

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 Blanding's Turtle Basking in the Sun. Photo: Robert Pratten

Inside: Nature in June, July and August; Outing Reports;
Lichens; Butterfly Counts Coming Up; Swan Sightings;
Birds in Anishnaabemowin; Junior Naturalist News

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
Volunteer Corner	6
PFN Celebrates World Migratory Bird Day	7
City Nature Challenge 2023	8
Tree Seed Collectors for Trent U	9
June Nature at a Glance	9
July Nature at a Glance	10
August Nature at a Glance	11
Birds in Anishnaabemowin – 2nd Installment ..	11
Outing Report for Johnston Drive Ponds	12
Outing Report for World of a Vernal Pool	12
Outing Report for Lang-Hastings Rail Trail	13
Outing Report for Hogsback Esker Hike	14
Outing Report for Catchacoma Forest	15
Junior Naturalists' Earth Day Event	15
Ontario Nature Report: Part One	15
Help Save Ontario's Turtles this Summer!	16
From the Archives - Butterfly Count	17
Dates for 2023 Butterfly Counts	17
Lichens: The Pioneers of Plant Life	18
Steve's Swan Sightings	19
The Orchid Diary	20
Junior Naturalist News	23
PFN Membership Application	24





Clockwise from above: Great Blue Heron (Shayla McIsaac), Cape May Warbler (Cathy Douglas); and Pink Lady Slippers in late May in Haliburton area (Ted Vale).

Welcome new PFN members!

- Dana Capell
- Sarah Mackillican
- Tracy Waddington, John Ashdown
- Helen Ketson, Walter Williams
- Bridget Heuvel
- Louise Warner, LeoWeiskittel
- Sandra Seeney
- Anna Lee



PFN Coming Events		
<p>Sunday, May 28</p> <p>8 to 11 a.m.</p> <p>15 participants</p>	<p>Exploring Cavan Back Roads</p> <p>Enjoy a spring nature hike in the Cavan area. We'll walk along a quiet road, some wooded trails and edges of farmland. We'll watch out for 'all things nature' so bring your knowledge of plants, mammals, birds, insects, tracks etc. and we'll learn from each other. Accessibility easy for the most part but some spots moderate because of a few hills. Bring binoculars, bug spray and wear comfortable footwear. Please register with Lynn Smith smithfam@nexicom.net. Further details will be sent to those who register. Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p>	
<p>June 1 or 5</p> <p>8:15 to 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Chimney Swift Roost Watches</p> <p>PFN members are invited to see Chimney Swifts gather, circle, and then dive into their roost as part of Birds Canada's annual monitoring of their numbers. These trips take place on the top level of the King Street parkade on June 1 and 5. Meet on the top floor (parking is free in the evening) at 8:15 pm. Contact Chris Risley (risleych@gmail.com) or for more information. Registration is not necessary.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>	
<p>Saturday, June 3</p> <p>All day</p> <p>Starting at 8 a.m.</p> <p>20 participants</p>	<p>Birds, Butterflies and Botany – Carden Plain</p> <p>Join us for an all-day visit to the wonderful Carden Plain. This is an unusual alvar habitat that is home to an abundance of rare grassland bird species, butterflies and plants. Carden Plain is a globally rare habitat 65 km west of Peterborough. Significant bird species include Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Osprey, Black Terns, Sedge Wren, Yellow Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrashers. Butterflies and flowering plants add extra delight to the trip. Bring lawn chairs, lunch, water, camera and/or binoculars. Leaders for this outing include Sue Paradisis, Martha Lawrence, Colleen Lynch and Don McLeod. To register for this event, please contact Sue Paradisis at 705-559-2061 or sueparadisis@hotmail.com</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy. Some driving on a gravel road.</p>	 <p>Prairie smoke by Rachael Koppendrayer</p>
<p>Thursday, June 8</p> <p>Doors open 7 p.m.</p> <p>Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at</p>	<p>2023 Report Cards on Watershed Health and Climate Change</p> <p>This presentation will highlight the 2023 Otonabee Region Watershed Report Card, and Climate Change Report Card, along with examples of the efforts of Otonabee Conservation and partners to enhance the health of our local environment. Meredith Carter will share the details of the indicators, and the ongoing monitoring programs that</p>	

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p> <p>Maximum 45 attendees</p>	<p>provide data for this analysis. New initiatives and recent projects will also be shared, followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.</p> <p>Meredith Carter is the Manager, Watershed Management Program at Otonabee Conservation and has over 20 years of experience related to environmental education, monitoring, and stewardship.</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 20 10 to 3 p.m. 10 participants and Wednesday, June 21 10 to 3 p.m. 10 participants</p>	<p>Algonquin Park Day Outings</p> <p>The April Orchid announced our first annual PFN camping trip to Algonquin Park, June 19 to 22, which is now full. Campers will be contacted directly by e-mail with the camping agenda.</p> <p>Day outings for PFN Members will be offered June 20 & 21 from 10 am to 3 pm. Day trip participants will be joining the campers for walks on trails ranging from 1 to 2 km along Hwy 60 corridor with birds, butterflies, trees and botanizing being the highlights. Leaders will include Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch and Sue Paradisis for all or most outings. While weather will dictate the exact schedule, our stops should include (but are not limited to):</p> <p>Tuesday, June 20. Accessibility: Easy 10:00 a.m. - Meet in Algonquin Logging Museum Parking Lot for park history and nature walk. 12:00 p.m. - Park Visitors Center, lunch, birding, lookout, shopping 1:00 p.m. - Mew Lake Old Airfield birding & butterflying 3:00 p.m. - Independent activities</p> <p>Wednesday, June 21 10:00 a.m. - Meet in Lookout Trail Parking Lot off Hwy 60 for morning outing. Accessibility: moderate 12:00 p.m. - Park Visitors Center, lunch, birding, lookout, shopping 1:00 p.m. - Spruce Bog Boardwalk trail, birding and botany Accessibility: Easy 3:00 p.m. - Independent activities</p> <p>Please contact Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com or call 705-868-4262 to register for day outings and indicate which day(s) are preferred.</p> <p>Reminder for day participants: Permits must be reserved by calling Ontario Parks reservation service at 1-888-668-7275 or online at OntarioParks.com. Bring your lunch, binoculars, bug spray, sunscreen and dress suitable for weather conditions.</p> 
<p>Saturday, July 8 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 12 participants</p>	<p>Butterflies Along the Lang- Hastings Trail</p> <p>This outing is an introduction to butterfly watching along a section of the Lang-Hastings trail near Hastings. The focus will be on learning how to distinguish between the different species present in early July. Join outing leader Colleen Lynch for this enjoyable learning event. Please contact Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com to register for this outing. Further details will be provided to those who register.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy.</p> 

PFN Coming Events

<p>Saturday, July 15 Rain day July 16 8 a.m. to noon Maximum of 10 boats</p>	<p>Canoe/Kayak from Squirrel Creek Conservation Area</p> <p>Join Patrick Kramer for a paddle along a beautiful section of the Otonabee River. There is a big concentration of wild space between Whitfield Landing and Squirrel Creek CA, including undevelopable flood plains. We will focus on nature observation during our paddle upriver to about Whitfield Landing and back. Along the way we will enjoy the scenery in Darling Wildlife Area (ORCA), Stewart Woods Forest (ORCA) and possibly check out the marsh in Squirrel Creek CA (ORCA). Last summer there was a pair of red-shouldered hawks in Darling Wildlife Area. The main cove of Darling Wildlife Area is where Baxter Creek joins with the river. BYOB (bring your own canoe or kayak) and all legally required equipment (life jacket for each person and a safety kit for each boat). Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and camera. Please note that the Trent-Severn Waterway will be operating and there is the possibility of large watercraft making large waves. Meet at Squirrel Creek CA boat launch at 8:00 a.m. Washrooms are available in the park. To register and for further information contact Patrick at patkramer@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Saturday, July 29 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 10 participants</p>	<p>Ferns of Silent Lake</p> <p>Most people pay little attention to the ferns growing along a hiking trail. These beautiful green plants, primarily of the forest, give one a feeling of cool freshness. Ferns grow in abundance along the Lakeshore Trail and we should be able to find around 15 varieties in a kilometre walk. Join Sue Paradisis and learn the differences so you can identify what you find. By looking at the details, you will have a greater appreciation of these ancient plants. Bring binoculars, bug spray and wear comfortable footwear. If you wish to spend the day, bring a lunch. There are lots of nice trails and good swimming. There is a fee per vehicle of \$18.00 or \$14.50 for seniors. For those wanting to ride with someone, bring a contribution for gas and the park fee. To register, contact Sue Paradisis at sueparadisis@hotmail.com or phone 705-559-2061 after June 4. Further information will be provided to those who register. Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p> 
<p>Sunday, August 13 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. 10 participants</p>	<p>Birding Hotspot - Otonabee Gravel Pits</p> <p>Steve Paul will lead a mid-summer tour of the Otonabee Gravel Pits. This site is a former gravel pit that is managed by Otonabee Conservation and it is one of the top birding hotspots in the Peterborough area. The scenery is beautiful. There are great views of the ponds and the walk takes you through a large meadow and a forest. We will be watching for shorebirds and early migrant activity and will hopefully see some butterflies. Bring your camera and binoculars and dress for the weather. There is poison ivy along the trails so rubber boots are a good idea. To register please contact stevepaul70@gmail.com after June 4. Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p>

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Wednesday, Sept. 6</p> <p>9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>20 participants</p>	<p>Presqu'ile Shorebirds and Butterflies</p> <p>Celebrate World Shorebird Day by joining fellow PFN members for an outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Outing leaders Don McLeod and Colleen Lynch will guide the group in observing shorebirds and butterflies. The beaches are a famous stopover for migrating shorebirds and the nearby meadow is a butterfly hotspot. We will stop at a picnic area so folks are encouraged to pack a lunch. We will meet in Peterborough for carpooling. A park day-pass will be required. Please contact Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com to register for this outing. Further details will be provided to those who register.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Thursday, Sept. 14</p> <p>Hybrid meeting</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Living on the Edge: Wildlife & Change in the Hudson Bay Lowlands" presented by Dr. Glen Brown</p> <p>Details about the September meeting will be in the August/September Orchid and will be posted on the PFN website.</p>
<p>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.</p>	

Volunteer Corner

Call for Board Members

The Board of Directors is responsible for making all the good things happen that you enjoy as a PFN member. We organize meetings, outings and programs; and carry out advocacy to protect the environment that we love.

Are you interested in helping to manage the PFN as it faces the challenges of the next year, which include:

- a return to live services after the COVID-19 epidemic fades;
- continuing our transition to the world of digital communications;
- advocating to protect our natural environment in the face of pressures from development and climate change;
- involving more young people in PFN objectives and activities.

If so, the Board is looking for new members to join our group of volunteers committed to the PFN. We are anticipating two vacancies this year and would like to bring the Board up to full complement. If you are interested, please contact Ted Vale, the Chair of the Nominating Committee at treasurer@peterboroughnature.org

Call for PFN Members Interested in Strategic Planning

The Board of Directors of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) is planning to undertake a process to develop a strategic plan to guide the PFN's actions and work. The process will examine where the PFN is now, where we want to be and how we are going to get there. The process will include engagement with the PFN membership.



Do you have experience with strategic planning exercises? Are you a PFN member who has a keen interest in strategic planning and can commit to working with the PFN Board of Directors over the next year (June, 2023 to May, 2024) to prepare a strategic plan? Interested PFN members are asked to send a brief expression of interest, including a summary of relevant skills and experience with strategic planning, to secretary@peterboroughnature.org, before June 30, 2023.

Call for Volunteer for Refreshment Table

Prior to the pandemic, a popular component of our monthly members meetings, was the refreshment table. Marilyn Hubley organized the provision of treats, coffee and tea and it was much appreciated. She has stepped down and we are looking for some volunteers to bring back this yummy aspect of our meetings. Please contact Sue at 705-559-2061 or sueparadisis@hotmail.com for more details.

Peterborough Field Naturalists Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day

Submitted by Philip Shaw

On Saturday, May 13, the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) participated in the World Migratory Bird Day event at the Peterborough Public Library. The event was organized by Bird Friendly Peterborough. PFN members/volunteers, Jennifer Lennie, Shelley King and Philip Shaw, had the pleasure of organizing a promotional display, sharing club information and offering activities for Junior-aged children (ages 5-12). Approximately 20 children and their families enjoyed searching the library's lower level as part of the PFN-organized bird scavenger hunt and testing their knowledge with a bird-focused card game.



PFN volunteers at display table. Photo: Anda Rungis

A highlight of the event, was the launch of Birdwatching Kits, which are now available to borrow at the Peterborough Public Library. The kits have been made possible through donations from the Peterborough Field Naturalists (we thank the Hunter Family for their generous donation in memory of Terry Hunter) and Bird Friendly Peterborough. The kits come in a backpack and contain binoculars, bird identification guides and activities for adults and families and can be borrowed for up to 14 days. What a great resource for Peterborough families to discover nature's feathered friends!

The event provided the opportunity for attendees to meet and learn about not only the work of the Peterborough Field Naturalists, but also other community organizations including: Bird Friendly Peterborough, Peterborough GreenUp, Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners, Kawartha Bird Control, the Kawartha Wildlife Centre, the Kawartha World Issues Centre, the City of Peterborough and the Kawartha Land Trust. The Kawartha Bird Control display included wooden bird boxes, a mounted hybrid Deer Hawk and a live American Kestrel!

Congratulations to Bird Friendly Peterborough for organizing a great community event to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, 2023.



Reem Ali (shown in photo, left), representing Bird Friendly Peterborough, celebrated World Migratory Bird Day at the Peterborough Public Library on May 13. Certified by Nature Canada in May 2022, the City of Peterborough is recognized as meeting “bird friendly city” standards. Birdwatching Kits are now available to check out with a Peterborough library card and have been made possible by the support of Bird Friendly Peterborough and the Peterborough Field Naturalists through a generous donation by the Hunter Family, in memory of Terry Hunter. (Photo: Anda Rungis)

City Nature Challenge 2023

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

From April 28 to May 1, the City of Peterborough and the Peterborough Field Naturalists took part in the global City Nature Challenge [bioblitz] for the first time. The event was meant to provide people with opportunities to learn about nature within our city boundaries. Citizens were also encouraged to catalogue species using iNaturalist and, specifically in Jackson Park, to assist in the conservation of natural heritage. PFN members were available to lead hourly nature hikes while other volunteers bio-blitzed the park, reporting all their sightings on the Peterborough project of iNaturalist. Susan Chow and Mark Williamson brought some of their biology students from Trent University to search the creek for benthic life. They drew a lot of attention when they brought their specimens back to the base camp to identify.

Those of us who participated had a lot of fun finding and submitting our observations while socializing with other naturalists. Sadly, cold, rainy weather kept people away and while Jackson Park is normally a busy spot on a weekend, there was hardly anyone there to attend the hikes.

The organizers wish to thank the 21 members who came and helped despite the rain.



Students identifying specimens from Jackson Creek during the bioblitz. Photo: Sue Paradisis

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, August 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.

Trent University Looking for Tree Seed Collectors

Submitted by The Society for Ecological Restoration

Trent University is in the beginning stages of starting a Native Tree Nursery and we need your help to collect tree seed! If you are interested, please sign up using this link: <https://forms.gle/yhCqUTqCDuQbdEeV9>. Once you've signed up, you will receive an email with seed collection information.

Once you've collected the seed, you can drop it off in front of Wenjack Theatre at Trent on September 19 or between September 21 and 24 at the GreenUP Ecology Park. The goal of this project is to provide educational opportunities for students and community members. It also aims to provide trees for restoration projects. For example, increasing the tree diversity on Trent campus and the surrounding area.

There will also be a tree seed collection workshop at the GreenUP Ecology Park for anyone who is interested. Date and time are TBD. Keep an eye on GreenUP's social media for details.

If you have any questions, please e-mail sertu@trentu.ca or message [ser.trentuniversity](#) on Instagram or via messenger on Facebook at Society for Ecological Restoration - Trent University.

Collect tree seed for Trent's native tree nursery this summer!

By the Society for Ecological Restoration - Trent University

Seed drop-off:
September 19th in front of Wenjack theatre or between September 21st and 24th at GreenUP Ecology Park

Sign up Here
to start your seed collection journey:

Contact sertu@trentu.ca or [@ser.trentuniversity](#) (IG) with questions

June Nature at a Glance

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

With migration completed, June is the month of peak nesting activity. Bird song is also at its strongest and most diverse. Like many species, Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are putting on elaborate courtship flights. Breeding Bird Surveys are carried out all over North America.

Beavers are active at dawn and dusk and easy to observe. Bats give birth to a single young this month. Watch for White-tailed Deer fawns as well as baby Groundhogs, Raccoons, Striped Skunks and Red Foxes.

June nights resound with a chorus of Gray Treefrogs, punctuated by the calls of Bullfrogs, Mink and Green Frogs. Turtles are laying their eggs and are commonly seen along roadsides and in other sandy locations.

Bass, Carp, Pumpkinseeds and Bluegills are spawning and make for interesting fish-watching.

The insect world explodes wide open this month. Both damselflies and dragonflies abound and, by month's end, the year's largest variety of butterflies is on the wing. Swallowtails and White Admirals are particularly noticeable. Giant silk moths, sphinx moths and fields of fireflies provide entertainment by night.



Photo of groundhog by Reem Ali

The annual roadside flower parade kicks off with mustards, buttercups and daisies leading the way. The white blossoms of hawthorns, dogwoods and viburnums are also a common sight this month. In coniferous and mixed woodlands, species such as Bunchberry, Clintonia and a wide variety of orchids are in flower. The yellow pollen from pines and other conifers dusts land and water.

With more than 15 hours of sunlight, June days seem never-ending. The summer solstice marks the beginning of summer on or about June 21. The average daily temperatures are a maximum of 23°C and a minimum of 10°C. In mid-June, the sun is up at about 5:30 a.m. and sets at about 9:00 p.m.

The night sky is dominated by the Summer Triangle and the Milky Way. Arcturus is high overhead. The Big Dipper is high in the northwest.

June is also the month of garden tours, the first strawberries and the sweet smell of the first cut of hay.

July Nature at a Glance

Early July is a time of fledgling birds and the contact calls of parents and young. Soon, however, nesting duties will be completed. Many species begin moulting and bird song decreases noticeably. Blackbirds flock up and roost in large clamorous flocks. Swallows start congregating on wires. The first southward-bound shorebirds are already arriving here from the far north.

Baby Skunks and raccoons are often seen along roadsides. Roadkill increases accordingly. Black Bears mate and leave characteristic tree rubbings.

Bullfrogs, Green Frogs and Mink Frogs call until late month. Countless young frogs and toads transform into adults and leave their natal ponds. Snapping turtles are still laying eggs and Garter and Water Snakes are giving birth.

Sunfish, Rock Bass, Yellow Perch and young Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass provide fish-watching opportunities throughout the summer. They are often common around rocks.

Cicadas start to fill the void left by the decrease in daytime bird song. Grasshoppers are suddenly very noticeable and dragonfly and damselfly numbers peak. For butterfly-watchers, fritillaries steal the show this month. Deer and horseflies provide something to swat at while swimming or portaging a canoe.

Roadside flowers are at their most colourful and diverse. Ox-eye Daisies and, later, white Sweet Clover and Queen Anne's Lace prevail. Wetland flowers such as Purple Loosestrife are blooming. Ripe berries adorn the cherries, honeysuckles and dogwoods. Basswood trees and milkweeds flower and attract a multitude of insects. The scent of both these species fills the air.

This is our warmest month with hot, humid and often thundery weather. The average daily temperatures are a maximum of 27°C and a minimum of 13°C. In mid-July, the sun rises at about 5:45 a.m. and sets around 8:55 p.m.

The Summer Triangle and Milky Way continue to dominate the night sky. Pegasus, the signature constellation of fall, becomes visible. The Big Dipper is high in the northwest.



Photo of northern leopard frog by Marilyn Hubley

August Nature at a Glance

Bird song has almost ceased. Swallows continue to flock up on wires. Shorebird numbers at local sewage lagoons and mud flats swell to at least 10 species. Songbird migration is in full swing by mid-month, particularly for warblers. Flocks of migrating nighthawks can be seen in late afternoon and evening.

Wolves are quite vocal this month. Public wolf howls take place in Algonquin Park. A variety of mammals feed heavily on late summer fruit and nuts. Little Brown Bats begin to congregate at mating and hibernation sites.

Baby turtles are born this month and next. Leopard Frogs are often abundant in fields adjacent to wetlands. Toads become more common on our lawns and gardens.

Many species of fish retreat to the deeper cooler water below the thermocline.

The calls of crickets, cicadas and grasshoppers dominate the soundscape. Monarch Butterflies and sulphurs are usually quite common this month, as are small, red dragonflies of the *Sympetrum* genus. Fall Webworm feeding webs are very noticeable. Yellowjackets are increasingly present and annoying.

Jewelweed, Purple Loosestrife and Joe-Pye-weed brighten local wetlands. The first fall colour starts to appear on Virginia Creeper, Red Maple and Staghorn Sumac. Goldenrod borders roadsides and covers fields in a sea of yellow. Ragweed is in flower, setting off the beginning of another hay fever season. Mushrooms are plentiful and add much-needed colour to our woodlands.

August weather is often hot and humid, so air quality warnings are commonplace. By month's end, misty dawns signal fall's approach. The average temperatures for the month are a maximum of 25°C and a minimum of 12°C. In mid-August, the sun rises at about 6:15 a.m. and sets at about 8:20 p.m.

The Summer Triangle and Milky Way still dominate the summer sky. On August 23, the Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak. The Big Dipper reigns over the northwestern sky.

There's lots to do this month, including the Rockhound Gemboree in Bancroft and the Buckhorn Wildlife Art Festival. Farmers are harvesting winter wheat, oats and barley. Photographers will find all sorts of fascinating insects and spiders on goldenrod this month.



Photo of clouded sulphur by Don McLeod

Birds in Anishnaabemowin – Second Installment

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

I'm still on my quest to learn a few new Anishnaabemowin bird names each month and, hopefully, bring the reader along, too. For this edition of *The Orchid*, here are three birds in our area that are very common.

Scarlet Tanager: Ishkodebineshiinh (Ish-ko-dhay-bih-nay-sheenh)

Ishkode is the word for fire. The red of the tanager's feathers contains tones of orange. The Ishkodebineshiinh is the bird that looks like fire.

Northern Flicker: Moonignwane (Moo-ning-wa-nay)

Moonwaa is the word for digging up something that is animate while moon'aan is the word for digging up something inanimate. Since flickers are often digging for their dinner, Moonnigwane is the woodpecker that digs.

Northern Cardinal: Amesikoowabineshiinh (A-mey-si-koo-bi-nay-sheehn)

The word for red which also relates to the colour of the life-blood in our veins is meskwa. Bineshii is the term used for flying animals so amesikoowabineshiinh is literally red bird. While other red birds have their own unique behaviours and therefore names, the cardinal's most distinguishing feature is its colour.

One more word just for fun: We're coming into the season of rhubarb – Ziiwbag!

Credit goes to Creators Garden (www.creatorsgardenmarket.ca)

Outing Report for April 23: The Fascinating World of a Vernal Pool

Submitted by Lynn Smith

On Sunday, April 23, eleven people, despite the threat of rain, threw caution to the wind and met at the Ingleton-Wells Property, a 73-acre parcel of land stewarded by Kawartha Land Trust. It was nice to meet 'new' faces and reconnect with some of the 'old guard'. Our leader, Sue Paradisis, considers vernal pools one of her favourite habitats and we looked forward to experiencing this unique wetland.

First, in order to get to our vernal pool destination, there was about a 1 km hike along a trail that took us through woods, across meadows, and over a creek. As we walked, some of us reached for our binoculars and listened for birds, others examined the spring wildflowers and others carefully rolled logs in search of salamanders. We all had the opportunity to observe and learn from each other's discoveries. Needless to say, we didn't do this 1 km hike in record time. We viewed a Four-toed Salamander, Red-backed Salamander and Blue-spotted Salamander.



Four-toed salamander. Photo: Jasmine Barrick



Spotted salamander eggs (top); blue-spotted salamander eggs (bottom) Photo: Sue Paradisis

Notable wildflowers included Dutchman's Breeches, Trout Lily, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Mayapple, Blue Cohosh, Plantain-leaf Sedge.

Then we reached the vernal pool. It was a depression filled with water from the spring run-off and surrounded by woodland. These small bodies of water are temporary and often dry up by mid-summer. A typical vernal pool has no fish and is therefore an ideal breeding spot for wood frogs, salamanders and fairy shrimp, to name a few.

So, we got busy and started searching the vernal pool. Sue had previously scouted out the area and capably directed us to the 'hotspots'. And we were successful! We had excellent views of egg masses from the Blue-spotted Salamander and Spotted Salamander. Many Wood Frog tadpoles were swimming about.

The 'upside-down swimming' Fairy Shrimp, a crustacean well-adapted to the temporary, unpredictable conditions of a vernal pool, was fascinating. Their eggs hatch early in the spring. The Fairy Shrimp feed on algae and plankton, reach maturity over several weeks and produce eggs, all before the vernal pool dries up! The eggs are resistant to drying and freezing and

overwinter on the bottom of the vernal pool until it fills with water. In a drought year, no worries, the eggs can remain dormant for years until conditions are right for hatching.

Our bird list grew throughout the day's activities and 17 species were identified:

4 Canada Geese, flying overhead; 1 Ruffed Grouse, drumming; 1 Broad-winged Hawk; 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker; 3 Downy Woodpeckers; 8 Black-capped Chickadees – we tried to encourage them to our hand with seed, no takers; 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 1 White-breasted Nuthatch; 2 Winter Wren – singing their beautiful melodious song; 1 Eastern Bluebird; 2 American Robins; 8 Evening Grosbeaks; 4 Purple Finch; 2 American Goldfinch; 1 Chipping Sparrow; and 1 White-throated Sparrow

Thank you to Sue for a wonderful day by a vernal pool and a walk through the magical world of Nature!

Outing Report for April 23: Johnston Drive Ponds

Submitted by Steve Paul

Five members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists joined Steve Paul and Laurie Healey for a walk along the Johnston Drive Ponds trail. Highlights included first-of-year encounters with Common Gallinule, a large flock of Cedar Waxwings eating berries along the trail, and a multi-species kettle of Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks.



Photo: Steve Paul



Virginia Rail photo by Laurie Healey

We recorded 45 species on eBird for this outing:

Canada Goose (162), Wood Duck (2), Blue-winged Teal (4), Mallard (8), Hooded Merganser (1), Ruffed Grouse (1), Mourning Dove (3), Virginia Rail (5), Common Gallinule (3), Killdeer (1), Wilson's Snipe (4), Greater Yellowlegs (1), Ring-Billed Gull (2), American Bittern (1), Great Blue Heron (4), Turkey Vulture (3), Northern Harrier (1), Broad-winged Hawk (3), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Belted Kingfisher (1), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (2),

Northern Flicker (2), Blue Jay (1), American Crow (3), Common Raven (1), Black-capped Chickadee (5), Tree Swallow (3), Barn Swallow (6), Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (7), White-breasted Nuthatch (1), American Robin (5), Cedar Waxwing (16), House Sparrow (1), American Goldfinch (2), White-throated Sparrow (1), Savannah Sparrow (4), Song Sparrow (5), Swamp Sparrow (8), Eastern Meadowlark (1), Red-Winged Blackbird (26), Brown-headed Cowbirds (2), Common Grackle (18). Northern Cardinal (2). A Sora was heard by two of the group as well.

Outing Report for May 7: Lang-Hastings Rail Trail

Submitted by Steve Paul

Eleven members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists joined a walk led by Steve Paul and Laurie Healey along the Lang-Hastings Trail from Technology Drive to Keene Road looking for signs of spring migration. Highlights included returning Spotted Sandpipers in a vacant piece of land on Technology drive, several Virginia Rail calling from the marsh, and first-of-year encounters with a Marsh Wren and six different species of warbler.

Laurie recorded the eBird list. We were very fortunate to see 44 species on this outing:

Canada Goose (8), Mallard (1), Wild Turkey (1), Ruffed Grouse (2), Rock Pigeon (4), Mourning Dove (5), Virginia Rail (3), Killdeer (2), Spotted Sandpiper (2), Ring-Billed Gull (2), Great Blue Heron (3), Turkey Vulture (2), Belted Kingfisher (1), Downy Woodpecker (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Northern Flicker (1), Eastern Phoebe (1), Blue Jay (6), American Crow (4), Black-capped Chickadee (3), Tree Swallow (4), Ruby-Crowned Kinglet (1), House Wren (1), Marsh Wren (1), European Starling (4), Brown Thrasher (1), American Robin (8), Cedar Waxwing (4), American Goldfinch (5), White-throated Sparrow (3), Savannah Sparrow (3), Song Sparrow (6), Swamp Sparrow (16), Eastern Meadowlark (2), Red-Winged Blackbird (34), Brown-headed Cowbird (4), Common Grackle (18), Northern Waterthrush (1), Black-and-white Warbler (2), Nashville Warbler (1), Yellow Warbler (7), Yellow-rumped Warbler (2), Black-throated Green Warbler (1), Northern Cardinal (1). A couple of the group managed to see a Veery that was in a pine tree along the trail.



Photo: Laurie Healey

Outing Report for May 14: Mother's Day Hogsback Esker Hike

Submitted by Scott McKinlay

We had a beautiful morning for our Mother's Day Hogsback Esker Hike on May 14. We made four stops on our way to the Omemee esker. On Hooten Drive at Howden 1/4 Line, we were treated to the clear song and great

visuals of Eastern Meadowlark, nuanced with the buzzing and bubbling of Savannah Sparrows and Bobolink. The Cavan Swamp was bursting with sound of Swamp Sparrows, Yellow and Canada Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Catbirds, White-throated Sparrows, Winter Wrens and even a Black-billed Cuckoo in the distance. A quick stop on Hayes Line produced the faint but discernable "tik-tik-bzzzzz" of a



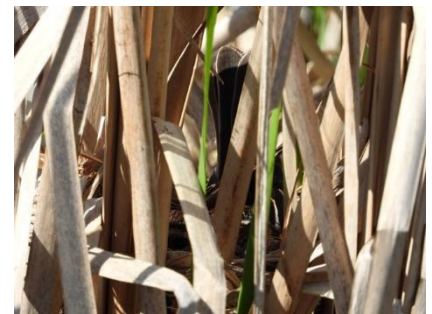
Photo: Laurie Healey

Spawning common carp.

Photo: Don McLeod

Grasshopper Sparrow and the raucous sounds of a possibly juvenile Common Raven. At the Pigeon River causeway on Ski Hill Road, we witnessed the antics of 28 (yes, twenty-eight) Trumpeter Swans cavorting and flapping about the far shore, as well as Caspian Terns, and a pair of Sandhill Cranes circling overhead. The carp were actively spawning at the Hogsback bridge, where we also witnessed a Lesser Yellowlegs probing amongst the mats of vegetation, a female Red-winged Blackbird sitting on a nest, and a pair of Blue-winged Teal flying down the channel. The warblers and other migrants were less active along the trail than expected, but we did enjoy some nice views of several Black-throated Greens, a couple of Nashvilles, and numerous Black-and-whites, as well as the sounds of Ovenbirds, and Northern Waterthrush, (9 warbler species and a total of 68 bird species for the day). The hike ended with a pastoral view of rural hills and valleys, a backdrop painted in the varied spring colours of an emerging forest, and a pair of red-tailed hawks soaring high overhead, overseeing it all.

See if you can spot the well-concealed female Red-winged Blackbird on her nest. Photo: Don McLeod.



See if you can spot the well-concealed female Red-winged Blackbird on her nest. Photo: Don McLeod.

Outing Report for May 21: Catchacoma Old Growth Forest Outing

Submitted by Stewart MacDonald

Sunny skies and calm winds greeted 11 enthusiastic outing participants at the Catchacoma Old Growth Forest. The trails were muddy and wet in places due to the heavy rains of the day before, but the birding did not disappoint as an influx of Warblers and other Songbirds arrived the previous evening. Over 30 species of birds were identified, many visually as well as vocally during the walk. There were several highlights worth noting.



Photo: Sandy Garvey

Chestnut-Sided, Magnolia and Bay-Breasted Warblers were especially numerous during the outing, providing participants with several good opportunities for viewing. Also spotted were Canada, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Black-Throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers. Several Ovenbirds were calling in the woods, along with Black-Throated Blue and Nashville Warblers. Good looks were also provided by a Swainson's Thrush along the trail. An Eastern Wood Pewee was very cooperative for viewing as well as a male Scarlet Tanager, which was spotted by Leo, our youngest birder! A Wood Thrush and Winter Wren also sang their glorious songs for participants to enjoy.



Blackburnian Warbler. Photo: John Ashdown

I would like to thank all of our intrepid participants who earned the title "Warbler Warriors" in the opinion of the author. A great day of birding was had by all!

Report on the Junior Naturalists' Earth Day Event

Submitted by Shelley King

The Junior Naturalists celebrated Earth Day with a "Sounds of Spring" Frog Walk on Saturday April 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Nine children ranging in age from 6 to 12 years, and eight adults participated in the walk on the Lakefield Trail across from Lock 22 off of Nassau Mills Road. The group heard a small chorus of spring peepers, 2 chorus frogs, 2 wood frogs and 1 leopard frog. The flooded field beside the wetland was a great source of fun and splashing with discoveries of the wiggling larvae of midges. The event was led by Shelley King and Jennifer Lennie.



A "chorus frog" of sorts: Michigan J. Frog from Warner Bros.' Merrie Melodies

Ontario Nature Report - Part One

Submitted by Fiona McKay

Ontario Nature held its first Nature Network Regional Meeting of 2023 in April. As a member club of Ontario Nature, the PFN was represented by Fiona McKay, PFN's Ontario Nature Liaison. This report will provide an overview of two excellent and



thought-provoking presentations. Next month's Orchid report will provide a newsy update on Ontario Nature and on other clubs in our region.

Two extremely interesting presentations spoke about the Durham Meadoway Project and the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study. The project and study both looked at using hydro line corridors as environmental opportunities for education, ecological benefits and recreation by converting them into a mosaic of naturalized meadows. In Durham Region, most hydro corridors are turf grass. They provide no ecological contribution and are expensive to maintain. The Durham corridor, which crosses seven ravines and three watersheds, will create an east-west linkage, reduce costs of maintenance, improve water filtration thereby reducing flooding and pollution, and increase water quantity.

The original pilot project started as the Scarborough Centre Butterfly Trail. It broke ground in 2011 and took 5 years to complete, planting the 3 km corridor in phases. Now part of the Meadoway Project, the corridor stretches 16 km from the Don Valley to Rouge National Urban Park, covering close to 200 ha. The trail should be completed by 2025. More in-depth information on this inspiring project, including growing a meadow, current activities underway on the project, project development, visioning et cetera and photographs can be found on their website: <https://themeadoway.ca/>

Following up on this remarkable initiative, the Region of Durham is now conducting a study that would see the Meadoway extended further through a proposed pedestrian and cycling route and linear park that will connect people to destinations across more than 30 kilometres of Durham Region. In addition to providing a significant east-west recreational facility and activity transportation spine, the Durham Meadoway also has the potential to become a multi-faceted space for people that includes ecological enhancements, public art and community amenities. For more details, check out the website at <https://yourvoice.durham.ca/durham-meadoway>.

Could Peterborough benefit from such forward thinking? The Peterborough Hydro Corridor extends across the north end of town from east of Trent University, southwest past the solar fields at Lily Lake Road, through or close to several areas slated for development. It passes close to and could interconnect with several existing trails, including the Parkway, TransCanada and Rotary trails, as well as several bike lanes. It's interesting to note that the lead and major sponsors of the Durham initiative includes the municipality, the conservation authority, and Hydro One, and was made possible through the generous support of the Weston Family Foundation.

Help Save Ontario's Turtles this Summer!

Submitted by Mel Abberger, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator for the Turtle Guardians

We are a conservation organization that is working to protect Ontario's turtle populations. All 8 of Ontario's native turtle species are at risk of disappearing. But there is hope for these important species if we humans can work to protect their populations and their habitats. Through our Turtle Guardians program, The Land Between runs a variety of community science programs that allow community members to help us survey their areas for turtles, and contribute to keeping these at-risk populations safe. Volunteers are an integral part of the work we do at Turtle Guardians, as they help us monitor a larger area, and to save more turtles in danger than we would be able to without their help.

As spring approaches and we prepare for our busy season, Turtle Guardians is looking to recruit new volunteers to help with these community science activities. Based on the work that your field naturalist group does in your community, we thought your membership and/or volunteer network might be interested in participating in Turtle Guardians Community Science programs.

Through Turtle Guardians Community Science, you will have the opportunity to gain skills and experience helping and handling wild turtles, learn about turtle biology, spend time outside, connect with other turtle lovers, and SO much more! Our programs run from approximately the middle of May to the end of September. Volunteers can participate at any age, from almost anywhere in the province, for as much or as little time as they would like. Free training is provided prior to starting volunteer work.

We have four main programs for which we are currently recruiting volunteers. Information about each one can be found on our website. Program activities range from scanning wetlands in your area, to watching over nesting turtles as they lay nests on the side of the road, to scanning roads for turtles and helping them cross. This year, we are specifically looking for volunteers interested in the Nest Sitters program. Participants in this program are extremely helpful to Turtle Guardians staff as we navigate our busy season. These volunteers also get a unique opportunity to help turtles during a very vulnerable time in their lives. For more information and to register for a program, please visit our website:
<https://www.turtleguardians.com/volunteering/>

From the Archives - Highlights for Initial Petroglyphs Butterfly Count

Submitted by Martin Parker

The initial Petroglyphs Butterfly Count was held on June 27, 1998. It was not held again until 2001 when Jerry Ball became the Count Compiler. In 2001, the date was shifted to the third Saturday in July and has been held annually since then.

Some of the highlights from the initial Petroglyphs Butterfly Count, as prepared by Drew Monkman, which appeared in the September 1998 issue of *The Orchid*, Vol. 33, No. 5

"I was amazed by the incredible abundance of European Skippers. One large patch of Viper's Bugloss, maybe 10 metres long, must have contained over 500 of these tiny butterflies. Some individual plants had over two dozen individuals.

Many milkweed patches had several Atlantis Fritillary patrolling the areas and sometimes a Great Spangled or two. These are fast flyers and often take a long time before they decide to land. The black wing border of the Atlantis becomes an easy field-mark after you see a few individuals.

Of special interest were the hairstreaks, especially their dark grey underside with markings of blue and orange along the lower margin of the hind wing, the black spotting or steaking, their minute 'tails' and their tameness in allowing you to come within a foot or less for a good look."

The participants of the initial Petroglyphs Butterfly Count recorded a total of 41 species of butterflies representing 3,376 individual butterflies. In the next issue of *The Orchid*, the results of the 2023 count will be published.



Coral (left) and Acadian (right) hairstreak butterflies on July 13, 2020 along Sandy Lake Road. Photo: Rene Gareau

Citizen Science Opportunities -- 2023 Butterfly Counts

Submitted by Martin Parker

The North American Butterfly Association coordinates butterfly counts across the continent each summer following the same format as Christmas Bird Counts. A typical count covers an area contained within a circle of 7 ½ miles, the same as Christmas Bird Counts. For each count, the circle is divided into smaller

units which are covered by individual field parties. The count compiler in structuring the field parties will have an experienced butterfly counter lead each field party. Results of these counts provide valuable information on populations of our native butterflies.

The butterfly counts in this region are:

Petroglyphs -- Saturday, July 15

This is the 23rd year for this count, which covers the eastern end of Stoney Lake north to Aspley and the Sandy Lake Road fens. Traditionally, it has more species than most counts held in Ontario. The compiler for this Count is Jerry Ball with Martin Parker providing computer support.

Fenelon Falls -- Saturday, July 22

This count is a joint effort with the Kawartha Field Naturalists. This is the 7th year for this count which covers the Fenelon Falls area and northward. The compiler for this count is Martin Parker.

How to Participate

If you are interested in participating in one or more of these butterfly counts, please contact Martin Parker by e-mail (mparker19@cogeco.ca) or by telephone 705-745-4750.

Lichens: The Pioneers of Plant Life in the Kawarthas

By Jason and Lou Smyrlis

All plant life we enjoy today was, literally, built on the back of often overlooked organisms called lichens, the ultimate “pioneer” species.

Soil is an essential ingredient for terrestrial plant growth, but not for lichens. These crusty looking ashy-grey, reddish-brown, yellow- or orange-colored organisms found growing on boulders and rock walls only need sunlight and water to thrive.

When the last ice age finally retreated from the Kawarthas about 7,000 years ago, it left behind a scarred, barren landscape of exposed bedrock, gravel, and silt baking under the sun. It was the lichens which proved capable of colonizing such punishing terrain, secreting acids that broke down the rock and started the soil-production process.

As the lichens died, their bodies added to the soil. Eventually, another hardy pioneer species, mosses, moved in and started to colonize the thin soil. As they in turn died and added to the soil, other hardy species such as ferns moved in. The process continued until, perhaps centuries later, the soil was deep enough and rich enough to support mature forests. The process is called ecological succession and continues relentlessly to this day in any disturbed area. A bare patch of ground will not stay bare for long.

The biology of lichens is as fascinating as their ability to thrive in the harshest of environments. Lichens are not simple plants or even individual organisms. They’re closer to small ecosystems, consisting of a fungus, an alga and/or a cyanobacterium living together as one. Fungi can’t produce their own food but they can provide a home that is safe from sun damage and freezing temperatures. The alga and cyanobacterium can harness sunlight to photosynthesize glucose for food but their fragile bodies are susceptible to the elements. Together they coexist in a mutually beneficial relationship that provides both food and shelter.



Lichen and moss growing on a rock. Photo by Lou Smyrlis

Not only was the nature we enjoy in the Kawarthas built on the backs of lichens, they serve as guardians of it. The degree of lichen diversity in an area is a good “bio-indicator” of the environment’s health. Few can survive in heavily polluted areas. They can be particularly sensitive to sulphur dioxide, produced by the burning of fossil fuels and the smelting of mineral ores. Sulphur dioxide destroys the chlorophyll in the lichen’s algal cells, inhibiting its ability to generate food using the sun’s energy, eventually starving the lichen.

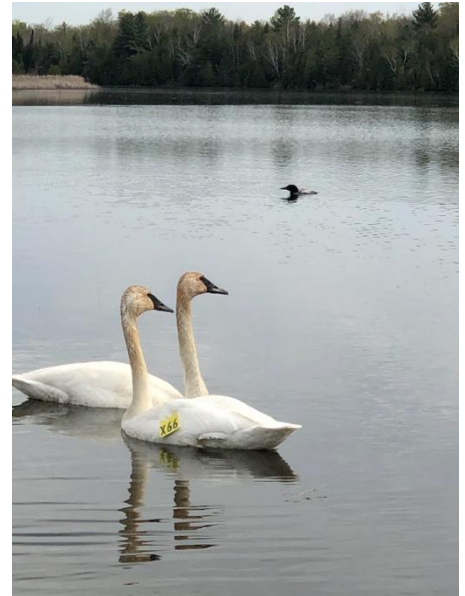
On your next hike be on the lookout for lichens. When these “pioneers” decide to settle in an area, it’s good indication of a clean and healthy environment.

Steve’s Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

As mentioned last month, there have been two pairs of Trumpeter Swans that have been hanging around the Peterborough area this spring: X66 Sadie and her untagged, unbanded partner Chip, and another untagged, unbanded pair. Both showed interest in Sadie and Chip’s nesting location from last year, but as of now neither pair has claimed that pond. The average gestation period for Trumpeter Swan eggs is between 32 and 37 days, so if nesting this year, the pen (female) should already be sitting on eggs. If anyone has seen any Trumpeter Swans show courtship, mating, or nest-building activity in the Peterborough or Kawartha Lakes area, please reach out to me at stevepaul70@gmail.com. Provide as much detail as possible. I am more than happy to check it out. I will keep all information private from the public to protect their nesting location, only sharing with the team at Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario for documentation and tracking purposes.

There is something else interesting that I would like to share. During Scott McKinlay’s PFN outing of the Hogsback Esker on May 14, our group stopped at the Ski Hill Road bridge just south of Omemee. We were able to count a total of 28 Trumpeter Swans together on the Pigeon River. There was lots of chasing and acts of dominance going on. I have not seen this many swans together at this point in the spring. I couldn’t see any tags to identify individual swans. My guess is these are all adolescents grouped together and are not yet ready to nest. I hope to launch a kayak into the river in the near future to get closer looks and document each swan. I will share my findings in the next edition of *The Orchid*. Whatever the reason for the gathering, it is nice to see healthy numbers build in our area.



Sadie and Chip on Thompson Bay on May 7 with Common Loon in background. Photo: Kate Kylie



Left: Trumpeter Swan pair.

Right: Trumpeter Swan full wing extension.

Photos taken on May 14 at Ski Hill Rd by Laurie Healey.





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 Pamela Martin and Marilyn Hubley at orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org by the 15th of the month to get in the next Orchid Diary.

Apr. 17	While on a walk down Otonabee river trail, near the Holiday Inn, I spotted a leucistic Mallard . This was Monday April 17, in the evening. I have no idea how common these are, and when we first saw it, we couldn't put our finger on why it looked so weird. Seen by Shelby Cohen.
Apr. 20	1 Least Bittern , Cunningham Blvd Stormwater Pond and Wetland, seen by Scott Gibson Giving soft, coo-coo-coos from marsh; Last year it showed up on April 24.
Apr. 21	1 Yellow Warbler , North Lang Road, Peterborough, seen by Pam Martin. 1 Upland Sandpiper , Dummer Alvar, Peterborough, seen by Cathy Douglas. 2 Dunlin and 1 Snow Goose , Second Line Rd. Flooded Fields, Bailieboro, seen by Matthew Tobey & Luke Berg. 5 Long-tailed Duck , Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Matthew Tobey and Luke Berg.
Apr. 22	1 Northern Waterthrush , Westwood, Asphodel Line 3, Peterborough, heard by Donald Sutherland. 3 Pectoral Sandpiper , Mather's Corners Meltwater Pond, Peterborough, seen by Donald Sutherland. 2 Canvasback , Hiawatha (Herkimer Point) Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Cathy Douglas.
Apr. 23	1 Green Heron , Millbrook Provincial Fishing and Recreation Area, seen by Matthew Garvin. 1 Swainson's Thrush , Hope Mill Conservation Area, seen by Pam Martin. 1 Great Egret , Mather's Corners Meltwater Pond, seen by Mike Coyne and Kim Bennett. 2 Red-breasted Merganser , Hiawatha (Herkimer Point) Rice Lake, Peterborough, seen by Mike Coyne and Kim Bennett and 9 were seen by Donald A. Sutherland at Sandy Point on Pigeon Lake. 1 White-crowned Sparrow , John St. Peterborough, seen by Gary Heuvel.
Apr. 24	1 Baltimore Oriole , N. Lang Road, Keene, Peterborough, seen by Sascha Dho. 1 Gray Catbird , Mather's Corners Meltwater Pond, Peterborough, seen by Cam Rogers.
Apr. 26	3 Marsh Wren , Plato Creek Marsh, Peterborough, seen by Donald Sutherland.
Apr. 27	1 White-crowned Sparrow , Preston Road, Peterborough, seen by Sue Paradisis.
Apr. 28	1 Snow Goose , Second Line Rd. Flooded Fields, Bailieboro, seen by Marilyn Hubley.
May 01	1 Northern Parula , Riverview Park and Zoo, seen by Andrew Brown with a large flock of myrtle warblers.
May 04	1 Pectoral Sandpiper , Flooded Fields, Bensfort Road, Peterborough, seen by Chris Lemieux

May 05	Canadian Serviceberry bushes in bloom; Rough horsetail showing their spore caps; Tamaracks showing their new needle bunches, Sandy Creek, Trent Lakes, by Louis Smyrlis.
May 06	1 Black-bellied Plover , Second Line Rd flooded fields, Bailieboro, Peterborough, seen by Connor Thompson. American Golden-Plover , Bailieboro--Second Line Rd flooded fields, Peterborough seen by Dave Milsom. 1 Greater Scaup , Buckhorn Lake East Shoreline, Peterborough, seen by Buddy M. White trilliums and Trout lilies in bloom, Sandy Creek, Trent Lakes, seen by Louis Smyrlis.
May 07	Veeries , House Wrens , Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a Spotted Sandpiper were noted along the Lang Hastings Trail by Sandra Garvey. Grey Tree Frogs , Leopard Frogs , Western Chorus Frogs were heard along various local trails such as the Lang Hastings Trail, Rotary Trail and Greenway Trail, Peterborough, by Shelly Fletcher. 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 1 Baltimore Oriole were seen in the backyard on Heritage Line by Joan and Robert DiFruscia.
May 08	1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher , Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, Peterborough seen by Chris Lemieux. 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird - a male bird seen by Brian Wales in London Park, Peterborough. Large flowered bellwort in bloom, Kawartha Hideaway Road, Trent Lakes, seen by Louis Smyrlis.
May 09	1 Clay-colored Sparrow , Lakefield water tower, seen by Cathy Douglas and another was seen on Sharpe Line by Marilyn Freeman.
May 10	1 Red-headed Woodpecker , Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Area, Peterborough seen by Glenn Desy. Comments: "Calling repeatedly from traditional swamp location. Dry querr calls." 1 Clay-colored Sparrow , Camp Kawartha Environmental Centre, Peterborough, seen by Andrew Brown. 1 Sandhill Crane , Haliburton County Road 503, Minden, seen while driving by Melody McLean. 1 Map Turtle was seen at Jack Lake by Sandy Garvey. Yellow-rumped , Palm , Black and White , and Nashville Warblers as well as Northern Parulas , American Redstart and a House Wren were seen at Meadowvale by Linda Sunderland. Red trilliums in bloom, Sandy Creek, Trent Lakes, seen by Louis Smyrlis
May 11	1 Red-headed Woodpecker , O'Connor Drive, Ennismore, seen by Olivia Maillet and Andrew Brown. 2 Trumpeter Swans , wetland off Highway 504, seen by Ruth Davenport. 1 Woodthrush and 1 American Redstart , Jackson Park seen/heard by Marilyn Freeman. Snapping Turtles , Blanding's Turtles and Painted Turtles , as well as a Wild Turkey were spotted in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park by Robert Pratten. Black-throated Green and Nashville Warblers , a Baltimore Oriole and a Blue-headed Vireo were seen in Cavan by Lynn Smith. A White-tailed Deer was seen crossing George Street near Hilliard in Peterborough by Sarah Jamieson!
May 12	1 Alder Flycatcher and 1 Willow Flycatcher , Peterborough Airport ponds (Moncrief Line), Peterborough seen by Joe Pitawanakwat. Obvious calls separated the two species.

	<p>1 Lapland Longspur, Harold Town CA, Peterborough seen by Tim Haan.</p> <p>1 Clay-colored Sparrow, Water St to Mark St Loop, Peterborough, heard by Travis Cameron.</p> <p>1 Orchard Oriole, Little Lake Cemetery, Peterborough, seen by Daniel Williams.</p> <p>2 Baird's Sandpiper, Brown Line, Peterborough, seen by Dave Milsom reported by Steve Paul.</p>
May 13	<p>2 Yellow Rail, Miller Creek Wildlife Area, Peterborough, heard by Tim Haan.</p> <p>1 Bonaparte's Gull, Millennium Park, Peterborough, seen by Genn Desy.</p> <p>2 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Mervin Line, Peterborough, seen by Steve Paul and Laurie Healey.</p> <p>1 Orchard Oriole, Lang-Hastings Trail between Redmond Road and Drummond Line, Peterborough, seen by Laurie Healey and Steve Paul.</p> <p>2 Clay-colored Sparrow, Hayes Line, Cavan-Millbrook-North Monaghan, seen by Donald Sutherland.</p>
May 14	Wild strawberry in bloom, Sandy Creek, Trent Lakes, seen by Louis Smyrlis.
May 15	1 Lapland Longspur , Bailieboro--Second Line Rd flooded fields, Peterborough, seen by Brendan Boyd.
May 16	<p>1 Pectoral Sandpiper, Assumption Rd, Otonabee-South Monaghan, Peterborough, seen by Marilyn Hubley.</p> <p>1 Orchard Oriole, Otonabee-Keene Road by Steve Paul and Laurie Healey, in backyard.</p>

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JUNIOR NATURALIST NEWS

We need
a better
name
for this!



peterboroughnature.org

email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org

June 2023

Do you have
an idea?
This
newsletter
needs a name!



Email your ideas for a
newsletter name to:
juniors@peterboroughnature.org

RIDDLE FUN

What is a hot &
noisy duck?

A fire quacker.

What did the tree
say to the axe?

I'm stumped.

How do you know
that bees are happy?

Because they hum
while they work.

COMING EVENTS

The Peterborough Junior Naturalists presents...

FOREST ART & PLANT PRESSING



Come join us for an afternoon of plant fun!
We'll start with a nature hunt to collect natural
items that catch your eye while walking
through the woods. As a group, we'll work
together to create a temporary creation of
nature art!



We'll wrap up our time together by learning how to
press any special leaves or flowers you would like
to preserve and take home! The importance of
ethical collecting will be emphasized.



Date: Saturday, June 17, 2023

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Location: Wooded trail near Mount Pleasant (about 20 km
outside of Peterborough). Detailed directions will be sent to
participants who have registered.

Registration: Register by contacting juniors@peterboroughnature.org. This
event is FREE for members and is suitable for ages 5 to 12 (plus younger or
older siblings). Must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

 PETERBOROUGH FIELD NATURALISTS

Unscramble the words below to find out
what happens on June 21st:

MRSUEM TECSLSIO

Answer: SUMMER SOLSTICE

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: _____