

The Orchid



August/September 2023

Volume 69, No. 6

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly. Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Moose sighting near Peterborough! See page 26 for story. Photo: Steve Paul

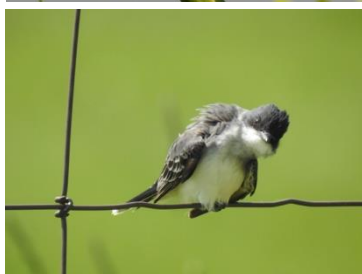
Inside: Nature in September; Outing Reports; Junior Naturalist News
A Naturalist's Reflections on This Year's Forest Fire Season
Results of Petroglyphs Butterfly Count
Book Review: An Immense World
Ontario Nature Report... and more!

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
Other Events of Interest	5
Volunteer Corner	6
Membership for 2024.....	7
Outing Report for May 28: Cavan Back Roads....	8
Outing Report for June 2: Carden Alvar	9
Juniors Event - June 17: Forest Art	9
Algonquin Park Camping Trip June 19 to 22 ...	10
Outing Report - July 8: Butterflies & Birds.....	11
Outing Report - July 29: Ferns of Silent Lake	12
Chimney Swift Report.....	12
Birds in Anishnaabemowin.....	14
September Nature at a Glance	14
Ghost Pipe: The Unique Beauty.....	15
Ontario Nature Report – Part Two.....	15
Results of 2023 Petroglyphs Butterfly Count....	17
An Incredible Night Flight	19
PFN Members Recognized at HFBF.....	20
From the Archives - Butterfly Numbers.....	21
Grassland Treasures	22
Book Review – An Immense World.....	23
Steve’s Swan Sightings.....	24
This Year’s Forest Fire Season.....	25
An Unexpected Encounter	26
The Orchid Diary	28
Junior Naturalist News	31
PFN Membership Application.....	32



Welcome new PFN members!

- Tracy Ross
- Cathy & Ken Garvey
- Sarah Bonnett
- Laura Cunningham
- Karin Bauer
- Ben Wolfe
- John Beamish
- Georgie Horton-Baptiste
- Nancy & Brian Morrow
- Joshua & Laura Kubinec
- Chloe & Shaun Devlin
- Sharon Pearsall
- Sue & Gerhard Grafe
- Christina Rennich, Craig Shields
- Autumn White
- Lindsay Notzi





Clockwise from above, left: Large yellow lady's slippers somewhere between Buckhorn and Burleigh Falls (Sue Paradisis), water lilies in back pond (Ken Morrison); and chalk-fronted corporal dragonfly at Algonquin Provincial Park (Don McLeod).




Clockwise from left, above: Painted cup paintbrush at Carden Alvar (Don McLeod), northern blue flag iris at Algonquin Provincial Park (Don McLeod); Eastern Kingbird with attitude (Enid Mallory); and Virginia Rail chick at Ken Reid Conservation Area (Don McLeod).


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. 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. Accessibility: Easy</p>
<p>Thursday, Sept. 14</p> <p>Doors open 7 p.m.</p> <p>Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p> <p>Maximum 45 attendees</p>	<p>PFN Monthly Meeting: "Living on the Edge: Wildlife & Change in the Hudson Bay Lowlands" presented by Dr. Glen Brown</p> <p>Wildlife adapted to a cold northern climate are vulnerable to climate warming, yet little is known about the vulnerability of the subarctic ecosystem in northern Ontario. The Hudson Bay Lowlands ecozone provides breeding habitat for thousands of migratory birds and contains the southern extent of permafrost and breeding range of many arctic adapted wildlife. Glen Brown will discuss research on arctic fox and arctic breeding shorebirds aimed to better understand the key ecosystem functions and sensitivities of wildlife to change in the subarctic of northern Ontario.</p> <p>Dr. Glen Brown is a Research Scientist at Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and an Adjunct Professor at Trent University. Glen leads Ontario's northern animal ecology research program, with research interests linking ecosystem processes, population dynamics, and individual behavioral strategies. He has conducted research on woodland caribou, moose, and habitat management for a suite of forest-dependent wildlife, including songbirds, mammals, and amphibians.</p> 
<p>Sunday, Sept. 17</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 24</p> <p>10 a.m. – noon</p> <p>15 participants</p>	<p>Fabulous Fungi</p> <p>This is turning out to be a very good year for fungi with all the rain we have had. There is already a lot of variety in the forests. Fungi come in an incredible variety of different sizes, shapes, and colours and Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park is a great place to find them. Rachel Baehr is back again to share her mushroom knowledge with us. We are offering 2 days to choose from to allow more people to participate in this popular walk. Bring your binoculars, camera, and dress for the weather of the day. Members wishing to participate should register for the day of your choice with Sue Paradisis at sueparadisis@hotmail.com after September 6 when more details will be provided.</p> <p>Accessibility: moderate. There is a large hill to climb.</p> 
<p>Friday, Sept. 29</p>	<p>Coming Event for the <u>Junior Field Naturalists</u> - POLLINATOR POWER!</p>

PFN Coming Events

<p>1:30 to 3:30 pm Riverview Park & Zoo</p>	<p>September 29 is a PA day in Peterborough, making it a perfect opportunity to join the Peterborough Junior Naturalists for a POLLINATOR POWER Workshop! Otonabee Conservation staff will lead the group with activities, games & a nature hike to identify & learn about pollinators. Register early to save your spot!</p> <p>This event is FREE for members and is suitable for ages 5 to 12 (plus younger or older siblings). Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Numbers are limited, so please register soon!</p> <p>Register by contacting juniors@peterboroughnature.org. Detailed directions will be sent to participants who have registered. This is a family event, so feel free to bring along your siblings & friends!</p> 
<p>Thursday, Oct. 12 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting starts 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road Maximum 45 attendees</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Reflections on Seven Years as an Ornithologist in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula presented by Richard Feldman</p> <p>Richard Feldman is currently a Wildlife Landscape Ecologist with the Ontario Ministry Natural Resources and Forestry. After graduating from Queen's in Biology, he completed a Master's in Forest Science at the University of British Columbia, a PhD at McGill, and post-docs at Trent and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His main research interest is understanding how the response of species to fine-scale environmental variation depends on broader spatial and temporal gradients, such as latitude and seasons.</p> <p>In his talk, Richard will discuss the research he conducted during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, when he had the good fortune to be able to conduct weekly bird surveys in a local tropical forest fragment in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. While most of the urban bird assemblage changed little through the year, every visit still brought surprises as non-urban birds still sometimes wandered into the middle of the city. While birding, Richard could reflect on the research he and his students had conducted in the Yucatan, attempting to understand how communities change across the Peninsula and across seasons. For example, they found that, during migration, migratory bird species richness is decoupled from local habitat productivity, and individual habitat use is unrelated to local resource availability. However, during winter, species redistribute themselves to match productivity gradients. For this talk, Richard hopes you can explore with him how ecological patterns in a region shaped by spatial and temporal variation in precipitation differ from regions shaped by temperature and get to know a place where some Ontario birds spend the winter.</p> 
<p>Note: Most 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>	

Other Events of Interest

<p>Monday, Sept. 11 7 to 8 p.m. Online Zoom Meeting</p>	<p>Catchacoma Old Growth: Climate, Biodiversity and Conservation</p>  <p>In this 4RG (For our Grandchildren) presentation, Katie Krelove and Peter Quinby will describe their passion for Kawartha's own Catchacoma Old Growth Forest. They will describe the role of this magnificent hemlock ecosystem in maintaining biodiversity, and mitigating climate change, as well as the struggles to preserve its integrity. To sign up for this online meeting, please send an e-mail to 4rgmeets@gmail.com</p>
<p>Friday, Sept. 15 (rain/cloud date Sept. 16, same time and location), 7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. KLT's Dance Nature Sanctuary, Lakefield</p>	<p>Skyworld: The Wonder of the Night Sky</p>  <p>Members of the Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA), a group of amateur astronomers from Peterborough and the surrounding area, will provide a brief presentation. The presentation will be followed by an informal opportunity to observe the setting up of a variety of different telescopes and to observe a diverse variety of celestial objects through those telescopes. These include planets, star clusters, globular clusters, galaxies, double stars, and many more. Register online at kawarthalandtrust.org/event/skyworld-the-wonder-of-the-night-sky</p>
<p>Saturday, Sept. 16 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Rotary Greenway Trail (Armour Rd. and Nassau Mills Rd. Meet at SE corner).</p>	<p>New to Nature Walk, Roll, or Stroll</p>  <p>New to nature? No problem! Come out to enjoy nature on the Rotary Greenway Trail with Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) staff and volunteers who are ready to answer your questions and provide a welcoming introduction to the great outdoors. No experience necessary, just the ability to walk or roll at a moderate pace along the Rotary Greenway Trail as we appreciate the flowers, trees, and birds along the way. Nature can be fun in all weather! Registrants will be given tips on how to dress for the weather. To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/event/new-to-nature-walk-roll-or-stroll-2/</p>
<p>Saturday, Sept. 23 10 a.m. to noon KLT's Dance Nature Sanctuary, Lakefield</p>	<p>Trees for All: The Best Time to Plant a Tree is Today</p> <p>Trees clean our air, provide shade, prevent erosion, and provide vital food and shelter for wildlife. Join Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) for a community tree planting and mapping event. Help us green our community one tree at a time!</p> <p>We will have 175 tree seedlings available (one per registrant) for you to pick up and plant in your own backyard or community. KLT will also have 25 trees available to plant at our Dance Nature Sanctuary in Selwyn if you don't have a place of your own to plant a tree.</p> <p>When you register, we will ask you to let us know the location of where you intend to plant your tree as we plan to create a community map to show all of the trees and the collective impact of individual actions! Each registration offers you</p>

Other Events of Interest	
	<p>one tree, if your family or friends would like multiple trees, register each person separately. Register online at:</p> <p>kawarthalandtrust.org/event/trees-for-all-the-best-time-to-plant-a-tree-is-today</p>
<p>Saturday, Sept. 23</p> <p>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, Baltimore</p>	<p>Plugs for the Prairie: Help restore rare prairie habitat on the Rice Lake Plains!</p> <p>Historically, the Rice Lake Plains were covered with tall grass 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 our Hazel Bird Nature Reserve. Physical activity includes walking kilometre over uneven terrain, bending, digging and twisting.</p> <p>To register, go to: https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/where-we-work/ontario/events/plugs-for-the-prairie.html</p>
<p>Sunday, Oct. 15</p> <p>Millenium Park</p>	<p>Monarch Butterfly Festival and Race</p> <p>The Monarch Ultra is back for 2023! After our initial 4,300 km relay from Canada to Mexico in 2019, our 1,800 km relay within Ontario in 2021, we now embark on a series of runs in Canada, the US and Mexico. This year, we have created the Monarch Butterfly Festival and Race which combines conservation, education and activity into one amazing event. More information can be found at https://www.themonarchultra.com/peterborough.html</p> 
<p>Saturday, Oct. 28</p> <p>Time and Location TBA</p>	<p>Ontario Nature Lake Ontario North Autumn Regional Meeting</p> <p>The fall Lake Ontario Regional Nature Network Meeting will be hosted by The Friends of Second Marsh. The exact location and agenda have yet to be released. The meeting is open to club members. It's a great opportunity to meet people from other clubs, share stories, exchange knowledge and participate in group activities. If you are interested in attending, contact the Nature Network Coordinator, Barbara MacKenzie-Wynia (barbaraw@ontarionature.org) to reserve your spot.</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 Anda Rungis, the Chair of the Nominating Committee at secretary@peterboroughnature.org

Call for Volunteer for Refreshment Table

After the call for help in the June Orchid, two volunteers have said they would be willing to help revive the popular refreshment table at our monthly meetings. A few more people to join a committee would be ideal. The group can decide what supplies and goodies are needed and arrange a schedule. Please contact Sue at 705-559-2061 or sueparadisis@hotmail.com for more details.

Membership for 2024

Submitted By Ted Vale, Treasurer



We will start taking membership applications for 2024 effective September 1, 2023. As of that date any new or renewed membership will last until the end of 2024.

Because of a substantial increase in membership, we have had to formalize the membership procedures so our volunteers can cope. I too remember when the process was very informal and involved only handing a cheque or cash to a Board member. It would be nice to go back to those days but unfortunately, we can't anymore.

Membership Form

To help us manage, we now have three ways to renew. For all of these, it is important to fill out the membership form. This can be found on the back page of The Orchid or on the PFN website.

This form is essential so we know if you need a tax receipt, have your address to send you a printed Orchid, or have your e-mail address to send you important announcements.

Without the form, we can only guess if you want an individual or family membership, or if you wish to make a donation in addition to your membership fee. We have had a couple of instances in the past year where lack of a form led to misunderstanding on our part and failure to register a member properly.

Three Ways to Renew

1) Pay by Cheque:

We will not refuse if you absolutely must pay by cash but we are not set up for it and would prefer if you paid by cheque. To do this, please fill out the membership form, attach your cheque to it and mail it to P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7.

2) Pay via Canada Helps

If you wish to pay by credit card or PayPal, you can do this on-line by going to our website and clicking on "Join Now" and then "Join On-Line." Please note on the form that you wish to pay by credit card. After you have completed and submitted the membership form, you will be automatically connected to the Canada Helps page. You must complete this page including your payment information or your membership payment will not go through to the PFN.

3) Pay by E-transfer

You can also pay by e-transfer but to do so you will have to use the on-line banking function at your financial institution.

Start by filling out the membership form on the PFN website. Once this is done, click on the "Submit" button. Be sure to note you want to pay by e-transfer on the form.

Our website cannot transfer you to your banking institution so you must make arrangements for the e-transfer with them.

The e-mail address on our website for the transfer makes the deposit directly to the PFN bank account. There is no need for an authorization question or password.

In Summary,

- You may renew your membership as of September 1, 2024.
- There are three ways to pay.
- Please, please fill out the Membership Form!

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

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

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.

Outing Report for May 28: Exploring Cavan Back Roads

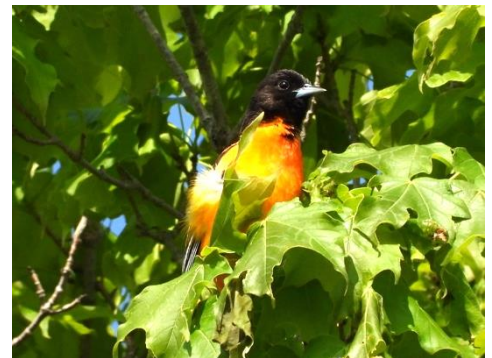
Submitted by Lynn Smith

Eighteen people gathered on a lovely morning to explore a few different habitats in the Cavan area.

Our first trail led us through a deep woods with large patches of Ostrich Fern and swarming large mosquitoes, reminding us of a Jurassic Park movie. Along the way a Mourning Warbler was very vocal and made sure we all had a good view of it. A Winter Wren sang, a Ruffed Grouse drummed, a Red-breasted Nuthatch complained and a Black-throated Green Warbler sang a muffled SuSuSuSuzie in the distance. We arrived at Cavan Creek which has its headwaters in the Oak Ridges Moraine and flows into the Otonabee River near the Peterborough Airport. It is a cold-water creek that supports both Brown and Brook Trout. After enjoying a few moments by the creek before the mosquitoes homed in, we headed back to the road.

As we walked along Morton Line towards our second trail, my wish came true! A Canada Warbler was singing. Although not as co-operative as the Mourning Warbler, many of us were able to get a view of it. Again, we enjoyed a symphony of song with the rich sound of the Northern Waterthrush, the staccato chatter of the Tennessee Warbler, and the loud whistle of the Great Crested Flycatcher. Small patches of Bulbet Fern and Sensitive Fern were noted.

Our second trail was a loop that traversed cedar woods, open meadow and agricultural fields. Notable birds included Killdeer, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Thrasher, Ovenbird, Cedar Waxwing, Baltimore Oriole,



Baltimore Oriole. Photo: Don McLeod

Indigo Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow. A few people commented on the height of the Mayapple growing at the side of the trail. Patches of Starry False Solomon's Seal were noted.



Group photo by Don McLeod

Our third and final trail was through an old apple orchard and an old field to a small wetland. Notable birds included Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Alder Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, American Kestrel.

In total we saw 42 bird species, appreciated the various habitats, identified a few plant species and sang "Happy Birthday" to a member of our group. What good fun!

Outing Report for June 2: Carden Alvar

Submitted by Don McLeod

Thirteen members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) made the trek to one of Ontario's premiere birding destinations at the Carden Alvar near Kirkfield. Led by Don McLeod (birds), Colleen Lynch (butterflies), Martha Lawrence and Sue Paradisis (plants), the outing was a welcome return for the club to this famous Important Birding Area. We were spared the heat wave of previous days but had to contend with windy conditions impacting bird sounds. Despite that challenge, we were fortunate to see and/or hear 42 species of birds. A clear highlight for many members was the Upland Sandpiper. While looking for birds we also scanned the roadsides for butterflies and found 10 species. The Carden Alvar is also a prime location for wildflowers. The highlights among 12 species of wildflowers and 2 species of shrubs include Prairie Smoke and Painted-cup Paintbrush.



Wilson's Snipe photo by Don McLeod

Report on Juniors Event on June 17: Forest Art and Plant Pressing

Submitted by Jennifer Lennie

The PFN Juniors were at it again on Saturday, June 17 for an afternoon of forest art and plant-pressing fun. The weather couldn't have been better, with clear blue sky and lovely warm sunshine. The small but mighty group started out by exploring the trails of PFN member Jennifer Lennie's property near Mount Pleasant. Juniors learned techniques to collect plants while ensuring the harvest wouldn't be detrimental to the ecosystem. They strolled along meadow, pine plantation, and deciduous woodland, gathering plenty of wildflowers, leaves, and other natural items as they went. Quite a few birds were calling, including a Pine Warbler. One exciting discovery was a white admiral butterfly that was found in its final resting place along the trail, which was included in the group artwork.

Several excellent ideas were suggested for the artwork that was made with all the beautiful nature finds. In the end, the kids decided on a mash-up of all the suggestions, including self-portraits and a garden landscape. A few special flowers were then pressed for each of the Juniors to take home. We can't wait to see what kind of art is made with them!



Photo: Shelley King

PFN Algonquin Park Camping Trip from June 19 to 22

Submitted by Lynn Smith

It all started with an idea that grew and expanded. Plans were made, details were finalized and the result was an extraordinary opportunity to camp in Algonquin Provincial Park for four days with a group of Peterborough Field Naturalists. Many thanks to Colleen Lynch and Don McLeod for their initial 'idea' and exceptional effort in bringing it to fruition. Many thanks to Sue Paradis for her valuable insight of Algonquin Park and adding 'a few more ideas' to the mix.

Camping options were flexible to accommodate the participants. Ten people camped at Pog Lake Campground, most in trailers, although a 'hardy' two camped in tents. Two more members rented a cabin in Whitney for two days. Six members travelled to Algonquin Park on Tuesday, just for the day, to enjoy a field excursion with the group.

Field trip options were organized by Don & Colleen for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tuesday's excursion included a hike along the Logging Museum Trail, lunch at the Visitor Centre, a walk around the Mew Lake Airfield, and concluded with a trek to Provoking Falls. A full day lay ahead of us!

Our stop at the Logging Museum Trail began with a video presentation on the logging history in the Algonquin area followed by a 1.5 km trail that brought logging to life with exhibits along the way.

The Mew Lake Airfield area had previously been burned and we were heartened to see the vegetation making a quick comeback. Lots of blueberry shrubs.

Provoking Falls is a must see! It was the perfect finale after a lovely day of birding, botanizing, and appreciating the great outdoors. A few members even had their shoes off, dipping feet in the cool water.



PFN group at Provoking Falls. Photo: Don McLeod



Purple pitcher plant. Photo: Don McLeod

Our day was not over yet!

The inauguration of Taco Tuesday had campers congregating at Don & Colleen's campsite for Colleen's famous taco dip. It was delicious! A fire ban prevented us from the traditional campfire, but Don & Colleen provided a substitute: a 'burning flame' fixed on a digital screen. We settled in with good food, campfire ambiance, social chitchat and were only missing the music. Lo and behold, two members brought a guitar and ukulele, and a singsong completed our evening!

Wednesday's excursion was a morning hike along the 1.5 km Spruce Bog Boardwalk loop. A bog ecosystem is acidic and nutrient poor. However, well-adapted carnivorous plants such

as sundew and pitcher plants thrive in these harsh conditions. Notable plants with pink flowers dotted the landscape such as Bog Cranberry, Bog Laurel, Sheep Laurel and Rose Pogonia.

When not on an excursion, Pog Lake Campground was an ideal location to enjoy a variety of activities such as swimming, biking, birdwatching and canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding.

The sandy beach and warmish water of Pog Lake was an invitation for several swims over the four days.

Some campers took advantage of the easy access to an extensive bike trail. Some of us intended to bike extensively, but instead used our bikes to get around the campground, specifically to the washroom. ☺

A few keen early morning risers strolled around the campground and completed eBird lists while discussing the trials and tribulations of identifying birdsong. In particular, we were challenged with distinguishing the Red-eyed Vireo song versus the Blue-headed Vireo song. By the end of the four days, we were feeling more confident. Well, we think we were. ☺

Pog Lake had its own bog ecosystem tucked around a bend in a quiet bay, easily reached by canoe/kayak. Four adventurous campers canoed and portaged to Whitefish Lake.

On the final evening, campers met to enjoy the brilliant sunset, either paddling on the lake or relaxing at the beach. This concluded our first PFN Algonquin Park Camping Trip. In total, 55 bird species were identified.

We all went home with fond memories, stronger friendships, some hearty laughs, improved naturalist skills and just a few mosquito bites.

Outing Report for July 8: Butterflies and Birds Along the Lang-Hastings Trail

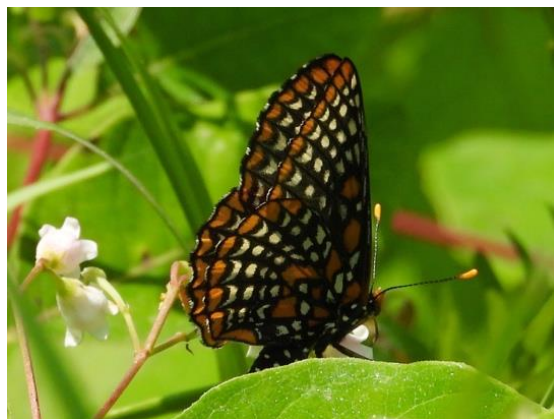
Submitted by Don McLeod

Butterflies and birds were observed and documented along the Lang-Hastings Trail by ten PFN members. Led by Colleen Lynch, the outing participants were provided with an intro to butterfly ID along with a handout list of Peterborough County butterflies. During the outing there were 10 butterfly species



Group photo by Don McLeod

identified with the most common species being Silver-spotted Skipper and Common Wood-Nymph. The Baltimore Checkerspot was a nice treat for everyone. A few Fritillaries and Swallowtails were also seen but they were moving too quickly for ID to species. A bird list maintained by Don McLeod had 15 species compiled from two checklists. One bird highlight was a Black-and-white Warbler carrying food. Several members gathered at Asphodel Park after the outing and enjoyed lunch by the Ouse River. The ever present Great Blue Heron flew in and put on a show while walking and fishing along the dam.



Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly on July 8.
Photo: Don McLeod



Common Wood-Nymph butterfly on July 8. Photo: Don McLeod

Outing Report for July 29: Ferns of Silent Lake

Submitted by Sandy Garvey

On July 29, a group of enthusiasts from the PFN were led by Sue Paradisis to Silent Lake Provincial Park, to explore and learn a bit more about the world of ferns.

While the drive up was a bit rainy and ominous, we were pleasantly surprised to have the rain stop and the skies clear up just as we started out on the trail. We walked approximately 4 km out and back, and during that stretch, we were able to find 14 different species of ferns. We also identified approximately 15 species of birds such as Winter Wren, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Brown Creeper, and we discovered just how beautiful and interesting fungus and moss can be.

The group finished off the outing by enjoying their bagged lunches together in the picnic area while having a view of the lake - even a hummingbird darted about the wildflowers nearby to add to our entertainment. Thanks to Sue, Cathy D. and Anda for their leadership and record keeping. It certainly helped us learn and made the outing so enjoyable.



Long beech fern (left) and Christmas fern at Silent Lake.
Photo: Sandy Garvey

Chimney Swift Report

Submitted by Chris Risley

Starting in May each year, the Chimney Swift can be seen flying over Peterborough looking like the proverbial "cigar with wings". Some stay to nest locally in chimneys, but others continue on in migration to nest in chimneys or tree cavities further north. Have you ever wondered what they do at night? Or what we can learn about their nesting and population by watching them go to roost?

In Peterborough, many swifts roost communally in a chimney in the George Street and Charlotte Street area each evening. As part of a coordinated effort to monitor their numbers across Canada, other birders and I have conducted watches at a chimney on a commercial building near George and Charlotte streets for over 15 years. The watches are done on five evenings five days apart in late May and early June. Other chimney roost sites all across the Chimney Swifts' range in Canada are also monitored on the same dates so a total number of swifts can be obtained. Birds Canada compiles the numbers. Last year's compilation found that on May 25, 2022, a grand total of 10,769 Chimney Swifts were seen at 96 roosts across Ontario and the Maritimes. A newsletter on the compilation is available on the Birds Canada website.

This year, Dan Williams and I, along with 16 naturalists from the PFN, watched the swifts' roost from the top of the King Street parking garage and counted them entering the chimney. Sometimes a few swifts went into other nearby chimneys. Below is a table showing the results from 2023 for the established dates in May and June and two evenings in August when I also watched the roost.

The table below shows that the highest number of swifts entered the roost on May 24. This total was probably comprised of local birds as well as migrants. Fewer swifts were seen in August when the total may have just included locals, presumably adults and young of the year, or perhaps many had already



Chimney Swift at nest site in book "Bird-Life: a Guide to the Study of Our Common Birds," 1898, illustrated by Ernest Seton Thompson

migrated. Sometimes a large group of swifts will enter the roost all at once as happened on May 24 when 81 swifts entered in one minute in a “swiftnado”. On other nights, their timing is more spread out. Some nights, swifts also went into adjacent chimneys usually in twos which indicates they may be planning to nest in them. May 24 was also the night we saw a high-flying flock of 80 large brown-gray shorebirds heading north-west. It is likely that they were Whimbrels. A Common Nighthawk was also seen. It was quite the evening.

Date in 2023	Time of First Swift Entry	Time of Peak Entry (No. Entering)	Time of Last Swift Entry	Total No. Entering Main Chimney	Comments
20-May	20:33	20:46 (56)	20:59	130	3 go in other chimneys
24-May	21:12	20:57 (81)	21:17	165	80 probable Whimbrels; 1 Common Nighthawk
28-May	21:52	21:02 (29)	21:19	82	Merlin chased off by 2 swifts
01-Jun	21:49	21:06 (19)	21:25	100	1 Double-crested Cormorant
05-Jun	21:31	21:04 (17)	21:13	104	4 go in other chimneys
21-Aug	19:51	20:07 (14)	20:16	51	Overcast; cooler
22-Aug	19:59	20:19 (9)	20:27	40	Clearer; warmer; 1 swift left roost

The high count this year (165 on May 24) was higher than any other year in the past eight years that I’ve been recording the totals in eBird. Does this mean the population is increasing? Perhaps, but the number of



Chimney (lower left) used for roosting by Chimney Swifts in downtown Peterborough. Photo taken from top of the King Street parking garage on August 21 by Chris Risley.

chimneys for them to nest and roost in is slowly decreasing as new buildings don’t use open chimneys as in the past, so we must exercise caution on the idea that their population is increasing. What about trees? Do they nest in trees as they once did historically? An encouraging note is found in a recent study by Jeremie Tixier who found five active Chimney Swift nests in cavities in yellow birch and sugar maple trees in an old growth mixed-wood forest in Quebec. They were found by catching swifts at a roost, placing MOTUS radio tags on them and then tracking them to nesting trees. The study suggests that with proper protection and management, old growth forests can provide nesting habitat which would supplement that of our cities’ chimneys.

The Chimney Swifts migrate south starting in August, and numbers drop off sharply after the first week of September.

If you’re interested in seeing the swifts go into their

chimney roost this year, go before September 1 or as soon as you can. The chimney is visible if you look north from the top of the King Street parking garage. Start watching the sky for swifts about fifteen minutes before official sunset. On clearer, warmer nights, they seem to stay out a few minutes later as seen in my August observations. Or join us next May or June on the roost watch outings which will be advertised in *The Orchid* and on PFN’s website. If you know of other chimneys where swifts might be roosting, please let me know (risleych@gmail.com).

Birds in Anishnaabemowin

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

Grackle: Asiginaak (As-sig-in-aak) Sig means 'to gather' or 'to cluster'. The name describes the way grackles gather in flight to form their murmurations.

Belted Kingfisher: Giishmaantikoh (Geesh-maan-thay-conh) Giish refers to cutting cleanly through. The kingfisher pierces cleanly through the water without making a splash.

Rough-legged Hawk: Boonise (Boon-say) Boon is to stop. This hawk makes abrupt stops when flying in search of food. Although Buteos are known for this behaviour, boonise exemplifies this quality.

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



Photo of Asiginaak by Rene Gareau

September Nature at a Glance

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

Fall songbird migration peaks, huge flocks of blackbirds invade corn fields and wetlands, migrating sparrows visit our gardens and Blue Jay calls dominate the soundscape.

Many mammals are fattening up this month or gathering and hiding food in preparation for winter. Bats and moose are mating and groundhogs usually begin their six-month hibernation.

Frogs continue to be quite common in damp woodlands, ditches and fields as they feed heavily. Peepers and treefrogs call sporadically during the day while turtle eggs that were laid last June begin to hatch.

This is a time of heavy feeding for many species of fish such as Walleye, Muskellunge and trout. Fishing can be excellent.

Spiders and insects put on a great show this month. Crickets call day and night, Monarchs depart for southern climes, wasps are especially numerous, spider webs are everywhere, and goldenrods and asters become veritable insect magnets.

Asters and goldenrods turn fields into a riot of yellow, white and purple, mushrooms abound in damp woodlands, Virginia Creeper and White Ash attain their most vivid reds and burgundies and, by month's end, fall colour in general approaches its height.

September is a time of heavy morning mists, the first frost and the fall equinox. Dusk is now two hours earlier than at the end of June. Average daily temperatures for the month are a maximum of 20 °C and a minimum of 7 °C. In mid-September, the sun rises at about 6:55 a.m. and sets at about 7:25 p.m.

The Great Square of Pegasus rules the September sky. The Big Dipper hangs low in the northwest and Cassiopeia dominates the northeast. The Harvest Moon usually occurs this month and bathes the early evening in moonlight.

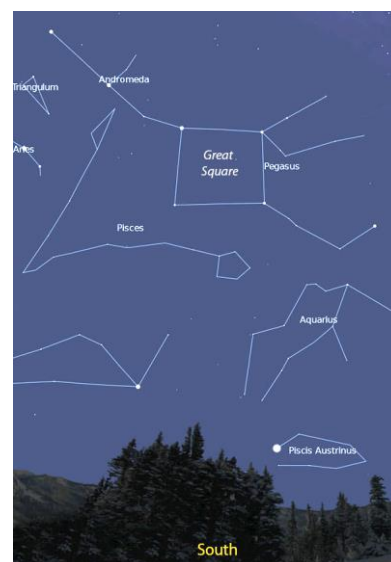


Image of Great Square of Pegasus from Stellarium

Ghost Pipe: The Unique Beauty of What Blossoms in the Dark

Submitted by Jason and Lou Smyrlis

It's the ghost of the forest, wraithlike in appearance, aberrant in nature. Whereas most flowering plants seek the light, these translucent denizens of the forest floor flourish in the dark. Plants are defined by their ability to make their food through photosynthesis. This plant eschews photosynthesis, yet somehow manages to thrive without it. Enter the strange world of the ghost pipe.

Hiking in our woods recently, we found some growing in small clumps and individually in a shady area near a natural pond and a few metres from a white oak. Ranging in height from 10 to 30 centimetres, they are ghostly white with black flecks and scaly, leaf-like structures called bracts. The stem bears a single bell-shaped flower. When ghost pipe emerges, the flower is downwardly pointed. As the anther and stigma develop, the flower position shifts to perpendicular and eventually erect in line with the stem. It is pollinated by small bumblebees. Once pollination is completed, the plant turns brown.

The reason ghost pipe is translucent is because it lacks chlorophyll, the necessary pigment for photosynthesis and the reason plants are green in colour. So how does it thrive without the ability to convert sunlight into energy? It relies on a form of sophisticated parasitism called myco-heterotrophy, which leverages the close relationship between trees and fungi.

Just a few inches below the forest floor, fungi spread thin threads, known as mycelia, which tap directly into tree roots. Essentially functioning as extension cords, these fungal networks allow a tree to reach a much larger area of soil than it could with just its own roots. The mycelia pass on water and mineral nutrients absorbed from the soil to the tree in exchange for carbohydrates. Ghost pipe has evolved to parasitize the mineral nutrients the fungi get on their own and the carbohydrates the fungi get from the tree. Recent research has shown, however, it may not be complete parasitism. Populations of mushroom fungi growing near ghost pipe are more abundant than fungi located further away, which may suggest that a more beneficial relationship between the two exists.

Short in stature, lacking bright flowers and growing in dark areas of the forest, ghost pipe is not frequently seen or mentioned. Yet eccentric poet Emily Dickinson, who lived most of her own life in dark isolation, called ghost pipe "the preferred flower of life," and a drawing of the flower adorns the cover of her first edition of poems published in 1890. Perhaps it takes someone comfortable with living in the dark to appreciate the unique beauty of what can blossom there.



Ghost pipe, shown as it's emerging from the ground, has evolved a sophisticated way to thrive without photosynthesis. (Photo by Lou Smyrlis)

Ontario Nature Report – Part Two

Submitted by Fiona McKay

Ontario Nature (ON) 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. In the last issue of *The Orchid*, we reported on two thought-provoking presentations. In this issue, we are providing Ontario Nature's updates for our region.



This first meeting of 2023 was well attended with representation from 12 local nature clubs or land trusts, plus Ontario Nature itself.

The focus of Ontario Nature's report was Nature Network Communications, identifying how and where the support for nature can be enhanced. ON announced the addition of five new clubs to our region, including 'Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario' (out of Huronia). Unfortunately, they also lost ten clubs from the network, stating that COVID-19 was hard on many groups.

Ontario Nature now oversees 25 nature reserves and three conservation easements totalling 3,156 ha (7,796 ac). Those nature reserves are now included in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, counting towards the 10.7% of Ontario land that is protected.

Ontario Nature continues to promote community science projects. Currently, they are involved with the 3rd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (5 years of data collection starting in 2021), the Long-term Monitoring Protocol for Ontario's Snakes (the protocol has been used at over 30 sites across Ontario), and the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (publication of 10 years of data collection efforts is expected later in 2023).

A large component of ON work focuses on policy and advocacy. So far this year, they have researched and submitted seven submissions to the Ontario government, and five submissions or letters to the federal government. For specific information on these, visit the Ontario Nature website:

ontarionature.org/campaigns/. They continue to support local organizations in northern Ontario to protect special places, like Black Bay Peninsula, as well as working to permanently protect over one million hectares of land (FSC "Designated Conservation Lands"). Lastly, they have been working with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to support and contribute to Canada's target to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030.

This year's Youth Summit for Mother Earth will be held in-person at Camp Wahanowin, Longford Mills, Ontario from September 22 to 24. This is a unique cross-cultural summit that is planned and run by Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth leaders from across Ontario. This event will be run in collaboration with partners The Indigenous Environmental Institute at Trent University, Plenty Canada and Walpole Island Land Trust. PFN is pleased to be sponsoring another student to attend the full summit.

PFN is also pleased to report that our article "Peterborough Field Naturalists Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day" (*The Orchid*, June/July 2023) was picked up by ON and reprinted in their July issue of Nature Network News. The launching of the Birdwatching Backpack Kits, that PFN helped sponsor (in large part due to the generous donation of the Hunter Family, in memory of Terry Hunter), along with Bird Friendly Peterborough, was highlighted. The Nature Network News is ON's digital newsletter that is published every month, is free and is available to club members. If you are interested in getting on their mailing list, send a request to naturenetwork@ontarionature.org.

In wrapping up the theme of communication, Ontario Nature would like you to become a Nature Advocate. As such, they have a number of communication avenues:

- Join their mailing list: <https://ontarionature.org/take-action/stay-informed/#join-today>
- Follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OntarioNature?ref=ts>
- Check out their Ontario Nature Blog: <https://ontarionature.org/blog/>
- Become a Member of Ontario Nature – Receive ON Nature Magazine: <https://ontarionature.thankyou4caring.org/membership>
- Receive the bi-monthly Loon Call Newsletter
- Receive the monthly Nature Network News

2023 Petroglyphs Butterfly Count - A Rainy Afternoon

Submitted by Martin Parker

The 24th Annual Petroglyphs Butterfly Count was conducted on Saturday, July 15 with a record number of field participants: 37. Unfortunately, the weather on the day of the count did not fully cooperate. The morning was warm and cloudy; however, around 1:15 p.m. heavy rains ended all field activities for the day. This year's count only recorded a total of 46 species of butterflies, consisting of 1,635 individual butterflies. Both numbers are below average for this count. The initial count was held in 1998 and since 2001 has been held annually on the third Saturday in July.



American Lady butterfly on July 8 on Sandy Lake Road. Photo: Ken Morrison

According to Count Compiler, Jerry Ball, there are a number of factors, besides the rain which washed out half of the day. The drought of last July which resulted in lack of nectar-producing flowers last summer probably impacted the egg laying by the female butterflies last year. This year the dry conditions in May and June plus the days of smoky conditions probably impacted the development of this year's growth of caterpillars. Many observers noted the lack of Common Milkweed and Viper's Bugloss in parts of the area. Both of these plants are important sources of nectar for butterflies, moths, and bees.



Silver-spotted Skipper on July 8 on Land-Hastings Trail. Photo: Don McLeod

There was good news in terms of the number of Monarch butterflies: a total of 177 were recorded by the participants. This is about average for this count. The numbers have ranged from a low of 4 on the 2014 count to a high 275 in 2021. Last year, only 107 Monarchs were recorded. The majority of the Monarchs this year were at sites around Jack Lake. On the east side of the lake, the logging operations of several years ago created large openings in the forest which now contain large patches of Common Milkweed. On the west side, the large blow-down areas from the May 22nd derecho also contain patches of milkweed with numbers of Monarchs. Areas where the milkweed is disappearing due to dry conditions and roadwork, had no or few Monarchs. Provision of milkweed is essential for this species.

An annual highlight of the Petroglyphs Count is the diversity of skippers with 18 species being observed. The variety of hairstreaks was down with only four species being observed. This year the normally abundant Banded Hairstreak was absent as was the rarer Edward's Hairstreak. The Banded Hairstreak was present in the area a week later.

The Petroglyphs Butterfly Count is one several hundred butterfly counts conducted annually across North America under the sponsorship of the North American Butterfly Association. Traditionally, the Petroglyphs Count is one of the top counts in Ontario in terms of number of species. The count registration fees are paid by the PFN from the annual grant received from the PFN Legacy Fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

A special thanks to all the count participants. The table below contains the complete summary of the count.

Species / Area	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Total
Midsummer Tiger Swallowtail	1	1	1	4	2				1	1	11
Cabbage White	12	3	1			2		2			20
Clouded Sulphur		18	1	2	3			2	2	5	33
Pink-edged Sulphur				2			5	13			20
Bog Copper							9				9
Acadian Hairstreak	1	6			1		1				9
Coral Hairstreak							17	5		7	29
Striped Hairstreak		1					1				2
Gray Hairstreak							1	1		2	4
Eastern Tailed Blue		1	1							4	6
Northern Azure	2	4			1		5	10		6	28
Great Spangled Fritillary		21	2	6			1	11	1	10	52
Aphrodite Fritillary			3				4	1		5	13
Atlantis Fritillary		1								2	3
Silver-bordered Fritillary										3	3
Pearl Crescent		2		1							3
Northern Crescent	2	26	4	6	5	1	4	9	1	13	71
Mourning Cloak				1		1					2
American Lady			7	6			1			7	21
Red Admiral	2	3	5	6		1				4	21
White Admiral		3		2						2	7
Viceroy	1	1	1								3
Northern Pearly-Eye		7	3				2	9		3	24
Eyed Brown	1	11	3	3	1		6	28		14	67
Little Wood-Satyr		1					6	1			8
Common Wood-Nymph	2	5		1	1		2	21		4	36
Monarch	5	41	49	51	1		5	5	3	17	177
Wild Indigo Duskwing										10	10
Northern Cloudywing	3		2				2			1	8
Columbine Duskywing	7	4	2	4	1	2	3	1		7	31
Delaware Skipper		1	6	2	2		7	11		7	36
Least Skipper	1	2	4	2	2	4	5	4	2		26
European Skipper	4	11	16	6	1		7	1	2	5	53
Peck's Skipper	2	1								2	5
Tawny-edged Skipper	2	1	1					4			8
Crossline Skipper		2	1				9	2			14
Long Dash			5				1	2			8
Northern Broken-Dash	3		10		1		23			1	38
Little Glasstwing		1			1						2
Hobomok Skipper	1						2	1			4
Mulberry Wing		14	1	2	7		3	30		9	66
Broad-winged Skipper		2	1		2		32	86	2	7	132
Dion Skipper		2			1					2	5
Two-spotted Skipper				1		2					3
Dun Skipper	7	25	46	7	9	1	120	242		14	471
Unidentified											
Fritillary Sp.		5	2		3		1				11
Skipper Sp	1	6						10	5		22
Total Individuals	60	233	178	115	45	14	285	512	19	174	1635
Total Species	19	31	25	20	19	8	29	25	8	29	45

Caterpillars

Viceroy			4								
Monarch				1							

Area	Participants
A - Petroglyphs Park & Stoney Lake	Robert DiFruscia, Joan DiFruscia
B - NW Jack Lake, Forest Access Road	Dennis Barry, Margaret Carney
C - Jack Lake Power Corridor	Matthew Tobey, Luke Berg
D - McCoy Road, east Jack Lake	Kathy Parker, Ruth Davenport, Carly Davenport, Johnaton Aslop, Sandy Garvey, Martha Lawrence
E - Northern Cty Road 46	Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch
F - Middle Cty Road 46	Martin Parker, King Baker, Jan Donnelly
G - Northern Sandy Lake Road	John Carley, Victoria Carley, Susan Blayney, Kevin Seymour, Greg Stuart, Nancy McPherson, Garth Riley, Dan Riley, Andrew Riley
H - Southern Sandy Lake Road	Jerry Ball, Ken Morrison, Tom Mason, Rene Gareau
I - Southern Cty Road 46	Steve Laforest
J - Nephton ATV trail	Colin Jones, Scott Gibson, Mike Burrell, Erica Barkley, Abby Burrell, Elliot

Note: Based on a conversion with Colin Jones, all Azures have been listed as Northern. See www.ontarioinsects.org/azures.html

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An Incredible Night Flight**Submitted by Martin Parker**

In a summary report from Stu MacKenzie of Birds Canada regarding his results in the 2023 Baillie Birdathon, he reported on an incredible night migration of a White-winged Dove:

"A White-winged Dove, native to the Southwest United States and Mexico, appeared at Breakwater [the banding station halfway to the tip of Long Point on Lake Erie] at the end of April. There are less than 10 records [of this bird] for Long Point. With a little patience and ingenuity shown by the research team, the dove was captured and outfitted with a Motu stage on April 30. That night it flew from Breakwater to Atlantic City, New Jersey, about 600 kilometers, in the span of 5 ½ hours with an impressive speed of around 110 km/h. This nocturnal flight behavior was a revelation, as it was largely unknown for doves."



White-winged Dove. Photo: Bernard Dupont/Wikimedia

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. Motus is a program of Birds Canada in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations. For more details consult <https://motus.org/>

PFN Members Recognized at Huron Fringe Birding Festival

Submitted by Anda Rungis

The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) have a strong tradition of organizing events to experience Ontario's provincial parks including Peterborough's Mark S. Burnham, Silent Lake, Presqu'ile and of course, Algonquin Provincial Park. For those inclined to explore further afield, there are numerous events which take place across Ontario and provide opportunities aligned with the PFN's motto, "Know, Appreciate, Conserve Nature in All Its Forms".

The Huron Fringe Birding Festival, based at MacGregor Point Provincial Park, is one such example. Whether your interest is strictly 'for the birds', or botany, photography, geology or cultural history, there is something for every naturalist at the festival. And there is a strong PFN connection in the festival's history!

At the festival, the Norah Toth Award is presented annually to persons who have made a significant difference through involvement in the Huron Fringe Birding Festival or other local nature activities. CONGRATULATIONS to PFN members Kathy and Martin Parker as this year's recipients of the Norah Toth Award, in recognition of their many important contributions to the first Huron Fringe Birding Festival, the Breeding Bird Atlas, the Saugeen Field Naturalists, and the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (now Ontario Nature).

In presenting the award to Kathy and Martin at the Festival's banquet on May 27, 2023, Norah Toth made the following comments:

"Over 25 years ago, Kathy took a group of peoples' visions about a festival and worked diligently to create the first template for the Huron Fringe Birding Festival, while at the same time assisting Martin and raising their four children. That template was successful and continues to be used to this day. For that, we thank you, Kathy.

Martin has been an integral part of natural history in Bruce Grey since the early 1970s. In 1975, Martin was part of the organizing group for the Saugeen Field Naturalists, a member group of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON). His commitment to natural history can also be seen through the publications he co-wrote or co-published, his sitting on the executive of the FON, and his desire to document, as a photographer, and interpret the natural history of the province through the provincial park system, including Inverhuron and MacGregor Point Provincial Parks. While living in Bruce County, he sat on the Bruce Grey Bird Records Committee; he has been a Regional Coordinator for all three Breeding Bird Atlases, the first of which was Bruce County, and actively established Christmas Bird Counts.



Norah Toth (left) presenting Martin and Kathy Parker with the Norah Toth Award at the 25th Huron Fringe Birding Festival on May 27, 2023. Photo: Bruce Edmunds

Martin and Kathy led birding tours for such organizations as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and continue to lead tours for the Ontario Field Ornithologists in Bruce County today. Both Kathy and Martin have led programs at MacGregor Point Provincial Park and the Huron Fringe Birding Festival. We recognize that Kathy and Martin's enthusiasm for the natural world created a base for an active birding and naturalist community in Bruce County."

This year, the Huron Fringe Birding Festival took place from May 24 to 27 and May 30 to June 2. After 25 years, this is one popular festival. Many events fill within the first few days of registration opening. Festival information can be found at: huronfringebirdingfestival.ca

From the Archives - Changes and Trends in Butterfly Numbers

Submitted by Martin Parker

The Petroglyphs Butterfly Count is an annual citizen-science project of the Peterborough Field Naturalists. The annual results collectively contain information on trends in butterfly numbers, similar to Christmas Bird Counts being used to look at long-term trends in birds.

Looking at the results of the counts for which records exist on file, the following can be calculated:

Dun Skipper -- a small butterfly which is abundant in the Petroglyphs area, especially in the fens along Sandy Lake Road. The caterpillar feeds on sedges. It appears that populations may be decreasing.



Photo of Dun Skipper by Don McLeod

Years	# of Counts	Average	Maximum	Minimum
2000 to 2009	5	1951	4242	327
2010 to 2019	10	1803	4914	431
2020 to 2023	4	1072	1872	471

Monarch -- a familiar butterfly which migrates to central Mexico in the fall and other generations return in the late spring the next year. It appears that populations are increasing.

Years	# of Counts	Average	Maximum	Minimum
2000 to 2009	5	68	173	19
2010 to 2019	10	159	472	4
2020 to 2023	4	237	475	107

Continuing citizen science projects such as the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count will help researchers determine trends in our native populations.

Grassland Treasures

Wild child, is it possible for you to live the life of bygone years?

Upland sandpipers thrived when the great forests were cleared.

Your preferred nesting habitat, open, native grassland of tall grass and weeds,

Harbours grasshoppers, crickets and other insects, spiders and seeds.

The market gunners who slaughtered the passenger pigeons then bored

Into your grassland homes, their lesson of species annihilation ignored.

You're a beneficial species, one well worth fighting for,

Not to mention an exceedingly elegant creature one must surely adore.

Modern agricultural practices have rendered former habitats degraded,

But the Carden Plain alvar is one of few local places still populated.

Despite some loss of nests from cattle trampling and early mowing,

We hope your alvar community remains one like other populations growing.

To see you standing on a large rock in the middle of a field,

Scrutinizing your domain for predator or prey concealed,

To hear your 'wolf-whistle' cry, often uttered on stiff, fluttering wings,

Count among our most cherished treasures of beautiful, wild things.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2023.

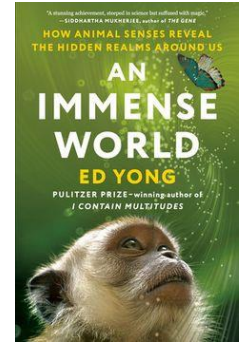


Upland Sandpiper at Carden Alvar. Photo: Don McLeod

Book Review – An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us

Reviewed by Marilyn Freeman

Ears exist on knees of crickets, the abdomens of locusts and the mouths of hawkmoths. Monarch caterpillars hear with a pair of hairs on their midsection. Some butterflies have ears on their wings which are tuned to the same frequencies produced by predatory birds. Orb weaver spiders produce silk that can transmit vibrations over a wider range of speeds than any known material. And those strands can be individually tuned!



If any of these facts grab your attention, then *An Immense World* is a book you'll want to own and return to over and over. Some pages will make you laugh out loud. This is not something you'd expect in a science book. Author Ed Yong is an award-winning science writer on the staff of *The Atlantic*, where he won the Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting and the George Polk Award for Science Reporting. *An Immense World* won the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.

Structurally, Yong divides the book into separate sections that include smells/tastes, light, colour, pain, heat, vibrations, electrical fields and magnetic fields. He ends the book with why quiet and dark "sensescapes" are threatened and need to be protected.

He starts with a German word: "umwelt". Umwelt is the sensory bubble/environment in which each being lives. Defined and popularized in 1909, it refers to the perceptual world. Although the umwelt of each species is limited, it doesn't feel that way because it's the only thing that's known. Humans can't detect the magnetic fields available to robins and sea turtles. We can't trace the invisible trail of a swimming fish the way a seal can. Even when animals share the same senses with humans, their umwelten can be very different.

Using humour and fascinating examples, Yong introduces readers to these umwelten. Humans have trichromatic vision which can be pictured as a triangle representing red, blue and green cones. Every colour we see is a mix of those and can be plotted within that triangular space. A bird's colour vision is a pyramid with the four corners representing each of its four cones. The entire human colour vision is only ONE face of that pyramid which makes it mind-blowing to think of all the colours that could be plotted within that pyramidal space!

The section on pain is remarkable for its brevity. In the science world there is still some controversy on whether all animals feel pain, and how to define pain in the first place. For example, it was long believed that fish felt no pain – at least until 2003 when a study was published proving the opposite. While the author presents the various viewpoints of different scientists, it feels as if he doesn't really want to address this issue at all for the can of worms it opens.

Ticks are known for sucking blood but their heat sensors are found on the tips of their first pair of legs. When they wave these legs around questing, it looks like they're trying to grab something but they're also sensing. They can detect body heat up to 13 feet away. DEET and citronella don't disrupt their sense of smell but they DO stop them from tracking heat!

The section on sound also had surprising information. An owl's ears are asymmetric, with the left being higher than the right. This enables the owl to work out the position of a sound's source in both the vertical and horizontal directions using timing and loudness.

Life exists in a planetary electric field. Even on a calm, sunny day, the air carries a voltage of 100 volts for every meter off the ground. Flowers, being mostly water, bear the same negative electrical charge as their soil. Bees build up positive charges when they fly. Positively charged bees cause negatively charged pollen grains to LEAP onto their legs – even before they land! And the bees understand this!

While Jong says that humans are closer than ever to understanding what it's like to be another animal, we've made it harder than ever for other animals to exist. "Senses that served their owners well for millions of years are now liabilities." Some are adapting to the human made world and some even flourish. For others, adaptation is not possible. As well, the human umwelt dictates what questions a scientist will ask. "A scientist's explanations about other animals are dictated by the data she collects, which are influenced by the questions she asks, which are steered by her imagination, which is delimited by her senses." The human umwelt will necessarily shape how we apprehend other umwelten.

Overall, this is a remarkably well-researched and joyous book. A reader could become popular (or merely tolerated) by telling their buddies "Did you know....?"

Steve's Swan Sightings

Submitted by Steve Paul

It has been a pretty quiet summer for Trumpeter Swan sightings around the Peterborough area. As mentioned in the last Orchid, there were two pairs of swans showing interest in last year's nesting location, but both pairs abandoned the site. In fact, the last time local Peterborough pair X66, aka Sadie, and her untagged, unbanded (UTUB) mate, Chip, were reported seen was on May 7. No doubt they found a new spot to call home, but it is unlikely they raised a family this year. The other untagged pair have been seen sporadically in our area, but never really settled down on a home pond either. I last saw them on the Television Road pond on August 21.



Untagged Trumpeter Swans at Television Road pond on August 21. Photo: Steve Paul

There are definitely Trumpeter Swans that regularly nest in the Kawarthas. There are multiple families nesting on Pigeon Lake and Sturgeon Lake, and other shallow lakes that make it easy for them to feed. We will likely start seeing more activity around Peterborough and Lakefield once cygnets are able to fully fly in September and October. I may move this segment to more of a quarterly report. It will depend on what shows up around Peterborough in the coming months.

As I have mentioned before, sharing your sightings of Trumpeter Swans is very important in conserving and protecting this species. Please consider reporting all sightings of Trumpeter Swans that you see. There are many different ways to do this:

- Report using eBird.
- If you are registered for Atlas-3 (now in year three of five), you can report using the NatureCounts app or the Atlas website.
- Report through Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (aka TRUSCO). They are easily found on Facebook. Gary Lane and Joy Poyntz are the main data trackers.
- Report through the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. (Google "Wye Marsh Swan Sightings")
- Report through the Trumpeter Swan Society. (USA-based but will direct data to the TRUSCO).
- You can also report them to me via email and I will pass that information along.

Please send as much detail as possible: date and time, the specific location where you saw them (even with GPS coordinates if you have them), and definitely report if you see yellow/black wing tags, which are used for identification and tracking. Confirmation photos are very helpful as well.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to me at stevepaul70@gmail.com.

A Naturalist's Reflections on This Year's Forest Fire Season

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

As most of you will have already heard, this year's wildfire season is the worst on record in Canada in terms of total area burned - by a long-shot. According to a Canadian Geographic article entitled "Mapping 100 years of forest fires in Canada" posted on August 18, 13.9 million hectares have burned so far this year. The second worst season on record was in 1995 when 7.1 million hectares burned. Some of the areas burned this year are so large that you can see them on a map of Canada. That surprised me. These areas are shown in white on the map to the right. The area burned so far in 2023 is the equivalent of a 373 km by 373 km square. Imagine driving from Peterborough all the way to Sudbury, and then driving the same distance east, then south, then west. That is *huge*. All that habitat - destroyed... all the untold multitudes of creatures that couldn't escape the fire - gone... The article begins by reminding us that fires are a natural part of the boreal forest ecosystem, but then it goes on to say that climate change is creating hotter and drier conditions which makes it easier for fires to ignite and spread. These factors, combined with the longer summers, mean that parts of the forest don't have time to rejuvenate between burns.

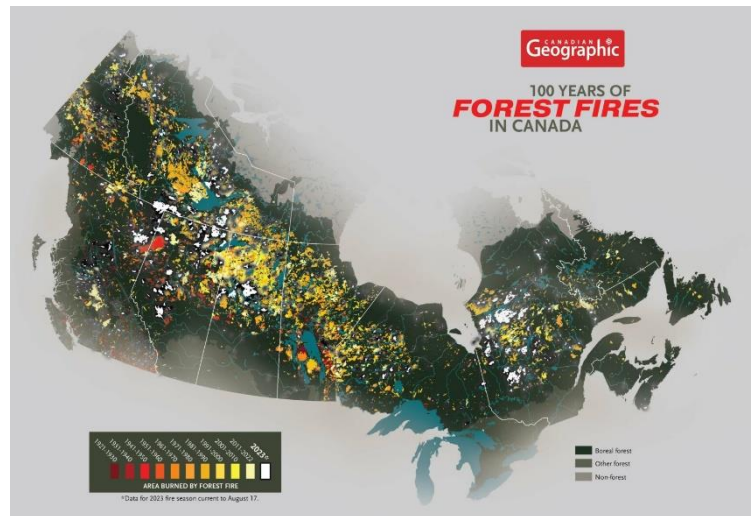
At times when we could smell the smoke of the wildfires in Peterborough, I was struck by the thought that the smoke represents the final manifestation of trees, critters and other biota that have died in the fires. We get caught up in the human element of the wildfire stories - which is only natural - but let's take a moment to acknowledge the immense loss in the natural world of the trees, shrubs, wildflowers, bees, beetles, young birds, pine martens, snowshoe hares and so on. There are so many stressors on the wildlife today. It will be difficult for wildlife to bounce back with the continual loss of habitat if this keeps up.



American pine martin in Algonquin Park in 2015. Photo: Don McLeod

I know that people are concerned about the effect of the fires on wildlife - just as they were during the 2019-20 bushfire season in Australia - but I have the impression that the media isn't doing much reporting on the effects of the forest fires on Canadian flora and fauna. I've come across only one such item in the news since this year's wildfire season began. It was a Canadian Press article posted on June 14 entitled "Wildlife are unseen casualty as forests burn in worst wildfire season of century." (A truncated version appeared in

the Peterborough Examiner on June 15. The full version can be read on the Global News and CTV News websites.) Aside from the obvious consequence of the wildfires (i.e., mortalities), the article discusses how some wildlife will survive the wildfires but fail to breed this year. Some populations of wildlife will disappear from some areas and it may take many decades for them to return. The carbon monoxide and particulate matter can have an acute effect on the health of animals and their fetuses. The article mentions a study entitled "The role of fire in terrestrial vertebrate richness patterns" that was published in *Ecology Letters* in February, which concludes "the cumulative effects [of wildfires in natural fire regimes] to be



A map of forest fires in Canada over the past 100 years. Previous *decades* of fire activity are portrayed in different colours, while *the single year*, 2023, is shown in white. (Map: Chris Brackley/Canadian Geographic)

strikingly positive, at least for bird and mammal richness.” However, the study qualifies that by indicating that in ecosystems that have natural fire regimes, animal species richness may not benefit in situations of unusually severe events. Further on the Canadian Press article, a UBC professor talks about how the megafires are changing the fire regime and how there is less time for the forest to recover between fires. While acknowledging that some species could benefit, this prof is mostly worried about the potential loss of endangered species.

A few months ago, I happened upon a charming show on TV about the ForestKids Early Learning Centre in Nova Scotia. It was on an episode of CBC’s “Land and Sea.” The centre gets kids away from their smart devices and lets them play and explore in nature. The kids happily tramp around the nearby, old growth “KinderForest” in little ForestKids outfits, exploring and playing, not worrying about getting dirty. They have rain and snow outfits, too, so that they can get out there at all times of year. I remember thinking as I was watching, “This is so awesome!” and then it was mentioned that their forest playground is in Hammonds Plains. Why was that name familiar to me? I looked it up. Tragically, the forest and the education centre burned down in the fires on the outskirts of Halifax earlier this year. I was gutted. Imagine how the kids felt! I looked up the centre on Facebook in July to see what kind of news there was. I read that the Forest Kids were busy planting trees, bless their hearts. Some hard truths would have been revealed to the kids when their forest burned, but the early education centre is working on rebuilding and reopening, and teaching the kids about hope and stewardship.



Forest Kids at play from ForestKids Early Learning Centre’s Facebook page.

Speaking of hope, hope - along with advocacy - is the bailiwick of a Peterborough group called “For Our Grandchildren.” The group’s website (forourgrandchildren.ca) offers a wealth of information on climate change, on what is being done and what can be done to mitigate its effects, and how people (not just grandparents!) can get involved for the sake of future generations of people *and* wildlife. Their next Zoom meeting is on September 11. Please refer to the “Other Events of Interest” section for more details.



An Unexpected Encounter

Submitted by Steve Paul

As a long-time resident of rural Otonabee Township, I have seen lots of wildlife. I am fortunate to live close to the Lang-Hastings Trail, and each year I spend time birdwatching various sections between Peterborough and Hastings. Over the last three months I have been focused on walking my local section of the Lang-Hastings Trail every morning. The sights and sounds have been helpful in providing much needed mindful therapy. My daily walk is a total of about four kilometers, which includes the walk to and from the Lang-Hastings Trail, plus the trail section itself. I see an average of 30+ species of birds every day. The most elusive birds I have been fortunate to see this year include the Least Bittern and Virginia Rail.



Photo of moose on Lang-Hastings Trail east of Peterborough on July 4 by Steve Paul

On Tuesday, July 4, I had the most unexpected surprise encounter with wildlife, and I wanted to share my experience with all of you. The day started out as a nice summer morning, 15 °C and sunny with little wind. I headed out early to beat the heat, as the temperature that day climbed all the way up to 31 °C. Walking

north on the trail, I was able to take photos of resident birds of the marsh: Barn Swallow, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Song Sparrow, and even a family of Northern Flickers as they chased each other around through the trees. I also stopped at my usual spot to watch a local Spotted Sandpiper sitting on a rock watching over its territory.

As I started on my way back south, I was scanning one of the marshes on the west side of the trail, when a weird patch of brown caught my eye. At first glance, it looked like brown vegetation, but from walking the trail every day I knew it was out of place. It wasn't there before. I focused intently with my binoculars, trying to figure out what it was, when it moved! I grabbed my camera and zoomed in, watching whatever it was in the brush, when all of a sudden it lifted its head. Holy smokes – it was a MOOSE!! The brown patch I had been watching was its backside, as it was facing away from me. I was shocked and speechless. I NEVER imagined I would EVER see a moose on the Lang-Hastings Trail.

I looked both ways along the main trail, hoping that a jogger or cyclist wouldn't come along and scare it away, but that never happened. At one point it stared right at me, but I stayed far enough away to give it space, so it didn't seem to mind. I watched in awe as it slowly made its way east on a side trail of the marsh, casually eating vegetation along the way. I realized where it was headed so I positioned myself and waited. Sure enough, my patience paid off, as I watched it step out right onto the Lang-Hastings Trail. What a thrill it was to capture the moment on camera when it turned and looked right at me! Once the whole body was visible, I marveled at its sheer size, and was more than happy I kept a respectable distance. It started to walk south on the trail, then stopped again and looked back at me, almost like it was waiting for me to take more photos. It started walking again, then turned east and disappeared into the brush. Just like that – it was all over.



Moose-print photo by Steve Paul

The whole experience lasted about 15 minutes. I almost had to pinch myself to make sure it was real. Reflecting back, 15 minutes is such a short period of time. I could easily have missed seeing the moose. I was definitely in the right place at the right time. If I didn't have photos, I don't think anyone would have ever believed me. I expect to hear "What do you mean you saw a moose on the trail? You only see them up North in Algonquin." I will always have these photos to look back on and cherish. I also snapped some photos of its hoof prints. They were massive!

Since that day in July, I became even more attentive to my surroundings, not wanting to miss anything. The Lang-Hastings Trail is a wildlife corridor, and I regularly find coyote scat, raccoon and deer tracks. I expect many other animals use it that we just don't see. In my mind, you never know what you might find so you always need to keep looking. Persistence paid off a second time because on August 12 I came across another series of moose tracks. What? I must be crazy! I was shocked the moose was still around. I recently found out that someone else saw it as well. Jess Conlin from the Peterborough Humane Society saw it early on the morning of August 15. I expect it will move on before fall, but for now it has a large area away from the trail where it can move around undisturbed.

It is incredible to be able to share the Lang-Hastings Trail with all these amazing creatures. I hope you all enjoyed this story, and will be motivated to keep an eye out for wildlife activity. You never know what you may come across. What experiences have you had with wildlife on your local trail? Feel free to email me at stevepaul70@gmail.com and share your story.



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.

May 24	Chris Risley and a group of PFN observers obtained their peak count, 165, of Chimney Swifts entering a chimney in downtown Peterborough. Chris elaborates further on the findings of his five survey nights in his article in this issue.
May 25	Sue Paradis heard, then saw, a Philadelphia Vireo in the Ingleton-Wells Property of Kawartha Land Trust. Dave Milsom saw a Solitary Sandpiper on a pond on Brown's Line. Steve Paul noted a Rusty Blackbird on the Lang Hastings Trail near Drummond.
May 27	Iain Raynor saw a Great Egret flying over at his yard in Lakefield. A late migrant Cape May Warbler was detected at the Sandy Lake Pine Barrens by Brendan Boyd and Alexandra Israel.
May 28	Two other Philadelphia Vireos were seen by Joe Pitawanakwat, one on Mervin Line and one on Preston Road in the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area.
May 29	Marilyn Hubley spotted a Semipalmated Sandpiper in a flooded field on Assumption Road.
May 31	Travis Cameron heard a Palm Warbler singing at the Lakefield Marsh. Mike Coyne saw a Great Egret flying over at the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area.
June 2	Don Sutherland saw a Dunlin and a Semipalmated Plover at Beloporine Marsh, north of Havelock. Robert DiFruscia saw a Black Swallowtail and a Least Skipper in his yard on Heritage Line.
June 3	Pam Martin and Michael Gillespie both noted that Eastern Bluebirds had initiated nesting in boxes, very late in the season. In both cases, nest boxes were abandoned by the bluebirds.
June 5	Rose Addison saw her first Monarch Butterfly on Wallis Drive.
June 7	Shelley King encountered her first Black Swallowtail at the Trent University Nature Centre. A bevy of juvenile Eastern Cottontails were spotted by Phil Shaw at Beavermead Park. Rose Addison observed a Fisher in Cavan and another Fisher was later (21 July) seen by Kim Fernie along Tapley Line near Millbrook. Wendy Fucile noted and got a picture of what appears to be a leucistic Mourning Dove . Robert DiFruscia encountered a Canadian Swallowtail , a Silvery Blue and a Little Wood Satyr in his yard on Heritage Line.
June 8	Don McLeod observed a pair of Common Loons with two chicks on Lower Chemong Lake. Don Sutherland once again located the Cerulean Warbler on Deer Bay Reach Road, which is becoming a traditional spot. It was seen repeatedly by others until mid-June. Patrick Kramer saw a Prairie Warbler on Long Lake, singing consistently through the day. Robert DiFruscia noted an Arctic Skipper in his yard on Heritage Line.

? June	Scott Sargent reported a neonate Ruffed Grouse alone and calling in a neighbour's garden on Cavan Creek. It disappeared so it is hoped that it was reunited with its mother and not taken by a predator.
June 13	Robert DiFruscia observed a Giant Swallowtail , an American Lady , and a Long Dash Skipper in his yard on Heritage Line. He also noted a Harris Checkerspot and a White Admiral on Sandy Lake Road.
June 15	Robert DiFruscia saw a Hummingbird Clearwing , a Snowberry Clearwing , and a Canadian Tiger Swallowtail on Sandy Lake Road.
June 16	Michael Gillespie spotted his first Monarch of the year on the Lang Hastings Trail. Drew Monkman discusses the lateness of the appearance and relatively low numbers of Monarchs generally this summer on his website.
June 17	Susan Munderich saw a Silver-bordered Fritillary and a Large Yellow Lady's Slipper at the Petroglyphs Provincial Park.
June 20	Donald Sutherland detected a Lincoln's Sparrow at the Jack Lake Road Bog, Apsley.
Red-headed Wood pecker	<p>Several of these woodpeckers have been regularly reported through the season. It could be speculated that the increasing emerald ash borer infestation in the Peterborough area may contribute to this increase.</p> <p>Sightings of the individual originally reported May 10 by Glenn Desy at the Trent University Sanctuary Nature Area continued into July.</p> <p>Drew Monkman reported a pair at a bird feeder on Duncan's Line in May which was subsequently seen by others well into late July.</p> <p>Mike Coyne and Kim Bennett observed a bird on the Lang Hastings Trail near Dillon Line on May 25.</p> <p>Don Sutherland reported another individual on July 3 on McGregor Bay Road near Rice Lake.</p> <p>Luke Berg detected one calling in downtown Peterborough on July 14.</p> <p>Other sightings have occurred from the Buckhorn region, Kasshabog Lake, the Havelock area, Cavan, and the Jeffery-Cowan Forest Preserve.</p> <p>A juvenile was observed by David Beaucage Johnson on the Curve Lake First Nation.</p> <p>A family of juveniles was seen late summer by Andrew Brown on O'Connor Drive, Ennismore, near where a bird had originally been reported on May 11.</p>
Blue-gray gnat catcher	<p>Sightings of this uncommon bird have occurred throughout the season, perhaps suggesting the beginnings of range expansion into the Peterborough region.</p> <p>The pair on Mervin Line originally spotted in mid-May by Laurie Healey and Steve Paul continued to be located into August, undoubtedly breeders.</p> <p>Chris Lemieux saw a singing bird in Meadowvale Park, Peterborough.</p> <p>Scott McKinley observed a pair building a nest on a branch along the Indian River south of County Road 2 on 15 June.</p>
Clay-coloured sparrow	<p>These sparrows continue to be increasingly reported in the Peterborough region.</p> <p>On 22 May, Talon Stryker and Jamie Crossley heard an individual singing at the Dummer Alvar. This bird was repeatedly observed by many club members, well into July.</p> <p>Iain Raynor detected a bird in the field on Coyle Cres in Lakefield on 30 May. This bird was also observed throughout the summer and on 20 July three birds were seen by Bill Crins.</p>

	<p>On May 31 Joe Pitawanakwat saw a bird on Line Road 3 in north Peterborough which was last reported June 18.</p> <p>Scott Gibson heard a bird on June 5 on Tapley Line.</p> <p>On June 17 Don Sutherland located an individual on Stewart Line in Cavan.</p>
Orchard Oriole	<p>A couple of these unusual orioles have been reported at various locations this year.</p> <p>The individual originally reported on 13 May by Laurie Healey and Steve Paul on Redmond Road continued to be viewed by others into June.</p> <p>Scott Gibson spotted one singing at Bellmere Winds Golf Club in Otonabee-South Monaghan, on June 22.</p>
July 1	<p>Robert DiFruscia saw a Great Spangled Fritillary in his yard on Heritage Line.</p> <p>Laura Summerfeldt in Keene, reported having a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers nesting in a tree swallow nestbox whose hole had been enlarged by a red squirrel. Parents were seen bringing insects to the box over the month.</p>
July 2	Sherry Hambly saw a Northern Pearly-Eye Butterfly on the rail trail near Atkinson Road.
July 3	Kathryn Sheridan saw and heard a Carolina Wren in her East City neighbourhood. What was probably the same bird was reported again by Patrick Kramer on July 11.
July 8	<p>The PFN butterfly outing along part of the Lang Hastings Trail was led by Colleen Lynch and is reported on elsewhere in this issue.</p> <p>Robert DiFruscia observed Coral, Acadian and Gray Hairstreaks, an Eyed Brown, a Mulberry Wing, a Broad Winged Skipper and a Black Swallowtail on Sandy Lake Road.</p>
July 11	Robert DiFruscia saw a Baltimore Checkerspot and a Back Swallowtail on the Lang Hastings Trail near Cameron Line. He also noted a Compton Tortoiseshell in his yard on Heritage Line.
July 12	A Common Wood Nymph was observed along the Lang Hastings Trail by Robert DiFruscia
July 15	<p>Colin Jones and Scott Gibson saw two Canada jays in Petroglyphs Provincial Park.</p> <p>Robert DiFruscia had a Columbine Duskywing at Petroglyphs Provincial Park.</p>
July 16	Marilyn Freeman got two new backyard butterfly species, the Great Spangled Fritillary and the Common Sootywing .
July 17	A Silver Spotted Skipper was noted by Robert DiFruscia at the Otonabee Gravel Pit.
July 19	<p>An early migrating Tennessee Warbler was spotted by Luke Berg along the Otonabee River between Locks 23 and 24. He spotted another along the Lang Hastings Trail near Drummond Line on July 22.</p> <p>Robert DiFruscia observed a Northern Pearly-Eye and an American Lady on Jake Lake Road.</p>
July 20	Luke Berg spotted a Great Egret flying over his backyard in Peterborough.
July 23	A Mid-summer Tiger Swallowtail was seen by Robert DiFruscia in his yard on Heritage Line.
July 26	<p>A Great Egret was seen by Cathy Douglas and many others at the Peterborough Landfill Wetlands complex.</p> <p>Robert DiFruscia noted an Eastern Tailed Blue on Sandy Lake Road and on 31 July encountered many more at Otonabee Gravel Pit.</p>



JUNIOR NATURALIST NEWS



peterboroughnature.org

email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org September 2023

September Magic

September is a magical month of transition! Every day this month offers a new gift of change; so keep ALL your senses alert to your natural surroundings. To get you started, here are a few things to be aware of:

- the sounds of crickets, grasshoppers & cicadas in fields & meadows,
- the changes in the duration and intensity of sunlight,
- the feel of the cooler air on your face and skin,
- the enhanced taste of fruits & veggies from your garden or local farmers market, and
- the rich smell of the forest after a rainfall.

With the arrival of migratory birds as they pass through our area, consider borrowing a Family Birdwatching Kit from the Peterborough Public Library and take your whole family for a hike in your favourite woods - or try a location you've never explored before! Be sure to keep an eye on the sky for large numbers of hawks, falcons, vultures and eagles as they migrate south for the upcoming colder weather.

AND - Please join us for our first Junior Naturalist event of the season on Friday, September 29th! We can hardly wait to go adventuring with you.

COMING EVENT - POLLINATOR POWER!

Otonabee Conservation staff will lead the group with activities, games & nature hike to identify & learn about pollinators. Register early to save your spot!

Date: Friday, September 29, 2023 **Time:** 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Location: Riverview Park & Zoo, Peterborough. Detailed directions will be sent to participants who have registered.

Registration: Register by contacting juniors@peterboroughnature.org.



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: _____