

The Orchid

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Know • Appreciate • Conserve Nature in All Its Forms



Silver-spotted Skipper Sipping Nectar From Flower of Viper's Bugloss. Photo: Robert DiFruscia

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Welcome new PFN members!

- Katie Clysdale
- J. Fred Doris
- Shannon Taylor & family
- Josephine Archbold & family
- Mark Parnis, Christine Campbell
- Gerhard Grafe
- Bonita Brown
- Laura Colasacco
- Elaine Birtch
- Naida Harris-Morgan
- Margaret & James Milward
- Laryssa & Mark Lebar
- Zenya Lebar
- Anne Reinert
- Gerarde Schouten





Clockwise from top: Peregrine Falcon chicks at Anstruther Lake (Cathy Douglas). Northern Water Snake along Sandy Lake Road (Dave Milsom). Slender Clearwing Moth, Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly, and Eight-spotted Forester Moth (Sandy Garvey).



PFN Coming Events	
<p>Friday, Sept. 6 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 20 participants</p>	<p>Presqu'ile Shorebirds and Butterflies</p> <p>Celebrate World Shorebird Day by joining fellow PFN members for an outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. Outing leaders Don McLeod and Colleen Lynch will guide the group in observing shorebirds and butterflies. The beaches are a famous stopover for migrating shorebirds, and the nearby meadow is a butterfly hotspot. We will stop at a picnic area so folks are encouraged to pack a lunch. We will meet in Peterborough for carpooling. A park day-pass will be required. Please contact Colleen Lynch at clynch166@gmail.com to register for this outing. Accessibility: Easy</p> 
<p>Thursday, Sept. 12 Doors open 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Strategic Plan Launch & Presentation on Migratory Fish and Brook Trout</p> <p>You are invited to come a little earlier for the September monthly meeting to enjoy snacks, social time and receive a copy of the 2024-2029 PFN Strategic Plan. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the launch of the Strategic Plan, followed by a presentation from Nick Jones. Participants at this meeting will have the opportunity to win a one year PFN membership.</p> <p>Nick Jones's presentation will cover two separate fishery studies: "How Resource Subsidies from Migrating Fishes Increase Stream Productivity" and "Past and Present Brook Trout Habitat in the Lake Simcoe Watershed." The phenomenon of how natural resource subsidies support stream productivity is well-known in the Pacific Northwest where salmon return from the ocean to spawn. In doing so, they import nutrients and energy that supercharge the ecosystem. Does this also happen in the Great Lakes? The presentation on Brook Trout in the Lake Simcoe watershed will evaluate factors that drive their distribution.</p> <p>Nick is a research scientist with the Aquatic Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and also an Adjunct Professor at Trent University and U of T. Nick has expertise in the ecology and management of flowing waters including monitoring, the ecology of hydropower rivers, the interaction between streams and lakes, and he has studied many species, including brook trout, sturgeon, redbreast dace, and lake trout.</p>   <p style="font-size: small;">Brook trout</p>
<p>Saturday, Sept. 28 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. 15 participants</p>	<p>Fall Hike in the Cavan Area</p> <p>Enjoy an autumn nature hike in the Cavan area, along trails and backroads. Be sure to bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Further details will be provided when you register with Lynn Smith smithfam@nexicom.net. Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p> 

PFN Coming Events



<p>Saturday, Sept. 28 2 to 3:30 pm Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary (meet in the parking lot at 801 University Road)</p>	<p>Calling all Junior Naturalists. Let's go on an insect safari ! With sweep nets and other safari techniques, we'll head into the fields to look for interesting mini-beasts! Bug boxes and magnifying glasses will be available for a closer look before releasing our 6 legged discoveries back into their habitats. This fun & engaging outing will be led by guest workshop leader, Paul Elliott; an insect enthusiast and emeritus professor of the School of Education & Professional Learning at Trent University. Register by contacting Shelley at juniors@peterboroughnature.org</p>	
<p>Choose between Sunday, Sept. 29 or Sunday, Oct. 6 10 a.m. – noon 15 participants</p>	<p>Fabulous Fungi Come explore the vast variety of colours, shapes and sizes that the kingdom of fungi has to offer! Mark S. Burnham Park, one of Ontario's beautiful old growth forests, is the perfect place to see just how biodiverse the world of mushrooms can be. We're sure to discuss some of the other incredible creatures and plant life of this old growth forest. Join Rachel Baehr and Sue Paradisis for their 4th annual Fabulous Fungi hike! Bring your hiking boots, binoculars, camera, and dress for the weather! Members interested in joining us should email Sue at sueparadisis@hotmail.com for more information. Accessibility: moderate. There is a large hill to climb.</p>	
<p>Thursday, Oct. 10 Hybrid meeting</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting - Speaker TBA Details to follow in next month's Orchid and on PFN's website.</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.

How can you get more involved with the PFN? Consider leading some outings!

Now that you have seen all the outings the PFN is offering over the summer, you might have an idea for a fall/winter outing you wish you could attend or even help lead. Our PFN member outings offer many opportunities for members to experience the joy of nature with other interested individuals of all ages. We are so grateful for all our trip leaders who share their local knowledge and expertise. We are always looking for new experiences to share. If you are interested in helping with PFN outings, please e-mail Linda and Steve: linda.sunderland@gmail.com and stevepaul70@gmail.com

Other Events of Interest

<p>Saturday, Sept. 14 1 to 3:30 p.m. Tecasy Ranch (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 15, 1 to 3:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>Musical Nature Walk</p> <p>The Peterborough Symphony Orchestra (PSO) and Tecasy Ranch have invited the PFN to collaborate on offering a unique outing opportunity that combines music and nature in the stunning setting that is Tecasy Ranch! Musicians from the PSO and guides from the Peterborough Field Naturalists will come together for the first time for a Musical Nature Walk.</p> <p>Guests will be split into small groups and assigned to specific PFN guides for the afternoon, who will lead them along the walking trails to the various small ensemble performances, all the while interpreting the surrounding flora and fauna. The Musical Nature Walk is designed so that walking segments are interspersed with resting/listening segments and will take advantage of the beautiful early Fall temperatures.</p> <p>Guests will be invited to park on-site and light refreshments will be available for purchase. Carpooling is encouraged. There will be limited tickets available for purchase at \$45 each. You can view full details of the event before purchasing tickets here: tickettailor.com/events/peterboroughsymphonyorchestra/1303863</p>	
<p>Friday, Sept. 27 7:30 to 11 p.m. KLT's Dance Nature Sanctuary, Young's Point Capacity: 50</p>	<p>The Wonders of the Night Sky</p> <p>KLT's Skyworld event is back to offer you the chance to look at the stars! This perennial favourite will be led by members of the Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA), a group of amateur astronomers from Peterborough and the surrounding area. Following a presentation, you will have the opportunity to observe the setting up of a variety of different telescopes and then look skyward to view a diverse variety of astronomic objects including planets, star clusters, globular clusters, galaxies, double stars, and more. Learn about the equipment PAA members use and about the objects visible in the night sky. If the weather is rainy or too cloudy, registrants will be notified the event will be postponed to the rain date. To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/</p>	
<p>Saturday, Sept. 21 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Millenium Park</p>	<p>The Monarch Butterfly Festival</p> <p>Once again, the PFN is happy to participate in the Monarch Butterfly Festival to be held at Millennium Park. The event celebrates and raises awareness for Monarch conservation. In addition to a 10 km race, community groups like the PFN will have information booths at the festival. There will be music, performances, crafts, face painting, and speakers. Our booth will promote the PFN and the City Nature Challenge. We thank Mark and Kim Zippel for their generosity in paying the registration fee for the second time and enabling us to participate. If you would like to help staff the booth for a period on the day of the event, please contact Sue at sueparadisish@hotmail.com.</p> <p>For those of you who are runners and would like to join the race, we have one complimentary registration. It will go to the first person to contact me. For more information, go to www.themonarchultra.com/peterborough.html</p>	

Other Events of Interest

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Oct. 6 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. KLT's Ballyduff Trails, Pontypool Capacity: 24</p>	<p>Annual Tallgrass and Wildflower Seed Harvest</p> <p>An annual tradition! For more than a decade, volunteers have helped restore a local tallgrass prairie, one of the rarest ecosystems in North America. You can continue this tradition by helping collect the seeds of tallgrass plants and wildflowers on this beautiful property. Land donor, Ralph McKim, has been managing the tallgrass prairie for almost two decades by germinating tallgrass plants like Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, and Sideoats Grama in homemade greenhouses during the winter. The following year, the seeds, harvested with the help of volunteers like you, will be ready to be planted in the prairie! To register, go to: https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/</p>
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Volunteer Corner



The PFN is a registered charity governed by a volunteer board of directors who provide strategic and financial oversight of PFN operations on behalf of its membership. As a working board, directors provide organizational leadership and are actively engaged in operational activities and PFN committees. We are seeking to fill two (2) director positions. We also seek PFN members to work with directors on the PFN's Policy and Advocacy committees and projects, including PFN promotion/publicity and the 85th PFN anniversary organizing team. Please contact Anda Rungis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at secretary@peterboroughnature.org if you are interested in becoming a PFN director or would like further information about these opportunities.

85th Anniversary of the PFN

In 2025, the Peterborough Field Naturalists will be 85 years old. This is a significant milestone, and we are starting to think about how we should celebrate. We are looking for some members who would enjoy sitting on a committee to look at ways we might mark the anniversary year. If this interests you, please contact Sue at sueparadisis@hotmail.com

Juniors Workshop: Dissecting Owl Pellets

Submitted by Jennifer Lennie



Kids and adults alike enjoyed teasing apart the pellets to see what was hidden inside.
Photo: Jennifer Lennie

The Juniors found out *whooo that owl ate* by dissecting owl pellets at Camp Kawartha Environment Centre in May. The event was led by PFN member Valerie Van Sickle. Many fascinating bones were uncovered in the sterilized pellets, including several skulls, jaws, pelvic bones and vertebrae of shrew, moles, and rodents. In addition to exploring the world of owls and their prey, the afternoon was capped off with a game to practice the Juniors own owl listening skills.



A complete skull found within one of the owl pellets.
Photo: Shelley King

Outing Report for May 4: Exploring the Vernal Pool Community

Submitted by Esther Paszt

On May 4, fifteen PFN members including two keen junior naturalists attended the vernal pool outing to Kawartha Land Trust's Ingleton-Wells property led by Sue Paradisis. Mark Williamson was invited along with his net, chest waders and viewing trays to bring samples of aquatic invertebrates up from the pond sediment to view and learn from.

It was a sunny, bug-free spring day, perfect for a walk in the woods. Along the way, Sue pointed out many wildflowers and informed us on the history of this former farm site and its KLT stewardship. This 73-acre property was donated by the Ingleton and Wells families and includes a very diverse variety of habitats. Along with mixed hardwood forest and varied hummocky terrain, there are several vernal pools. The one we visited in particular was quite productive. Several species of invertebrates were netted and brought to pans for observation. Most notable were caddisfly larva, particularly Northern Casemakers (Family Limnephilidae), which construct portable tubes armoured with whatever debris is found in their environment, in this case mosses and small twigs.

Other common invertebrates found included amphipods, also known as sideswimmers or scuds, which feed on fine particulate organic matter (FPOM) and are at the base of the vernal pool food web. There were also many small fingernail or pea clams (Family Sphaeridae), which may not look exciting, until you realize that some species have the ability to survive complete drying of seasonal vernal pools by burying themselves up to 20 cm deep in the bottom sediments. They also have been known to cling to salamander toes, a great way to disperse into seemingly isolated and inhospitable habitats! No fairy shrimp this time as the early-hatching adults had already laid another cycle of eggs and disappeared from the scene.

Also found were a few Red-backed salamanders as well as many Spotted and Blue-spotted salamander egg masses. It's interesting to note that home ranges for salamanders are generally very small and they will follow established trails only a few metres to 150 metres away as they migrate to and from vernal pools.

Everyone enjoyed learning more about the different species of aquatic invertebrates and salamanders, and the kids enjoyed trying to catch green frogs. We all especially enjoyed watching Mark gently topple over into the pond, filling his chest waders with water.

Near the end of the outing, while gathered around, we all watched a coyote lope by on the ridge surrounding the vernal pool area: a perfect end to a rewarding day outdoors.

Birds of the day were as follows: 2 Broad-winged Hawk, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Northern Flicker, 2 American Crow, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 American Goldfinch, 1 Song Sparrow, and 1 Black-throated Green Warbler.



Images of a Northern Casemaker Caddisfly case (top) and the larva poking its head outside its case to have a look around (bottom).

Photos: Esther Paszt

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, September 19.

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.

Please send submissions to Kathryn Sheridan at orchid@peterboroughnature.org or mail submissions via post to: PFN, PO Box 1532, Peterborough ON K9J 7H7



Outing Report: PFN's Second Annual Camping Trip from June 24 to 27

Submitted by Colleen Lynch

Ten PFN members camped at Silent Lake Provincial Park in the Granite Ridge Campground and two members stayed in a cottage nearby. Most campers arrived on Monday, June 24. A meet and greet was held at Colleen and Don's site on Monday afternoon to discuss plans and outings. At 2:20 a.m., a nearby barred owl was heard clearly by some campers doing its classic call "Who cooks for you?"



The PFN camping group minus the late-coming Smiths. Photo: Don McLeod

Routine daily activities for members who chose to participate included 6:00 a.m. birding with Don McLeod and 7:30 a.m. swimming with Lucie Blouin.



Sue found a beaked hazelnut plant on the fern outing. It grows *hazelnuts*! Photo: Don McLeod

On Tuesday, June 25, a fern outing was led by Sue Paradisis along part of the Lakeshore Trail surrounding Silent Lake. A total of 12 different ferns were identified which were: American Royal, Christmas, Common Bracken, Interrupted, Long Beach, Northern Lady, Northern Oak, Ostrich, Maidenhair, Marginal Shield, Polypody and Sensitive (or Bead) Ferns. A picnic lunch followed the outing at the day use beach along the shores of the lake. Taco Tuesday was delayed until Wednesday due to an expected rain shower.



Rose pogonia at Bonnie's Pond. Photo: Don McLeod

On Wednesday, June 26, PFN members celebrated National Canoe Day with a lovely morning paddle in the south end of Silent Lake. Our afternoon "Taco Tuesday Celebration and Campfire" at Colleen & Don's campsite was a great social time and WOW, the food! A huge "thank you" to members for making it a feast by contributing choices of more taco dips, cherries, ringlet BBQ chips, canned Okra and much more. The day was not over yet! The evening was hosted by Lynn & Larry Smith at their campsite with live entertainment around a fire. Three campers entertained: two by guitar and one by ukulele. Members had a great time listening to their beautiful voices. Sing songs by all completed the evening. At 5:00 a.m. once again, some campers heard the classic call of our nearby Barred Owl.



Northern oak fern. Photo: Don McLeod

On Thursday morning, June 27, campers enjoyed a nature walk at Bonnie's Pond. Highlight bird species at the pond included Hooded Merganser and Ring-necked Duck. In a small nearby wetland, campers spotted Northern Blue Flag and Watershield along with several other plant observations en route. The birding trip report, completed by Don McLeod for the entire camping trip, resulted in a total of 40 bird species within 16 checklists. Butterflies included Midsummer Tiger Swallowtail, Red Admiral, White Admiral, Northern Pearly-Eye and Hobomok Skipper. A great time was had by all.

Outing Report for June 22: Meadows Matter

Submitted by Kim Muzatko

What? She loves me she loves me not? **When?** Saturday, June 22.
Where? John Earle Chase Memorial Park (Kawartha Land Trust) near Gannon's Narrows overlooking Pigeon Lake, near Buckhorn. **Who?** Four participants plus Lou Smyrlis who was leading the walk, carrying a vase of orchard grass, bird's foot trefoil, and daisies for later inspection!

The participants were delighted to be handed magnifiers to examine a daisy flower. More on that later. And we also looked very closely at the flower of orchard grasses. Lou asked, "Do you know why grass flowers don't tend to be showy? They are pollinated by the wind." Flowers that depend on insects and birds for pollination tend to have showy flowers, often purple attracting bees and red attracting hummingbirds.

Many of the meadow plants we encountered are not native to Ontario but were introduced by people to this continent decades or centuries ago, often for their own use or by accident. These include ones we saw in this meadow such as bugloss, vetch, oxeye daisies, yellow salsify (goat's beard – seed head looks like a giant dandelion) and bird's-foot trefoil. Some are invasive and not beneficial to the birds that consume it, such as buckthorn, but others seem to be more harmonious and are welcomed by pollinators.



Ox-eye daisy. Photo: sannse from Wikimedia Commons

We saw some Achillea or yarrow which is a native plant but also brought here from Asia and Europe. Its botanical name carries the name of the Greek hero, Achilles, who was given healing powers when dipped into the yarrow laden river Styx. Only the heel he was held by was his weak point, or his Achilles heel, of course. As we set off across the meadow, a hawk and Osprey were spotted flying overhead, close to Pigeon Lake. A few other birds were spotted but I tend to walk with my head in plants so probably missed quite a few! I think someone spotted a meadowlark.

It was interesting to come across a group of white pines that had a very low branching spreading habit due to the greater space they had in a meadow versus a forest. They didn't have the tall king of the forest 'crowns' but were instead very lush and bushy. Other native plants and shrubs detected included the grey dogwood, porcupine sedge and flowering raspberry with its gorgeous large pink flowers, showy like many of their cousins in the Rosaceae Family. Other finds included buttercup, thimbleweed, dogbane, and wild grape (sour but edible - careful not to subject yourself to an upset stomach by mistakenly eating buckthorn berries instead!) and as Lou pointed out, the very successful and adaptable indigenous fleabane.

All these wonderful plants tend to grow very deep roots, making them resilient in the face of drought and temperature extremes. A meadow holds onto moisture, slowly releasing it over time through evaporation or into the water table – a valuable contrast to paved surfaces from which water just runs off. Like wetlands, meadows are like nature's sponges. It was discussed that this is one of the many reasons they matter, even though they are often overlooked. And speaking of overlooked, back to the common daisy 'flower' each of us held in our hands. Hard to believe, but each single 'flower' was actually 320 flowers! A composite flower composed of yellow male/female disc florets in the centre surrounded by white female ray florets! Do the white florets say she loves you?

'What's the daisy thing, Mom?' asks my son.



Meadow at John Earle Chase Memorial Park. Photo: Kawartha Land Trust website

Outing Report for July 6: Butterfly Outing

Submitted by Don McLeod

Members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists were led by Colleen Lynch and Don McLeod on a butterfly outing. Originally set for the Lang-Hastings Trail, the outing venue was changed to Hooton Drive after a large Black Bear was observed at the Lang-Hastings trail location. The new venue was good for both butterflies and birds. Approximately 20 Midsummer Tiger Swallowtails were observed mudpuddling or flying by. Everyone was pleased to observe a Baltimore Checkerspot. Ten species of butterflies were found. Among the 26 bird species, Black-billed Cuckoo was a highlight.



Midsummer Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. Photo: Don McLeod

Outing Report for July 13: Sundews and Devil's Guts

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

Add Photos from Lucie. If anyone had said to me that I'd be sitting in my kayak for 3.5 hours and that period of time would go by in a flash, I would've said, "No way! That's numb bum territory!" But that time really did go by quickly for eight intrepid paddlers. The group, led by Lou Smyrlis and co-leader, Steve Paul, started from the Keene boat put-in and headed *slowly* upriver. It was a hot, blue-sky day with a bit of a "thank goodness" breeze.



Lou discussing joe-pyeweed. Photo: Lucie Blouin



Devil's guts. Photo: Lucie Blouin

Plant guru, Lou, had so much to tell us. First there was yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*), an invasive plant that was introduced via gardens in the 1930s. It provided a very pretty background along the shoreline. Then we learned about frog bits (*Hydrocharia morsus ranae*) and the super protein power of duckweed (*Lemnoideae*), a possible space food for NASA! One delightful plant was dodder a.k.a. devil's guts (*Cuscuta*). This orange spaghetti plant is a parasite that takes over the "brains" of its host plant by diminishing/negating the plant's signal to protect itself. However, dodder is not stupid. It won't destroy all of its host plants because it would put itself out of business.

Complementing the yellow loosestrife were patches of the purple variety (*Lysimachia*) as well as spotted joe-pyeweed (*Eurtochium maculatum*). While cattails are recognizable to most of us, we found two different kinds; common cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and narrow leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). We reviewed how to tell the native variety from the alien as well as how every part of the cattail is edible in some way or another.

Two kinds of water flowers floated on the water's surface: white water lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*) and bullhead lilies (*Nuphar variegatum*). It's always interesting to peer into the centre of these flowers to see who/what is doing in there. Being in watercraft allowed us to spy. And, of course, there is the infamous round leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). Why infamous? It's carnivorous! No one stuck a finger in the mouth of the plant to check it out!

The rest of what Lou identified for us includes: bog myrtle (*Myrica*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), marsh bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*), marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), bladderwort (*Utricularia*), floating pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), watershield (*Brasenia Schreberi*), marsh pea (*Lathycus palustris*), cyperus sedge (*Carex pseudocyperus*).



Bullhead pond-lily. Photo: Lucie Blouin

Of course, birds were evident on this water trip too. Without trying too hard, we came up with 31 species. Sightings/soundings included Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Tree and Barn Swallows, Gray Catbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Red-Eyed Vireo, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Osprey, American Robin, American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon and a Northern Cardinal.

What was evident overall was how much people enjoyed this trip on the water in spite of the intense heat. One of the participants even took an unintended cool-off dip at the end of the paddle - and enjoyed it!

Outing Report for August 14: An After Dark Exploration of Jackson Park

Submitted by Anne Elliot

The evening of August 14 was warm and clear. At dusk, six PFN members gathered in Jackson Park for a short 'After Dark' hike around the lake and creek. Using ultrasonic bat detectors, we picked up the movements of about half a dozen bats: Big Brown Bats and possibly a Hoary Bat and a Silver Haired Bat. Paul Elliott, the outing leader, gave lots of fascinating information about bat ecology and attributed the lack of Little Brown Bats, once common in the park, to the effects of the fungal infection, White Nose Syndrome. It will take many decades for the Little Brown Bat population to recover because of their slow reproductive rate, usually just one pup each year. Our one bird sighting was a Great Blue Heron in flight. Our best spot for viewing bats? The parking lot!



Big Brown Bat. Photo: Joe Bartok (CC BY-NC)

Mistaken Identity: The Tale of Goldenrod and Ragweed

Submitted by Lou Smyrlis

They are the two most prolific late summer blooming wildflowers in our area and the main characters in one of nature's most fascinating lessons in mistaken identity.

One stands three to four feet high, towering over much of the late summer vegetation, and is topped with massive plumes of thickly clustered golden yellow, fluffy flowers that catch the eye of hikers and the interest of pollinators. The other is shorter with numerous but miserly small green flowers that make no effort to entice pollinators and would best be described as inconspicuous.

Both are aggressive species which come to dominate roadsides, wildflower meadows and forest clearings this time of year. One is the super villain of allergy plants but a master of hiding in plain sight. The other stands out in any field and, as a result, is wrongly vilified as the source for the allergic sneezing and wheezing many will need to endure in the weeks to come.

This is the tale of ragweed and goldenrod.



A single ragweed plant can produce over a billion pollen grains.

Photo: Lou Smyrlis

Ragweed with its nondescript but numerous small green flowers is responsible for up to 90% of seasonal, pollen-induced allergies. It affects close to 60 million allergy sufferers across North America and its allergy-producing attributes are only growing stronger. Ragweed flowers do not contain nectar, producing only small, lightweight pollen to reproduce, and relying on wind rather than insects to disperse it. Ragweed flowers start to pollinate as the late summer days start to get shorter, peaking in late August to mid-September but continuing until the first frost. A single ragweed plant can produce over a billion pollen grains. The pollen grains are so potent they can produce allergic symptoms at counts of less than one pollen grain per cubic foot. The lightweight pollen can travel far riding September's stronger winds. Ragweed pollen grains have been measured to be carried for distances greater than 200 km. What's worse, global warming is contributing to a longer growing season for ragweed. A study published in 2011 correlated weather data and pollen counts to find ragweed season had lengthened by two to four weeks over a 15-year period in northern U.S. and Canadian sites.

In contrast, goldenrod with its burgeoning golden blooms is anything but inconspicuous. But its flowers contain nectar to attract insects, and it relies on these pollinators rather than the wind to distribute its large, heavy pollen. Any goldenrod pollen that does fall is far too heavy to fall far from the plant.

Perhaps it's time to put a stop to the undeserved reputation of goldenrod as the super villain of allergy sufferers and see it instead as nature's summons that sweet summer is merely a sojourn of the seasons.

Nature Almanac for August – Summer Becoming Fall

By Drew Monkman

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." ~ Marcel Proust

Henry David Thoreau, the great American naturalist and philosopher, once observed "how early in the year it begins to be late." How true this is. Despite weather which is often hot and sultry, August delivers each year the first real signs of fall. The frantic plant growth and animal activity of spring and early summer have now been replaced by an almost lazy feeling of calm.

The avian and amphibian choruses of only a few weeks ago have mostly fallen silent and given way to a more gentle orchestra of cicadas, grasshoppers and crickets. Bird migration is already under way, the first leaves are beginning to change colour and roadsides will soon be transformed by a yellow cloak of goldenrod.

Despite the premonitions of summer's end, August is still very much a month to be savoured. Among the month's delights are the delicious taste of fresh corn and tomatoes, the calming sight of misty dawns, the often clear, cool nights illuminated by the Milky Way and the sound of snowy tree crickets calling in perfect unison as we fall asleep.

With late August comes the anticipation of bright, cool September weekends and the riot of leaf colour that is just around the corner. In a cultural sense, August is much more the end of the year than is December. With Labour Day, our lives begin anew as school reconvenes and countless community activities begin again.



Eastern Milk Snake. Photo: Robert DiFruscia

- 1) Blue jays once again become quite vocal. Along with the "lisping" of cedar waxwings, the calls of jays are typical August bird sounds.
- 2) However, other than the sporadic singing of a handful of species such as red-eyed vireos, northern cardinals, mourning doves, peewees and song sparrows, most bird song - as opposed to calls - has ceased.
- 3) Some of the interesting wildflower plants that bloom in early August include woodland sunflower, turtlehead, and large-leaved aster. Petroglyphs Provincial Park is a good destination for botanizing.
- 4) Leopard frogs wander en masse from their wetland habitat to invade nearby fields. They feed heavily on the bounty of insects to be found there.
- 5) Queen Anne's lace continues to dominate roadsides.
- 6) The electric, buzzing sound of the cicada makes the mid-day heat seem even hotter.
- 7) At this time of year, the "Dog Star," Sirius, rises in the southeast just before the sun. Because its appearance often coincides with the hottest days of summer, this period became known as the "Dog Days" of summer.
- 8) Water levels often drop in late summer, revealing emergent shorelines. These sites are worth exploring for interesting plants such as bladderworts.
- 9) Underwing moths, named for the bright colours of the underwings, are easy to find in August. You can actually attract them by spreading a bait concoction on tree trunks and checking it after dark. Try a mixture of stale beer, mashed bananas, molasses and a shot of rum!
- 10) Large groups of loons are sometimes seen on the bigger lakes. 10 or more birds often come together in these "convocations" and appear to talk to each other in chuckles and clucks. The gatherings would therefore appear to have a social function.



Black-billed Cuckoo on July 26 near Heritage Line and Hwy 7. Photo: David Topping

- 11) Green frogs and gray tree frogs may continue to call sporadically during the day. However, these calls never amount to a full chorus.
- 12) The Perseid meteor shower peaks on August 12. Even with an almost full moon this year, it should still be possible to see a dozen meteors an hour.
- 13) If you're out walking along our rail-trails or gravel roads, watch for Carolina locusts. With their yellow-bordered wings and the crackling sound they make as they fly, they are hard to miss.
- 14) In August and throughout the fall, family groups of otters can often be seen feeding and frolicking in quiet lakes including Lily Lake just west of Peterborough.
- 15) A profusion of ripe wild fruits can be found on various shrubs and small trees such as chokecherry, raspberry, Virginia creeper, elderberry and blueberry.

- 16) Red maples along the edges of lakes and wetlands are the first trees to show splashes of fall colour. Virginia creeper and staghorn sumac may also show colour change.
- 17) Bald-faced hornets, the wasp species that makes the globe-shaped paper nests in trees, are common. It is black with yellowish-white markings on the face and should be treated with respect.
- 18) Ragweed is in bloom. The pollen from its tiny green flowers sets off the beginning of another hay-fever season. Goldenrod is not the culprit!
- 19) Monarch butterfly numbers are usually at their highest by about now. Yellow sulphur butterflies are also quite common, especially over fields of alfalfa.

- 20) Songbird migration is in full swing, with numerous warblers, vireos, and flycatchers moving through. By making a “pish” sound, you should be able to draw the birds in and get good views. If you hear chickadees, you are almost certain to find warblers with them. Some local hotspots during migration include the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, the South Drumlin Nature Area at Trent University and Meadowvale Park in Peterborough.
- 21) Small dragonflies known as meadowhawks become very common. In most species, the males are red and the females are yellow.
- 22) If you’re lucky, you may see flocks of migrating nighthawks in late afternoon or early evening.
- 23) A large variety of mammals gorge themselves on late summer fruit and nuts. Bears are especially fond of beech nuts and sometimes leave large piles of broken branches high in the beech trees where they’ve been feeding.
- 24) The soft, rhythmic “treet...treet...treet” of snowy tree crickets is a common sound in parts of Peterborough. Sounding almost like a gentle-voiced spring peeper, this is the insect you often hear calling in campfire scenes in Westerns. By counting the number of chirps in seven seconds and adding five, you can make an accurate estimation of the temperature in degrees Celsius.
- 25) Milkweeds attract a huge variety of insects including tuft-covered milkweed tussock moth caterpillars and the red and black milkweed bug. Now is also the best time to look for the yellow and black larvae of the monarch butterfly.
- 26) Yellowjacket wasps are usually very conspicuous by now. In late summer, there is usually a frenetic search for food to feed the larvae in their underground nests, hence their attraction to garbage cans and family picnics.
- 27) Goldenrods reach peak bloom at month’s end and take over as the main roadside and field flowers. Some fields appear almost totally yellow.
- 28) Starting in late summer, listen for coyotes calling. Their “yip-yip” calls are often heard at this time as pups, now in their adolescence, begin to try out their voices.
- 29) Heavy morning mists, especially in valleys and over lakes, complement the beauty of the August sunrise.
- 30) Orion, the main constellation of winter, is now visible one hour before dawn on the eastern horizon.
- 31) The eggs of all our turtle species hatch from late August to early October. In the case of painted turtles, the young may actually stay in the nest and not emerge above ground until the following spring.

Nature Almanac for September - Mists and Melancholy Joy

By Drew Monkman

“Best I love September's yellow,
Morns of dew-strung gossamer,
Thoughtful days without a stir,
Rooky clamours, brazen leaves,
Stubble dotten o'er with sheaves --
More than spring's bright uncontrol
Suit the autumn of my soul.”

~ Alexander Smith



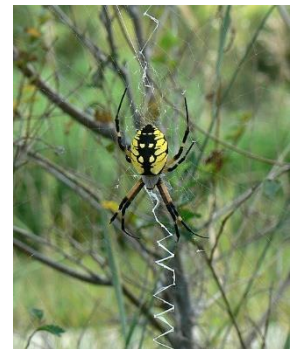
Blue Dasher. Photo: Robert DiFruscia

Few would argue that autumn’s arrival carries a stronger emotional charge than any other change of season. From the vibrant colour and smell of the fall leaves to the cooler temperatures and misty mornings, fall

resonates with sentimentality. I suppose it partly stems from the nostalgia of summer's more relaxed lifestyle being over, the return to our often hectic schedules, saying goodbye to people you might not see for another year, and witnessing nature's preparations for winter. Fall, too, is a season of time-honoured traditions and celebrations. Be it raking leaves, closing the cottage, getting together with family for Thanksgiving or going on the deer hunt, an element of wistfulness and reminiscence never seems to be far away.

For many, September brings a surge of energy. The generally cooler temperatures seem to compel us to shake our summer lethargy and get out and do something – start a project we put off all summer, clean out the garden, stack wood, or go for a walk in the woods. As school reconvenes and myriad community activities begin again, this is the true New Year.

- 1) Fall songbird migration is at its peak. Watch and listen for warblers and vireos in city backyards, most often in the company of chickadees. The migrants are usually hidden by foliage, however, and need some “pishing” on your part to be coaxed out into the open. Some, like the Bay-breasted Warbler, appear quite different than in the spring. Others, like the redstart, look the same. Many of the birds you'll see are immatures.
- 2) The wild fruit crop, along with all manner of berries and seeds in general, can be abundant some years. Oaks, maples, elderberries, dogwoods and mountain-ash are but a few of the species offering up an extra big serving of food to hungry birds and mammals.
- 3) Robins begin to flock up and a dozen or more can often be seen feeding together on suburban lawns. Young birds with speckled breasts are usually quite conspicuous in these gatherings.
- 4) Spectacular swarms of flying ants are a common September phenomenon. Some are females – the potential future queens – but the majority are males. A given ant species will swarm and mate on the same day over huge areas, sometimes covering hundreds of kilometres. The males soon die, and the mated females disperse to try to start up a new colony.
- 5) Possibly the most typical bird sound of September is the raucous call of the blue jay. Most of Ontario's blue jay population actually migrates to the U.S. in the winter.
- 6) Canada goldenrod transforms fields into a sea of yellow. The Kawarthas boast at least 15 goldenrod species including blue-stemmed and zigzag goldenrod which grow in open woodlands.
- 7) Fringed and bottle gentians are in bloom. Other September wildflowers to watch for include false dragon-head, grass-of-Parnassus, and ladies'-tresses orchids.
- 8) Monarchs are now heading south to the mountains of Mexico where they will spend the winter. Most will go to the El Rosario Sanctuary near the town of Angangueo, west of Mexico City. The number of monarch butterflies wintering in western Mexico plummeted last winter despite a remarkable decline in illegal logging in the area where they congregate. It appears that far fewer butterflies than usual arrived in the sanctuaries. Climate change, droughts and other extreme weather, and pesticide use north of the border are all being cited as probable reasons for the decline. But, thanks to the hot, sunny weather, monarch numbers in the Kawarthas have appeared close to normal this summer.
- 9) Cool mornings with bright sun sometimes coax birds into tentative song, although its reproductive purpose is for another season.
- 10) Keep an eye out for the beautiful yellow and black golden garden spider. It often builds its big web of sticky spiral threads in a clump of goldenrod and hangs conspicuously right in the hub.



Yellow garden spider. Photo: MONGO (Wikimedia Commons)

11) It's really beginning to look and feel like fall. Daylight and darkness are now almost equal in duration. On cool mornings, heavy mists dance and curl over rivers, lakes, and valleys.

12) Part of the green darner dragonfly population actually migrates south in the fall, while the others overwinter in the Kawarthas in the nymph stage of the life cycle. Migratory green darners are capable of flying up to 137 km in a day, most likely to the southern U.S. It is thought that the same individuals return north in the spring.

13) Two vines are very much in evidence right now, especially along rail-trails and woodland edges where they sprawl over fences, shrubs and trees. They are wild cucumber, which has cucumber-like seed pods covered in soft bristles, and Virgin's bower, identified by its distinctive, fluffy seedheads of gray, silky plumes.



Amanita fungus at Catchacoma Lake on August 25. Photo: Karen MacDonald

14) If there's sufficient moisture, mushrooms are at their most plentiful and diverse in September. The giant puffball is sometimes found in fields and looks like an errant soccer ball or loaf of white bread. It is edible when young. If you step on an old one, brown, dust-like spores will puff out.

15) Ruby-throated hummingbirds abandon our feeders and surrender to the urge to migrate. Most ruby-throats winter in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and in Central America. The southward flight includes a remarkable non-stop crossing of the Gulf of Mexico, taking 18-20 hours.

16) Virginia creeper and poison ivy turn a fiery red as well as some sumacs and an increasing number of maples.

17) In mid-September, the first sub-freezing temperatures are traditionally recorded along with the first frost. However, with global heating, the first frosts sometimes don't occur now until well into October.

18) Brown and black woolly bear caterpillars are a common sight, especially on paths and sidewalks. People used to believe that the length of the middle brown band could foretell the severity of the coming winter. The longer the band, the shorter and milder the winter would be. In reality, the caterpillar simply becomes increasingly brown as it ages.

19) Be sure to put your bird feeders up if you haven't already done so. Among other birds, white-throated sparrows are migrating through and are easy to attract if you scatter millet or finch mix seed on the ground.

20) Oaks are now shedding their acorns. They are gobbled up by all manner of animals including deer, bear, squirrels and blue jays.

21) Chinook and coho salmon, along with brown trout, leave Lake Ontario this month and spawn in the headwaters of streams and rivers like the Ganaraska. You can see them jumping up the fish ladder in Port Hope in huge numbers.

22) Migrant warblers and vireos often join up with mixed flocks of chickadees and nuthatches in the fall and will come in remarkably close in response to "pishing." Simply take a deep breath and softly but quickly repeat the word "pish" in one, drawn-out exhale. Keep it up for at least a minute or two.

23) The fall equinox can take place September 21, 22, 23, or 24, depending on the year. It marks the beginning of autumn. Day and night are now almost equal in length, hence the word equinox. Today, both the moon and sun rise due east and set due west. Take note of where the sun rises and sets right now as seen from an east and west window in your house and then watch as these locations move increasingly southward over the course of the fall.

24) The myriad grasses that bloomed in the summer are actually easiest to identify in the fall. This is because seeds, rather than flowers, are the most important features for identification.

- 25) Large migratory flights of thrushes often pass over about this time. Their loud, plaintive call notes are surprisingly easy to hear in the night sky, even over the city. Migration is usually at its best just after the passage of a cold front when northwesterly breezes provide tail winds.
- 26) The Harvest Moon, the full moon closest to the fall equinox usually occurs this month. For several evenings in a row, the moon rises at almost the same time and climbs more slowly than usual up into the sky. Watch, too, for Jupiter which will be shining brightly in the south.
- 27) The purples, mauves, and whites of asters now reign supreme in fields and along roadsides. The Kawarthas have about 15 species of these late bloomers that represent the year's last offering of wildflowers. The more common species include New England, heath and panicked asters.
- 28) The webs of the fall webworm stand out noticeably. The large, loose structures encase the ends of branches of broad-leaved trees and shrubs and house colonies of small, beige caterpillars covered with long hairs.
- 29) Most years, white ash, pin cherry, and staghorn sumac reach their colour peak about now. Some ash trees turn a stunning purple-bronze that literally glows in the September sun.
- 30) Ospreys begin to leave the Kawarthas for their wintering grounds in the West Indies and Central and South America. Mangroves, rainforests and coastal estuaries will be their home until next spring.

PFN Member Randy Beacler Honoured by City of Kawartha Lakes

Randy Beacler was presented with an Environment Hero Award at the City of Kawartha Lakes council meeting held on June 25. The following is from the city's web site.

Each year, the Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC) recognizes individuals and businesses living in Kawartha Lakes who have shown a commitment to improving the wellness of the environment. The Environmental Hero Awards are a chance for residents to nominate environmental change-makers in Kawartha Lakes and bring attention to the amazing work they're doing to help the environment in our community.

Randy Beacler embodies the spirit of volunteerism and dedication to environmental stewardship through his longstanding commitment to the Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Reserve and beyond. For years, Randy has quietly and tirelessly contributed to the preservation and enhancement of this vital sanctuary in Norland.

At the heart of Randy's volunteer efforts lies a deep passion for monitoring and understanding local wildlife. He has tracked amphibians, birds, and forest vegetation, providing invaluable data that informs conservation efforts. Beyond data collection, Randy ensures the safety and accessibility of the sanctuary's trails, tirelessly clearing debris in spring and maintaining winter access.

Randy's dedication extends beyond physical labor; he actively engages with visitors, sharing his deep knowledge. As a member of the Kawartha Field Naturalists [and the Peterborough Field Naturalists], Randy participates enthusiastically in meetings and outings, enriching discussions with his insights and anecdotes from years spent in the field.

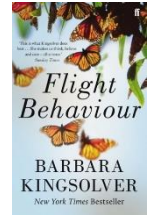
Randy's dedication to conservation and environmental education is a testament to his character and values. His selfless contributions to the Altberg Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Reserve and the community have earned him the admiration and gratitude of all who share his passion for nature. Thank you, Randy!



Randy Beacler stands second from the left in the second row.

Book Review: *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman



In *Flight Behavior*, author Barbara Kingsolver creates a miracle. Not only does she imagine a scenario in which the Monarch butterflies move their overwintering site from Michoacan State, Mexico to an Appalachian mountain side in Tennessee, she also finds a way to explain climate change, ecological systems upheaval, trophic cascades, citizen science in tandem with poverty, lack of education, pushback against science, mistrust of educated elites and do it all with a great deal of compassion for the people who have received the short end of the stick in opportunity and education.

Flight Behavior was published 12 years ago. Many of us were just learning about how Monarchs roost for the winter in oyamel fir forests at an elevation of 2,400 to 3,600 meters (nearly 2 miles above sea level). The mountain hillsides of oyamel forest provide an ideal microclimate for the butterflies. Here temperatures range from 0 to 15 degrees Celsius. If the temperature is lower, the monarchs will be forced to use their fat reserves. The humidity in the oyamel forest assures that the monarchs won't dry out, allowing them to conserve their energy.

Kingsolver had two main points in this novel: what climate change is doing to the world and its inhabitants and concern and a deep sympathy for the people of Appalachia. However, the combination doesn't work because Monarch overwintering in Tennessee is impossible. It's just too cold for the butterflies to survive. This mindboggling number of Monarchs much survive in order to mate and continue the generations. If they die, they ALL die. There will be no more Monarchs.

The main character, Dellarobia Turnbow, a smart woman who could've easily have gone on to post-secondary education *if* there had been money, finds herself trapped as a housewife, mother of two small children, married (at age 17 in a shotgun marriage) to a very uncurious man. Like many in Appalachia, the struggle just to survive is dominant. On a hike up the mountain, she discovers a "miracle"; millions and millions of Monarchs covering all the trees and flitting around like orange confetti. While not religious herself, the butterflies come to represent something God-given to the community. But that gift doesn't come with money whereas the opportunity to clearcut the forest does and could keep the bank at bay. This sets up the tension between the scientists who come to work against time and freezing temperatures to discover what they can, the tourists who want to see the Monarchs (but not pay) and the citizens of the area who don't trust anyone from the outside coming in and telling them what's what.

One of the brilliant aspects of this book is how the science of climate and the butterflies is put into language anyone can understand. When the difference between causation and correlation is explained to Dellarobia, she comes up with a perfectly understandable example. "I get that. Like, crows flying over the field will cause it to snow tomorrow...I'm thinking, no way. Maybe it's a storm front or something that makes both things happen, but the crows move first."

The other brilliant aspect is the compassion with which Kingsolver writes about the people of Appalachia. Some would call these folks MAGA people and dismiss them as "deplorables." Not Kingsolver. She "gets" them as she is from Appalachia herself. She humanizes them and has them grow. She also does a very good job at poking fun at the privileged amongst us. A fellow named Akins, one of the "tourists" who come to see the butterflies is armed with a Sustainability Pledge that he tries to get people to sign. Some items on the pledge: bring reusable plastic containers to a restaurant to take home leftovers. Dellarobia's response: "I've not eaten at a restaurant in over two years." Akins: "Try to reduce the intake of red meat in your diet." Dellarobia: "Are you crazy? I'm trying to increase our intake of red meat...because mac and cheese only gets you so far." Akins: "Fly less." Dellarobia has never been on a plane. Akins: "Try your best to buy reused. Use Craigslist." Dellarobia: "What is that?" Akins: "It's on the Internet." Dellarobia: "I don't have a computer."

There are some interesting social insights in this story. When a scientist named Byron says "Science doesn't tell us what we should do. It only tells us what is," Dellarobia responds with "That must be why people don't like it...The climate thing. That it's taking out stuff we're counting on...You guys aren't popular. Maybe your medicine's too bitter. Or you're not selling to us. Maybe you're writing us off, thinking we won't get it. You should start with kindergartners and work your way up."

One of the best scenes in the book is when the (annoying) TV media come to interview Dr. Ovid Byron, the lead scientist. He has zero patience for the "isn't it so beautiful to see all the Monarchs" and erupts with one of the best ever climate rants. After the TV interviewer makes her escape, Dellarobia says she's actually sorry that no one will get to see that. Her best friend, Dovey, pipes up and says, "Oh, yes, they will. Posting now. YouTube." I laughed out loud!

The story ends on an equivocal note as it must. Climate dysregulation is not making anything easy for the Monarchs - nor any other species on Earth.

Results of 2024 Petroglyphs Butterfly Count

Submitted by Jerry Ball and Martin Parker, Count Compilers

On Saturday, July 20, twenty-six field observers combed the various sites in the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count circle in search of butterflies, the colourful flyers of the summer months. At the end of day, they counted a total of 54 species of butterflies consisting of 4,800 adults and 4 Monarch caterpillars. The complete summary of the count with the results for each field party follows.



Little Wood Satyr.
Photo: R. DiFruscia

This was the 25th year that the Petroglyphs Butterfly Count has been held. The initial count was in 1998 when the participants recorded 41 species, consisting of 3,378 butterflies. This count has been held every year since the year 2000. The average number of species for this count is 50 with an average of 3,800 butterflies. The Petroglyphs count covers an area contained within a circle of radius 7 ½ miles. It extends from Stoney Lake to the Aspley area with Highway 28 being on the west and to just east of County Road 46. The count follows the protocol established by the North American Butterfly Association. The results are submitted to them and published in their summary of butterfly counts across Canada, the United States and Mexico. Over the years, it has provided an indication of changes in butterfly numbers.

This year's overall results were impacted by the warmer than usual spring and early summer. This resulted in early blooming of wildflowers on which adult butterflies can be found feeding. Normally, the Common Milkweed is in full bloom but this year the blooming had finished and the plants had well developed seed pods. Viper's Bugloss and Dog-bane, two other excellent plants for adult butterflies were also well past their peak blooming. This earlier than normal blooming and warmer spring and summer impacted the number of species recorded. Other count compilers noted that the peak flight dates for many species of butterflies was about a week and half ahead of normal.

The most abundant butterfly was the Dun Skipper, a small purplish brown butterfly, with 3,328 individuals. This count has the record high for Dun Skippers of any count in North America and annually has the highest number. A total of 18 skipper species were observed. This is an excellent variety for a group of butterflies which tend to be overlooked.

There were 86 Monarch butterflies observed on the count. This is a number below the average of 176 over the previous ten counts. However, it is well above the low years: 4 on the 2016 count and 8 and on the 2013 count. The record high was 472 on the 2019 count.

The participant's fee, payable to the North American Butterfly Association was paid for by the annual grant from the PFN Legacy Fund.

Species/Area	Park, Stoney Lk.	Nephton Trail	Cty Rd 46 South	Sandy L. Rd South	Sandy L. Rd North	Cty Rd 46 North	McCoy Road	Jack Lake Power Line	Forest Access Rd.	Total
Black Swallowtail								1		1
Midsummer Tiger Swallowtail	5	1			2	13		1		22
Cabbage White		1			1	1				3
Clouded Sulphur		4		2				1	14	21
Orange Sulphur	4									4
Pink-edged Sulphur			1	9	2					12
Bog Copper				1		2				3
Acadian Hairstreak		1								1
Coral Hairstreak		4		31	5	2			1	43
Banded Hairstreak		1			1		1			3
Edwards' Hairstreak					1					1
Striped Hairstreak				4	2	5				11
Gray Hairstreak	2	5		38	13			3	4	65
Eastern Tailed Blue	1	1		1						3
Summer Azure				6	1			1	9	17
Great Spangled Fritillary	3	16	3	2	2		1	1	10	38
Aphrodite Fritillary	6	10	1	52	2	3			4	78
Atlantis Fritillary									4	4
Silver-bordered Fritillary		7		1						8
Pearl Crescent	5	3		32		5	7			52
Northern Crescent	2	11	1				7	14	11	46
Question Mark		2								2
Eastern Comma									4	4
Gray Comma				1					2	3
Mourning Cloak									2	2
American Lady	8	11		7		1		1	5	33
Red Admiral	1	3	1		1		3	3	1	13
White Admiral	1			10	4	3	3	2	8	31
Viceroy	1	1		2	4	3	1		1	13
Northern Pearly-Eye	1			1	1			3	1	7
Eyed Brown	1	2		4	1		2	3	5	18
Appalachian Brown				1					1	2
Little Wood-Satyr				36						36
Common Ringlet			1							1
Common Wood-Nymph	1					5			3	9
Monarch	12	11	5	1	2	4	12	26	9	82
Silver-spotted Skipper	1	4								5
Dreamy Duskywing										
Northern Cloudywing										
Columbine Duskywing	37	2		12	24	9	21	8	52	165
Wild Indigo Duskywing	117	5					16			138
Delaware Skipper	2	6		4			2	13	8	35
Least Skipper				1	2	1	2	10	1	17
European Skipper					1			6		7
Peck's Skipper		3		1	1	2		3	4	14
Tawny-edged Skipper				1	4		1		2	8
Crossline Skipper	1			7					1	9
Long Dash					2				3	5
Northern Broken-Dash	6	2		2	4	1		3	1	19
Little Glasswing		1						1		2
Hobomok Skipper						1		1		2
Mulberry Wing		4	1	2	3	2	3		7	22
Broad-winged Skipper	26	15	1	92	42	10		2	13	201
Dion Skipper				17	1				10	28
Two-spotted Skipper							2			2
Dun Skipper	156	123	7	602	262	40	1,712	277	149	3,328
Common Roadside Skipper										
Unidentified										
Fritillary sp.			3			5			4	12
Duskywing sp.		75								75
Skipper sp.				1						1
Crescent sp.						12				12
Blue sp.					1					1
Individuals	400	335	25	984	392	130	1,796	384	354	4,800
Species	24	29	10	32	28	20	18	24	33	54

Caterpillars

Monarch							4			4
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Area	Participants
Park, Stoney Lake	Robert DiFruscia
Nephton Trail	Scott Gibson
County Road 46 South	Martin Parker, King Baker
Sandy Lake Rd South	Tom Mason, Susan Blayney, Helen Lam, Rene Gareau
Sandy Lake Rd North	John Carley, Dan Riley, Garth Riley, Nancy McPherson, Greg Stuart
County Road 46 North	Don McLeod, Colleen Lynch, Sandy Garvey, Martha Lawrence
McCoy Road	Kathy Parker, Carly Davenport, Ruth Davenport, Jonathon Alsop
Jack Lake & Power Line	Jerry Ball, Ken Morrison, Michelle DiLeo
Forest Access Road	Dennis Barry, Margaret Carney

Kawartha Land Trust Conservation Opportunities

Make a Pledge by Sept. 6th to Protect the Jeffrey-Cowan Forest Preserve Extension

Kawartha Land Trust (KLT), a registered charity serving the Kawarthas since 2001 through volunteer and donor support, has the opportunity to expand upon its protected lands on the shores of Ston(e)y Lake.



JCFP Extension. Photo: KLT website

Your support will protect one of the most important opportunities to conserve shoreline and riparian habitat and contiguous forest cover along the lake. This precious natural land is being marketed as a development opportunity that would put more pressure on the lake's ability to sustain the people and animals who call it home.

Natural shoreline is one of the most characteristic and at-risk features in our area, and this particular shoreline was identified as a top priority for conservation through research jointly conducted by KLT and the Environment Council for Clear, Stony and White Lakes, with the support of The Stony Lake Heritage Foundation, in 2021.

With your pledge, we can add 4.25 ha of connected forest habitat and 200 m of natural shoreline to KLT's protected lands along the lake. Land that would benefit several Species at Risk in the area, including Red-headed Woodpeckers and Snapping Turtles. Wildlife needs connected lands to thrive – to be able to feed, nest, and reach breeding grounds. You can help conserve this vital natural space forever.

Make a Gift to Protect 750 Acres of Forest in the Kawarthas

This summer, you have the opportunity to protect a forest sanctuary in Peterborough County. The Wolfe family, who owns this land, have turned down multiple offers from industrial developers who want to clear-cut it. The family loves this land. Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) staff and volunteers have walked the property and can see they have been actively improving the forest for many years. The forest has flourished during their ownership.



A Sugar Maple that's likely over a century old! Photo: Sam Clapperton/KLT

The most exciting thing about this forest is it is connected to the 5,000-acre Peterborough County Forest. Deep forest cover must be protected because so many species need connected corridors to thrive:

- Red-shouldered Hawks are forest dwellers who build their nests just below the forest canopy. They live in this forest.
- Fishers are in the forest. A Fisher needs 20 square kilometres for its territory.
- Black Bears, Moose, and White-tailed Deer also share this forest.
- The very shy Scarlet Tanager is prospering in this forest because of the intact canopy.

The Wolfe family has lowered the price of the property by \$300,000. Additionally, The Echo Foundation has contributed \$200,000 toward this project. The MapleCross Foundation has generously committed \$250,000 to the total project cost to DOUBLE your gift. Kawartha Land Trust needs to raise the remaining \$250,000 to protect this property forever. Give today to protect this beautiful forest sanctuary.

To make a donation, please visit: <https://kawarthalandtrust.org/opportunities/>

If you have questions about any of the projects listed or are considering a major gift, please reach out to Oriona Rendon, Donor Relations Coordinator, at 705-743-5599, ext. 8, or orendon@kawarthalandtrust.org. Thank you for protecting the land you love!

From the Archives: First Butterfly Count

Submitted by Martin Parker

Random Notes from 1st Petroglyphs Butterfly Count originally prepared by Drew Monkman for the September 1998 issue of *The Orchid*

The initial Petroglyphs Butterfly Count was held on 27th June 1998. The second count was held in 2000 when the date was shifted to the 3rd Saturday in July.

I was amazed by the incredible abundance of European Skippers. One large patch of Viper's Bugloss, maybe 10 meters long must have contained over 700 of these tiny butterflies. Some individual plants of bugloss had over two dozen individuals.

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

Of special interest were the Hairstreaks, especially their beautiful dark gray underside with markings of blue and orange along the lower margin of the hind wing. The black spotting or 'streaking', their minute 'tails' and their tameness allow you to come within a foot or less for a good look. The Coral Hairstreak was quite common near the Visitor Centre at the Petroglyphs. The line of coral red spots was absolutely stunning against the grey backdrop of the rest of the wing.

A total of 41 species were seen by all four groups. Total number of butterflies was 3,376.

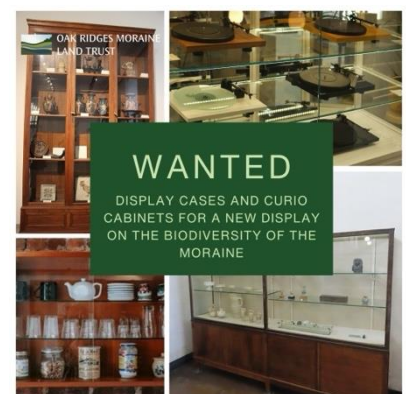


Gray Hairstreak. Photo: Robert DiFruscia

PFN member, Maxwell Matchim, who is Natural Heritage Education Coordinator for the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, is working on putting together an educational display about the wildlife and plants of the moraine. It would be on display at one of their nature reserves for school groups and for event participants when they host birding walks, moth nights, winter tracking days, etc. If you have any natural history items (taxidermy, fossils, antlers, skulls, shells), display cases or curio cabinets that you would be willing to donate, please contact Maxwell at: outreach@oakridgesmoraine.org



Chimney Swifts entering the roost chimney in downtown Peterborough on May 30. Photo: Rick Stankiewicz





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

May 26	Don Sutherland encountered a Philadelphia Vireo on the Lang-Hastings Trail near Cameron Line.
May 29	Dave Milsom discovered a Red-necked Phalarope foraging with Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
May 31	A female Ruddy Duck was spotted at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Dave Milsom.
	Several species appear to be expanding their breeding ranges into our region, although they are still considered to be rare. It is heartening to report that Red-headed Woodpeckers , Clay-coloured Sparrows and Orchard Orioles seem to be becoming expected breeders in Peterborough County. I have grouped sightings by these species and where possible indicated if evidence of breeding, such as ongoing territorial singing and presence of juveniles, occurred at individual locations.
Clay-coloured Sparrow	<p>Carrie Sadowski had a singing bird in a meadow near Selwyn 7th Ln, reported May 26 and another bird in the trails behind the Lakefield Fairgrounds, reported on June 9, both which she indicates had been on territory for a several weeks and continued through June.</p> <p>Ben Taylor and Chris Risley encountered a bird at the Lakefield Water Tower trails on May 28, which had been originally seen in early May by Bill Crins and continued to be detected by others.</p> <p>Alexander R. saw a bird at the Douro 3rd Ln fields on May 29 which continued to be detected by others into July.</p> <p>Marilyn Hubley heard a bird singing on Preston Rd on June 4.</p> <p>A bird was encountered by Don Sutherland on Centre Dummer Rd, June 10.</p> <p>Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley heard the bird that had been noted last year, at Dummer Alvar on Hwy 38, on June 10, continuing into June.</p> <p>Lynn Smith, Kathryn Sheridan and several others heard one singing at the Former Millbrook Correctional Centre on June 13.</p> <p>Lynn Smith heard another bird in a grassy field behind Millbrook on June 13.</p> <p>Another bird was detected singing by Jake Nafziger on Hayes Line, Cavan on June 16.</p> <p>A bird was heard in a shrubby field at the Lang Hastings Trail by Nelson Line on July 20 by Pam Martin.</p>
Red-headed Woodpecker	A Red-headed Woodpecker continues at a known location on Duncan's Line, Otonabee, spotted by Angela Mattos on May 26. A second bird was later seen in this location and a family group of woodpeckers continued to be seen here throughout the season.

	<p>At least one bird, seen in early May at John Earle Chase Park by Martyn Obbard, continued in this location into June.</p> <p>A continuing pair at Hammer Family Nature Preserve, originally detected in May, was seen again by Drew Monkman on June 1, and a family group was seen by many others as the season progressed.</p> <p>Lynn Johnson had a bird at her feeder regularly on Northey's Bay Rd, reported on June 9, continuing through the season.</p> <p>Sharon and Deryl Nethercott saw a bird on Sandy Lake Road on June 12.</p> <p>On June 16, another bird was seen at Gannons Narrows, Pigeon Lk, by Matthew Tobey.</p> <p>Tim Haan noticed a bird entering a tree cavity at Sandy Point Bay, and on June 16 Carol B noted a bird in the Elim Lodge area. It is quite possible that these birds were part of two family groups later observed by Dave Milsom and Brian Wales on July 25, each comprised by two adults and two juveniles.</p> <p>Parker Lees reported a bird on Kasshabog Lake in mid-June.</p> <p>Scott McKinlay noted a bird flying over on Morton Ln, Cavan on July 2, and Dave Milsom observed another at Curve Lk on July 7.</p> <p>Cathy Douglas detected another bird on July 28 at the Jeffery-Cowan Forest Preserve.</p>
Orchard Oriole	<p>Chris Risley and Erica Nol saw a bird on May 30 on Duncan's Line, Otonabee.</p> <p>Colin Jones had initially seen birds at Bellemere Winds Golf Club, Otonabee in early May and on May 31 he detected 4 singing males and a pair.</p> <p>The bird on the Lang-Hastings trail near Redmond Ln seen in early May by Laurie Healey, continued to be seen by June 10, by Bill Crins, Don Sutherland and Dave McCorquodale. This bird had occurred in this location last year as well.</p> <p>Another bird was heard singing near Buckhorn Berry Farm by Mike Burrell.</p> <p>Matthew Toby detected a male at Holiday Pines Park, Rice Lake, June 15.</p> <p>A bird was heard singing by Travis Cameron at his Lakefield home on July 31.</p>
June 1	<p>A flock of 70 Brant geese were seen by Marilyn Hubleby flying over Mount Pleasant.</p> <p>Robert DiFruscia noted a Canada Darner dragonfly at Nephton.</p>
June 2	<p>A Great Egret was seen feeding in the Television Road Pond by Dave Milsom.</p> <p>The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher located in early May on Mervin Line by Cathy Douglas was seen again by Dave Milsom on June 2 and continued in this location through the season. There was a breeding pair observed in this location last year as well.</p>
June 4	<p>Angela Mattos heard a Carolina Wren singing on Duncan's Line.</p> <p>Robert and Joan DiFruscia encountered a Little Wood Satyr, an Indian Skipper and a Viceroy butterfly, as well as an Ebony Jewelwing damselfly and Elfin Skimmer dragonflies on Sandy Lake Road.</p>

June 7	Don Sutherland heard Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and at Hooton Dr, Cavan.
June 11	A Prairie Warbler was heard at the Long Lake Access to Kawartha Highlands Park, by Don Sutherland, and was still present on June 14.
June 12	An Assassin Bug and Ebony Jewelwing damselflies were seen by Robert and Joan DiFruscia on Heritage Line north of Keene.
June 13	Cathy Douglas spotted a Great Egret at Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary. Chris Risley and Ben Taylor heard a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at the Long Lake Access to Kawartha Highlands Park.
June 16	A group of 5 Great Egrets were spotted by Iain Rayner wading in the river at Auburn Reach.
June 20	A Black-crowned Night Heron was spotted by Matt Lucas on the Omemee Rotary Trail.
June 24	A Mustard White and a Silvery Blue butterfly were seen by Robert and Joan DiFruscia on the Lang-Hastings Trail near Cameron Line.
June 25	Robert and Joan DiFruscia saw a Silver Spotted Skipper , a Gray Common and a Northern Pearly Eye butterfly at Nephton. They also encountered an Eastern Milk Snake .
June 29	Matt Garvin heard, then observed a Carolina Wren on Kasshabog Lake.
July 1	A male Bay-breasted Warbler was seen by Cathy Douglas on South Bay Road, Stoney Lake.
July 6	Another Carolina Wren was seen by Scott McKinlay on Larmer Line east of Millbrook.
July 9	Yet another Carolina Wren was heard by Ben Taylor at Edgewater Blvd and Railroad. It continued to be detected through July. Will Carolina Wrens be the next Orchard Oriole? A Common Tern was observed by Noelle Deane and Angelina Gordon on Clear Lake. Bill Crins heard a Sedge Wren in Lasswade, north on County Road 46.
July 12	Paul Xamin and Ian Sturdee observed a Common Tern on Cordova Lake.
July 18	Sheila Potter heard and saw another Carolina Wren on County Road 6 near Glen Hall. Robert and Joan DiFruscia observed many butterfly species along County Road 6, including Gray Hairstreak , Orange Sulphur , and American Lady and a beautiful Blue Dasher dragonfly.
July 19	A Great Spangled Fritillary and an Aphrodite Fritillary were spotted by Robert and Joan DiFruscia on County Rd 6.
July 21	A male Ruddy Duck was spotted at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Erik Sein.
July 22	Alexander and Stan Phippen detected a Sedge Wren at Petroglyphs Provincial Park.






July 23	Robert and Joan DiFruscia observed a Silver Bordered Fritillary on Sandy Lake Road.
July 24	Cathy Douglas saw a Philadelphia Vireo while checking out the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Mervin Line. A Great Egret was spotted at Kimberly Park, Buckhorn Lake by Matthew Tobey.
July 26	John David Moffat spotted an early migrant Palm Warbler on Serpentine Lake, Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park.
July 27	Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley encountered a Common Tern on Rice Lake, Holiday Pines Park.
July 28	A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by Cathy Douglas at the Jeffrey-Cowan Forest Preserve. Angela Mattos saw 2 Bay-breasted Warblers in her Douro yard.
July 29	Another 2 Bay-breasted Warblers were seen at the Millbrook Provincial Fishing Area by Matthew Tobey. Robert DiFruscia spotted a Bronzed Tiger Beetle at Nephton.
July 30	Amy Semple saw 2 Great Egrets along the Otonabee River just south of Lakefield. Another Great Egret was spotted by Jeff Stewart in the Darling Wildlife Area.

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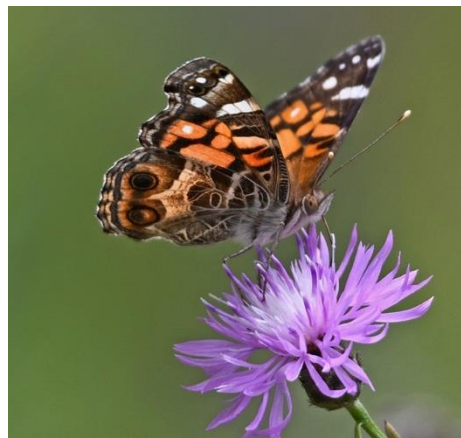
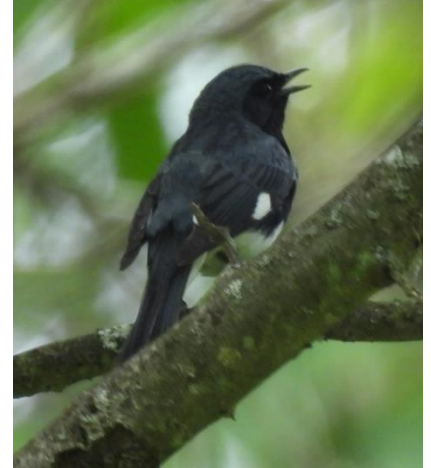
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Clockwise from left: Brewster's Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler (Dave Milsom). Leonard's Skipper, Silver-bordered Fritillary, Silvery Blue, Gray Comma, and Northern Pearly Eye (Robert DiFruscia). Below: American Lady (Robert DiFruscia)



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:	How do you hope to participate?
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles and Amphibians <input type="checkbox"/> Botany <input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Life <input type="checkbox"/> Geology <input type="checkbox"/> Insects <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Outings <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Science <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Naturalists

Volunteers are always needed. Are you interested in any of these activities?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Join the PFN Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit on research or conservation committees | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead an outing |
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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:** _____