

The Orchid



November 2023

Volume 69, No. 8

peterboroughnature.org

Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists

Published nine times yearly. Publication Mail Agreement #4005104

Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Sandhill Cranes foraging in fields near Lindsay during fall migration. Photo: Steve Paul

Inside: Nature in November
Why Evergreens Drop Needles
Sign-up for Upcoming Christmas Bird Count
Project FeederWatch Starting
Shortage of Volunteers

In this Issue:

PFN Coming Events	3
Other Events of Interest	5
Volunteer Corner	6
Discontinuation of Hybrid Monthly Meetings? ..	6
Members' Slide Show Night	7
Strategic Plan Update	7
72nd Peterborough Christmas Bird Count	7
Outing Report: Fabulous Fungi	8
Outing Report: Miller Creek Wildlife Area	8
Outing Report: Birding at the Sewage Lagoons ..	9
Project FeederWatch	9
Why Do Evergreens Drop So Many Needles? ...	10
New Moss Species Found in Peterborough	11
The City Nature Challenge Bio-Blitz	11
November Nature at a Glance	12
From the Archives - Wildflowers	12
Poem: The Muse in The Swamp	13
Youth Summit for Mother Earth	14
The Orchid Diary	15
Online Membership	18
Junior Naturalist News	19
PFN Membership Application	20

Welcome new PFN members!



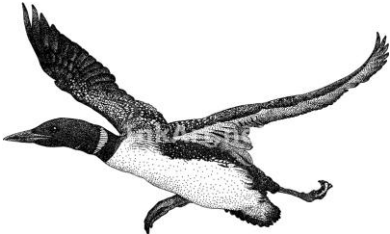
- Kim Muzatko
- Charles & Rose Paterson
- Daniel Riley







End-of-season Lepidoptera photos. From top right: Two photos from the October 1 PFN fungi walk in Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park: *not* a bird dropping but the larva of a giant swallowtail butterfly (Julia Szabo) and the larva of a crowned slug moth* (Julia Szabo). Left: A clouded sulfur butterfly seen on October 15 in the city of Peterborough (Lucy Martin-Johnson)


* Sue Paradisis describes the adult as "an insignificant-looking, small brown moth" which is quite a surprise considering how spectacular the larva looks. Also paradoxical is the rather gross looking larva of the giant swallowtail butterfly compared to the beauty and grace of its adult form.

PFN Coming Events

<p>Saturday, Nov. 4 Rain day Nov. 5 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. 15 participants</p>	<p>The Miniature World of Lichens</p> <p>Usually overlooked, lichens are fascinating and beautiful organisms. As our leader, Lou Smyrlis wrote in his June 2023 <i>Orchid</i> article, “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.” The trail at the Kawartha Highlands Signature Park has many interesting examples of lichens growing on the trees, rocks, and ground. This walk by the Mississauga River is very scenic both on a large and small scale. Be sure to bring your phone or camera, a hand lens if you have one and binoculars. Dress according to the forecast for the day and wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking over bare rock most of the time. Register after October 6 by contacting sueparadisis@hotmail.com after which more details and resources will be provided. Accessibility: moderate</p> 
<p>Thursday, Nov. 9 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting starts 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Monitoring Natural and Anthropogenic Drivers of Boreal Forest Ecosystem Dynamics</p> <p>Francis Quinby is a fourth-year PhD student in Dr. Dennis Murray’s lab at Trent University where he is pursuing a long-held desire to use quantitative skills to study environmental issues and further the body of knowledge on how climate change is impacting the Earth’s ecosystems.</p> <p>Francis will be discussing his research into drivers of boreal forest ecosystems dynamics at the Kluane Lake Research Station in the Yukon. His research involves working with two vastly different organisms: snowshoe hares and soil microbes.</p> 
<p>Saturday, Nov. 11 8 to 11 a.m. 12 participants</p>	<p>Pigeon Lake: The November Hotspot</p> <p>Pigeon Lake is very popular with migrating waterfowl so, naturally, birders visit as well. This outing will be to look for some of the migrants stopping at key viewing areas such as Sandy Point boat launch, Blind Channel, Kerry Line and Boundary Road. A variety of waterfowl including loons, ducks, and possibly White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks could be seen. Carpooling will be encouraged and the meeting place sent to those signing up for the outing. It may be cool with winds off the water, so dress for the weather. Please bring some change for your driver if carpooling. Those interested should contact Chris Risley at risleych@gmail.com after November 4. Accessibility: easy</p> 

PFN Coming Events	
<p>Sunday, Nov. 19 1:30 to 3 p.m. 20 children maximum Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Attention Junior Naturalists! Come hang out for an afternoon of AMAZING BATS!</p> <p>Paul Elliott, bat enthusiast and environmental education specialist, will share his knowledge of these amazing animals. Many of the things people think they know about bats are wrong, but the truth can be even stranger!</p> <p>For children ages 5 to 12 (plus interested siblings). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Spots are limited, so please register early by contacting Shelley King at juniors@peterboroughnature.org.</p> 
<p>Dates and times to be announced</p>	<p>Wildlife Tracking Outings</p> <p>PFN member, Don McLeod, will once again lead members on one or more outings during the months of December to March focusing on tracks and other wildlife sign. These outings will be scheduled when weather conditions permit. The place and time will be announced by e-mail shortly before each outing. Anyone interested in attending should send an e-mail to Don McLeod at donaldmcleod.com@gmail.com so he can add you to an e-mail distribution list. If you signed up for previous outings, you would automatically receive an e-mail to confirm.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate to somewhat challenging. These outings will all involve walking in snowy conditions.</p> 
<p>Saturday, Dec. 2 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. 20 participants</p>	<p>Give Yourself the Gift of Nature</p> <p>Join Beth McKinlay at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre and experience the relaxing and healing impact of Forest Therapy (a.k.a. Shinrin Yoku/Forest Bathing). In this two-hour program, you will be invited to engage in several mindful nature connection practices which can help us to slow down, de-stress, and connect with the natural surroundings. These practices are accessible for all. They are not physically strenuous (there will be options for walking and/or sitting) and a knowledge of the natural world is not required as the focus is on using our senses and curiosity to connect with and explore our surroundings. Participants often comment that a Forest Therapy program leaves them with a greater sense of well-being and an appreciation of their interconnection with the “more than natural world.” Insights may arise during mindful nature connection practices that empower our efforts to live in a more conscious relationship with ourselves, each other and with nature. We will begin and end the program indoors. Dress for the weather as we will be moving slowly when we go outdoors. Bring a mug if you would like to enjoy some warm tea. Accessibility: easy. For more information on Beth’s</p> 

PFN Coming Events	
	<p>approach to using mindful nature connection practices in a Forest Therapy program, visit sites.google.com/view/mindfulnatureconnection</p> <p>To register after November 4, contact Beth at beth_mckinlay@yahoo.ca</p>
<p>Thursday, Dec. 14</p> <p>Hybrid meeting: Zoom + in-person at Camp Kawartha</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Holiday Season Members' Slide Show Night</p> <p>A long-time annual tradition in the PFN is the members slide show night. We will be treated to several short presentations from our members of photos they have taken. Try to attend in person as we also hope to be treated to some festive baking as well. Please don't feel shy about bringing a goodie or two. Sharing some holiday baking is also part of the December PFN tradition. Friendly reminder... the Environment Centre is a nut-free facility.</p> 
<p>Dates and times to be announced</p>	<p>Nature Appreciation Walks</p> <p>One of the main reasons for attending outings is spending time with like-minded individuals. Getting out in the fresh air, exercising, and socializing while appreciating nature never gets old. With winter coming, it is more difficult to find "topics" to offer for outings. That doesn't mean we can't get together. If you are interested in joining others for nature walks, send me an e-mail. If there are topics you are very interested in, mention that in your response. I will keep a list and - when the weather is kind - will send out an invitation. The time and day of the week will change as will the location and degree of difficulty. Sometimes there will be a theme depending on the leader I am able to recruit. Sometimes it will just be a nature appreciation walk. When you can attend, just respond to the e-mail I send out. To register, e-mail sueparadis@hotmail.com</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>Saturday, Nov. 4</p> <p>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>KLT's Ballyduff Trails, Pontypool</p>	<p>Celebrate International Biosphere Reserves Day</p> <p>November 3 is a special day in the global UNESCO calendar – the International Day for Biosphere Reserves. Ontario is home to four UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Frontenac Arch, Georgian Bay, Long Point, and Niagara Escarpment.</p> <p>UNESCO states that this day is an invitation to take inspiration from the solutions already implemented in these spaces to build genuinely sustainable development everywhere, with full respect for nature and for the living world.</p> <p>To celebrate the day, join Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) at Ballyduff Trails on November 4, or gather your friends and family (or get out on your own) and go for a walk, run, roll or stroll on trails of your choice.</p> 

Other Events of Interest

	To register, go to https://kawarthalandtrust.org/event/challenge-celebrate-international-biosphere-reserves-day/
Saturday, Nov. 18 1 to 3 p.m. KLT's Stony Lake Trails network, Woodview	Forest Bathing Take a chance to unplug, slow down, and maybe even hug a tree! Forest bathing, also known as shinrin-yoku, or forest therapy, is an intuitive and accessible nature connection practice that encourages mindfulness, relaxation, and building more meaningful relationships with the land. This walk will proceed at a slow pace, interspersed with invitations for stillness, contemplation, exploration, and group interaction. To register, go to https://kawarthalandtrust.org/event/forest-bathing/

Volunteer Corner

Please think about contributing to the PFN as a volunteer. The PFN needs volunteers to help keep the club running so that it can continue to provide the benefits that members enjoy such as outings, monthly meetings, *The Orchid* newsletter and online content.



Currently, the club is looking for board members, outing leaders, members for the advocacy committee, Zoom/tech support for hybrid meetings, help with the refreshment table at the monthly meetings, and helpers for the City Nature Challenge. These volunteer roles were described in last month's *Orchid*.

If interested, Sue would *love* to hear from you. Contact Sue at sueparadisis@hotmail.com

Discontinuation of Hybrid Monthly Meetings?

Submitted by Fiona McKay

For the last few months, the PFN has been seeking technical support for the monthly meetings taking place at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, in Peterborough, to support the hybrid (Zoom) side of those meetings. Unfortunately, we've not been able to secure a volunteer(s). The role requires someone(s) with the knowledge to work with laptops and connected devices, the ability to troubleshoot, and be able to multi-task during the meeting (monitor the Zoom waiting room, adjust video, respond to chat room questions/comments, etc.). It includes getting the speaker and their presentation set up on the laptop being used for the presentation. It also requires regular attendance at the meetings, although this could be shared amongst multiple individuals once they become proficient. While not difficult, it's a task that current Board members are unable to manage on a reliable basis.

In light of this, PFN is considering DISCONTINUATION of the ZOOM aspect of the meeting starting in December, unless someone is able to step forward or offer another solution. If you would like to see the Zoom portion of this meeting continue and are able, or know someone, to volunteer, please contact us ASAP. If you feel strongly about the Zoom side, one way or the other, we'd also like to hear from you. Is the Zoom offering still important to people? Please send your feedback or expression of interest ASAP to Fiona at fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org.

Members' Slide Show Night

The members' slide show, held annually at our December monthly meeting, is a highly anticipated PFN tradition. Last month in *The Orchid*, a request for presenters resulted in enough people to fill the meeting. Thank you to all who signed up. Sharing your photos and your narrative makes for an interesting and educational evening for all. Please keep clicking photographs in preparation for our December slideshow next year!



Strategic Plan Update

Development of our first Strategic Plan is underway! Membership participation will take place during November and December in the form of interviews, focus groups and an online survey. We'll provide updates on our social media and website, and watch out for a members-email with a link to the survey. Remember, this is about planning for what you, our members, want to see in the future. Please participate!

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund

Canada



Community
Foundation
of Greater Peterborough



72nd Peterborough Christmas Bird Count - A Christmas Tradition

PFN Citizen Science Project: Sunday, December 17 - all day

The Peterborough Christmas Bird Count (CBC), now in its 72nd year, is the longest running wildlife survey in Peterborough County. Organization of this year's Peterborough count has commenced, and members and friends of the PFN are invited to participate. If you are unable to participate in one of the field parties you can still assist by registering your feeder and counting the birds that visit during the day. Some participants will contribute by walking their neighbourhood. Others walk unopened road allowances. There are many ways to participate and learn more about our winter birds.

The Peterborough CBC participants cover an area contained within a circle with a diameter of 24 kilometers, centered on the intersection of Chemong Road and Sunset Boulevard. There are ten areas within the count circle, each which will be covered by a specific group of participants. The count area will be subdivided by the area leader in order to enhance coverage. A map showing the count circle and areas is available on the PFN website: peterboroughnature.org/resources



THE 2011 FLORIDA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
www.doinmytoons.com Cathy Cochrane and Sherry Snowden

Plan now to register and participate in this Peterborough birding tradition and citizen science project. To register contact Martin Parker (count compiler) as soon as possible by phone 705-745-4750 or by e-mail mparker19@cogeco.ca.

This is the 123rd year Christmas Bird Counts are being held across North America. Join this Christmas birding tradition.

Background:

Each year, Birds Canada and the National Audubon Society help coordinate and support the efforts of more than 2500 counts throughout the Western Hemisphere. Christmas Bird Counts are run across Canada and the United States, as well as in Latin America, the Caribbean, and some Pacific Islands. Data collected during the Peterborough count includes details on the number of birds of each species seen or heard within a local 24-km diameter circle. Surveying this circle year after year contributes valuable long-term information on how winter birds are faring, both in your locale and across the country.

The Christmas Bird Count took root over a century ago when 27 birders in 25 localities from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, proposed a conservation-oriented alternative to the traditional 'side hunt,' a Christmas Day competition to hunt the most birds and small mammals. This alternative initiative to identify, count, and record all the birds found on Christmas Day 1900 has turned into one of North America's longest-running wildlife monitoring programs.

For more information about the Christmas Bird Count, or to find the location of additional counts, visit Birds Canada's website at birdscanada.org/cbc.

Outing Report: Fabulous Fungi

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

Our second Fungi Walk was held October 1 at Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park with warm sunshine to light up the beautiful autumn colours of the forest. Thirteen of us, guided by Rachel Baehr our leader, scoured the logs, tree trunks and ground for all the fungi we could find. Given the dry conditions, we were able to find quite a variety of specimens much the same as on the first outing September 17. (See October Orchid description and list) Also interesting were two caterpillars we found. The one looked like a bird dropping but was of the beautiful Giant Swallowtail butterfly while the flamboyant and colourful one was of the Crowned Slug Moth, an insignificant looking, small brown moth. As always, Burnham Woods was a peaceful and inspiring spot to visit and provided our group with lots to see.



Photo: Julia Szabo

Outing Report: Miller Creek Wildlife Area

Submitted by Chris Risley

On October 7, six naturalists led by Chris Risley walked the paths and visited the viewing tower at Miller Creek Wildlife Area. It seemed like late summer or early fall as 25 Red-winged Blackbirds and two Swamp Sparrows gathered in the marsh. Kinglets of both species moved through the spruces and a Blue-headed Vireo was ably spotted by Leo Weiskittel. He also identified a Winter Wren. We all fed the chickadees from our hands or on our hats. Over 20 Black-capped Chickadees were seen on the trip. It was a splendid morning. The eBird checklist for the outing can be viewed at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S151685917>



Steve Paul feeding a Black-capped Chickadee at Cranberry Marsh in October 2019. Photo: Steve Paul

Outing Report: Birding at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons

Submitted by Drew Monkman

Despite occasional rain and drizzle, nine members of the PFN spent a couple of hours on October 21 observing waterfowl and other birds at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Led by Drew Monkman, we took the first half hour to sort out the hundred or more ducks in the north lagoon. Most were Lesser Scaup but we also managed to find Mallards, Buffleheads, Common Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers.

As we headed towards the south lagoon, Don McLeod recognized the call of a Red-bellied Woodpecker. By playing a recording of the same vocalization we enticed the bird to come in close and provide great views. At the south lagoon, several dozen scaup were once again the dominate duck species. However, we also managed to find a pair of beautiful Wood Ducks standing on an aerator pipe. All the while, flocks of American Robins streamed overhead, a Common Raven croaked in the distance and a few of the remaining Red-winged Blackbirds called from the cattails.



Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Photo: Don McLeod

Ignoring the rain, we then set off towards the southeast corner of the property where we eventually managed to coax in Black-capped Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Dark-eyed Juncos and a lone Yellow-rumped Warbler. The birds made us work hard before agreeing to show themselves. Our next stop was the west side of the lagoons where we ran into a student from Trent University. A talented birder and photographer, he informed us that there were two female Ruddy Ducks in the north lagoon. Obviously, we'd missed them earlier. With a little searching, we found the birds – our seventh duck species of the day and one rarely seen in Peterborough County. The last hour or so was spent scouring the cattails, grass and trees along the west perimeter as we headed back to the entrance. The birds were a bit more cooperative now as we managed to find some new species for the day including Marsh Wren, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush and an early American Tree Sparrow. The final highlight was a beautiful adult Cooper's Hawk flying in a bee-line south. Our final tally was 27 species which was quite respectable for a wet, late October morning. A big thanks to Don McLeod for keeping the checklist and getting great photos.



Photo: Don McLeod



Wood ducks. Photo: Don McLeod

Project FeederWatch

Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of Birds Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that depends on volunteers like you to help us all learn more about bird populations.

It's easy! All you need to do is:



1. Join Project FeederWatch with a donation of any amount and Birds Canada will send you materials to help you identify and record the birds you see in your area
2. Count your neighborhood birds periodically throughout the season (November 1 to April 30)
3. Submit your counts online at feederwatch.org or using the new Project FeederWatch mobile app.

To learn more, go to <https://www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help/project-feederwatch>

Why Do Evergreens Drop So Many of Their Needles Every Autumn?

Submitted by Jason and Lou Smyrlis

There is nothing quiet about deciduous trees and their leaves come autumn. Once dry, the sound their fallen leaves make when tread upon by a carelessly placed foot can be as loud as their colours against a bright blue autumn sky. It's a different story with their coniferous cousins. Conifers, such as pine, cedar, spruce, and balsam fir, cover the forest floor with a carpet of shed needles that feels soft underfoot and is conveniently sound absorbing. Moving through the woods with the nearly soundless stealth of a deer suddenly becomes attainable.

The more inquisitive of autumn's silent walkers, however, will also wonder why there is a carpet of needles on the forest floor to begin with. After all, if we call conifers evergreens why are they shedding their needles come autumn the way deciduous trees shed their leaves?

Two hundred and fifty million years ago, as the Earth's climate was growing colder and drier, conifers evolved needles that provided a competitive edge in such adverse climatic conditions. Needles with their exceedingly narrow form reduce the area exposed to dehydration. Since the needles grow in masses, however, the surface area exposed to the sun is greater than it seems and they're capable of photosynthesizing even in winter if necessary, providing conifers with a greater amount of time to gather the sun's energy.

A thick, waxy coating provides a barrier to water loss, protects the food-making photosynthetic cells within the needles, and makes the needles hardy enough to survive ice and snow. Needles also offer better wind resistance than big flat leaves so they're less of a liability to a tree in late autumn windstorms.

It's a particularly successful design. With more than 600 species worldwide, conifers are the most diverse group of cone-bearing plants on our planet.

With so many advantages provided by needles, why would they be dropped every autumn? The truth is they are and they're not. As needles age, they become less efficient at producing food for the tree and become shaded by the tree's newest needles. Old needles finally turn brown and are shed to the forest floor. New needles are produced every spring and summer just like deciduous trees produce new leaves. However, unlike their deciduous cousins, conifers don't drop all their needles at once. Most conifers retain their needles for two to four years, dropping about 1/3 every fall, saving on the energy drain of having to completely replace their "solar panels" every spring.

But the old brown needles that do fall to the forest floor every autumn provide a welcomed aid to our dreams of roaming Peterborough County's wild areas as silently as the deer.



Most conifers drop about 1/3 of their needles every fall. Photo by Lou Smyrlis.

Moss Species New to North America Found in Peterborough County

From paper entitled: “A small addition to the Flora of North America: *Ephemerum recurvifolium*” by Eric Snyder, published in October 2023 by the American Bryological and Lichenological Society

Ephemerum recurvifolium, or strap-leaved earth moss, is a species of moss which was unknown in North America before it was found in Peterborough County in 2022. Details are available in *Evansia* 40(2) (<https://bioone.org/journals/evansia/volume-40/issue-2>)

As noted in the abstract, “Its detection raises the question whether it is native or adventive on the continent, finding an answer to which will require more extensive field inventories, studies of herbarium material and population genetics research.”

Field naturalists can search for this moss where there is exposed, moist calcareous soil, often clay-dominated, in patchy fields, pastures and along the edges of arable lands. The middle of autumn to early winter (late October-early December) or early spring (throughout April) appear to be the optimal periods to find it.



Typical specimen with substrate (Photo: Eric Snyder)

The City Nature Challenge Bio-Blitz

Submitted by Sue Paradisis

The Monarch Festival was held in Millennium Park the afternoon of October 15, after a morning fundraising run for the Monarch Sanctuary in Mexico. PFN donated \$250.00 to the cause. While the weather was cold and wet, a good number of people were present and visiting the various booths from groups like the Catchacoma Forest, 4RG, the Public Library and Greenup. Volunteers from Peterborough Field Naturalists attended to promote the City Nature Challenge bio-blitz which will be held for the second time on April 30 to May 5 in 2024. PFN is collaborating with the City of Peterborough to organize the event and encourage citizens to get involved. Unlike last year, citizens are encouraged to report nature sightings throughout the year to iNaturalist where they will automatically be added to the growing list of species found within the city – citizen science in action. Tracking nature observations is valuable to help understand the biodiversity of local species and to assist in identifying population changes over time.



Photo: Sue Paradisis

Visitors to our booth were encouraged to pay attention to the biodiversity around them and were introduced to iNaturalist. Our table had fungi, cones, lichens, ferns and specimens of skulls, pelts and birds. There was a great deal of interest shown in the PFN and the CNC. Contact Sue Paradisis sueparadisis@hotmail.com if you would like to help with our booth as we visit other events and locations leading up to the 2024 Challenge weekend.

November Nature at a Glance

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

Bald Eagles and sometimes Golden Eagles start arriving to overwinter in the Kawarthas. These are different birds from those that simply migrated through our area in mid-October. Numbers of Rough-legged Hawks, American Tree Sparrows and Northern Shrikes increase. Most loons depart although a small number will continue to linger on local lakes with diving ducks and grebes. Uncommon gulls such as the Glaucous and Iceland Gull often show up at Little Lake and at the Bensfort Road landfill. Except for a small number that regularly spend the winter here, the last American Robins head south.



Brook trout. Photo: Don McLeod

Muskrats build cone-shaped homes of mud and vegetation. Coyotes continue to call frequently. With White-tailed bucks in rut, the deer hunt begins on the first Monday of the month. Snowshoe Hares and weasels acquire their white winter coats. Skunks, raccoons and bears retire to their winter quarters but will come out on warm days.

The last amphibians and reptiles begin hibernation. A variety of different strategies is used to survive the winter season.

Whitefish begin spawning just as Brook Trout are finishing. Fishing season for northern Pike, Walleye, Muskellunge and bass ends on November 15.



Autumn meadowhawk (Photo: Don McLeod)

The last *Sympetrum* dragonflies and tortoiseshell butterflies are seen. Most other insects are now inactive. Depending on the species, they are overwintering as eggs, nymphs, larvae, pupae or adults. Monarch butterflies arrive in large numbers on their Mexican wintering grounds.

Roadsides are bordered by the monotonous browns and greys of dead or dormant herbaceous plants. Evergreen forest-floor plants become conspicuous. These include mosses, club-mosses and various ferns. Red Oaks, Silver maple and Tamarack are the only native deciduous trees that may still have foliage.

The days are short but Indian Summer conditions are still possible. The first significant snowfall usually occurs. Average daily

temperatures are a maximum of 6 °C and a minimum of -2 °C. In mid-November, sunrise occurs at about 7:10 a.m. and sunset is at about 4:45 p.m. We turn our clocks back an hour on the first Sunday in November.

The Great Square of Pegasus is almost at the zenith. Orion is low in the east with the spectacular Pleiades (Seven Sisters) above it. The Big Dipper is low in the north.

From the Archives -- Interesting Wildflowers in Peterborough County

By Terry Hunter. From 'The Orchid', November 1990 issue. Vol. 37, Number 9

Submitted by Martin Parker

"Did you know that there are many botanical discoveries just waiting to be made in Peterborough County? Over the past few years, Tom Atkinson and myself have had many enjoyable outings, learning and

discovering. Although our main objective was simply to learn more about the living things around us, it has been particularly rewarding when we found plants that were uncommon or not recorded in our area.

"The Long Lake area, where I have a cottage, has proven very fruitful and some of our exploits, such as skiing on the Poplar Lake bog, have been recorded in previous 'Orchids'. This year the bog did not yield a single White-fringed Orchid, whereas a few years ago we discovered over 100. However, Rose Pogonia and Grass-pink are still plentiful. A few years ago, I discovered an orchid flower spike on the edge of the trail leading to Poplar Lake. There were two large round leaves lying on the ground. We came to the conclusion that the plant was either Large Round-leaved Orchid or Hooker's Orchid, neither of which have been recorded in Peterborough County. We have observed the single plant every year but have been unable to get a good flower to make a positive identification. This summer, along another part of the same trail, we found four more plants. Next summer we will plan a trip for the end of June to see and hopefully identify the flowers."



Rose pogonia. Photo: Drew Monkman

The article describes other exciting discoveries.

"Many of our finds have been accidental but, still, one must be out there and observing. In a very few years Tom and I have progressed from knowing very few plants to being able to name most plants in our area with the help of Newcomb's Guide. We hope to see you on the wildflower walks next spring."

The Muse in The Swamp

On an early October morning, cool, calm and bright,
 The dull, still water mirrored the swamp in all its delight.
 Scattered, tan leaves lay in relief on the water's flat top,
 And I noted yellow crowns of poplars the beavers had dropped.
 Winter survival meant amassing a well-stocked, underwater food pile
 From which food can be taken into their icebound domicile.
 Enticed by the autumn solitude to reflect on the sights and sounds
 Of this wetland where in the growing season life abounds,
 I saw white and yellow water lilies, beetles and flies,
 Dragonflies chasing insect prey, loon and kingfisher dives ...
 What is it about a swamp that so excites me?
 A great-crested flycatcher's 'wheep' call always invites me.
 I could sit in my canoe and keep watching the woods and shore,
 Though time sometimes passes slowly, I always wish for more.
 The images I photograph to spark my imagination are only the first part
 Of reliving my encounters with wild things that stir my heart.
 This boggy bay and bordering swamp are a true treasure;
 To me, the value of this hidden, wild refuge defies any measure.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2023

2023 Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Mother Earth

Submitted by Niloy Upadhya



My name is Niloy and I attended the 2023 Youth Summit for Mother Earth! I am an 18-year-old taking Conservation Biology at Trent University, and Peterborough Naturalists kindly sponsored me to attend the summit! What stood out to me the most during my time at the summit was the people there; both the councillors and attendees were extremely driven people who are making a difference right now- some of the attendees were even as young as 13! The culture there was an extremely accepting one, with a focus on indigenous learnings that truly taught me different ways to think about nature and our place in it. The workshop that stood out to me the most was called Climate Action: The Vital Need to Make Your Voice Heard. In it, we discussed, not just the ways in which we impact the climate, but solutions to the negative effects we, as a race, have on our world. This summit connects you with other changemakers, teaches indigenous values, and creates lifelong friendships - and for that, I am thankful. Huge shout out to the Peterborough Field Naturalists in sponsoring me, and many others, to attend this wonderful gathering of individuals! Here's to a better world, for all.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, November 24.

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.

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The Orchid Diary



A summary of noteworthy observations by PFN members and others in Peterborough County. Information compiled from eBird's rare bird sightings, Drew Monkman's Sightings website and individual submissions. Please submit your interesting observations to orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org

Sept 21	<p>A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird continued to visit Cathy Dueck's feeder on County Rd 44, Havelock.</p> <p>A Spotted Sandpiper was seen by Bill Crins and Don Sutherland at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p> <p>Sharon David and Tim Haan spotted Solitary Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs in Otonabee Gravel Pits.</p> <p>A Least Flycatcher was seen by Drew Monkman at Meadowvale Park.</p>
Sept 22 to 24	<p>The Ontario Federation of Ornithologists (OFO) held their annual conference in Peterborough this weekend and many interesting field trips to local birding spots were led by local birders, many whom were PFN members, which were well attended by participants. These trips resulted in several species of note coming out in eBird's Rare Bird Alert, which I have tried to sort out and present below. Many sightings were reported several days running in repeated trips led by alternate leaders.</p> <p>A Sora was heard in response to a tape call on an OFO trip lead by Dave Milsom/Cathy Douglas at the Havelock Sewage Lagoons. This group also saw a Nelson's Sparrow.</p> <p>A Spotted Sandpiper was seen at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons on the trip led by Ben Taylor/Chris Risley, and another was seen at Meadowvale Park on the trip lead by Matt Garvin /Pam Martin.</p> <p>Lesser Yellowlegs were observed by the field trip led by Ben Taylor/Chris Risley to the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and the Otonabee Gravel Pits with Andrew Brown, on September 22.</p> <p>Two American Golden Plovers were seen by the group at Nephton Ridge led by Matt Garvin/Scott Gibson. A Least Flycatcher was also observed by this group.</p> <p>Several Great Egrets were observed: one by Gis Segler and others on Rice Lake from Duncan's Line, another by the field trip on the Indian River led by Scott McKinlay/Brian Wales, another at Meadowvale Park on the trip led by Matt Garvin/Pam Martin and one at the Trent University Drumlin Nature Area on the trip led by Ben Taylor/Chris Risley.</p> <p>On the field trip led by Cathy Douglas/Dave Milsom, a juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker was seen by many on River Road near the Ouse River, and a Carolina Wren was heard by the group and seen by Leo Weiskittel on Mill St. in Keene.</p> <p>A late migrant Yellow Warbler was noted by Ben Taylor/Chris Risley at the Trent Drumlin Nature Area.</p> <p>The group on the Rice Lake field trip from Bailieboro to Hastings led by Martin and Kathy Parker heard a Great Crested Flycatcher at Pengelly Landing and a Grasshopper Sparrow at Scriven Road.</p> <p>In addition, sightings made by individual birders unrelated to the OFO meeting during those dates are presented. Luke Berg saw a Cackling Goose and a Solitary Sandpiper along the Lang-Hastings Trail near Villiers.</p>

	<p>A Spotted Sandpiper was observed by Andrew Nguyen at the south end of Deer Bay, Lower Buckhorn Lake.</p> <p>Cindy Barloti spotted a lone female Surf Scoter on Rathbun Lake, Kawartha Highlands Park.</p> <p>A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen by Pam Martin in her yard in Lang.</p> <p>Sarah Bonnett, Sharron David and Trevor MacLaurin spotted an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Mount Julian, Stoney Lake.</p> <p>Three Eastern Kingbirds were reported by Jane Duval near Wolf Island Provincial Park.</p> <p>Nocturnal calls of Veeries were reported by Sarah Bonnett on Wolsely Street, and by William Konze on Moncrief Line.</p> <p>A Canada Warbler was seen and heard by Matt Tobey on Bartlett Road.</p>
Sept	Randy Beacler spotted a Hog-nosed Snake crossing the road up in Kinmount.
Sept 25	<p>Laurie Healey encountered a very late Ruby-throated Hummingbird in her backyard on Keene Road.</p> <p>A Least Flycatcher was seen by Laurie Healey and Steve Paul at the Otonabee Gravel Pit.</p> <p>At Lynch's Rock Rd near Lakefield, Marilyn Freeman noted a Mourning Cloak Butterfly and an Orange Sulphur.</p>
Sept 26	<p>A Spotted Sandpiper and a Great Egret were seen by Don Sutherland and David Britton at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons; the Sandpipers continued to be seen here into October.</p> <p>Marilyn Freeman spotted a pair of Wood Ducks on the canal near Thompson Bay.</p>
Sept 27	<p>Sarah Jamieson spotted another Spotted Sandpiper along the river at Trent University.</p> <p>David Britton observed a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in a mixed flock at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p>
Sept 30	<p>A Sora was seen at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Leo Weiskittel.</p> <p>Reports continue to come in of Spotted Sandpipers along the River near Lakefield.</p> <p>Pam Martin spotted a Great Egret along the Lang-Hastings Trail near Humphries Line.</p>
Oct 1	<p>Matt Tobey spotted a Red-necked Grebe flying up Pigeon Lake north of Fothergill Causeway.</p> <p>A Great Egret was seen by Dave Milsom and Brian Wales at Millbrook.</p> <p>Trevor MacLaurin and Sarah Bonnett heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl at Nogies Creek.</p> <p>A Chestnut-sided Warbler was observed at Squirrel Creek CA by Jake Nfziger and JulieAnn Prentice.</p>
Oct 2	<p>A Solitary Sandpiper was seen by Connor Thompson at Otonabee Gravel Pit. This sandpiper continued to be reported here until at least Oct 19.</p> <p>Tim Haan heard a Lesser Yellowlegs flying over on Bottle Lake, Kawartha Highlands Park.</p> <p>A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen by Pam Martin at Hope Mill.</p>
Oct 3	<p>Marylin Hubley and later Cathy Douglas saw a Great Egret along Best Road, Cavan. Could this be the same bird that has been here since mid-summer? It continued until at least Oct 14.</p> <p>A Fox Sparrow was spotted by Iain Rayner in East City.</p>
Oct 4	Bill Crins saw the Solitary Sandpiper and a Black and White Warbler at Otonabee Gravel Pit.

Oct 5	A Green Heron was spotted by Mike Burrell and Erica Barkley in their Douro backyard. Another Green Heron was seen at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Kathryn Sheridan, which was observed by several others in the next days. Tanner Stevens heard an Eastern Wood-Pewee at Dance Nature Sanctuary near Young's Point.
Oct 6	Luke Berg heard another Green Heron and later a Gray-cheeked Thrush flying over his yard in Peterborough.
Oct 7	A Virginia Rail was observed by Leo Weiskittel at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Kale Worman noticed a Green Heron fishing and a Red-eyed Vireo eating berries at Meadowvale Park. A late House Wren was seen by Matthew Tobey at Pengelly Landing. Luke Berg observed a Northern Parula with Yellow-rumped Warblers in his yard.
Oct 8	Matt Garvin saw a Red-necked Grebe diving near Heron Island on Chemong Lake. A late Chimney Swift was spotted by Iain Rayner in his Lakefield yard.
Oct 9	Clara Thaysen noted a Spotted Sandpiper on Eels Lake. A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen by Don Sutherland at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, where he also had a Swainson's Thrush and a Red-eyed Vireo responding to broadcasts. Patrick Kramer observed a Cape May Warbler with a mixed flock of Ruby-crowned Kinglets , Chickadees and Yellow-rumped Warblers at Rotary Park and Walkway. Two Great Egrets were seen by Andrew Brown and Sarah Bonnett along the Lang-Hastings Trail between Asphodel 3 and 5 lines.
Oct 10	Don McLeod spotted a Peregrine Falcon at Chemong Lake. Marilyn Freeman observed a Yellow-rumped Warbler , a Fox Sparrow and a Hermit Thrush in her yard in Peterborough.
Oct 11	House wrens were observed in the Trent area by Jax Nasimok and Noelle Dean, and on the Bridgenorth Rotary Trail by Cathy Douglas. Two Long-tailed Ducks were observed by Don Sutherland and Peter Burke at Sandy Point.
Oct 12	Laurie Healey and Steve Paul got a backyard lifer when they observed a Canada Jay at their home on Keene Road!
Oct 15	A Clouded Sulphur butterfly was seen by Lucy Martin-Johnson at her Wolsely St. home. Darren Smith observed a juvenile Golden Eagle flying over near Catchacoma Lake, north.
Oct 16	Don Sutherland saw 4 Black Scoters and a Red-throated Loon at Sandy Point in Pigeon Lake. Orange-crowned Warblers were spotted at Robinson Place and the Trent South Drumlin Nature Area by Iain Rayner and Cathy Douglas, respectively.
Oct 17	A Snow Goose (white morph) was seen flying with Sandhill cranes Andy Nguyen at Mississauga Lake and a Blue morph was seen by Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley at Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary, and later by many others. Cathy Douglas and Don Sutherland and others saw 2 Red-necked Grebes at Sandy Point, Pigeon Lake.

	A Gray-cheeked Thrush was observed by Chris Lemieux at the Otonabee Gravel Pits, where Sue Paradisis saw a Palm Warbler . Iain Rayner heard a Dickcissel flying over his Lakefield yard.
Oct 18	Orange-crowned Warblers were seen by Drew Monkman and Don Sutherland at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and by Chris Risley along the Rotary Park and Walkway. Andrea Kingsley saw a Canada Jay in Harcourt. A Vesper Sparrow was seen at Trent University community garden by Jake Nafziger and Trevor MacLaurin.
Oct 19	Dave Milsom observed 2 Pectoral Sandpipers in a pond on Yankee Line. It was seen by many others the following days. A late Osprey was spotted near the Indian River at Hope Mill by Pam Martin. Ben Taylor observed a Gray-cheeked Thrush in the bushes on Maria Street. Another Orange-crowned Warbler was spotted by Tim Haan on Corrigan Hill.
Oct 20	A Lesser Yellowlegs was seen at the pond on Yankee Line by Andrew Brown and Sarah Bonnett.
Oct 21	Drew Monkman, Don McLeod and Nancy Morrow noted a Marsh Wren at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Luke Berg heard a Gray Catbird and saw a Savannah Sparrow on the Rail Trail near Drummond Line. An Eastern Phoebe was seen continuing at Corrigan Hill by Tim Haan.

Online Membership

Our Apologies. Because we are redesigning our membership forms and our membership database, it has been necessary to temporarily suspend membership applications online.

We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused members or persons wishing to join the PFN, especially those who have not been receiving our newsletter, *The Orchid*.

We hope to have our new system up and running soon. In the meantime, here are some alternatives you can use.

Renewing Members

Please delay renewing your membership until such time as the new system is up and running. We will let you know as soon as this happens. The deadline for renewing your membership is Feb. 29, 2024.

Many of you wish to make a donation while renewing. You can still do so by using the "Donate" button on the website.

New Members

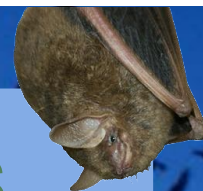
We don't want to lose you now that you have decided to join. You can still join by printing the current Membership Form and mailing it with a cheque to PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON.

If you prefer doing business online, fill out the current Membership Form, and e-mail it to treasurer@peterboroughnature.org. Please send your payment via e-transfer to payments@peterboroughnature.org.



JUNIOR NATURALIST NEWS

peterboroughnature.org email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org November 2023



COMING EVENT AMAZING BATS

Come “hang out” with us to learn about these amazing animals & celebrate their place in nature. Many of the things people think they know about bats are wrong, but the truth can be even stranger!

Date: Sunday, November 19th, 2023

Time: 1:30 to 3pm

Location: Camp Kawartha Environment Centre, 2505 Pioneer Road, Peterborough.

Registration:

Contact Shelley King at juniors@peterboroughnature.org. This event is **FREE** for members and is suitable for ages 5 to 12 (plus interested siblings). Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Numbers are limited, so please register soon!

What happens to our Ontario bats in November?

As the weather cools, bats need to figure out how to deal with winter! There are eight different bat species in Ontario, and they have different ways of handling these cold months.

Some species avoid it altogether by travelling south, called migration.

Migrating Bats:

Hoary
Silver-Haired
Eastern Red

Others stay put, drop their body temperature and take a very long nap, called hibernation.

Hibernating Bats:

Big Brown
Tricolored
Little Brown Myotis
Northern Long-Eared Myotis
Eastern Small-Footed Myotis

Info & photos provided by Ontario Nature Magazine

<https://onnaturemagazine.com/bat-guide.html>



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: _____