000 Ontarians.

**2019**

With the support of our members and Nature Network member groups, we helped stop Schedule 10 of Bill 66, which threatened the drinking water, farmland and natural heritage of every municipality in Ontario.

**2020**

Ontario Nature partnered with Environmental Defence and Ecojustice to sue the government over its unlawful use of a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to force through development on the provincially significant Duffins Creek wetlands complex. Ultimately, the Government of Ontario revoked the MZO protecting the wetland from destruction.

**2021**

Ontario Nature's widely supported Protected Places Campaign identified and advocated for candidate protected areas.

I began at Ontario Nature photographing the Rally for Nature at Queen's Park, an event that focused on our Charter for Biodiversity, which was signed by more than 6,000 people. The threats continue and this year alone Ontario Nature has stood up to protect natural spaces by growing our nature reserves, advocate against environmental deregulation, support sustainable communities, and much more.

I would be remiss if I neglected to mention the wonderful experiences I have had at our Annual Gatherings, Youth Summits, Nature Network outings and connecting with the extensive conservation community through my day-to-day work.

You can learn more about Ontario Nature's history as nature's watchdog and sign up to stay informed about conservation news, opportunities to get involved, and how to support Ontario Nature's work at <https://ontarionature.org>

*Editor's Note from Ontario Nature's mission statement:*

*"Ontario Nature is a conservation organization that protects wild species and spaces through conservation, education, and public engagement. A registered charity, Ontario Nature represents more than 30,000 members and supporters, and more than 150 member groups\* from across Ontario.*

*Since it was established as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists in 1931, Ontario Nature has been a champion for nature. Our vision is simple: An Ontario where nature inspires and sustains us for generations to come."*

*\*including the Peterborough Field Naturalists*



Ontario Nature Annual Gathering outing to Sherman Falls, Hamilton, in 2019. Photo: Noah Cole (PFN member Enid Mallory with grandchild on left)



**Departmental, by Robert Frost**

THE END OF MY AUNT JERRY

An ant on the tablecloth  
Ran into a dormant moth  
Of many times his size.  
He showed not the least surprise.  
His business wasn't with such.  
He gave it scarcely a touch,  
And was off on his duty run.  
Yet if he encountered one  
Of the hive's enquiry squad  
Whose work is to find out God  
And the nature of time and space,  
He would put him onto the case.  
Ants are a curious race;  
One crossing with hurried tread  
The body of one of their dead  
Isn't given a moment's arrest —  
Seems not even impressed.  
But he no doubt reports to any  
With whom he crosses antennae,  
And they no doubt report  
To the higher-up at court.  
Then word goes forth in Formic:  
"Death's come to Jerry McCormic,

Our selfless forager Jerry.  
Will the special Janizary  
Whose office it is to bury  
The dead of the commissary  
Go bring him home to his people.  
Lay him in state on a sepal.  
Wrap him for shroud in a petal.  
Embalm him with ichor of nettle.  
This is the word of your Queen."  
And presently on the scene  
Appears a solemn mortician;  
And taking formal position,  
With feelers calmly atwiddle,  
Seizes the dead by the middle,  
And heaving him high in air,  
Carries him out of there.  
No one stands round to stare.  
It is nobody else's affair.  
It couldn't be called ungentle  
But how thoroughly departmental.

## Peterborough County Stewardship Nest Box Fundraiser



Peterborough County Stewardship (PCS) is a board of volunteers that consults and supports ecological restoration projects in conjunction with urban and rural landowners within Peterborough County. PCS is selling wildlife nest boxes to raise money. The boxes are made of 3/4" pine board.

To place an order, please contact Peterborough County Stewardship at [peterboroughcountystewardship@gmail.com](mailto:peterboroughcountystewardship@gmail.com) or visit our website at [peterboroughcountystewardship.org](http://peterboroughcountystewardship.org)



### **Large Bat Box**

Bat roosting shelters benefit bats and humans. Ontario bats are insectivores and provide natural pest control by consuming vast amounts of insects including agricultural pests and mosquitoes. Each box can house approx. 100 bats.

66 cm H, 61 cm W, 8 cm D **\$70.00**



### **Small Bat Box.**

53 cm H, 26 cm W, 18 cm D **\$50.00**



### **Chickadee Box**

Chickadees are playful songbirds that rely on nesting cavities in dead trees or man-made nesting boxes to rear their young.

23 cm H, 14 cm W, 14 cm D **\$30.00**



### **Screech Owl Box**

Screech owls are one of the smallest owls in North America. They help control potential pest species such as mice.

44 cm H, 24 cm W, 23 cm D **\$40.00**



### **Flying Squirrel Box**

Flying squirrels play a vital role in forest ecosystems by distributing tree seeds and mycorrhizal fungi. Flying squirrels also serve as prey species to a variety of forest animals. Southern Flying squirrels are classified as a species at risk. Nest boxes provide important shelter for these animals.

30 cm H, 18 cm W, 20 cm D **\$50.00**



### **Medium-Size Bird Box**

Nest box provides space for Bluebirds or other cavity nesting birds.

30 cm H, 14 cm W, 14 cm D **\$40.00**



### **Feeding or Nesting Platform**

Wooden platform provides adequate space to build a bird's nest or place birdseed.

24 cm H, 20 cm W, 7.5 cm D **\$15.00**



### **Suet Bird Feeder**

Wooden platform braces single 4.5" x 5" suet cake.

28 cm H, 18 cm W, 7.5 cm D **\$15.00**

\* Special thanks to the students and staff in the Fleming College carpentry program.





## 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 outings and in-person meetings and reduced the sharing of information on our natural heritage	
July 31	Luke Berg had a <b>Cape May Warbler</b> in his yard in the city. Brian Bailey had a <b>Palm Warbler</b> in his yard in the city.
Aug 1	Don Sutherland had 2 <b>Common Terns</b> on Pigeon Lake off Sandy Point.
Aug 2	Iain Rayner operates a night flight call station (NFC) near Lakefield. It records the call notes of passing birds. He reported the <b>Cape May Warbler</b> and <b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b> on this evening. Over the next week there were several other reports of <b>Cape May Warblers</b> -- from the Rayner NTC, the Lakefield Lagoon by Travis Cameron & Dave Milsom, and a visual by Iain Rayner in his yard. Rayner also had additional records of <b>Bay-breasted Warblers</b> over the next week. Jerry Ball had a <b>Dion Skipper</b> along Sandy Lake Road. Jerry Ball received a report from a cottager on Twin Lakes who was monitoring a <b>Turkey Vulture</b> nest. The nest was in a crevice in a rock cliff. On this date, the young were soaring with the adults
Aug 4	Jerry Ball reported his FOY <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> (butterfly) along LH Trail east of Cameron Line.
Aug 7	Matthew Gavin reported a <b>Common Tern</b> on Chemong Lake off Arnott Road.
Aug 10	A <b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b> report from the Lakefield Lagoon by Daniel Williams and from Iain Rayner NFC near Lakefield. Iain Rayner's NFC recorded the call of a <b>Dickcissel</b> . Dave Milsom had a <b>Least Bittern</b> in the Scollard Drive pond in the city -- present til Sept 3
Aug 12	Robert & Joan DiFruscia provided a summary of his <b>moth observations</b> at their property north of Keene. Robert reported there were lots of moths during the spring. This was followed by a period with cold snaps and heavy rains. This resulted in not seeing large moths such as Luna and Sphinx varieties. There were lots of small and micro moths. On this date he noted the variety and number of large moths were low and the specimens were worn out from the weather.
Aug 14	Kathy Parker & Nuala Murnane observed a <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> (butterfly) flying around their adjoining gardens in the west end of the city. Dave Milsom had a <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> in the Sandy Point area, at the north end of Pigeon Lake. Seen periodically after this sighting. Donald Sutherland found a <b>Sedge Wren</b> along Bartlett Road, Cavan/Monaghan Twp. Iain Rayner's NFC recorded a fly-over by a <b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b> -- additional recordings during the balance of the month. Jeff Stewart also had a recording from his NFC on Aug 30. Jerry Ball had his FOY Leonard's Skipper in the Sandy Lake Road area.
Aug 15	Steve Paul had another <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> in the Trent Wildlife area - continuing individual. Ben Taylor & Sheila Collett had a <b>Carolina Wren</b> in their yard on Engleburn Ave. in the city. Iain Rayner NFC recorded a <b>Least Bittern</b> flying over.
Aug 17	Joan & Robert DiFruscia reported an immature <b>Northern Mockingbird</b> was present on their farm near Keene -- present for at least four days and observed by others.

Aug 18	Bill Snowden reported a <b>White Marked Tussock Moth</b> which was feeding on pelargoniums on his deck near Ennismore. A <b>Great Egret</b> was observed along Pigeon Lake near Sandy Point by Kyle Shaw & Dave Milsom Matthew Tobey & Luke Berg found a <b>Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher</b> in the Squirrel Creek CA.
Aug 20	Iain Rayner's NFC recorded a <b>Dickcissel</b> passing over during the night. Laurie Healey observed a <b>Dickcissel</b> along Keene Road.
Aug 21	John Carley observed a <b>Common Tern</b> over Sandy Lake in the Buckhorn area. At his NFC near Millbrook, Jeff Stewart recorded the flyover of a <b>Dickcissel</b> .
Aug 23	Donald Sutherland located a <b>Baird's Sandpiper</b> in the Lakefield Lagoon -- seen the next day by multiple observers. He also had a <b>Least Bittern</b> in the Sawyer Creek CA.
Aug 24	Bill Snowden had a <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> in his yard near Ennismore. Iain Rayner's NFC recorded a <b>Palm Warbler</b> .
Aug 27	Angel Brady had a <b>Great Egret</b> on the Millbrook Pond.
Aug 28	John Carley had an <b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> at Sandy Lake in the Buckhorn area.
Aug 30	Matthew Gavin & Daniel Williams had a <b>Palm Warbler</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon.
Sept 1	Iain Rayner had an early fall <b>Red-necked Grebe</b> at west end of Chemong Lake causeway.
Sept 2	A <b>Barn Swallow</b> was observed at the Lakefield Lagoon by Dave Milsom & Cathy Douglas. Dan Chronowic had a <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> on Weller Street in the city.
Sept 3	Cathy Douglas & Marilyn Hubley located an adult <b>Black-crowned Night Heron</b> in Rotary Park in the city. Seen by multiple observers until Sept 10.
Sept 5	D. Orbell spotted a <b>Northern Goshawk</b> in Lakefield.
Sept 6	Donald Sutherland had an <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> on Douro Line 3 north of Centre Road. Luke Berg & Matthew Tobey found another <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> in Douro Park.
Sept 7	Iain Rayner had 7 <b>Barn Swallows</b> at the Lakefield Lagoon. Julia Hrivnak reported a <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> in the Miller Creek CA.
Sept 8	Donald Sutherland had 2 <b>Black-bellied Plovers</b> foraging in a corn field along Hwy 28 east of Lakefield. Two <b>Eastern Kingbirds</b> were observed along Dillon Road by Cathy Douglas. Several observations of <b>Barn Swallow</b> this day: 1 by Cathy Douglas on the LH Trail in area of Villiers Line, 1 at the Lakefield Lagoon by Marilyn Hubley and Sue Paradisis, 19 at the Lakefield Lagoon by Donald Sutherland, 13 at the Peterborough Airport by Tony Barrett, and 1 along Trent Rotary Trail by Andrew Brown & Olivia Maillet. Luke Berg had a <b>Carolina Wren</b> along LH Trail between Villiers Line and Blezard
Sept 9	Luke Berg had an <b>Eastern Kingbird &amp; Barn Swallow</b> on Division Road near Drummond Line. 15 <b>Barn Swallows</b> still present at the Lakefield Lagoon by Travis Cameron. Iain Rayner had a <b>Cliff Swallow</b> in his yard near Lakefield. Dave Milsom located a <b>Clay-coloured Sparrow</b> in the Scollard Drive area - still present on Sept 10.
Sept 10	Martin Parker, Chris Risley & Ben Taylor had an <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> in the Otonabee Gravel Pits Conservation Area. On a walk along the LH Trail between Blezard and Cameron Lines, Cathy Douglas, Sue Paradisis, Kathy Parker, Marilyn Hubley and Kathryn Sheridan had three <b>Philadelphia Vireos</b> and a <b>Clay-coloured Sparrow</b> . Jeff Stewart reported a <b>Canada Warbler</b> at his NFC near Millbrook. At his NFC near Lakefield, Iain Rayner recorded a <b>Dickcissel</b> . Jeff Stewart also recorded a <b>Dickcissel</b> at his NFC near Millbrook.
Sept 11	Brad Xamin reported a <b>Red-breasted Merganser</b> off Fire Route 59, Havelock.

	<p>Connor Thompson had a <b>Least Bittern</b> in the Johnson Drive ponds.</p> <p>Four <b>Barn Swallows</b> were reported from O'Connor Drive, Ennismore by Andrew Brown &amp; Olivia Maillet with another 14 at the Lakefield Lagoon by Dave Milsom.</p> <p>Donald Sutherland had a <b>Canada Warbler</b> in the Squirrel Creek CA.</p> <p>Jerry Ball has been spending time at the Cranberry Marsh Hawk Watch and on this date observed 11 species of raptors including over 1,000 <b>Broad-winged Hawks</b>.</p>
Sept 12	Luke Berg reported a late-departing <b>Northern Waterthrush</b> from the LH Trail, Technology Drive to Cty Road 38.
Sept 15	<p>Ben Taylor had a late <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> from Engleburn Ave in the city.</p> <p>Dave Milsom had an <b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> from the Thompson Bay area in the city.</p>
Sept 14	<p>Henrique Pacheco &amp; Peter Simons reported two <b>Cackling Geese</b> in a flock of Canada Geese along the Rotary-Greenway Trail near Trent.</p> <p>Laurie Healey had an <b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> from the Keene Road area.</p> <p><b>Yellow Warbler</b> reports from Lakefield Lagoon by Iain Rayner and Trent Wildlife Area by Luke Berg.</p> <p>Along the shore of Lancaster Bay, Chemong Lake, Don McLeod observed a <b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b> attempting to prey on a <b>Common Grackle</b> juvenile which had a broken wing. The Grackle hid in a crack between the rocks. After the Hawk left, the Grackle was able to walk away.</p>
Sept 15	<p>Iain Rayner had a <b>Black-bellied Plover</b> on the Chemong Lake causeway.</p> <p>Sascha Dho photographed 2 immature <b>Black-crowned Night Herons</b> along the Indian River near the Lang Pioneer Village.</p> <p><b>Yellow-bellied Flycatchers</b> seen by Sue Paradisis on the LH Trail near Technology Drive &amp; by Luke Berg in the Trent University Wildlife area.</p> <p>Late-departing <b>Great Crested Flycatchers</b> were reported from Keene Road area by Laurie Healey and from the Heber Roger CA by Donald Sutherland.</p> <p>Bill Crins and Natasha Car-Morrill had 6 late-departing <b>Barn Swallows</b> from the Jackson Creek Trail area.</p>

PFN Board of Directors				Other Volunteers	
President	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	705-741-4560	Membership Secretary	Jim Young 760-9397
Vice-President and Outings Coordinator	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com	705-559-2061	Orchid Editor	Kathryn Sheridan orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Treasurer	Ted Vale	treasurer@peterboroughnature.org	705-741-3641	Orchid Mailing	Mary Thomas
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Digital Comms Co-coordinator	Marilyn Hubley	media@peterboroughnature.org	705-760-9378	Ecology Park Feeders	JB Jaboor, Kathryn Sheridan
Meeting Coordinator	Steve Paul	stevepaul70@gmail.com	705-930-8370	Orchid Diary, Citizen Science Projects	Martin Parker
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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					



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_