

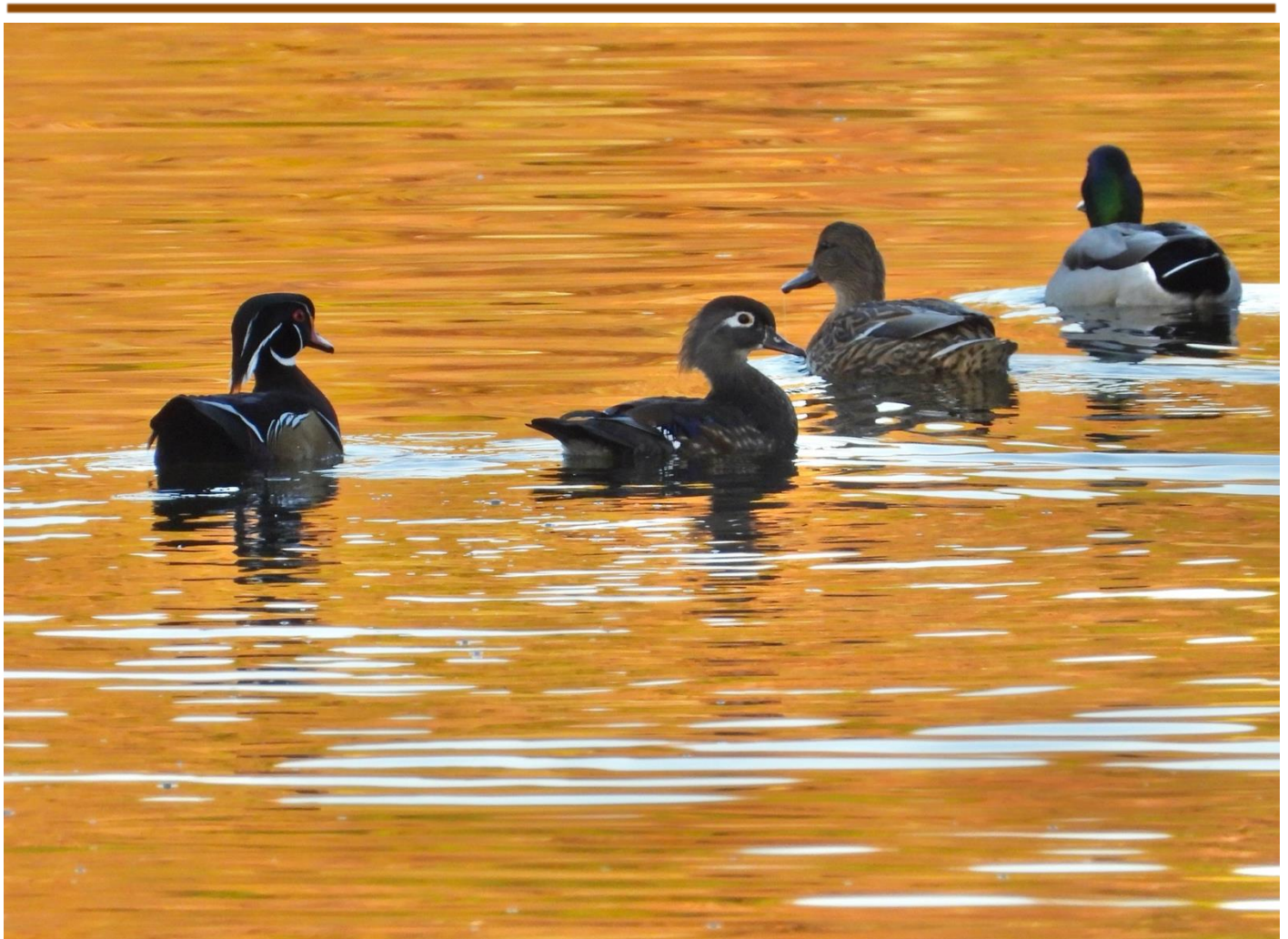
# The Orchid

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## *Bulletin of the Peterborough Field Naturalists*

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An engaged community that is inspired to learn about, appreciate and conserve nature in all its forms



Pairs of Wood Ducks and Mallards in the Autumn Morning Light. Photo: Marilyn Hubley

**Inside:** October Nature Almanac  
Why Deciduous Trees Drop Their Leaves  
The Musical Nature Walk and Other Outing Reports  
Strange Blue Jay Behaviour  
Observing Monarch Metamorphosis

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*Welcome new PFN members!*

- Grace & Tom Bennett
- Laura White and family
- Ying Hong
- Pat Dohaney




Clockwise from top: White-throated Sparrow (Laurie Healey). Many are passing through right now uttering a characteristic “seep” call to others in their flock. Sharp-shinned Hawk with white cedar in background shedding some of its orange scale-like leaves in the autumn (Steve Paul). Orange Sulphurs nectaring on goldenrod in September (Robert DiFruscia)

<b>PFN Coming Events</b>	
<p>Saturday, Sept. 28 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. 15 participants</p>	<p><b>Fall Hike in the Cavan Area</b></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 <a href="mailto:smithfam@nexicom.net">smithfam@nexicom.net</a>.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy to moderate</p> 
<p>Choose between Sunday, Sept. 29 or Sunday, Oct. 6 10 a.m. – noon 15 participants</p>	<p><b>Fabulous Fungi</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com">sueparadisis@hotmail.com</a> for more information.</p> <p>Accessibility: moderate. There is a large hill to climb.</p> 
<p>Sunday, Oct. 6 1 to 4 p.m. 15 participants Douro-Dummer Twp</p>	<p><b>Fall Nature on the Farm</b></p> <p>PFN member Bruce Kidd invites members to join him, Linda Sunderland and Sandy Garvey in an exploration of the field and woodlands of his farm property in Douro-Dummer Township. This outing will provide an opportunity to kick leaves, look at late-blooming flowers, find migrating birds and sample different types of ‘wild apples’ to discover the range in flavours. Bruce says we may even get to hear a large honey bee nest in a white pine.</p> <p>Please wear clothing suitable for the day of the outing and sturdy footwear for uneven ground. Bring binoculars and camera if you have them. Members wishing to participate should register with Linda Sunderland at <a href="mailto:linda.sunderland@gmail.com">linda.sunderland@gmail.com</a>. Details on reaching the farm will be provided to registered participants.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate. There will be some walking through bush, uneven terrain and across fields.</p>
<p>Thursday, Oct. 10 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: Provincial-Scale Monitoring of Black Bears</b></p> <p>Ontario manages one of the largest and most widely distributed populations of American black bears globally. This population inhabits an incredible range of landscapes, from the heavily developed surroundings of Toronto to the large roadless areas of the Hudson Bay Lowlands. In this talk, Joe Northrup will discuss the history of population monitoring and management in the province with primary focus on the recent implementation of a provincial-scale program aimed at regularly</p> 

<b>PFN Coming Events</b>	
	<p>monitoring populations under harvest management. The presentation will also discuss the core results of this work and several additional areas of inquiry.</p> <p>Joe Northrup is a research scientist in the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and adjunct faculty at Trent University. Joe and his team conduct research on the various ways in which human activities influence wildlife populations and behavior, with a particular focus on large mammals.</p> 
<p>Sunday, Oct. 20 9 to 11:30 a.m. 15 participants Harold Town C.A.</p>	<p><b>Fall Walk in Harold Town Conservation Area</b></p> <p>The Harold Town Conservation Area (HTCA) is named after the Canadian painter who owned this property from the mid 1970s until he passed away in 1990. On April 11, 1994, the property was donated to Otonabee Conservation. It was named in his memory and was dedicated as a park for public purposes, as requested by the estate.</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">HTCA photo by Steve Paul</p> <p>People may think of HTCA as the place where mountain bikers go, but it is so much more than that. There are 10 kilometers of multi-use recreational trails that hold lots of wildlife (including 166 species recorded in eBird), and many different plants for pollinators. There is a scenic view from the top of the Meade Creek Drumlin, and the area has been identified as a significant natural heritage feature within the Otonabee Conservation watershed.</p> <p>Come join Steve Paul for a fall outing to take in the beautiful scenery. Bring your hiking boots, binoculars, camera and make sure to dress for the weather of the day. Register after October 6 by e-mail to <a href="mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com">stevepaul70@gmail.com</a>. Final details will be sent to registrants closer to the event date.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate. There are hills to climb and loose rocks in some areas</p>
<p>Saturday, Oct. 26 2 to 3:30 p.m. Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park</p>	<p><b>Juniors Event: Fantastic Fall Foliage</b></p> <p>Explore the beauty of fall as we wander along the trail of this mature forest, which has some of the oldest maple, beech, elm and hemlock trees in Ontario. Bring your curiosity and creativity as we try out different ways to draw leaves, experiment with leaf and bark rubbings, and see how many colours, shapes and textures, leaves can have. Who knows what other fascinating things we may come across? Art supplies and hot chocolate will be provided.</p>  <p>To register, please contact Shelley at <a href="mailto:juniors@peterboroughnature.org">juniors@peterboroughnature.org</a></p>

### PFN Coming Events


<p>Thursday, Nov. 14 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p><b>Monthly Meeting: The Naturalization of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Fanwort in Kasshabog Lake and its Implications for Invasive Species Management</b></p> <p>The naturalization of invasive species is a phenomenon that we generally tend not to consider when we are managing the environment. This talk will cover a case study depicting what appears to be evidence of the significant naturalization of the designated invasive species fanwort (<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>) in Kasshabog Lake. Nicholas Weissflog will elaborate on this by discussing the implications of invasive species becoming largely unproblematic in a relatively short time period for invasive species management and the science of invasion biology.</p> <p>Nick just finished an M.Sc. at Trent focusing on invasive species naturalization. He has been studying and participating in ecological restoration since he was 16. One of Nick’s favourite hobbies is seed collecting and native wildflower horticulture for ecological restoration, a passion that his friend and mentor Philip Fry passed on to him.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Cabomba caroliniana</p>
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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!

As you can see from this month’s *Orchid*, we do not have many outings in store for you this month. We are so grateful for all our outing leaders who share their expertise but **we need your help**. If you have any ideas for an outing, but feel you would like some support to get started, please email Linda Sunderland ([linda.sunderland@gmail.com](mailto:linda.sunderland@gmail.com)) or Steve Paul ([stevepaul70@gmail.com](mailto:stevepaul70@gmail.com)) and we can connect you with experienced outing leaders to make sure you are comfortable with this new role.

### Other Events of Interest

<p>Sunday, Oct. 6 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>KLT’s Ballyduff Trails, Pontypool</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Capacity: 24</p>	<p><b>Annual Tallgrass and Wildflower Seed Harvest</b></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: <a href="https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/">https://kawarthalandtrust.org/events/</a></p>	
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<b>Other Events of Interest</b>	
<p>Monday, Oct. 7 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Gzowski College Room ENW114</p>	<p><b>Trent University Community Speaker Series: Subhankar Banerjee presents "Beyond Extinction: Art &amp; Visual Culture for Biodiversity &amp; Justice"</b></p> <p>Subhankar will share his recent and ongoing work from three places: the Arctic in the Canada-US borderland (where he first became an environmental artist and advocate); the Chihuahuan desert in the Mexico-US borderland (where he now lives); and the Sundarban mangrove of the Bangladesh-India borderland (near where he was born). In each instance, he will offer a long view – spanning decades, centuries, even millennia – to show how art and visual culture can reframe our understanding of the intensifying biodiversity crisis. He will also explain how images can help shape a more inclusive and just framework for biodiversity conservation that honors the rights and needs of Indigenous and other rural peoples.</p> 
<p>Tuesday, Oct. 8 7:30 p.m. at the Publican House 294 Charlotte St.</p>	<p><b>Conservation Café: Dr. Autumn Watkinson presents "Saving the Last Dance... of the Greater Sage Grouse"</b></p> <p>Trent University's Conservation Café presentation series shares research about topics connected to conservation with the public. The Conservation Café typically takes place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month upstairs at The Publican House at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, and all are welcome! Follow @TrentConserve on Twitter to stay up to date on all Conservation Café events.</p> 

### 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 and publicity. Please contact Anda Rungis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at [secretary@peterboroughnature.org](mailto: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](mailto:sueparadisis@hotmail.com)

## Thank You, Retiring Board Members

Last month two valued Board members had to step down for personal reasons and will be missed by the rest of the Board.

Shelley Fletcher King joined the Board in April 2023, and that year took on the responsibility of organizing the Junior Naturalists. With her creativity and enthusiasm, she has offered a fun and exciting educational opportunity for our young members. We are happy that Shelley has agreed to continue to lead the Juniors. She also participated on the Strategic Plan committee and was able to arrange meeting space in the common room at her condo. Shelley helped in many other areas as well and we thank her.

Rene Gareau was a long-time board member, joining in March 2015. For many years he attended community events with a display promoting the PFN. He has also been a lead on the Harper Park Stewardship Committee participating in numerous cleanups over the years and helping to document the flora and fauna of the park. He wishes to continue to support any activity in the park going forward. During the difficult Covid years, Rene served as our President as we took on the challenges of switching to online meetings and reducing our contact with one another. Thank you, Rene, for your commitment to the PFN.

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## Strategic Plan

At September's members' meeting, the PFN Board of Directors unveiled the finalized Strategic Plan with a presentation and a beautiful colour print copy of the plan for members to take home. Additional hard copies will be available at the next members' meeting. The plan and the summary of the findings can be found online here: <https://peterboroughnature.org/about/strategic-plan/>

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## In Memoriam

Peterborough Field Naturalists wish to share condolences and sympathies to the families and friends of Steven Kerr and Ruth Hunter.

PFN Member, **Steven Kerr**, an active fisheries biologist, observer of wildlife and conservationist, passed on August 14, 2024. Steven initiated *The Fauna of the Jack Lake Watershed* atlas in 2013 and updated the information annually. In 2017, the PFN recognized Steve's work through a Certificate of Appreciation. A summary of the 2023 updated atlas was published in the March, 2024 edition of *The Orchid*. We are grateful for Steven's contributions and extend our heartfelt condolences to PFN member Karen Kerr.



**Ruth Hunter**, a longstanding member of the PFN, passed on August 21, 2024. Birdwatching kits available at the Peterborough Public Library were made possible through a project of the PFN and Bird Friendly Peterborough in 2022, with a generous donation of funds from Ruth Hunter and family in memory of Terry Hunter. In this way, the Hunter family legacy for nature appreciation lives on in the Peterborough community.



## Filing Cabinet Needed

The board of Directors needs a small lockable filing cabinet to store financial records as required by the Canada Revenue Agency. If anyone knows of one they would care to donate, it would be much appreciated. Specifications: two drawers, preferably lateral, with a working lock. Please contact Ted Vale at tedandmarion@sympatico.ca.

## PFN Provides Funding to Kawartha Land Trust (KLT) to Aid in Property Securement

Submitted by Fiona McKay

The PFN is pleased to report we have donated \$1000 to KLT in support of its acquisition of a 750-acre property in Peterborough County, known as the Wolfe Property.

The Wolfe Property is connected to the 5,000-acre Peterborough County Forest (northeast of Peterborough, just south of Quackenbush Provincial Park). Its deep forest is connected on three sides to the county forest providing increasingly threatened forest-interior habitat, home to red-shouldered hawks, fisher, and the stunning scarlet tanager, amongst other species. Red-shouldered hawks are deep forest birds that build their nests just below the forest canopy. Scarlet tanagers like unfragmented forests and are prospering here because of its intact canopy. Fisher require a minimum 20 square kilometers per individual/ pair to maintain a healthy population.

The property has attracted the attention of industrial developers, who want to clear-cut it, so acquisition is vital to ensure its longevity. The owners have been actively improving the property for many years and the forest has flourished under their stewardship. More information can be found on the KLT website at <https://kawarthalandtrust.org/donate-to-protect-750-acre-forest/>



100+ year old sugar maple tree on the Wolfe Property (courtesy KLT)

## Outing Report for July 20: Nature by Bike Group Ride

Submitted by Anda Rungis

Twenty members of the local B!KE community and Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) enjoyed a glorious summer morning cycling along the Rotary Greenway Trail, learned new skills and increased their awareness of nature. The group met at Auburn St. and Parkhill Road where organizers Ness Pringle (B!KE, they/them pronouns) and Tamara Brown (PFN, they/them pronouns) welcomed participants, checked for essential equipment (bike helmets, not binoculars!) and encouraged us to listen for bird species commonly found in the Peterborough area.

This event attracted participants of all-ages; ranging from 2 years old to senior citizen. For some, the scavenger hunt activity near Meadowvale Park provided an introduction to identifying plants, birds, insects, mammals and invasive species. For others, the route from Parkhill to Trent University, was a lesson on how to navigate a popular multi-use trail and road crossings while riding in a group. It is estimated that collectively, the participants of this outing logged 200 kilometers. One of the most significant environmental benefits of cycling, as a mode of transportation, is its role in reducing carbon emissions.



Bikes parked at Meadowvale Park for the scavenger hunt. Photo: Anda Rungis



## Outing Report for August 24: Rotary-Greenway Trail

Submitted by Stewart Macdonald

On a sunny Saturday morning, a small but enthusiastic group met the leaders Stewart Macdonald and Ben Taylor for an enjoyable day of birding. The day was warm and became more humid as the day progressed. This may have been a factor in a lower number of birds than we expected on a day when southern migration is well underway.

We were able to identify 39 species of birds on our walk, with fewer numbers than we had hoped. We all enjoyed sharing memories of journeys' past and hopes for journeys' future. This is the beauty of birding! You never know how the day will turn out...no disappointments here! We had a wonderful day in the glorious sunshine!

With respect to our bird sightings, it seemed like we were too early for Raptor migration and too late for swallows. Sparrows and migrating songbirds were also at a premium on this day.

Five warbler species in fall plumages were sighted: Cape May, Yellow, Yellow-Rumped, Black and White and American Redstart. The author was delighted to see the numbers of Yellow Warblers on our walk, which is usually one of the earliest songbirds to leave our community in the summer. Two different Cape May Warblers in different fall plumages also tested the author's identification skills!

Other notables on the day were Merlin, Osprey, Red-Eyed Vireo, Common Merganser, Eastern Phoebe, and Common Raven. American Goldfinches, Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals serenaded us on our journey.

Many Thanks to Ben Taylor for keeping the eBird list for the group and for his photograph of the "Fab Five"!



Group photo by Ben Taylor

## Outing Report for August 25: The Subtle, the Secretive and the Showy

Submitted by Kathryn Sheridan

On a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon, seven PFN members joined Lou Smrylis at the Trent University Nature Area for another fun adventure learning crazy things about plants that we didn't even realize existed.

The first adjective in the outing's name that we tackled was "subtle." For this, we stopped at a boardwalk on one of the Canal Nature Area trails.



Devil's beggartick.  
Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

"Subtle" refers to plants with small flowers or which grow in marshy areas where people don't tend to frequent too often during mosquito season. Speaking for myself, I really wasn't aware of plants blooming at this time of year other than goldenrod, asters and garden store mums. But right by the boardwalk were numerous interesting flowers standing at the ready for our inspection. Lou talked a bit about the various things to notice when looking at plants: configuration of leaves on a stem (e.g., alternate versus opposite), hairiness of leaves and stem, shape of leaves, ray flowers versus disk flowers (a new concept to many of us), et cetera. After this preparatory talk, we were ready to examine the Devil's beggartick. It is a tallish plant with a flower that is lacking in ray flowers (what we commonly think of as petals) and instead has mostly disk flowers (composing the round bit in the middle of where petals join up in a daisy, for instance). If you don't already know this plant, I'll bet you have encountered the seeds: they are dispersed by fur or clothes. The seeds have two prongs, which explains the "devil" in the plant's name. We also observed white



Group photo by Sandy Garvey

snakeroot. If snakeroot is ingested by cattle, a toxin called tremetol, gets in the milk and results in sickness and death in calves and people who drink this milk. Abraham Lincoln's mother is believed to have died in her mid-30s from the mysterious "milk sickness". Other plants that we observed and discussed at this cool, wooded, partially wet location were: cinnamon willowherb, boneset (once thought to be able to mend bones



White snakeroot. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

simply on the basis of the configuration of the leaves on the stem (e.g., the "doctrine of signatures")), northern bugleweed, bittersweet nightshade, poison ivy, broadleaf helleborine (the only invasive orchid in Ontario), spotted jewelweed (a favourite of hummingbirds; also known as "touch-me-not" because the mature seed pods pop when you touch them), swamp aster, calico aster, common selfheal, Jack-in-the-pulpit (gone to seed), sensitive fern (named "sensitive because it quickly succumbs to the first frost), Joe pyeweed, virgin's bower and purple loosestrife.

Next up was the word "secretive". We soon found out that this word is meant to refer to larvae that hide in goldenrod galls. For these, we had to cross the road to find goldenrod along the sunny Wildlife Sanctuary Trails. We observed galls of the goldenrod gall fly (golf-ball shaped galls on the stems of goldenrod) and goldenrod gall midge (a bunch gall, usually at the top of the main stalk). We also discussed the galls of the goldenrod gall moth (elliptical-shaped galls) but we didn't find any.

The last adjective we tackled was "showy." "Showy" refers to plants growing in full sun in the upland meadow. Here we observed: Canada Goldenrod, tall goldenrod, white heath aster, New England aster, Queen Anne's Lace, riverbank grape, thicket creeper, red clover, common milkweed, black-eyed Susan, and, unfortunately, the invasive dog strangling vine.

As usual, Lou taught us a lot using humour, interesting anecdotes, and props (e.g., specimens he carried around in a quiver, and a "pet" sundew he brought from home). We all left the outing a little more cognizant and appreciative of what's out there growing right in front of our very eyes.

## Musical Nature Walk: A Collaboration between Peterborough Symphony Orchestra, Tecasy Ranch and PFN

Submitted by Linda Sunderland

Our collaboration with Peterborough Symphony Orchestra (PSO), which took place on Saturday, September 14, started in April 2024 after PFN Board member Phil Shaw had a brief conversation with PSO manager Christie Goodwin and connected her with our President, Sue Paradisis. Sue sent the



Photo: Cathy Douglas

connection along to me in my role working with PFN outings, as this seemed like a reasonable

fit. What started as a PSO dream to offer music in a unique outdoor setting with the help of PFN outing leaders ended with a Musical Nature Walk event for PSO on the beautiful trails at Tecasy Ranch, with PFN volunteers providing support on September 14. Along the way, we strengthened our relationship with Tecasy Ranch and formed a strong connection with PSO and 70 PSO patrons, musicians and volunteers.



Photo: Shelley King

Since the event just happened last week, we have not had time for review and debriefing but I believe all parties felt it was a success. The 13 PFN volunteers visited the site on Friday for a run through and timing check and returned Saturday for the main event. The biggest challenge was the tight timeline which limited our ability to connect with the natural surroundings. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the beautiful weather and outstanding setting, no one got lost in the woods and we experienced stunning music in a new environment.

Many thanks to Tecasy Ranch, The Peterborough Symphony Orchestra and all the volunteers who made this memorable day a success.

## Outing Report for September 6: Presqu'île Shorebirds and Butterflies

Submitted by Sandy Garvey



Sanderling. Photo: Don McLeod

What's the best way to acknowledge World Shorebird Day? Why with an outing guided by the Dynamic Duo -- Don McLeod and Colleen Lynch -- along with other members of the Peterborough Field Naturalists at Presqu'île Provincial Park. We had a wonderful opportunity to view first-hand the many different types of shorebirds that can be hanging out at this beautiful location. We saw as well, many different butterflies, flowers and then enjoyed our bagged lunches along the shore of Lake Ontario.

The weather was a little wet at times, but the sun pushed back the clouds and shared the spotlight most of the time. It was a great day had by all.

*Editor's note:* Don McLeod also wrote, "Thanks to Lynn Smith for the eBird checklists, 40 species of birds were observed. Several species of shorebirds were observed including Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper and Sanderling. Butterflies were less numerous but some members observed a Common Buckeye."



Group photo: Don McLeod



Semipalmated Sandpipers. Photo: Don McLeod



From left: Common Buckeye, closed bottle gentian, and fringed gentian at Presqu'île Provincial Park (Sandy Garvey)

### A Blue Jay's Strange Behaviour

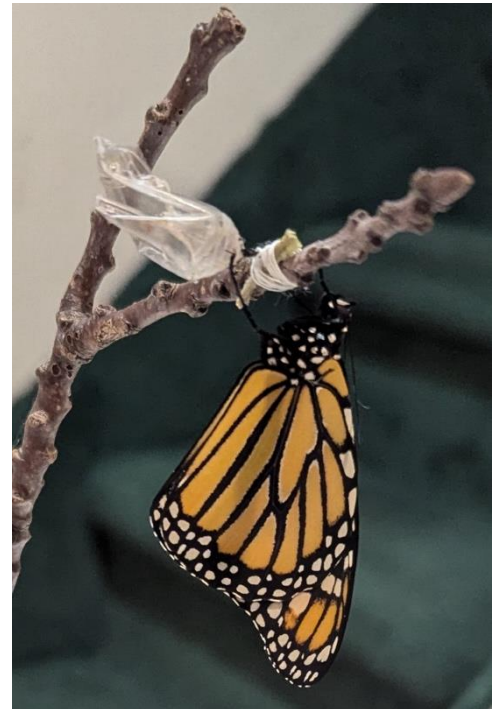


Lorraine Topping sent in the photo to the right which was taken on September 10. She wrote, "The Blue Jay was like that for at least ten minutes, not moving a muscle, and with its head way back." This mysterious behaviour was eventually explained with the help of PFN member, Ed Addison, who wrote, "There are lots of reasons for this behaviour including getting rid of parasites [e.g., "sunbathing"]. The mouth agape is likely to maintain a stable internal body temperature as necessary while allowing high external temperature." What a relief to know it wasn't ill and suffering or had gone crazy in the head.

← Would'n't you be a little disturbed if you observed this and didn't know what was going on? Photo: Lorraine Topping

### A Magical Experience with a Monarch

Enid Mallory sent in some photos of a Monarch butterfly emerging from its chrysalis that her daughter, Laura, sent to her. Enid said, "We were inspired by Liz Mann of Peterborough to bring a tiny caterpillar inside and see it grow and transform. She [Laura] and her son, Deyan, were lucky to be present when it emerged. They took it outside and saw it flying in the yard before it started its long journey." Laura said that they enjoyed watching the butterfly emerge and that the experience was magical.



## Why Do Deciduous Trees Drop Their Leaves?

Submitted by Lou Smyrlis

There is something unquestionably melancholy about a tall maple or oak, branches naked against a gray autumn sky, leaves that once unfurled to capture the summer sun now lying discarded, leaching their vibrant autumn hues into the earth until only a dull greyish brown remains. But there are good reasons behind the practice.

Most deciduous trees have broad leaves, an extremely efficient design for capturing the energy of sunlight and using it to create food (glucose) for the tree. Come the winter months, not only is the amount of sunlight diminished but, more importantly, the enzymes that drive the biochemical reactions necessary to make food for the tree don't work well in the cold. If the tree can't use its leaves as solar panels in helping it make food, they become a liability, particularly during the harsh late autumn and winter storms. A mature tree can have up to 1,000 square metres of combined leaf surface. That's a lot of liability.

The autumn rains soften the forest floor making it harder for the tree's roots to find purchase in the mud. Winds blowing at more than 90 kilometres per hour can uproot even large trees. Such winds pummel tree trunks with forces equivalent to a weight of almost 200,000 kg. Winter snow and ice, which generate significantly heavy loads for deciduous trees, also present serious dangers. Trees caught with their leaves still in place by a surprisingly early snow or ice storm pay the price.

To be more aerodynamic in the face of such storms, deciduous trees must drop their leaves. They do this by first absorbing any remaining nutrients in their leaves and storing them for use during the coming months, similar to the way a bear stores fat in its body before heading into hibernation. Then hormones within the tree trigger a process that creates a bumpy line at the place where the leaf stem meets the branch. The leaves are thus actively cut off the branch and then a protective cell layer grows over the exposed area.

The energy that would have been required to maintain its leaves through autumn and winter is placed to better use in expanding the tree's root system before winter sets in. The mass of fallen leaves also creates a layer of mulch on the forest floor which helps insulate the soil and keep it moist during the freezing cold months to come. And the benefits continue into the spring. Without leaves to get in the way, the wind-blown pollen the tree will produce can travel further and reach more trees.

When the leaf shedding process starts, rather than getting melancholy about summer's abrupt end, perhaps it's best to think of it as the poets do: Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.



To be more aerodynamic during the harsh late fall and winter storms, deciduous trees must drop their leaves. Photo by Lou Smyrlis

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## Nature Almanac for October – The Time for Fallen Leaves

By Drew Monkman

*"Just before the death of flowers,  
And before they are buried in snow,  
There comes a festival season  
When nature is all aglow."*

– Author unknown

In early October, the sun still shines with warm benevolence. Yet, it is not the light of summer. Often hazy and surreal, October sunshine has a quality all its own. As crickets sing softly from meadows of aster, winter seems far away. But, as experience has taught us, the beauty of early October is both temporary and fragile. So, we try to hang on to these magnificent days before wind and rain scatter leaves and colder weather descends upon us. Perhaps it is the ephemeral nature of October's loveliness that makes it so special.

October mornings greet us with the first heavy frosts of the season. As the sun warms the cold night air, leaves shower down from trees, and vistas that were hidden all summer long once again become visible. This is the month of the rake; but there is a payoff for our labour. The familiar, spicy smell of the fallen leaves transports us back to childhood, evoking an instant flood of memories of autumns past.

As the month draws to a close, the only leaf colour that remains is the yellow of poplars and tamaracks and the browns, oranges and burgundy of oaks. Corn fields and cattail marshes become a sea of drab yellow, and fallen leaves quickly turn an ubiquitous brown. With cold, damp weather and markedly shorter days, it's not hard to imagine why the Celts chose this time of year to celebrate the various traditions that have become our Halloween.



New England aster. Photo: Sandy Garvey

- 1) Northern Canada geese continue to stream southward in large, high-altitude flocks.
- 2) Large, grey, Western conifer seed bugs (sometimes called leaf-footed or squash bugs) seek overwintering sites in homes this month. They can measure up to 2 cm in length and look rather imposing. This insect cannot breed indoors, however.
- 3) Sulphur and cabbage butterflies are active throughout October. The occasional monarch, too, can usually be seen until late in the month.
- 4) White, mauve and purple asters are the dominant wildflowers this month, bringing the roadside floral parade to a close. Watch for heath, panicked, and calico asters in particular.
- 5) This is sparrow month at feeders. Watch for white-throated and white-crowned sparrows, along with dark-eyed juncos. If you are lucky, a thrush-like fox sparrow may even put in an appearance. Be sure to scatter seed on the ground.
- 6) The full moon of October is known as the Hunter's Moon. In early fall, the moon rises only about 30 minutes later each evening and stays low in the sky. Fields and forests are bathed in moonlight allowing hunters of days past to pursue game late into the evening.
- 7) Golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets, along with yellow-rumped warblers, pass through in large numbers. They can be heard calling as they search for food
- 8) Frogs and toads are often found sitting motionless on warm road pavement on wet, mild fall nights.
- 9) Fall colours are at their height. Quite often, the peak coincides with the Thanksgiving weekend. Sugar and red maples steal the show.
- 10) The Orion constellation towers over the southern sky as we head off to work in the early morning darkness. Like falling leaves, it is a sign that winter is fast approaching.



Northern Leopard Frog. Photo: Don McLeod

11) On warm, sunny October days, the light often has a hazy, almost dream-like quality. This is due to large amounts of water vapour in the air in fall and the fact that the fall sun is lower in the sky. The two factors combine to create a feeling of reverie.

- 12) Through late summer and fall, bird species that are usually found in more southern regions often drift northward into the Kawarthas. The most common of these is the great egret.
- 13) Watch for white-tailed deer feeding along the edges of fields and woodlots at dawn and dusk.
- 14) Trees are quickly shedding their leaves now, each species following its own timetable. Ash are often the first species to become leafless.
- 15) Starling-sized northern saw-whet owls migrate southward through the Kawarthas.
- 16) Bright yellow aspens and brown, red and burgundy oaks take over the fall foliage spectacle.
- 17) Star-nosed moles are very active in the fall. They tunnel just below the surface of the ground in search of earthworms. In the process, large quantities of soil are pushed up from below into mounds.
- 18) Muskellunge continue to feed heavily. This can make for great fishing.
- 19) The sporadic calling of spring peepers can still be heard on warm days.
- 20) Migrating diving ducks congregate on the larger Kawartha Lakes such as Pigeon Lake. Watch for large rafts of goldeneye and scaup along with mergansers.
- 21) Mating clouds of midges are still common, even on days when the temperature is close to freezing.
- 22) Because they are still mostly green and fully-leaved, the extent of non-native trees and shrubs becomes evident. Norway maple, lilac and European buckthorn stand out in particular.
- 23) Deer mice seek out winter accommodation. Human habitations are often chosen.
- 24) Eastern garter snakes are still active and can be seen basking in the mid-fall sun. They are the last of the snakes to retreat to winter quarters.
- 25) The "fall turn-over" begins to re-oxygenate lakes this month and will continue until freeze-up. It occurs when the surface water cools and mixes with the uniformly-cold deeper waters below. At times, the mixing even brings dead weeds to the surface.
- 26) Chipmunks retreat to their secure, well-provisioned dens. Unlike groundhogs, chipmunks are unable to store large amounts of body fat and must therefore eat throughout the winter.



Garter snake at Tecasy Ranch.  
Photo: Avery Eaton



Eastern Chipmunk. Photo:  
Ken Morrison

- 27) The first winter finches usually show up about now. Depending on the year, these may include pine siskins, common redpolls and pine grosbeaks. Golden eagles migrate south through the Kawarthas from late October through early December.
- 28) Brightly-coloured brook trout spawn at gravel-bottomed sites in stream headwaters and along lake shores. They choose areas where spring water wells up through the gravel.
- 29) Daylight Savings Time ends on the first Sunday in November. Set your clocks back an hour. Total darkness is upon us now by 5:30 p.m.
- 30) The smoky, golden-yellow of tamaracks lights up wetland borders like so many candles. They represent the final act in the annual fall colour extravaganza.
- 31) Right on cue for Halloween, late October is often when people come across bats in older schools, churches and homes. These are usually big brown bats looking for wintering sites or animals that have been disturbed during their dormancy. Little Brown Bats overwinter in caves and old mines. Their numbers have plummeted as a result of White Nose Syndrome

# The Occurrence of Anthropogenic Materials in Urban Bird Nests

Autumn White  
Supervised by Sarah Jamieson and Jennifer Baici



I am a student at Trent University studying Biology. I have a particular interest in avian ecology, and decided to pursue a research thesis in my final year at Trent. Under the supervision of Sarah Jamieson, I explored the use of artificial materials in urban bird nests and whether it varies by species or habitat type.

## Introduction

Urban spaces are rapidly encroaching on the natural environment, resulting in wildlife being exposed to an abundance of anthropogenic waste materials. Birds in urban settings often take advantage of these materials and utilize them as nesting material. While the use of debris in nests has been well explored in seabirds, there is a lack of knowledge on its use by urban birds.

I hypothesized that nest composition will be related to resource availability. I predicted that where there is a greater availability of artificial materials, nests will contain more debris.

Nests were collected from Peterborough, Ontario, Canada and dissected into material types. This study is one of the first studies to investigate the use of anthropogenic materials across different species of bird nests. Further research is imperative to fully understand and compare the use of artificial materials in nests of different terrestrial bird species.

## Methods

I shared social media posts to Facebook.com in various community groups to encourage homeowners with inactive nests from the 2023 breeding season to donate them to the study. Nests were bagged, labelled, and stored in a freezer. Upon analysis, I placed nests in a fume hood to thaw, and then dissected them, following Corrales-Moya and colleagues (2021) methods. Artificial materials from each nest were weighed and categorized by type, length and colour, following Provencher and colleagues (2017) recommendations. To demark the territory range of the nesting birds, a 50-metre radius was mapped around each nest using MapDeveloper.com and Google Earth. The percentage of green landscape was estimated by comparing the area of greenery to impervious surfaces in each radius. I then created descriptive tables to display the results for each species.



A Chipping Sparrow nest that contained 19 pieces of artificial materials which all posed an entanglement risk to the birds in the nest, as each piece was >5 cm in length.



A Robin nest that contained 39 pieces of artificial material, 90% of which were an entanglement hazard.



Another Robin nest, constructed with party ribbons.



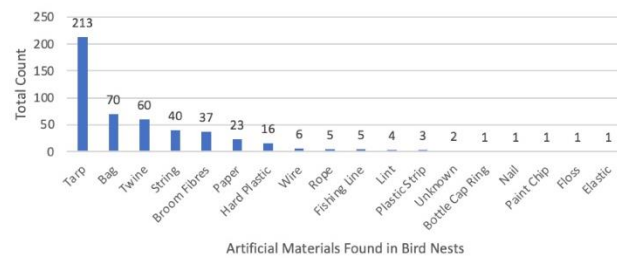
## Results

Overall, 69% of the species in this study had built nests that contained artificial material. Of the species that used debris in their nests (n=11), 82% nested in urban environments. Robins had a high prevalence (91%) of debris, and nested in settings of low greenery. Their nests had a total of 411 pieces of debris. Swallows nested in environments with a high percentage of greenery (96%), and had no prevalence of debris in their nests. I found that none of the cavity- nesting species nested with anthropogenic materials.



A Brown Thrasher nest that was built with newspaper.

Figure 1: The most common artificial materials found in nests collected in Peterborough, Ontario in 2023 were tarp, bags, twine, string, broom fibres, paper and hard pieces of plastic.



## Connections

The species with lower greenspace likely had a higher abundance of debris in their environment, resulting in a higher prevalence and intensity of debris in nests, which supported my hypothesis. Previous studies have agreed that the degree of anthropogenic activity was related to the level of ingested plastic debris (Ibañez et al., 2020), and the level of debris present in nests (Jagiello et al., 2018). Birds may also choose debris that resembles their natural nesting material. The most common debris such as long pieces of tarp, string, twine, or rope may resemble long pieces of grass that are typically used in robin and many other species' nests. This has been documented in gannets and gulls, where artificial materials resembling their preferred natural nesting material (seaweed or grasses) are incorporated into nests (Lopes et al., 2020; Votier et al., 2011).

Although my study was small-scale, my methods have shown that it is possible to collect data across multiple species to further understand their use of anthropogenic materials in nest building. At minimum, the advantage of exploring debris use across species is that it can reveal which species are more likely to engage in this behaviour and which species may be more prone to injury.

## Conclusion

I discovered that many terrestrial birds opportunistically incorporate anthropogenic material into their nests. Birds nesting on urban land that have a greater availability of artificial material will likely build nests with more debris than birds on less disturbed land. My study will guide the initiative toward wider-scale, exploratory sampling efforts across species to understand debris use in bird nests further- this is critical to avian conservation. Thank you to any of the community members who were involved in this study and donated nests. Thank you to the Peterborough Field Naturalists for your support. Finally, thank you to my amazing professors at Trent University- Sarah Jamieson and Jennifer Baici for your help and guidance with this project.

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## One Look at Loon Life

A cloudless sky reflected in the water's zest  
Is the perfect setting to view you on your nest.  
Sparkling like the waves, your sunlit, checkered back  
Presents an effective disguise to deter aerial attack.  
Screened from the road by a copse of poplars on the river bank steep,  
Do the warm sun and waves lapping gently lull you to sleep?  
I came to see you, regrettably named Common Loon,  
Who, without our help, may be lost to us soon.  
I arrive to find gawkers not respecting your need for private nesting space.  
I stay longer than I'd intended to explain the fragile nature of this place.  
Whereas once suitable nesting and nursery sites existed in profusion,  
Too many shores lie ruined by development and recreational intrusion.  
You must be vigilant of wild dangers but also domestic ones, too.  
A loon lacking a territory may see an opportunity to seize yours from you.  
Nearby there may be other loons wanting your territory, or birds predatory.  
Loons can be violent and wound others fatally when clashing with bills piscatory.

Murray Arthur Palmer, 2024



Photo of Common Loon by Murray Palmer



## 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](mailto:orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org)

<b>Aug. 1</b>	A <b>Common Tern</b> was noted by Nancy McEvoy on Belmont Lake.
<b>Aug. 3</b>	Angela Mattos spied a <b>Philadelphia Vireo</b> and an early <b>Cape May Warbler</b> in her Douro yard.
<b>Aug. 4</b>	Two <b>Blue-gray Gnatcatchers</b> were heard calling out on Whitfield Landing, Otonabee River, by Tony Barrett. Randy Smith had a <b>Carolina Wren</b> feeding on his suet feeder in Lakefield. Two early migrating <b>Bay-breasted Warblers</b> were seen by Cathy Douglas on Hubble Rd.
<b>Aug. 5</b>	Don Sutherland saw the continuing <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> family at the Hammer Family Nature Preserve.
<b>Aug. 6</b>	A <b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b> was seen by Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley on Hubble Rd. A <b>Giant Swallowtail</b> and a <b>Hummingbird Clearwing</b> moth were seen by Robert DiFruscia in his Keene yard.
<b>Aug. 7</b>	Cameron Eby observed a previously unknown <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> family on Belmont Lake. A <b>Philadelphia Vireo</b> was spotted by Cathy Douglas at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Another early migrant <b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b> was seen by Iain Rayner in his Lakefield yard, and Jake Nafziger had two more sightings of these migrants at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and at the Otonabee Agreement Forest near McCracken's Landing. Robert DiFruscia spotted an <b>Eastern Tailed Blue</b> butterfly and a <b>Yellow Hunchback Bee Fly</b> at Nephthton.
<b>Aug. 8</b>	John Carley noted 3 <b>Common Terns</b> flying up Sandy Lake. A <b>Carolina Wren</b> was heard by Pam Martin in her Lang yard.
<b>Aug. 10</b>	A <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> and a <b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b> were seen by Cathy Douglas on South Bay Rd, Stoney Lake.
<b>Aug. 13</b>	Dave Milsom detected a juvenile <b>Least Bittern</b> at the Cunningham Blvd Stormwater Pond. A <b>Great Egret</b> was spotted by Kathryn Sheridan at Lock 25, Otonabee River. The <b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b> family previously reported at Ennismore was reconfirmed anonymously. A <b>Leonard's Skipper</b> and a <b>Bald Face Hornet Fly</b> (which mimics the <b>Bald Face Hornet</b> ) was encountered by Robert DiFruscia on Sandy Lake Rd.
<b>Aug. 14</b>	Another <b>Philadelphia Vireo</b> was seen by Laurie Healey at the Otonabee Gravel Pits.
<b>Aug. 15</b>	The previously reported family of <b>Red-headed Woodpeckers</b> at Elim Lodge on Sandy Point Rd, were confirmed by Greg Springett and Kellie Superina. These birds continued to be seen through the late summer. Maybe these are the same family group noted at the Hammer Family Nature Preserve?

	<p><b>Philadelphia Vireos</b> were seen by Dave Milsom at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and Cathy Douglas on the Bridgenorth Rotary Trail.</p> <p>Mating <b>Saffron-winged Meadowhawk</b> dragonflies and a <b>Common Ringlet</b> butterfly were seen by Robert DiFruscia at the Otonabee Gravel Pits.</p>
<b>Aug. 16</b>	Dave Milsom spotted an early migrating <b>Blackpoll Warbler</b> at the Hammer Nature Preserve.
<b>Aug. 17</b>	A <b>Lesser Scaup</b> was noted at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by two anonymous birders. This bird was later joined by other scaup over the month and seen by many.
<b>Aug. 19</b>	Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley noted another <b>Philadelphia Vireo</b> on Hope Mill Rd. A <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> was seen by Cathy Douglas on the Lang Hastings Trail near Drummond Line.
<b>Aug. 21</b>	A previously identified family of <b>Red-headed Woodpeckers</b> on Duncan's Line were further confirmed by Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley, who also encountered another family group on Drummond Line.
<b>Aug. 22</b>	Jax and Ted Nasimok saw two <b>Lesser Scaup</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoon. Two <b>Common Terns</b> were seen by Don Sutherland at the Hammer Family Nature Preserve. Marilyn Hubley saw a <b>Great Egret</b> foraging at the Briar Hill Bird Sanctuary. An early migrating <b>Palm Warbler</b> was seen by Dave Milsom at the Trent South Drumlin Nature Area. Robert DiFruscia spotted an <b>Aphrodite Fritillary</b> , a <b>Question Mark</b> and a <b>Common Wood Nymph</b> on Sandy Lake Rd.
<b>Aug. 23</b>	<b>Great Egrets</b> were spotted by Matthew Toby at Millbrook's Millpond (1) and at Bartlett Rd (1), and another by Scott Kendall at Harper Park. Jax and Ted Nasimok detected a <b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b> while paddling on the Indian River towards Keene. A <b>Carolina Wren</b> was seen by Matthew Tobey at the Larmer Line marsh.
<b>Aug. 24</b>	Cathy Douglas saw an early migrating <b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b> on Stoney Lake. An early migrant <b>Palm Warbler</b> was seen by Tim Haan on Corrigan Hill.
<b>Aug. 25</b>	While kayaking on a back bay south of Whitfield Landing, Marilyn Freeman encountered 21 <b>Great Egrets</b> . Maybe a possible migration roost site? A <b>Least Bittern</b> was seen foraging along the Indian River at Douro Park by Angela Mattos. Don Sutherland spotted an early <b>Palm Warbler</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
<b>Aug. 26</b>	An <b>Eastern Phantom Crane Fly</b> was seen by Robert DiFruscia along the Lang Hastings Trail near Heritage Line.
<b>Aug. 27</b>	Scott Gibson encountered 5 <b>Great Egrets</b> roosting on Fox Island in Buckhorn Lake, across from Curve Lake Reserve. Robert DiFruscia encountered a <b>Common Green Darner</b> , <b>Black Swallowtails</b> , <b>Black Saddlebags</b> , a <b>Treble Bar Moth</b> and a <b>White-faced Meadowhawk</b> in their home fields on Heritage Line
<b>Aug. 28</b>	A single male <b>Lesser Scaup</b> was seen by Laurie Healey, Marilyn Hubley and Jane Kroes on Rice Lake at Duncan's Line.

	<p>Don Sutherland spotted a <b>Least Bittern</b> at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p> <p>A previously noted family of <b>Red-headed Woodpeckers</b> on Northey's Bay Rd was reconfirmed by Lynn Johnson.</p>
<b>Aug. 31</b>	<p>Kale Worman was delighted to encounter a <b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b> (!) at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.</p>
<b>Sep. 2</b>	<p>Leo Weiskittel and Daniel Newman noted a <b>Great Egret</b> flying over Mervin Line.</p> <p>An early <b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b> was detected by Dave Milsom at the Trent South Drumlin Nature Area.</p>
<b>Sep. 3</b>	<p>At Nephton, an <b>Eastern Comma</b> butterfly and an <b>Eastern Tailed Blue</b> butterfly were seen by Robert DiFruscia.</p>
<b>Sep. 5</b>	<p>A late <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> was seen by Dave Milsom at the Trent South Drumlin Nature Area.</p>
<b>Sep. 6</b>	<p>Another <b>Great Egret</b> was seen flying over the Trent Rotary Trail by Jake Nafziger.</p> <p>Bill Crins detected a <b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b> on the Jackson Creek Trail near Atkinson Rd.</p>
<b>Sep. 7</b>	<p>Jake Jafziger spotted a group of 6 <b>American Golden-Plovers</b>, a <b>Whimbrel</b> and a <b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b> in a field on Scriven Line. While there, Jake also saw 19 late <b>Barn Swallows</b>.</p> <p>Another <b>Barn Swallow</b> was noticed by Matthew Tobey at the Briar Hill Sanctuary and Dan Newman saw 3 others at Wallace Point Rd.</p>
<b>Sep. 8</b>	<p>At the site on Scriven Rd yesterday, Don Sutherland also saw a <b>Black-bellied Plover</b>, a <b>Semipalmated Plover</b> and a <b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>. A <b>Peregrine Falcon</b> was attempting to make a snack of the plovers!</p> <p>Another <b>Great Egret</b> was seen by Dan Newman at Wallace Point Rd and Fourth Line.</p> <p>A <b>Bank Swallow</b> and 2 <b>Barn Swallows</b> were seen by Don Sutherland at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons and 2 more at Scriven Rd.</p> <p>A white <b>Eastern Gray Squirrel</b> was seen by the son of Lou Smyrlis at their cottage near Buckhorn. Although the fur was white, the eyes were black and Lou suggests it is leucistic rather than albino. It did not appear to persist at that location.</p>
<b>Sep. 9</b>	<p>Three <b>Great Egrets</b> were seen by Leo Weiskittel flying over County Rd 2 near Norwood and another was seen foraging by Hilary Dickson south of Bensfort Bridge.</p> <p>Jake Nafziger saw 2 late <b>Eastern Kingbirds</b> at Meadowvale Park.</p> <p>A late-departing <b>Baltimore Oriole</b> was spotted by Dave Milsom at a feeder on Scollard Dr.</p>
<b>Sep. 10</b>	<p>Don Sutherland encountered a late <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> and a <b>Canada Warbler</b> on Nicholson Rd.</p> <p>A <b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b> was seen by Cathy Douglas at the Otonabee Gravel Pits.</p>
<b>Sep. 11</b>	<p>Robert DiFruscia saw an <b>Orange Sulphur</b> butterfly and a <b>Mourning Cloak</b> butterfly, and a <b>European Mantis</b> at Nephton.</p>
<b>Sep. 12</b>	<p>Two juvenile <b>White-crowned Sparrows</b> were spotted by Jax Nasimok, with other migrant sparrows at the Trent Sanctuary Wildlife Area.</p> <p>Tim Haan saw a <b>Semipalmated Plover</b> in Cold Lake in Kawartha Highlands Park.</p> <p>Michael Gillespie reported having had a visiting <b>Bedstraw Clearwing</b> moth in his gardens recently.</p> <p>A <b>Red-bellied Snake</b> was seen by a PFN member on 9<sup>th</sup> Line Asphodel near River Rd.</p>






<b>Sep. 13</b>	Angela Mattos spotted an immature <b>American Goshawk</b> in her Douro yard. A <b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b> was seen by Erica Nol on Gilmour St.
<b>Sep. 14</b>	A <b>Great Egret</b> was seen on Buckhorn Lake north of Curve Lake Reserve, by Kristen Palfrey. Another <b>Great Egret</b> was spotted by Heather Gustar feeding in Squirrel Creek. A <b>Golden Digger Wasp</b> , a <b>Red Admiral</b> and a <b>Gray Comma</b> were seen by Robert DiFruscia in their home fields on Heritage Line.
<b>Sep. 15</b>	A late migrating <b>Yellow Warbler</b> was noted in a flock of other warblers, at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Jax Nasimok and Kale Worman.
<b>Sep. 16</b>	Cathy Douglas spotted a <b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b> on South Bay Rd, Stoney Lake.
<b>Sep. 17</b>	Another <b>Great Egret</b> was seen by Marilyn Hubley in a pond on Best Rd, Cavan.
<b>Sep. 18</b>	A flock of 18 <b>Common Terns</b> was seen flying over the Lakefield Marsh by Travis Cameron. Cathy Douglas noted another late <b>Eastern Kingbird</b> on County Rd 44, Havelock.
<b>Sep. 19</b>	Jake Nafziger saw and heard 4 late <b>Bobolinks</b> where they had been in a field by Scriven Rd. A <b>Prairie Warbler</b> in male breeding plumage was a pleasant surprise for Dave Milsom at the Hammer Family Nature Preserve.

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**Orchid submissions are encouraged!**

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, October 24.  
 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





# Junior Naturalist News

[peterboroughnature.org](http://peterboroughnature.org) email: [juniors@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:juniors@peterboroughnature.org) October 2024

## UPCOMING JUNIORS EVENT! "FANTASTIC FALL FOLIAGE"

Explore the beauty of fall as we wander along the trail of this mature forest, which has some of the oldest maple, beech, elm and hemlock trees in Ontario. Bring your curiosity and creativity as we try out different ways to draw leaves, experiment with leaf and bark rubbings, and see how many colours, shapes and textures, leaves can have. Who knows what other fascinating things we may come across? Art supplies and hot chocolate will be provided.

**DATE:** Saturday, October 26, 2024

**TIME:** 2pm to 3:30pm

**LOCATION:** Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park, Peterborough

**REGISTRATION:**

Contact Shelley at

[juniors@peterboroughnature.org](mailto:juniors@peterboroughnature.org).



## IT'S WOOLLY BEAR CATERPILLAR SEASON!

Have you noticed any woolly bear caterpillars this month? If so, chances are you spotted them on their way to find a safe, sheltered spot to overwinter in. The woolly bear caterpillar hibernates in leaf litter during the winter months. In early spring, it wakes up, eats some leaves and then starts to spin a cocoon, weaving hairs into the cocoon from its body! By late spring, an Isabella Tiger Moth appears; similar to this one.



# 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:

<b>Name(s):</b>	<b>Phone(s):</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Email(s):</b>

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 ▶▶▶

<b>Main interests:</b>	<b>How do you hope to participate?</b>
<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?

- 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:** \_\_\_\_\_