

The Orchid



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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



A Well Travelled and Regionally Rare Common Buckeye on Sandy Lake Road on June 24.

Photo by Robert DiFruscia

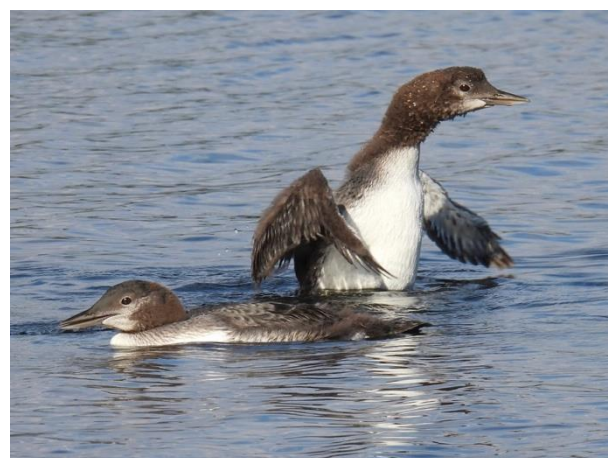
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 Goldenrod Versus Aster

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Welcome new PFN members!


- Kelly Chevrier
- Cheryl Ross
- Catherine & Paul Staples
- Sharon Hill
- Nancy Fischer
- Alison MacMillan
- Jo Sweeting, Andre Asplund
- Rose Spencer
- Thea Jenkins
- Kim Darling
- Jane Mead, Sean Blenkinsop
- Esther Aguilar
- Donna Sally Vic Zafra
- Gail Garland, Bruce Shaw
- Shahe Ravi





Some of this year's new birds. Clockwise from top: Six-week-old Common Loons (Cathy Douglas), an adult male Downy Woodpecker feeding a juvenile (Robert Vernier), a Mallard family at rest (Cathy Douglas), and a juvenile Northern Cardinal in a mulberry tree (Reem Ali).

PFN Coming Events

TICK WARNING: Sadly, our area is seeing a rise in ticks and the new normal needs to include prevention of bites. When attending outings, especially on paths lined with grasses, it is advisable to tuck pants in socks, use insect repellent and when back home, do a tick check. Better safe than sorry.

<p>Saturday, Sept. 10</p> <p>8:30 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>10 participants</p>	<p>The Hidden Birding Trail</p> <p>Walking the path along the south drumlin at Trent University is often very productive for sighting birds, especially during migration. Chris Risley knows the area well and will help participants spot and identify numerous species. The combination of forest, field and water increase the chances of finding a good variety of birds. Binoculars are a must, and one should dress according to the weather of the day. To register after September 6, contact Chris at risleych@gmail.com Meeting place and further details will be provided after registration. Accessibility: easy</p>
<p>Thursday, Sept. 15</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Zoom Meeting</p> <p>Invitations e-mailed to members</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: The Impact of Climate Change on Nature in the Kawarthas</p> <p>In this talk on how global heating is already impacting flora and fauna in the Kawarthas, Drew Monkman will also look at current and projected changes in temperature, precipitation and extreme weather, the projected near-future impacts on local species and ecosystems, the actions we can take, and some reasons for guarded optimism.</p> <p>Drew Monkman is a retired teacher, a naturalist and writer, and an executive member of For Our Grandchildren (4RG) with a love for all aspects of the natural world, especially as they relate to seasonal change. He is author of the book <i>Nature's Year</i> and co-author of the book <i>The Big Book of Nature Activities</i>.</p> 
<p>Sunday, Sept. 18</p> <p>8:30 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>10 participants</p>	<p>Early Fall in the Cavan Hills</p> <p>Enjoy a hike along rail and ATV trails in the rolling hills southwest of Peterborough. Participants will meet at the home of Lynn & Larry Smith on Tapley ¼ Line in Cavan township. We'll watch for fall migrants and enjoy the onset of autumn colour. Be sure to bring binoculars and dress for the weather of the day. To register after September 6, contact Lynn at smith-fam@nexicom.net Directions and further details will be provided to those who register.</p> <p>Accessibility: Some hills, therefore easy to moderate</p>
<p>Sunday, Oct. 2</p> <p>9 a.m. to noon</p> <p>25 participants</p>	<p>Ballyduff Trails</p> <p>Don McLeod will lead a fall colours nature walk along the Ballyduff Trails near Bethany. This will be a joint outing between Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) and Willow Beach Field Naturalists (WBFN). We will be looking for birds plus wildlife tracks and sign. Fall colours will be a treat and the trails are beautiful. The Ballyduff Trails are on private property owned by Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin who allow access to their trails through an agreement with the Kawartha Land Trust. Accessibility is moderate with significant uphill</p>

PFN Coming Events	
	walking along the 3 km. There will be a maximum of 25 participants for this outing and registration is required. Please send an email to Don McLeod at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com after September 6 to register for this outing and include which club you belong to (PFN or WBFN). Directions and outing details will be provided by email. Accessibility: Moderate
Sunday, Oct. 9 Thanksgiving Weekend 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 12 participants	Fabulous Fungi Fungi come in an incredible variety of different sizes, shapes, and colours. One of the best places to find them is in an old growth forest and Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park is no exception. Rachel Baehr is back to share her knowledge with us. We will also consider some of the features of the park that show that it is in fact an old growth forest. Bring your binoculars, camera, and dress for the weather of the day. Members wishing to participate should register with Sue Paradisis at sueparadisis@hotmail.com after September 6 and more details will be provided. At the time of publication, the lower level at Burnham was still closed due to storm damage. Accessibility: easy 
Thursday, Oct. 13 7:30 p.m.	PFN Monthly Meeting: Algonquin Park's Natural History Through the Seasons Michael Runtz is a professor at Carleton University and is one of Canada's most highly respected naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors. He is also well known for his educational and conservation efforts, for which he has received numerous awards. His talk will include details on Algonquin Park's wildlife throughout the year from dragonflies to moose, deer, wildflowers, etc. 
Note: Recordings of past PFN Zoom meetings can be viewed on PFN's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAgbbqgr4ujZ16qba23LTQQ under the playlist menu.	

Other Events of Interest	
Saturday, Sept. 24 Hazel Bird Nature Reserve Baltimore 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Plugs for the Prairie Historically, the Rice Lake Plains were covered with tallgrass prairies and oak savanna, which were dominated by massive black and white oak, grasses like big bluestem and switchgrass thrived and a diverse range of wildflowers blossomed. Help give this globally rare habitat a comeback by planting native prairie species plugs on Nature Conservancy Canada's Hazel Bird Nature Reserve. To allow NCC to plan for a safe, successful, and enjoyable day in the field together, all participants must register in advance of the event. Space is limited and spots fill up fast, so register today to confirm your attendance. Please email on.volunteers@natureconservancy.ca.

Other Events of Interest

<p>Sunday, Sept. 25 Lakefield 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>KLT's Immersive Nature Workshop</p> <p>Interested in learning more about the natural world and having fun at the same time? Deepen your connection with nature by attending Kawartha Land Trust's Immersive Nature Workshop at Dance Nature Sanctuary in Lakefield.</p> <p>Yoga, accessible for all bodies and levels, will be followed by a series of nature-focused attention training methods. Register for this event online through KLT's website: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/</p>
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Volunteer Corner

Call for Outing Volunteers

One of the PFN's most popular benefits of membership has been participating in the many outings. Since 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. 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 is provided as is a comprehensive manual. If you would prefer to ease in gradually, you could assist an experienced leader. For new members, this is an excellent way to meet some other members.

Perhaps there is a property that you know well and would be willing to take us on a tour accompanied by another leader.

Please consider volunteering. I can be reached by phone at 705-559-2061 or email at sueparadisi@hotmail.com



Call for Junior Naturalist Co-ordinator and Junior Naturalist Activity Volunteers



The next generation of nature lovers in Peterborough needs YOU!

With wonderful summer weather approaching and the easing of pandemic restrictions, the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) are looking to resume activities for our Junior Naturalists, ages 5 to 12. Junior Naturalist activities are led by PFN members and/or individuals from other organizations in the Peterborough community who volunteer to share their knowledge and skills. At this time, we are seeking:

- 1) PFN member(s) who would like to take a leadership role in co-ordinating the Junior Naturalists program; and
- 2) PFN members who have an interest in attending and helping to deliver Junior Naturalist activities.

Volunteering as part of the PFN Junior Naturalist team is an opportunity to inspire the next generation of nature lovers in our community. Please send your expression of interest to secretary@peterboroughnature.org. Additional information can be obtained from Board of Directors Liaison, Anda Rungis at 613-298-9062.

Call for Candidates for 2022 Ontario Nature Youth Summit

After a two-year hiatus, Ontario Nature will be offering a hybrid virtual/in-person Youth Summit this year.

Full information is available on the Ontario Nature website at ontarionature.org/events/youth-summit.

One of the features of this year's event is that one of the live sessions will be held at Trent University.

The event is open to youth from the ages of 14 to 20.

The PFN would like to sponsor a youth to take part in the Summit. The deadline for registration is September 12. If you know a youth who would be interested in attending, please contact Ted Vale at treasurer@peterboroughnature.org by September 5.



Chimney Swift Roost Watches in Late May and Early June 2022

Submitted by Chris Risley

On four nights this spring, members of the PFN helped count Chimney Swifts entering chimneys used for roosting and nesting in downtown Peterborough. Twenty-five naturalists took part in the watches from the top level of the King Street parking garage on May 25 and 29 and June 2 and 6. From 85 to 112 swifts were observed entering the main roost chimney; sometimes in groups of five or six swifts but on one night (June 6) 91 swifts entered in one minute during a moderate rain event. It was spectacular to watch, like they were getting sucked into the chimney, especially so, during the pouring rain! Not all swifts entered the roost, some pairs entered nearby smaller chimneys in which it is presumed they will nest. Swifts continue to use the roost chimney all summer but not quite as many enter during the middle of summer when more are attending individual chimneys for nesting. The nightly totals of swifts in the roost and nesting chimneys were May 25 (106), May 29 (95), June 2 (124) and June 6 (107). The data are sent to Birds Canada as part of a coordinated roost watch for Canadian provinces with Chimney Swifts so that a total (minimum) population estimate can be derived for this declining species. There were dozens of naturalists from Manitoba to Nova Scotia all watching chimneys on the same nights as us. In 2021, the grand total number of Chimney Swifts seen in Canada on these watches was 11,974 (data from Birds Canada website); a pretty impressive total! If you want to see the spectacle yourself, head up to the top of the King Street parking garage around official sunset and look in the sky and at the chimneys just to the north. The peak entry into the roost chimney seems to happen within ten minutes of official sunset. You might also see other interesting birds in this twilight period; this year we saw an Osprey and hundreds of "molt-migrant" Canada Geese going north.



Vote for Peterborough's City Bird!

Submitted by Reem Ali

On June 27, 2022 City Council ratified the application from Bird Friendly Peterborough (BFP), designating Peterborough as a Bird Friendly City (BFC). Nature Canada oversees the BFC program, which requires communities to meet multiple criteria before achieving bird-friendly city status, including Council ratification and the selection of a City Bird!



Great Blue Heron. Photo: Reem Ali

In celebration of our new BFC status, with the support of the City of Peterborough, the BFP Team has launched an official City Bird contest for residents to select the bird that best represents our community. A list of 16 local bird species has been assembled by the BFP Team that comprises a wide variety of common species. The contest is being held from August 2 to September 5 to narrow the list to the top 5 birds. The winning City Bird will be announced at the inaugural Peterborough Environmental and Climate Action Expo (Ptbo Enviro X) at Ecology Park on September 23. The Ptbo Enviro X, hosted by the City of Peterborough from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will showcase important initiatives that are in place to meet our sustainability goals. This event will be open to all ages.

Be sure to register and vote for your favourite birds online at connectptbo.ca/climate before September 5!

Outing Report for May 29: Ballyduff Trails

Submitted by Don McLeod

Excellent birding and weather greeted eleven members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists while walking the Ballyduff Trails located near Bethany. Among the 40 bird species and 90 individuals were six Sparrow and seven Warbler species. Highlight species included



Blue-winged Warbler
photo by Don McLeod

Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Pine Warbler. A soaring Broad-winged Hawk was a nice treat. Many birds were identified by song but there were more than expected visual observations. Other nature observations included some mammal tracks. An interesting observation was a Pigeon roosting in a large Red Oak tree. This domestic Rock Pigeon had leg bands with CU and 2021, meaning that it had been banded in 2021 for identification during racing within the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union. It appeared to have lost its way or just got tired and took a break.



Card-carrying (leg-band wearing) member of the Canadian Racing Pigeon Union. Photo: Don McLeod

Outing Report for June 4: Cavan Birding

Submitted By Don McLeod

Lynn Smith led a group of 12 members from the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) on a birding outing at different locations in Cavan Township. Habitat areas varied including forest, stream, meadow and wetland. The species tally for all locations was 44. There were several highlights. Weather was sunny and comfortably cool. Mosquitoes mostly held off from their expected bombardment. Interesting finds included a Great Horned Owl feather and a Ground Wolf Spider.

Among the observed birds, viewing a Common Nighthawk perched on a log was definitely tops on our list and was a lifer for several in attendance. No one had seen a Nighthawk so close before. Among Warblers, it was the Canada Warbler that ranked at the top. A few members hung around at Lynn's place at the end and were rewarded with Eastern Bluebird at the nesting box.



Common Nighthawk. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

Outing Report for July 3: Butterflies Along the Lang-Hastings Trail

Submitted by Don McLeod



Banded hairstreak sipping from dogbane flowers. Photo: Don McLeod

Thirteen members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists were led by Colleen Lynch and Don McLeod on a butterfly outing along the Lang-Hastings Trail near Hastings. Also participating was butterfly expert Jerry Ball who provided excellent help with identification.

Colleen distributed a handout with online resources and a checklist for butterflies of Peterborough County.

Colleen also had several of Rick Cava's pocket guides available for loan. It was a beautiful and productive day for butterflies with a final tally of 19 species. Some butterfly highlights included the Great Spangled Fritillary,

Common Wood Nymph, Silver-spotted Skipper, Question Mark, Northern Cloudwing and Banded Hairstreak. Don kept an eBird list, mostly by sound, which included 20 species. Several members had a good view of the Merlin perched in a tree.



Silver-spotted skipper. Photo: Don McLeod

Outing Report for August 13: Hazel Bird Nature Reserve

Submitted by Gisele Roy

As "The Great Spring Bird Sighting" season is somewhat past and it's now mid-August, our start/meet time was a more civilized 10 a.m. (tongue-in-cheek). We were met by three learned representatives of Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC), who, on a Saturday no less, informed us (we the 13 baker's dozen from the PFN) with history, lore, and the ongoing restorations unique to this oak savannah.

Val Deziel, who lately was a guest speaker at a PFN monthly meeting, is planner and steward for this Rice Lake Plains/Oak Ridges Moraine acreage. During our walk, she described the ways and reasons for prescribed burns and the need to reduce



An American copper butterfly. This sighting was a first for many of us. Photo: Don McLeod

pressure from invasives like spotted knotweed and previously planted scotch pine.

This rehabilitation is to return

the meadows to oak and grass savannah, hence the sowing of Canada wild rye and savannah grass.

Even though the fields are still evolving toward that goal, they very much please the eye, support other flora, and are home to such fauna as hognose snake, fisher, and many winged insect friends. We walked meadows dotted with a few lone white oaks and some shrubbery, well used by the "locals" as their wildlife habitat.



In this photo, Val Deziel is telling us about a recent sign that their hard work at restoring the tallgrass prairie habitat is paying off: This year is the first year in over fifty years that a pair of Upland Sandpipers nested on the property.

Photo: Don McLeod

With a thankful nod to Don McLeod who stepped in for Sue Paradisis, we had a great outing. The weather was kind and several of us enjoyed a lunch in the shade afterwards on the premises. Oh, and we did see and hear a few pewees and some other birds.

Outing Report for August 20: Tree Identification in Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park

Submitted by Gisele Roy

Nothing like a walk through glades of gentle, aged, old-growth trees to relearn of our short transition on Earth. Here, a 170-year-old is a middle-aged wonder be it ironwood or oak or hemlock; some were dated back to the mid-1500s.



In 1830, the Burnham family was granted 109 acres by the Crown. Unlike other settlers, they did not clear for cultivation; it was left in its natural historic state. Now we benefit from this mature forest as it was gifted to Ontario and dedicated in 1957 as a provincial park. This park is on the Peterborough drumlin field in the greater region of Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plains.

Our guide, Dawson Wainman, and his two associates from Trent University, explained how certain topographies can inform of the history of a locale. For example, pillow and cradle (a.k.a. pit and mound) formations occur when a tree falls taking its root mass with it. That root mass is the “pillow”, the hole from which it came is the “cradle”. This one of several other clues suggests the relative age of an event, wind direction, storm frequency etc.

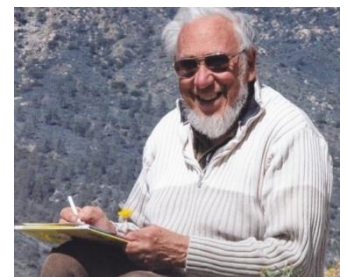
Clearly in evidence were the remnants of the carnage wrought by May’s storm: entire trees uprooted, others either badly broken or leaning. These events are of nature and from it the forest opens its canopy to sun-starved new growth and offers more cavities for wildlife habitat. Forest trees can be less sturdy than open-field trees who, since birth, have withstood the vagaries of weather.

We studied bark and leaf shapes, inspected disease and insect evidence, and identified a variety of woodland annuals. So glad to be traipsing in this shady woods, especially as the sun did shine bright and hot. Thanks to Sue Paradisis for organizing the event.

Gordon Berry

Submitted by Roger Jones

Gordon Berry, a long-time member of the PFN, recently passed away at age 93. For many years, Gordon was a very active member of the PFN. He was a director from 1972 to 1977 and President in 1973 and 1974.



To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the PFN, the club produced a book titled *Kawarthas Nature*. Gordon was the editor and a member of a three-person committee that carried out the task. PFN members and non-PFN individuals contributed articles and photographs. Gordon contributed 10 of the 39 articles and many of the photographs. He also delivered, on a continuing basis, copies of the book to be sold by numerous local and area businesses, thus ensuring that the Club received substantial income.

Another PFN project was a beautifully illustrated book published in 2011 titled *Nature in the Kawarthas* which was compiled by Gordon, John Bottomly and Rebecca Zeran. Gordon authored 6 of the 30 chapters and contributed many photographs.

In addition to his interest in animals, plants and natural history, Gordon had an eclectic variety of other interests. These included life-long travel (visiting over 150 countries), photography, painting, carving in stone and wood, singing/playing in musical groups and playing the piano and pipe organ.

Gordon owned a cottage on Upper Stoney Lake. To celebrate the centennial of the Upper Stoney Lake Association, Gordon and Lesley Wooton produced in 2002 a magnificent 222-page book titled *Upper Stoney Lake – Gem of the Kawarthas*. Their book extolled the beauty and history of this part of the lake. In addition to descriptions and historical photographs, there are references to the “characters” who, over the years, lived in or built cottages in the area.

Editor's Note: Gordon Berry's obituary reads like a "Lives Lived" column in The Globe and Mail. He had many talents and interests and obviously delighted in sharing them with others. The PFN was lucky to have him as a contributing member. Gordon's obituary was published in the Peterborough Examiner on July 21 and can be viewed online by searching his name at legacy.com.

After the Storm Tore Through the Swamp

It's been days since the frightening storm left the swamp in disarray.
Some exposed, lofty poplars snapped; their leafy crowns buckled sideways.
Cedar trees standing close stopped the poplar crowns from crashing down ...
Now we hear starlings screeching eviction and the limbs' sad, creaking sound.

The tree we'll nest in snapped above our cavity's entrance hole,
But the gourd-shaped pocket is still intact within the fractured bole.
We forage mostly on the ground because our beaks can't chop into live trees,
But pileated woodpeckers' sharp, chisel-like beaks carve holes with awesome ease.

Each spring the great, flame-capped birds create new nesting hollows,
Leaving their previous year's digs to a variety of nesters like us that follows.
The loud and sharp "duh-dut, dut, dut; dut-dut-dut!" drumming
Of the sapsucker keeps me alert as I await my partner's coming.

I'm dazzled by the big, black speckles set against her pale underparts.
She has all the signs of what it takes to make our union of hearts ...
We'll renovate, mate, incubate, and feed our young in shifts.
We're Northern Flickers - long, sticky-tongued lickers of ants and such wild gifts.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2022



Northern Flicker. Photo: Don McLeod

A Kawarthas Summer Tradition: Counting Butterflies

Local butterfly count tallies 53 species but number of individuals is low

By Drew Monkman

Published in the Peterborough Examiner on July 29

Viceroy, pearly-eye, white admiral, hobomok, and American lady. No, this is not a list of famous race horses but rather the names of five of the 105 species of butterflies that have been recorded in Peterborough County. Thanks to the wide range of habitat types, our diversity of butterflies is one of the highest in the province.

Butterfly-watching began to really catch on in the 1990s with the publication of field guides making identification much easier. In addition, the development of close-focusing binoculars and digital cameras with zoom lenses now allows for much easier observation and has nearly done away with the need to capture butterflies in a net.

This growing interest in butterflies has had other spinoff effects, as well. Every summer, butterfly enthusiasts across North America spend a day in the field monitoring local population levels. Like Christmas Bird Counts, butterfly counts help us understand how butterfly populations are changing.

Observers attempt to identify and count every individual butterfly seen within a circle measuring 24 kilometres in diameter. An average of 25 counts are held in Ontario each summer.

Our local butterfly census, known as the Petroglyph Count, is centered in Petroglyph Provincial Park. It takes place in mid-July, because early summer is usually the time when the greatest number of species can be found. This means, however, that species only seen in spring and late-summer are missed. The count circle includes butterfly-rich areas such as Jack Lake, Kashabog Lake, and Sandy Lake Road. This year's count was held on July 23 with a record 28 observers taking part.

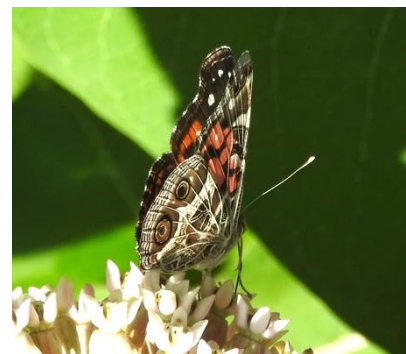
Organized by Jerry Ball and Martin Parker of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, the Petroglyph Count tallies more species than just about any other count in the province. Over its 23-year history, 76 different kinds of butterflies have been found. Among these are eight species of hairstreaks, five fritillaries, and 21 kinds of skippers.

The most abundant butterflies of all are usually the Dun and broad-winged skippers. In fact, the Petroglyph Count has the distinction of recording more of these tiny butterflies – often in the thousands – than any count in North America.

But identifying skippers presents challenges. Often less than 3 cm in wingspan and resembling moths, they are usually coloured in dull tones of orange, brown, and black. To complicate matters, males are often different from females. Their perching posture is unique among butterflies in that the hindwings are opened at a wider angle than the forewings. This gives them a "jet plane" look.

Low numbers

A total of 53 different species were recorded this year, which is about average. However, the number of individual butterflies tallied (2,240) was well below the average (about 3,800) and only half of last year's total (4,387). According to Parker, all of Ontario's counts are reporting low numbers this year. This may be related to fewer-than-average plants in flower, a somewhat cool spring – especially June nights – and even the recent windstorms. Count participant Larry Smith told Parker that after the May 21 derecho, his pond



American lady on Sandy Lake Road on July 14, 2019. Photo: Rene Gareau



Aphrodite fritillary sipping from common milkweed. Photo: Rene Gareau

was covered with dead caterpillars. Also worrisome – and possibly related – is the well-documented global decline in insects.

Monarch numbers, too, were low. Only 107 were counted which is below the 10-year average of 159. Their numbers do tend to fluctuate, however, with only four individuals found in 2016 compared to a record 472 in 2019 and 475 in 2021. But just in the last week, I've heard from several people that monarch numbers are rising quickly.

Only two red admirals were tallied, and just a single painted lady. Both of these butterflies migrate north from the United States into Ontario each spring and there is a great deal of annual variation in numbers.



Canadian tiger swallowtail butterfly on June 4 in Keene.

Photo: Robert DiFruscia

Jerry Ball

Much of our recent knowledge of Peterborough County's butterflies can be attributed to the observations made by Jerry Ball. Ball has been scouring the County in search of butterflies for over 25 years. He has also kept very detailed records. He was the first person to find local populations of mulberry wing skippers and to discover they're actually quite common. He also found the County's first variegated fritillary, satyr comma, and common buckeye. Ball also predicted almost 20 years ago that giant swallowtails would expand their range into Peterborough County. Once restricted to southwestern Ontario, they are now a common butterfly of the Kawarthas.



Question mark butterfly on July 3 on Lang-Hastings Trail. Photo: Don McLeod

Jerry Ball's contributions go further, still. As Martin Parker told me, "Jerry has drawn attention to Sandy Lake Road as one of Ontario's premier butterfly-watching destinations. People come from across the province to visit the area." Located about 40 km north of Havelock on County Road 46, Sandy Lake Road has varied habitat types which include a thousand acres of sedge marsh. All of the many butterfly species that lay their eggs on sedges can be found here. This includes many kinds of skippers. Among other species of note are bog copper, brown elfin, and the harvester butterfly. Harvester caterpillars are actually carnivorous, something that is unique among Ontario's butterflies.

Complete results

The 2022 Petroglyph Butterfly Count results are as follows: Mid-summer tiger swallow-tail (5), cabbage white (15), clouded sulphur (44), orange sulphur (3), pink-edged sulphur (28), bog copper (8), Acadian hairstreak (12), coral hairstreak (36), banded hairstreak (3), hickory hairstreak (1), Edward's hairstreak (1), striped hairstreak (4), gray hairstreak (12), eastern tailed blue (2), summer azure (20), northern azure (1), great spangled fritillary (76), Aphrodite fritillary (21), Atlantis fritillary (1), meadow fritillary (2), pearl crescent (14), northern crescent (103), question mark (3), eastern comma (10), gray comma (2), green comma (1), Compton tortoiseshell (2), mourning cloak (2), American lady (5), painted lady (2), red admiral (2), white admiral (7), viceroy (3), northern pearly-eye (12), eyed brown (44), little wood-satyr (6), common ringlet (2), common wood-nymph (53), monarch (107), columbine duskywing (38), Delaware skipper (44), common sootywing (1), least skipper (66), European skipper (105), Peck's skipper (19), tawny-edged skipper (5), crossline skipper (18), long dash (7), northern broken-dash (21), little glassywing (3), mulberry wing (37), broad-winged skipper (229), Dion skipper (18), and Dun skipper (892)

Total species (53), Total individuals (2,240), Participants (28)

How does the number of butterflies and other pollinators seem in your gardens this summer? Email me at dmonkman1@cogeco.ca.

Results of Petroglyphs Butterfly Count on July 16, 2022

Species	Park Stoney L.	Cty Rd 46 South	Sandy L. Rd South	Sandy L. Rd North	Cty Rd 46 North	McCoy Road	Jack Lake Power	Western Jack Lake	Total
Mid-summer Tiger Swallowtail				1		4			5
Cabbage White	2	1	1		1	4	2	4	15
Clouded Sulphur	15	4	1	1	14	4	3	2	44
Orange Sulphur	2							1	3
Pink-edged Sulphur		3	14	10	1				28
Bog Copper		2		6					8
Acadian Hairstreak	5	1				1	3	2	12
Coral Hairstreak	2	5	13	9	7				36
Banded Hairstreak				2		1			3
Edwards' Hairstreak				1					1
Striped Hairstreak	2	1					1		4
Gray Hairstreak		5	1	5	1				12
Eastern Tailed Blue			1			1			2
Summer Azure	4		5	4	1	4		2	20
Northern Azure				1					1
Great Spangled Fritillary	11	3	6	4		14	10	28	76
Aphrodite Fritillary		4	1	3	8		4	1	21
Atlantis Fritillary	1								1
Meadow Fritillary					1		1		2
Pearl Crescent	2		3		5			4	14
Northern Crescent	24	3	5	6	2	23	18	22	103
Question Mark			1			2			3
Eastern Comma	2				1	3	3	1	10
Green Comma	1								1
Gray Comma				1					1
Compton Tortoiseshell				1			1		2
Mourning Cloak				2					2
American Lady	1					2			3
Painted Lady							2		2
Red Admiral	2								2
White Admiral	1			4		2			7
Viceroy		1					2		3
Northern Pearly-Eye	4	1		5			1	1	12
Eyed Brown		13	10	3	1	2	12	3	44

Species	Park Stoney L.	Cty Rd 46 South	Sandy L. Rd South	Sandy L. Rd North	Cty Rd 46 North	McCoy Road	Jack Lake Power	Western Jack Lake	Total
Little Wood-Satyr	1		3	1		1			6
Common Ringlet								2	2
Common Wood-Nymph	6	7	16	2	19		2	1	53
Monarch	12	3	2	3	13	23	32	19	107
Columbine Duskywing	12	1	19	4	2				38
Delaware Skipper	3	1	5	12	7		13	3	44
Common Sootywing			1						1
Least Skipper			7	2	5	19	14	19	66
European Skipper	1		11	3	1	22	40	27	105
Peck's Skipper	2		3	1		1	3	9	19
Tawny-edged Skipper						1	4		5
Crossline Skipper	2	2	2	5	1		4	2	18
Long Dash		1	2				4		7
Northern Broken-Dash	2		3	4	2		8	2	21
Little Glassywing							3		3
Mulberry Wing	4	10	6	8	2			7	37
Broad-winged Skipper	9	97	77	28	18				229
Dion Skipper		8	5	1	1			3	18
Dun Skipper	39	46	351	163	51	80	126	36	892
Common Roadside Skipper									
Unidentified:									
Fritillary Sp.	1	5		2	17			1	26
Crescent Sp.		2							2
Hairstreak Sp					2				2
Comma Sp.								1	1
Brown Sp.		2							2
Swallowtail Sp.									
Skipper Sp.	2	10			18				30
Total Individuals	177	242	575	308	202	214	316	203	2237
Total Species	29	24	29	33	25	21	26	24	53

Caterpillars:

Monarch	1	2		1	1	12	3		20
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Compiler -- Jerry Ball. Total of 28 participants.

Nature in August: Summer Becoming Fall

From the Book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas* by Drew Monkman

The frantic plant growth and animal activity of spring and early summer have now been replaced by a languid atmosphere of maturity and calm. But, despite weather which is often hot and sultry, August is very much “summer-becoming-fall.” Bird migration is well underway, the first leaves are starting to change colour and roadsides are being transformed by a yellow surf of goldenrod. The avian chorus of only a few weeks ago has fallen silent and given way to an orchestra of crickets, grasshoppers and cicadas.



Snowy tree cricket. Photo: Wil Hershberger

Our senses this month are piqued by the spicy fragrance of Wild Bergamot, by the delicious taste of fresh corn and tomatoes, by the calming sight of misty dawn and by the sounds of millions of insects caught up in the urgency to procreate. For many of us, there is also the all-too-familiar irritation in our eyes, nose and throat as ragweed pollen triggers another hay fever season.

Thoreau observed “how early in the year it begins to be late.” Already, signs of fall are everywhere. On clear, cool evenings we hear the contact calls of migrant songbirds as they stream overhead against the backdrop of the Milky Way, while Snowy Tree Crickets call in perfect unison in the background. With late August comes the anticipation of bright, cool September weekends and the riot of colour that is just around the corner. In a cultural sense, August is much more the end of the year than is December; because, with Labour Day, our lives begin anew with everything from a new school year to the reconvening of myriad community activities.

Nature in September: Mists and Melancholy Joy

From the Book *Nature's Year in the Kawarthas* by Drew Monkman

With September comes the beginning of fall, a season of melancholy joy and sentimentality. It is both a time of new beginnings and wistful endings. Almost without our knowing it, many of our migratory songbirds will slip away this month. Listening to their calls in the night sky, one feels a certain sadness at their departure but also a sense of wonder in the mystery of bird migration.

A September dawn is ushered in by heavy dews, mist and sunshine softly filtered through countless spider webs. This is a month of yellows and purples when asters and goldenrods practically take over our fields and roadsides. We awake to the raucous calls of migrating warblers and vireos foraging along hedgerows. During the day, the steady background chorus of crickets and grasshoppers is punctuated now and again by the lonely calls of a Spring Peeper. A walk through Shield country on a warm afternoon charms our noses with the scent of Sweetfern, warmed by the late-summer sun. The smell of rotting, windfall apples and the fragrance of goldenrod also pervade the September air. Outdoor markets overflow with fresh fruit and vegetables which tantalize our taste buds as in no other month of the year.

On or about September 21, the sun crosses the Equator on its annual southward course, marking the official beginning of fall. In fact, the leaves of several species of trees will have almost reached their colour peak by the time the calendar gets around to acknowledging autumn's official arrival.

By the end of the month, the first flights of northern geese will be going over and sparrows will have replaced warblers as the most common migrants. Maples will set both city streets and country vistas ablaze with their oranges, reds and yellows.

Upcoming Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Regional Meeting

Submitted by Fiona McKay



On Saturday, October 22, Ontario Nature will be holding its fall Lake Ontario North regional meeting, in-person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. The meeting will be hosted by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists (WBFN) at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna Ecology Centre in Roseneath.

<http://www.aldervillesavanna.ca>.

The Black Oak Savanna (OBOS) site supports two types of endangered grasslands: tallgrass prairie and oak savanna. Less than 3% of grassland habitats survive today in Ontario and throughout North America. The Ecology Centre educates the public on the importance of grasslands and their use as carbon sinks. Carbon sinks are natural areas that absorb large amounts of carbon (in the form of CO₂) from the atmosphere and store it through a process known as carbon sequestration. The Ecology Centre states that, "tall grass ecosystems sequester on average 1.7 metric tons of CO₂ per acre, per year. Based on this equation, the Alderville Black Oak Savanna site alone has an approximate carbon sequestering power of 91.8 metric tons of CO₂ per year. OBOS reports that, "grassland ecosystems store carbon in their extensive root systems. When grasslands inevitably burn, the carbon remains safely stored below ground. Comparatively, forests store carbon above ground where it can be readily burned, releasing carbon back into the atmosphere."

As part of the Lake Ontario North region, PFN members are invited to attend this event. Following the formal part of the meeting, staff from OBOS will be leading attendees on a walk through the grasslands. If you are interested in attending and touring this interesting and rare ecosystem, please RSVP by contacting Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia at barbaraw@ontarionature.org. More information will follow including COVID-19 protocols and a map to the site.

Controversy in the Plant World

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

A perplexing situation arose during PFN's outing to the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve on August 13. It began with me being bewildered at iNaturalist's identification of a flower, and maybe I had a little bit of an outburst. The flower (top photo on the right) clearly looked like an aster but was being identified by iNaturalist's Seek app as a goldenrod. I thought iNaturalist had gone haywire. It felt like the world had gone topsy-turvy. Many of us got drawn into a discussion about the unexpected identification. Finally, NCC rep, Val Deziel, was able to shed some light on matters by telling us that the botany world had switched the flower's genus a couple of times between goldenrod (*Solidago*) and aster (*Aster*). Online, the word "controversial" has been used in reference to this plant. It has been called white upland aster or prairie aster (*Aster ptarmicoides*) and upland white goldenrod or white flat-topped goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*). Since there have been reports that it hybridizes in the wild with goldenrods but not asters, goldenrod became the favoured genus. One online source said that it had been moved to yet another genus (*Oligoneuron*) but then a different online source said that placement of species into this genus is controversial. I'll be darned if I know what this plant really is, but the goldenrod soldier beetles in the two accompanying photos would appear to think it's goldenrod.



Top: White flat-topped goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*), according to iNaturalist. Bottom: Canada goldenrod. Goldenrod soldier beetles appear in both photos which were taken at the Hazel Bird property on August 13 by Kathryn Sheridan

Ironically, all of this was preceded by a short discussion a fellow member and I had about how it's safer to learn the scientific names for plants rather than (or in addition to) the common names because 1) different plants sometimes have the same common name (e.g., ironwood), 2) a plant may have many different common names whereas it will only have one scientific name (officially, at one point in time, that is), and 3) common names can change from place to place whereas scientific names don't. However, after this experience, when it comes to this particular plant, I'm thinking there is no such thing as "safe." I say, "Let the beetles decide!"

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, September 23

Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at orchid@peterboroughnature.org

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

Submissions can be articles, photos, anecdotes, nature book reviews, poems, outing reports, nature news, recommendations, interesting things you've learned or observed about nature etc.

From the Archives -- The McKeever's and the PFN**Submitted by Martin Parker**

The June Zoom member's meeting of the Peterborough Field Naturalists involved a presentation on the owls of the Niagara Peninsula with mention of the long-term work of Kay and Larry McKeever who established The Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation. It is interesting that the McKeever's were involved with the PFN.

From the Peterborough Examiner, May 19, 1990 -- "Founding members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, Larry and Kay McKeever, are coming back to the city next weekend to help members celebrate their 50th Anniversary."

Some of Larry's accomplishments with the PFN include starting and compiling the Annual Christmas Bird Counts in the 1950s and early 1960s. He assembled the first summary of the Birds of the Peterborough area, published by the PFN in 1956. Larry was President of the Peterborough Nature Club (the original name of the PFN in 1949 and 1950 and started publishing the initial club newsletter 'Nature Notes' in 1949 and continued as editor until at 1955. In 1956 it was renamed 'The Orchid'. He continued to hold various other volunteer roles with the PFN during the 1950s and 1960s. Larry was again President in 1961.

Kay was also involved with the PFN as well serving on the Board of the PFN in 1970. At that time Kay was very involved with owls and at Board meetings held at the McKeever's residence the Directors always had an audience of rehabilitating owls.

Most of the above is taken from "A Summary of Board of Directors and Committee Leaders, 1940 - 2015" prepared by Lynn Smith.

In the early 1970s, Kay and Larry moved their owl habilitation operation to a property in the Vineland area. In 1971 they were both awarded Honorary Life Membership to the PFN for their work with owls and the PFN.



American mink. Photo: Reem Ali



The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from e-bird, Drew Monkman's Sightings website, PTBO Sightings and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org (Note: new address)

May 21	The Storm to Remember -- a windstorm to remember blew through southern Ontario resulting in many downed trees and a multi-day power outage for many. Larry Smith reported that after the storm, the pond on his property near Cavan was covered with caterpillars which had been blown from vegetation. This would have a significant impact on butterfly and moth populations.
May 28	Robert and Joan DiFruscia reported their first Monarch and Black Swallowtail of the year. They also have been observing a pair of Baltimore Orioles nest-building and an Eastern Kingbird gathering dandelion fluff as nesting material.
June 1	Catriona di Petta observed a young yearling White-tailed Deer near Millbrook.
June 3	Robert DiFruscia had a Viceroy butterfly on the Lang-Hastings Trail.
June 7	Ken Morrison identified the following Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) in the Marmora area -- Dot-tailed Forktail , Eastern Forktail , Lancet Clubtail , and Hudsonian Whiteface . A Four-spotted Skipper was also seen.
June 8	Robert DeFruscia reported his first Giant Swallowtail of the year near Keene. He also had an Arrowhead Forktail near Keene.
June 10	Robert and Joan DiFruscia observed a Harris's Checkerspot along Sandy Lake Road. Catriona di Petta observed a large Snapping Turtle emerge from the grass adjacent her pond in the Millbrook area and then enter the pond. Suspect it was laying eggs.
June 11	Catriona di Petta observed a female Hooded Merganser in her pond near Millbrook.
June 22	Ken Morrison photographed an Amber-winged Dragonfly (an uncommon dragonfly) at a local pond. Dot-tailed Whiteface and Blue Dasher were also present.
June 26	Robert DiFruscia photographed a Common Buckeye (butterfly) along Sandy Lake Road.
July 9	Al Sippel reported there is a decline of bees at the pollinator garden which he had planted - especially when compared with last year. Robert DiFruscia also reported that the number of varieties of moths at his evening moth tents is down significantly from previous years. A local beekeeper noted the single digit nighttime temperatures in June and the lack of rainfall in July is impacting honey production. The number of individuals butterflies observed on the Petroglyphs (July 16) and Fenelon Falls (July 23) butterfly counts were below average. This pattern occurred on other butterfly counts in the province. On both of the local butterfly counts, the lack of flowers was noted by the participants. As noted previously, the May 21 storm had an impact on caterpillars.
July 16	The 29 th Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count was held with a total 28 participants. They managed to see a total of 53 species representing 2,237 butterflies and 20 caterpillars. The ten-year average is 3,800 butterflies. Last year there were 4,387 butterflies.
July 23	The Annual Fenelon Falls Butterfly Count was held with 13 participants. They observed a total of 41 species representing 660 butterflies, again below average number.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENT

After many years of service, long-time PFN Board member Martin Parker has stepped down from the PFN Board of Directors. On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin for his exemplary dedication, his infectious enthusiasm, and his relentless efforts in promoting the public profile of the PFN. His dedication to our club over an extended period of time has been unparalleled. We look forward to continuing to meet up with Martin at our various club functions and outings in the future. Our Board is now in the process of reviewing and re-assigning his many former responsibilities, and we will also move forward with filling the vacancy resulting from his departure.






Rene Gareau, President - Peterborough Field Naturalists

PFN OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Rene Gareau	rene.gareau@sympatico.ca	705-741-4560
Vice-President	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com	705-559-2061
Secretary	Anda Rungis	secretary@peterboroughnature.org	613-298-9062
Treasurer	Ted Vale	treasurer@peterboroughnature.org	705-741-3641
Directors	Reem Ali Daniel Cadieux Cathy Douglas Marilyn Hubley Steve Paul Philip Shaw Fiona McKay	reemest@hotmail.com dm.cadieux@gmail.com cddouglas77@gmail.com media@peterboroughnature.org stevepaul70@gmail.com pshaw78@hotmail.com fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org	705-868-0060 416-994-7978 905-751-5292 705-760-9378 705-930-8370 705-874-1688

KEY CONTACTS

Membership	Jim Young	705-760-9397
Outings Coordinator	Sue Paradisis	sueparadisis@hotmail.com
Zoom Meetings	Reem Ali	reemest@hotmail.com
Ontario Nature Rep	Fiona McKay	fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org
PFN Juniors	Activities on hold due to COVID-19	pfnjuniors@gmail.com
Social Media	Marilyn Hubley	media@peterboroughnature.org
The Orchid	Kathryn Sheridan	orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Orchid Diary		orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org

PFN on Social Media:	 YouTube peterboroughnature
 Instagram @PtboNature	 TikTok peterboroughnature
 Twitter @PtboNature	 Facebook Peterborough Field Naturalists
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7 General e-mail: info@peterboroughnature.org Newsletter e-mail: orchid@peterboroughnature.org	



Clockwise from left: Purple irises on Indian River (Marla Williams), leopard frog at Margaret Eaton's window, arrowhead spiketail dragonfly (Robert DiFruscia), and northern water snake (Reem Ali).

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.** For E-Transfer go to <https://peterboroughnature.org/membership/join-online/>

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: _____