

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



Garter Snake at Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park During Fungi Outing. Photo: Sandy Garvey

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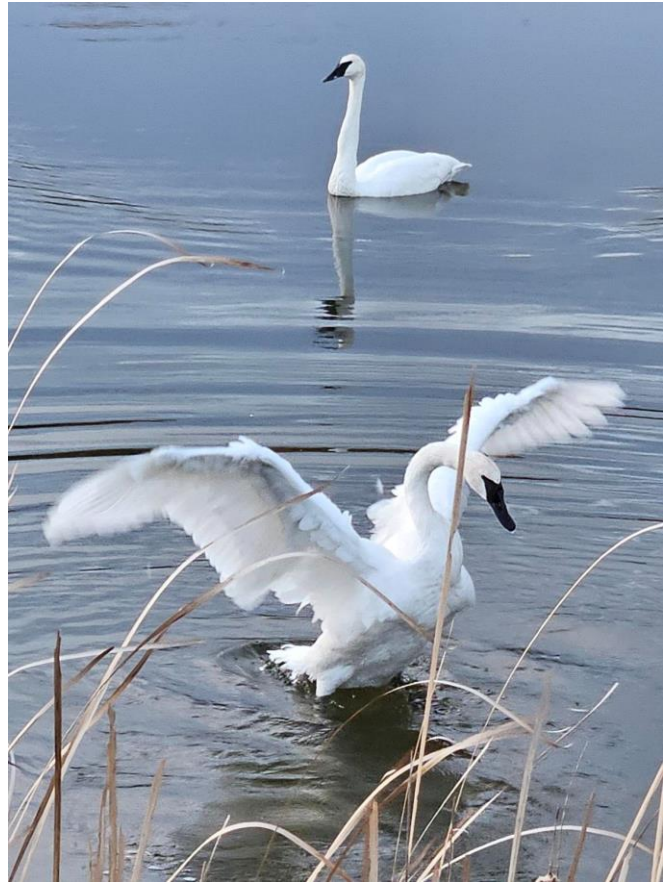
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Welcome new PFN members!

- Krista Campbell, Donald Fraser & family
- Heather & Dan Snowball & family
- Meg Stager
- Curtis Driedger & Barbara Ratz
- Daniel Masterson, Wanda Findlay






Clockwise from top: Trumpeter Swans at Gannon Narrows (Kim Muzatko), saddle-shaped false morel at Emily Tract on September 27 (Sandy Garvey), and Greater White-fronted Goose at Del Crary Park on October 9 (Marilyn Hubley).


PFN Coming Events	
<p>Dates and times to be announced</p>	<p>Nature Appreciation Walks</p> <p>Last winter’s Nature Appreciation Walks were a hit, so we are going to set them up again this year. If you are new to the PFN, you may be curious to know how they are different from our regular outings. Basically, we are looking to collect a list of people that are interested in getting together on more short-notice. These walks pop up based on the weather and leaders’ availability. Many times, they are great reasons to get out and enjoy nature with others without a topic or agenda. Getting out in the fresh air, exercising, and socializing are great for our physical and mental health.</p> <p>If you are interested in joining these nature walks, send us an e-mail. If there are topics you are very interested in, mention that in your response. If you might be interested in leading an outing, please identify that in your e-mail response as well. We will keep a list and - when the weather presents an opportunity - will send out an invitation. The time and day of the week will change as will the location and degree of difficulty. If you can’t attend, just ignore the e-mail. If you want to attend, just respond to the instructions in the e-mail. To register for being on this list, please send an e-mail to Steve at stevepaul70@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sunday, Nov. 3 12:30 to 4 p.m. 15 participants Kawartha Highlands Signature Park</p>	<p>The Miniature World of Lichens</p> <p>For such fascinating and beautiful organisms, lichens are incredibly overlooked. Most mature trees right outside your door will have several species on the bark. The trail at the Kawartha Highlands Signature Park has many interesting examples of lichens growing on the trees, rocks, and ground.</p> <p>Join leaders Lou Smyrlis and Sue Paradisis for a scenic walk by the Mississauga River while we learn about the variety of specimens we find. Check the PFN website for the June 2023 Orchid article written by Lou. Bring your phone or camera, a hand lens if you have one and binoculars. Dress according to the forecast for the day and wear sturdy footwear.</p> <p>Register for the lichen outing by contacting Lou at lousmyrlis@icloud.com. For those who register, more information will be provided closer to the date of the outing.</p> <p>Accessibility: Moderate. We will be walking over bare and uneven rock.</p>
<p>Thursday, Nov. 14 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: The Naturalization of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Fanwort in Kasshabog Lake and its Implications for Invasive Species Management</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</p>



Cabomba caroliniana

PFN Coming Events	
	<p>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>Saturday, Nov. 23 2 to 3:30pm Jackson Park, Peterborough (detailed instructions will be sent to all who register)</p>	<p>Kids With Cameras</p>  <p>Have you ever noticed how much more aware you are when looking at the world through the lens of a camera? Textures, colours, patterns, light & shadow are more obvious to us when we’re really paying attention. Kids, cameras & nature are the perfect combination for an afternoon of exploring the forest, stream & trails from new perspectives. Any camera is fine but your old forgotten cell phone cameras are ideal! We will play not only with the art of nature photography, but also with how to capture images to post on iNaturalist so Juniors can share what they discover with other citizen scientists. We hope you’ll join us for an afternoon of creative exploration and discovery.</p> <p>To register, contact Shelley at juniors@peterboroughnature.org Children must be accompanied by an adult.</p>
<p>Thursday, Dec. 12 Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Hybrid meeting Camp Kawartha 2505 Pioneer Road</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: Holiday Season Members’ Slide Show Night</p> <p>A long-time annual tradition in the PFN is the members' slide show night. Target length of slideshow presentations should be 10-15 minutes long (max). If you are interested in sharing your photos this year, please register as soon as possible by e-mailing Phil Shaw at pshaw78@hotmail.com or Tamara Brown at tamaraebrown@gmail.com.</p> 
<p>Sunday, Dec. 15 All day</p>	<p>2024 Peterborough Christmas Bird Count</p>  <p>Sunday, December 15 is the scheduled date for the annual Peterborough Christmas Bird Count, the longest operated citizen-science wildlife survey in Peterborough. It is an annual tradition for area birders and naturalists. The count covers an area contained within a circle of 7 ½ miles centered on Chemong Road and Sunset Blvd. The count area is divided into ten sectors with a sector leader(s) coordinating coverage in that sector. The Christmas Bird Counts were established in 1900 by the National Audubon Society and organized across the continent by them. Birds Canada plays an important role in supporting counts across Canada.</p>

PFN Coming Events

	<p>Preregistration with the count compiler, Martin Parker at mparker19@cogeco.ca or 705-745-4750 is required in advance so the field parties can be balanced. Feeder watchers are also welcome and encouraged. More details will appear in December issue of <i>The Orchid</i>.</p>
<p>Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 5 to 8 p.m. The Canadian Canoe Museum 2077 Ashburnham Drive, Peterborough Peterborough Transit: 7 Lansdowne (Eastbound), Marsdale at Ashburnham stop</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting: An Evening at The Canadian Canoe Museum</p>  <p>The Peterborough Field Naturalists celebrate 85 years in 2025 and to start the year off, The Canadian Canoe Museum (https://canoemuseum.ca/visit/) has been booked for the January PFN Members' Meeting! You are invited to come early (beginning at 5 p.m.) to tour the museum's Exhibit Hall and join PFN members in the Event Hall for social time and a presentation (more details to follow in December) from museum staff. Catered appetizers, sweets and beverages will be provided. Admission to the museum for this event, including the Exhibit Hall, is at "no charge" for PFN members who pre-register.</p> <p>Mark your calendars to save the date and register for this meeting, through CanadaHelps, starting on December 1, 2024: https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/peterborough-field-naturalists/events/pfn-evening-at-the-canadian-canoe-museum/</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!

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 e-mail Linda Sunderland (linda.sunderland@gmail.com) or Steve Paul (stevepaul70@gmail.com) and we can connect you with experienced outing leaders to make sure you are comfortable with this new role.

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 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

2025 AGM Online Auction Fundraiser

It's never too early to start planning! As you switch over from warm season to cold season interests, keep in mind the PFN's annual online auction. Held in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting in the spring of each year, the auction is PFN's sole fundraising event, with proceeds of the auction supporting the general operations of the PFN, including administration costs, production of PFN's newsletter, "the Orchid", events and special projects. Items must be new or previously owned in good condition, suitable to rehome. Contact Fiona (fcmckay@peterboroughnature.org) to discuss any possible donations.

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts on Member Meetings

The PFN board and member meeting organizers want to hear from you! What do you love about the monthly Member Meetings? What do you wish would change?

The Member Meetings survey is live now for all members at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFN_MemberSurvey. It will be live until December 8.

The results will be compiled and digested over the winter. We will then be incorporating feedback to the meetings starting in the spring! Questions? Reach out to tamaraeabrown@gmail.com.

Lots Going On - News from the President

Throughout the year, PFN Board members are often at work behind the scenes and this fall has been particularly busy for some of us. Here are some of the things we have been doing.



Monarch Ultra

This event took place in Millennium Park where we were joined by other environmental groups with displays. We had good volunteer involvement with Sandy Garvey, Linda Sunderland, Steve Paul, Lucie Blouin and myself attending. Despite much better weather than last year, there didn't seem to be as many people. Nonetheless, we had lots of visitors and gave out lots of rack cards and old Orchids to promote the PFN and the City Nature Challenge.

Trent Placement Student

Shannon Taylor, a 4th year Conservation Biology student will be doing a placement with us focusing on trends in 25 years of data collection from our butterfly counts. Martin Parker and I will meet with her bi-weekly.

Trent University Meeting

Steve Paul and I, as Advocacy Committee Chair and member, attended a meeting at Trent University to provide input to the draft University Green Network plan. "In collaboration with Michi Saagiig First Nations Elders, Knowledge Holders and Land Consultation Officers, Trent has drafted an overarching plan to guide the care and restoration of the University Green Network - 60% of the Symons Campus comprised of Nature Areas, green spaces and corridors." The 71-page report has good objectives from tackling

invasives in the wetlands to protecting wildlife on the roads. It is very thorough and comprehensive but how much is put into action remains to be seen.

Harper Creek Sub-Watershed Zoom Meeting

Lynn Smith and I sit on an advisory committee for the HCSWS study. Through Zoom, we heard about the latest work and recommendations from the consultants, Aquafor Beech Ltd., after a delay of over a year. As expected, the main priorities are to protect water quality and prevent flooding. We were pleased the consultant talked about the Brook Trout along Rye Street and measures that could be used to improve the stream like planting riparian vegetation. I questioned the city staff attending as to the status of planned improvements to Rye Street and was told everything is on hold until the study is completed. The new crossing of the tracks is also on hold pending some permits and there are plans to improve the stream along the rail track east of Harper Road. There will be a follow up meeting in November. PFN has been involved in Harper Park as stewards for many years and we are watching progress carefully. Further to the meeting, a group of us visited the park to check on its condition. Due to lack of visitors, and probably lack of ATVs in the east end of the park, we were unable to get in due to the paths being completely over-grown with goldenrod and invasives like buckthorn. We await the completion of the study so stewardship of Harper Park can resume.

KLT Collaboration Meeting

Kawartha Land Trust received funding and has hired staff to spearhead environmental collaboration. Tamara Brown, Phillip Shaw, Steve Paul and I attended the launch event for a new Regional Conservation and Climate Partnership for the Kawarthas. Forty organizations were represented with around 70 people attending. The goal is to connect organizations involved with the environment to support greater ecological and social resilience through aligned approaches and working together. The event was held at the Canoe Museum and was very well organised. Participants left excited at the possibilities this could bring.

~Sue Paradisis, PFN President

PFN Donated Birdfeeder in East City

Submitted by Anda Rungis

During the preparation of the Strategic Plan, the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) working group enjoyed meeting in a sun-filled room in East City. The use of the meeting space at the Habitat for Humanity -built and -financed condominium at 33 Leahy's Lane was made possible with the support of the Condo Board. To recognize this in-kind donation of the meeting space, PFN member Shelley King led the set-up of a bird feeder for condominium residents to enjoy. Shelley reports that "people are loving the bird feeder already (as are the chipmunks), as well as the cats who get to watch the bird feeder shenanigans from their condo windows."



Shelley King (left) and Serena Bower (one of the 5 board members of the Condo Board at 33 Leahy's Lane).

Photo: Alan King.

Orchid submissions are encouraged!

The submission deadline for the next issue is Thursday, November 21.

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 for Sept. 28: Juniors' "Insect Safari"

Submitted by Heather Snowball, Junior Naturalist Mom

Eight Junior Naturalists along with their parent or grandparent, enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day for their September 28th 'Insect Safari' meet up at the Trent University Wildlife Sanctuary. PFN member Paul Elliott led a group of enthusiastic junior members along the trails in search of insects of all kinds. Armed with sweeping nets and magnifying bug jars, the juniors quickly spread out around the meadow areas alongside the trail. Very soon, squeals of glee could be heard as nets were checked and insects were eagerly brought to Paul for identification. Groups of kids soon gathered together to take turns looking into each other's bug jars to view grasshoppers, leafhoppers, stink bugs, a dragonfly and more. Once back at home base, the kids took on Paul's challenge to gather items from nature to make their own 'nature insect' design. Everyone went home with a fresh excitement for the many insects that can be found all around us!



Photo: Sandy Garvey

Outing Report for Sept. 28: Fall Hike South of Millbrook

Submitted by Lynn Smith

A warm, sunny autumn morning greeted us as we gathered at Fire Route 310, a quiet road that runs south from Zion Line, ending just north of the Ganaraska Forest. The road is intersected by a walk/bike trail, which is part of the Millbrook Valley Trails.

The area is within the Oak Ridges Moraine. During the 1800s, logging and farming caused widespread deforestation on the Oak Ridges Moraine resulting in the erosion of exposed sandy soil, creating a wasteland and major flooding problems. A conservation plan of reforestation was developed and by the 1940s, plantations of red pine or Scots Pine were planted to prevent further erosion. As we walked along the sandy road, remnants of scattered rows of Scots pine and red pine were noted. Logging activities were also underway. The controlled timber harvest 'thins' the Pine plantations, improves light conditions, encourages the growth of sugar maple, red oak, white pine and increases the forest's diversity.

We were off to an encouraging start when our first stop to investigate 'pips' and 'chips' revealed Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Eastern Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee. A Winter Wren flitted and scurried around a moss-covered log allowing us to grab some great views. A flock of migrants paused in the trees long enough for us to identify Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. A Brown Creeper, a Downy Woodpecker, 11 Blue Jays, 2 American Robins, 2 American Crows and a Canada Goose flyover completed the bird list.

We trekked along a portion of the bike trail and identified a patch of pipsissewa, a wildflower whose glossy leaves persist through the winter. A dark mass on a dead log caught our attention. Upon examination and with the help of The Seek App, leafy brain fungus was identified. There's always something to appreciate and learn about as we explore the greenspaces in our area.



Leafy brain fungus. Photo: Lynn Smith

Outing Report for October 6: Fabulous Fungi

Submitted by Cathy Boothby

On Sunday, October 6, Sue Paradisis and Rachel Baehr led a fungi walk at Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park. There were 14 participants in total, including a few people new to the group.

Sue began by giving a short history of the area. The land was donated to the Province of Ontario in the 1950s by the family of Mark Stanley Burnham, a descendant of the Honourable Zaccheus Burnham, a judge from the Town of Cobourg who originally acquired the land in the 1830s. It was established as a provincial park in 1955. Very little of it was ever logged, resulting in the old growth forest we see today. The park contains outstanding large specimens of native tree species, many of which are over 200 years old!



Photo: Sue Paradisis



Elm mushroom. Photo: Sandy Garvey

Rachel began our walk by outlining the best places to look for fungi – they love damp and shady areas. We saw so many different kinds! One highlight was a giant shelved tooth fungus. When we examined a piece that had fallen off and broke it apart, we could see the “teeth” which also looked like baleen from a whale. We found crown tipped coral, bear’s head tooth, a toothed jelly, and chocolate tube slime. We also saw dead man’s fingers and dead moll’s fingers and many more!

On our way back to the parking lot, Sue pointed out the beech trees, sadly disfigured from beech bark disease which is an insect-fungus complex caused by a beech scale insect and a canker fungus. This disease causes severe cankering, deformation of the trunk, and eventually kills the tree. Sue also showed us the remains of her favourite ash tree, taken down because of decline caused by the emerald ash borer. Most of the ash trees in Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park are dead or dying, leading to yet more changes in the forest.

Outing Report for Oct. 6: Fall Nature on the Farm

Submitted by Linda Sunderland



Bruce Kidd pointing to the bee hive in the tree. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

On a blustery fall day, eight PFN members joined Bruce Kidd at his family farm for an outing through 130 acres of agricultural land, meadows, wetlands and forested areas. Bruce started our outing by encouraging all of us to help ourselves to his bountiful raspberry patch. Highlights of the outing included: hiking next to a corn field, walking up on a drumlin to watch spectacular clouds and an approaching storm, watching a natural bee hive in a huge white pine, and seeing a large garter snake sunning itself in what Bruce said was its usual spot. We finished our hike with homemade cookies supplied by Georgia. Then we left the farm just as the rain started. Perfect timing!

Thank you to the Kidds for opening up their family farm to us.



Chowing down at the raspberry patch. Photo: Kathryn Sheridan

Tecasy Ranch Gratitude Get Together - Saturday October 19

Submitted by Linda Sunderland

Last spring, PFN outing leaders Martha Lawrence and Lou Smyrlis helped the Kawartha Land Trust by leading one of their Passport to Nature outings at Tecasy Ranch near Buckhorn. That was PFN's first connection with Tecasy Ranch and it has led to a rich partnership. Recently, on Saturday, October 19, PFN members who helped with the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra's Musical Nature Walk at Tecasy Ranch in September were invited to the ranch for a wonderful day of hiking, eating and celebration. It was one of those magical fall days with vibrant colours, clear skies, warm weather and amazing natural surroundings. Our thanks go to Karie McDougall for including us in this wonderful celebration and to Brydon and Stacey Cruise for their generosity in sharing the inspirational Tecasy Ranch with so many. PFN is grateful for the opportunity to connect with Tecasy Ranch and we hope many more PFN members will get to visit this amazing site in the future.



Photo: Steve Paul

Outing Report for Oct. 20: Harold Town Conservation Area

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

It was a bright, sunny, cool morning when a group of us met in the parking lot at Harold Town Conservation Area. Most of us, including our fearless leader, Steve Paul, had only a passing familiarity, if any at all, with the trails there. After discussing a bit about the history of Harold Town, we set off on a path and immediately took a wrong turn. Our detour led us into a cedar forest (and out of the warming sun). Some of the plants in this ecosystem included broadleaf helleborine, blackfoot polypore, common prickly ash, shield lichen, rock greenshield lichen, yellow American blusher, honey mushroom, vermilion waxcap, garlic chives, lesser burdock, purple loosestrife, American asters and apples (which some of us ate) and crab-apples. It was nice to see some plants still in flower like wild carrot and viper's bugloss.



Group photo courtesy of Steve's camera and a friendly stranger

It was a bit light in the bird department with only 12 species that included Ravens, a Great Blue Heron, Black-capped Chickadee, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Cardinal, Hairy Woodpecker, Turkey Vulture, Blue Jay, Dark-eyed Junco and American Robin. Not a big number but always nice to see who is around near the end of October.

It wasn't until the morning warmed up that the mountain bikers and dog walkers appeared, so we had most of the trail walking to ourselves. The view from the top of the Meade Creek Drumlin was excellent with splotches of bright fall colour in the distance. There was only one small spot that was too muddy to walk through. There was one mumble of "I'm not doing that!" but we all found a way to avoid sinking by staying close to the side or bushwhacking through to the dry section. Needless to say, the mountain bikers just rode right through.

All of us got to learn something new – and isn't that the point of it all?!

What happens when Freddy Fungus and Allison Alga take a “lichen” to each other?

Submitted by Lou Smyrlis

If lichens had a Facebook account, they would have no choice but to post their relationship status as “it’s complicated.”

Why would their relationship status, and specifically their sexual habits, be complicated? Because when lichens have sex, the needs of more than one partner must be considered. Lichens are a union between a species of fungus and a species of green algae or cyanobacteria. Sometimes both green algae and cyanobacteria get together with a fungus in a lichen. When these species come together, they form a unique structure unlike those individuals on their own. The fungus provides the protective body, shielding the algae or cyanobacteria from harmful UV rays and temperature extremes. In return for that protection, the algae and cyanobacteria provide something to the relationship the fungus can’t: the ability to provide nourishment through photosynthesis.

It's proven to be a very successful way to live. Lichens were hardy enough to survive the catastrophic aftermath of the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. They were also the first species to start growing on the punishing landscape left bare after the Laurentide Ice Sheet retreated from the Keweenaw about 11,000 years ago.

The downside of this uncanny evolutionary survival ability is reproductive complexity. In lichens, the ability of the algae and cyanobacteria to reproduce is completely suppressed. Only the fungus can reproduce sexually, producing fungal spores, often held in tiny cup-shaped structures. But to form new lichens these fungal spores would still need to get together with other algae and/or cyanobacteria in the wild. That’s not so easy.

So while lichens are capable of sexual reproduction, they’ve evolved a couple of complicated “workarounds”. One is producing microscopic bundles called soredia that contain genetic material from all the partners in the marriage: the fungus, the alga and/or the cyanobacteria. These bundles are released into the air and if they land on a suitable surface, they will recreate a lichen that is a clone of the parent lichen.

A second method of asexual reproduction for lichens involves lumpy outgrowths on their surfaces called isidia. These purposely break easily and can also grow into a clone of the parent lichen. Think of breaking off your arm at the elbow and seeing it grow into a genetic replica of you and you get the idea!

Our understanding of lichens as organisms that bring together a fungus, an alga and/or a cyanobacteria to live in one body dates back to 1867. But in 2016, a lichenologist called Toby Spribille found another partner in the lichen relationship: a yeast, so deeply hidden within lichens it escaped detection all these years. The yeast’s primary role may be to shape how the fungal partner grows. A few years later, Spribille, who is now a professor at the University of Alberta, led a team which found some lichens, such as the brilliant chartreuse-yellow colored wolf lichen of western Canada, can include not just one fungal partner species but up to three.

Like I said, it’s complicated.



Lichens, such as the lipstick powderhorn shown here, involve a species of fungus, a species of algae and/or cyanobacteria as well as a species of yeast living together in one body. It makes reproduction rather complicated. Photo by Lou Smyrlis

City Nature Challenge Announcement

Submitted by Steve Paul



Originally started in 2016 as a competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the City Nature Challenge (CNC) has expanded over nine years to include 690 cities across the world. As listed on the CNC website, “the CNC is an annual four-day global bio blitz at the end of April, where cities are in a collaboration-meets-friendly-competition to see what can be accomplished when we all work toward a common goal.”

Peterborough has been involved in the City Nature Challenge for two years now, with events in Jackson Park (2023) and Ecology Park (2024). The PFN and the City of Peterborough have been the primary partners behind planning and organizing events, with GreenUP being involved in planning around Ecology Park activities this year. With the boundaries set to match the City of Peterborough city limits, this was a great way to bring an urban focus to the project, but at the same time it hindered involvement from PFN members that live in the country.

I am *very* excited to announce that for 2025, we have expanded the boundaries to include *all* of Peterborough County! This means that *any* observations recorded in iNaturalist in Peterborough County between April 25 and 28, 2025 will automatically be uploaded into the CNC project. You can record observations on your favourite trail, at your cottage or any special place! All observations that are verified are automatically available to be used in research and conservation projects, so helping out is not just a great way to learn, but will also be a valuable contribution to community science!

Behind the scenes – I have been working on chatting with various organizations, and inviting them to be part of the 2025 planning committee. Equally as exciting as the expansion itself, I am able to announce that the following organizations are joining the committee: Kawartha Land Trust, Otonabee Conservation, Peterborough County and Trent University. There are others we are hoping will join us in January. Stay tuned for future updates.

What is next? Our first expanded committee meeting will be in November, and we will continue to have monthly meetings from January through to April. There will be opportunities for partners to host events on their own properties, and there has already been some discussion around collaborative events as well. I look forward to deepening these relationships with our community partners and work together to bring additional focus and attention towards conservation and protecting biodiversity across our region.

Nature Almanac for November – A Hush Upon the Land

By Drew Monkman

*“It is a joy to walk in the bare woods.
The moonlight is not broken by the heavy leaves.
The leaves are down, and touching the soaked earth,
Giving off the odours that partridges love.”*

– Robert Bly, *Solitude Late at Night in the Wood*

As we enter November, a pre-winter stillness is settling upon the natural world. The calls of migrating sparrows and kinglets cease, most robins bid us farewell and the last crickets surrender to the cold. Damp, often cloudy weather, leafless trees and faded grasses and flowers create a world of greys and browns, punctuated only by the dark green of conifers. Yet in some years, late fall’s typical bleakness is pushed aside by a lingering Indian Summer that gently eases us into winter.



Like the first red-winged blackbirds in March, the arrival of the birds of winter marks the approaching change of season. In addition to shrikes and tree sparrows, bald eagles will return in the coming weeks to spend the winter in the Kawarthas. They are joined most years by several species of northern finches. At the same time, however, loons are departing for the Atlantic seaboard and taking with them the last vestiges of summer. For lakeside residents, it is a melancholy event.

A walk on a November day seems uneventful, with seemingly little of interest to catch our attention. Still, the relative scarcity of plants and animals allows us to focus on the commonplace - the leafless trees reduced to their elemental form, the intricacy and diversity of the mosses and evergreen ferns, and the beauty of a milkweed pod spilling its last seeds. But, other than the occasional call of a chickadee or woodpecker and the steady rustling of squirrels and mice foraging for seeds, the woods are nearly devoid of animal sounds. With colder weather, nature's kaleidoscope of smells is also reduced to a minimum. Apart from the scent of decaying leaves or the smoke of a wood stove, there is little to stir our sense of smell. Yet the cold of late fall brings renewed appreciation for the warmth and comfort of our homes and growing anticipation - among those of us who enjoy winter at least - for the new season just around the corner.

- 1) Most of our loons and robins head south. However, a small number of robins regularly overwinters in Peterborough, especially in years like this when wild fruit is plentiful.
- 2) A few hardy field crickets may still be heard on warm days.
- 3) Oaks, tamaracks and silver maples are about the only mature deciduous trees that are native to the Kawarthas that may still retain their foliage in early November. A particularly attractive stand of red oak can be seen at the south entrance to the village of Bridgenorth.
- 4) Non-native trees such as weeping willows and Chinese elms are often still green and stand out like sore thumbs against the late fall landscape. Unfortunately, they take away from our "sense of place."
- 5) Bird feeder activity tends to slow down as migrant sparrows have now left. With any luck, however, northern finches such as pine siskins and common redpolls will fill some of the void.
- 6) With the arrival of the breeding season, white-tail bucks are now in rut. Today also marks the beginning of the annual deer harvest by rifle and shotgun. Car accidents involving deer are very common this month. Be careful, especially at night.
- 7) The last dragonflies of the year may still be active. The most common species to watch for is the yellow-legged meadowhawk. This is a small red or yellow dragonfly.
- 8) The seeds and fruits of a wide variety of trees, shrubs and vines attract birds and provide some rare November colour. The red berries of winterberry holly, a shrub of wetland borders, are especially attractive.
- 9) It is not uncommon to see mourning cloak and Compton tortoiseshell butterflies on warm November days. Both of these species overwinter as adults.
- 10) Watch for migrating ducks such as goldeneyes and buffleheads along the Otonabee River near Lakefield and on Lake Katchewanooka near the bridge at Young's Point. All three scoters, along with long-tailed ducks and red-necked grebes turn up off of Sandy Point on Pigeon Lake every year. Hundreds of scaup, common mergansers, hooded mergansers and bufflehead, along with dozens of redheads, common goldeneye and red-breasted mergansers also gather on Rice Lake, especially off of Pengelly Landing. Also, a large selection of diving ducks can almost always be found in the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, located on the south side of County Road 33, just south of the village.



Autumn Meadowhawk. Photo:
Sandy Garvey

11) Frogs opt for one of two options to get through winter. Some, like the green frog, settle into the mud at the bottom of ponds and wetlands. Others, like the gray treefrog and the spring peeper, spend the winter as frozen “frogsicles” in the leaf litter of the forest floor. Glycerol, acting as an antifreeze, inhibits freezing within the frogs’ cells.

12) Toads, as well as salamanders and snakes, retreat to below the frost line as their overwintering strategy.

13) Striped skunks, raccoons and black bears retreat to their winter quarters but will come out on warm days. They are not true hibernators.

14) Mosses, club-mosses, lichens and several species of evergreen ferns stand out against the brown leaf litter of the forest floor and deserve close observation.

15) Surprisingly enough, November’s average number of days with rain is no more than during the summer months.

16) Monarch butterflies are arriving now in large numbers on their wintering grounds in the Sierra Madre mountains west of Mexico City. This year monarchs are expected to cover around 6.5 hectares of forest which is well below the average of nine hectares. This is mostly because of dry conditions over much of the butterfly’s mid-western range this summer.

17) In our woodlands, the only trees still clinging to some of their foliage are young American beech, sugar maple and ironwood. Many will retain some leaves all winter.

18) Hard corn is still being harvested this month and green fields of young wheat stand out noticeably. The smell of manure is often in the air as farmers spread it to fertilize their fields in the fall.

19) Most red-tailed hawks leave the Kawarthas for more southern climes. On a good day, hundreds can be seen migrating along the north shore of Lake Ontario. Some will actually spend the winter along the lake shore and are a common sight along the 401.

20) The Pleiades (Seven Sisters) star cluster adorns the eastern sky in the evening.

21) Muskrats build cone-shaped lodges and feeding platforms of cattails, rushes and mud. The lodges are only about a metre in height. These animals are easy to observe this month.

22) Ball-like swellings on the stems of goldenrod plants become quite visible. These are galls that contain the larva of the goldenrod fly.

23) Walleye begin to move upstream along large rivers such as the Otonabee. They remain in the rivers over the course of the winter in anticipation of the early spring spawn.



24) Our local bald eagle population expands with the arrival of birds from northern Ontario. These magnificent raptors will spend the winter in the Kawarthas.

25) A taste of winter comes in November. The first significant snowfall usually occurs and permanent snow cover is sometimes with us by month’s end.

26) Male great horned owls stake out breeding territories and become quite vocal. A useful mnemonic to remember their call is “who’s awake...me, too.”

27) Frost is recorded an average of 20 days this month.

28) The sound of coyotes calling is typical of November nights.



Muskrat photo by Marilyn Hubley

29) As long as there is open water, diving ducks and small numbers of loons will continue to linger on local bodies of water including Little Lake in Peterborough.

30) The Orion constellation's arrival in the southeast adds to the enjoyment of an evening's walk in late November.

Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario - Five-Year Trumpeter Swan Survey

Submitted by Steve Paul

The Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario (TSCO) 5-Year Trumpeter Swan Survey is a tool used to gauge the sustainability of the Trumpeter Swan restoration efforts and to identify changes in their habitat in Ontario.

In 2025, the one-day survey will take place on Saturday, February 1 with Sunday, February 2 as a backup date. The sighting locations are throughout Ontario and are focused on the wintering locations for the swans. There are approximately 156 locations.

The survey relies solely on voluntary participation coordinated through Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario. Volunteers are confirmed as observers for specific locations by the TSCO. The observers will be instructed by TCSO on how to safely perform and accurately document the observations. A liability waiver must be signed by the observer. The observers will document their sightings in a web-based TSCO database. TSCO members will be available throughout the day to provide guidance and support.

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer to take part in the survey around Peterborough and surrounding area, please send an e-mail to Steve at stevepaul70@gmail.com. You will be sent a link to fill out a "2025 Trumpeter Swan Census Counters" form.



Trumpeter Swan photo by Kim Stevenson from TSCO.

Winter Finch Forecast

By Forecaster Tyler Hoar, of the Finch Research Network (FiRN)

This year, a widespread cone crop reaches from northern British Columbia to eastern Quebec and down the western mountains. While there is a widespread crop, some areas have significant holes caused by insect infestations (Spruce Budworm, Tent Caterpillar, etc.), drought and forest fires. For example, northwestern Ontario, west of Lake Superior, is one area with poor cone crops.

This year's cone crop across the boreal forest is primarily driven by two significant finch food sources, white spruce and tamarack, with white birch and balsam fir also contributing to this food source. Last year, the driver of the Red Crossbill invasion in the east was the bumper eastern white pine crop. This year, it appears this species is taking a year off from reproduction for the most part.

To quote one of our cone crop reporters, "Basically any plant with a berry produced this year." Large areas of the boreal forest have an excellent berry crop for many species, including mountain ash, which were observed across several areas.

Areas south of the boreal forest are mostly a mosaic of poor to average crops. Areas of northern Wisconsin and Minnesota and the Adirondacks appear to have a more robust crop than the neighbouring areas.



Common Redpoll. Photo: Don McLeod

As the season progresses, significant winter storms, and/or freezing rain events, may be needed to nudge some species out of the boreal forest this winter.

Forecasts apply mainly to Ontario and adjacent provinces and states. Three irruptive non-finch passerines whose movements are often linked to finches are also discussed. Follow finch wanderings this fall and winter on eBird, the Finch Research Network, and the Finches, Irruptions and Mast Crops Facebook group for more information.

PINE GROSBEAK: Most Pine Grosbeaks should remain in the boreal forest with some flight into their traditional wintering areas in western and southeastern Canada and northern New England states as wild food sources to the north are consumed. Areas around Lake Superior and particularly northern Minnesota, may see a larger movement as the weaker crop in northwestern Ontario is consumed. Roaming Pine Grosbeaks will search for fruiting ornamental trees and well-stocked feeders with black oil sunflower seeds.



Female Pine Grosbeak.
Photo: Laurie Healey

PURPLE FINCH: Most years, Purple Finches migrate south out of Canada. A visible movement is already moving south, as reported by Hawk Ridge Hawk Watch near Duluth, Minnesota, and central New York. This year, the majority should leave Canada with a likely moderate flight to the Great Plains and southern United States. Still, we anticipate small numbers will remain in southern Ontario eastward to the Maritime provinces. At feeders, they prefer black oil sunflower seeds.

REDPOLL: The boreal forest appears to have a widespread average birch crop this winter. Some areas not affected by tent caterpillars in northeastern Ontario and Quebec have heavy birch crops. Areas south of the boreal forest from Lake Huron eastward into New England appear to have scattered areas of good white and yellow birch crops surrounded by no seed. The alder crop across the boreal appears to be above average. Redpolls enjoy foraging in weedy fields, and if the snow does not cover these fields, this widespread food source, in addition to the tree seed crops, should hold most Redpolls north. Areas in the upper midwestern states and the Maritime provinces may see more Redpoll movement as southbound birds transit the holes in the boreal cone crop. Watch for Redpolls on birches, in weedy fields, and at bird feeders that offer Nyjer® and black oil sunflower seeds.

In 2024, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll and the Lesser Redpoll in Europe have all been lumped into the same species now called Redpoll. Genetic work found that a supergene was responsible for the Redpoll plumage differences. They are still unique taxon (e.g., subspecies) and we continue to encourage everyone to keep looking at those redpolls!

PINE SISKIN: Many Pine Siskins will remain in the boreal and western mountains this winter. Areas from Manitoba eastward affected by Spruce Budworm infestations have a poor cone crop. Siskins that bred in these areas will be on the move. While band recoveries show siskins will move straight across North America from coast to coast, there should be some small movement south in the eastern half of the United States this fall in search of food. At feeders, they prefer Nyjer® seeds and black oil sunflower in silo feeders.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: With a good white spruce crop across most of the boreal forest and good multi-species cone crops in the western mountains, most White-winged Crossbills should stay in the boreal. Some birds will drift out of this crop throughout the winter. In areas of poor cone crops, ornamental spruces in urban areas laden with cones will be used by crossbills.

Significant winter storms and freezing rain events can cause flocks of crossbills to move out quickly in search of accessible food. Watch for crossbills and other finches in neighbouring areas, primarily to the south, after these weather events.

RED CROSSBILL: Most of last year's invasion of western-type Red Crossbills (Type 2 and 4) appear to have returned west over the summer. Red Crossbills, primarily the Northeastern Type 12, are common in the Adirondacks and eastward into Nova Scotia, feeding on the red spruce crop. There are more modest numbers from Algonquin Provincial Park over to the upper Great Lakes states. Leftover Type 2 and 4 will likely be scattered in very small numbers across the area, with a few usual Type 1s around in small numbers as well.

The Red Crossbill types are usually impossible to identify without recordings of their flight calls. Recordings can be made with a smartphone and identified to type. Types can be identified by e-mailing Matt Young (info@finchnetwork.org) or uploading recordings to an eBird checklist. Recordings uploaded to eBird checklists are deposited in the Macaulay Library.

EVENING GROSBEAK: There was a widespread and diverse berry crop across the eastern boreal forest in 2024. The berries provided the families of fledging Evening Grosbeaks with an ample food source to replace the Spruce Budworm caterpillars as they spun their cocoons and pupated into adults. By the end of August, many areas with ample berries were barren, having been consumed by the grosbeaks and other fruit-loving vertebrates. Areas containing viable ash and maple seeds may also hold some flocks in the southern boreal and adjacent forests to the south into the early winter.

With a visible movement at Tadoussac in early August, there should be a moderate flight of Evening Grosbeaks southward this fall. Evening Grosbeaks should visit areas from the Maritime provinces south towards Pennsylvania. Areas even further south to the mid-Atlantic states may see grosbeaks this winter. With Spruce Budworm outbreaks becoming more widespread and scattered around Lake Superior, western Great Lake states may see even more movement this winter.

Evening Grosbeaks in northwestern Ontario westward should move out of the boreal forest, looking for feeders in towns or suitable food sources further south.

At platform feeders, Evening Grosbeaks prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Evening Grosbeaks will look away from feeders for maple and ash trees still holding seeds.

THREE IRRUPTIVE PASSERINES:

Movements of these three passerines are often linked to the boreal finches.

BLUE JAY: In eastern North America westward to Manitoba the deciduous tree crop (they love acorns on oaks) appears below average with scattered areas of average crops, so expect a moderate to strong flight this fall.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: The balsam fir crop is widespread in some areas with a great crop, and is completely absent in other areas across the boreal forest. As a result, we can expect a moderate flight of Red-breasted Nuthatch, with a few birds already being noted near the Gulf Coast.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: Most Bohemian Waxwings will likely stay in the north because native mountain ash berry crops and other berries are good across much of the boreal forest.

With the poorer crops in northwestern Ontario, northern midwestern states may see more widespread movements of Bohemian Waxwings.

Small numbers will probably arrive mid to late winter in traditional areas from central Ontario eastward into the Maritime Provinces, New England, and northern New York as winter progresses and food resources dwindle. If some move south, this species will forage on buckthorn and planted European mountain ash berries and ornamental crab apples.



Red-breasted Nuthatch.
Photo: Enid Mallory

For the full report, which includes reference links and a summary of contributors, go to:
<https://finchnetwork.org/winter-finch-forecast-2024-25>

Project FeederWatch

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



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

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

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

KLT's Ballyduff Trails Tallgrass Prairie: Restoring a Rare Ecosystem with a Little Help from Our Friends

By Hayden Wilson, Land Stewardship Manager, Kawartha Land Trust

Kawartha Land Trust's (KLT) Ballyduff Trails nature reserve in Kawartha Lakes is home to one of the rarest ecosystems in North America: the tallgrass prairie. For over half a decade, KLT and the wider community have worked to care for and restore this special place.

If you've never been to the prairie at Ballyduff Trails, let me describe it for you. A crisp autumn breeze rolls across the now six-foot-tall golden grasses that have been growing all summer long after a prescribed burn in the spring. Sun-dappled grey-headed coneflowers sway in the breeze. A Grasshopper Sparrow perches on a tallgrass stalk before taking off.

Tallgrass prairies and savannas are two ecosystems that were formerly widespread across parts of southern Ontario, including the Kawarthas. Some of the grasses that make up Ontario's grasslands include big bluestem, little bluestem, yellow prairie grass, and switchgrass.

Only 1-3% of the original extent of tallgrass prairies remain in Ontario. This decline is due, in part, to the conversion of prairies to agricultural lands by European settlers and the displacement of Indigenous people who actively maintained prairies for agriculture, medicines, food, and sight lines. Grasslands have also been affected by increased development, pollution, and threats from invasive plant species

The prairie at KLT's Ballyduff Trails is one of several larger grasslands in the Kawarthas and surrounding region, which include Alderville Black Oak Savanna and NCC's Hazel Bird Nature Reserve in Northumberland County.

Caring for tallgrass communities helps fight against the world's biodiversity loss crisis — the loss of native animal and plant species — on a local level. Deer find refuge in the tall stalks. At-risk Eastern Meadowlark can breed and forage. New Jersey tea, a plant the Endangered Mottled Duskywing butterfly lays its eggs on, can be found in savannas. According to Tallgrass Ontario, "Approximately 20% of plants designated as rare



Tallgrass and wildflower seed harvest at Ballyduff Trails. Photo courtesy of KLT website

in Ontario are associated with prairie." Grasslands also host a large number of insects, foundational to the food web and food systems.

Tallgrass prairies and savannas also play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change that can lead to extended periods of heat and flooding events. Their metres-long roots make them drought-tolerant, and they can also slow erosion when an area experiences flooding.

Working for KLT, I got my first exposure to the power and promise of prairies at Ballyduff – and the importance of having people actively involved in the work.

Ralph McKim and Jean Garsonnin donated their property to KLT in 2022 to ensure its permanent protection. However, even before they donated the land, they were passionate stewards of it, inviting students, naturalists, and community groups to work on nature restoration projects and walk the trails.

For over 15 years, Ralph has been working to restore the prairie – collecting seeds and germinating them over the winter months for spring planting. And the tradition carries on with KLT. Each fall, we invite the public to Ballyduff Trails to help collect seeds to support the ongoing care of the prairie.

Helping new participants learn how to identify the grasses and wildflowers and how to collect seeds is lovely, but I rejoice most in the connections our volunteers make with the land. This might be something as simple as enjoying the tactile feeling of soft grass seed releasing from the stem or the sense of reward one feels when helping nature thrive. The roots run deep and the sky's the limit for tallgrass ecosystems and the communities – human and wildlife – they support.

Ralph McKim shares, "As I pass through the native grasses reaching above my head, I can almost hear them whisper 'We're back.' And I know they are – tall, graceful, resilient – home again on their landscape – and ours."

From the Archives - Update on Club Projects

Submitted by Martin Parker

From December 1990 issue of *The Orchid*, Vol. 36, No. 9

This issue of *The Orchid* contained a summary of club projects which the PFN and its members were working on in 1990. Several are highlighted in this article

Bird Seed Report:

"The dust has now settled and our garage has finally settled back to being level, after having quite a list from the weight of 175 bags (8,760 pounds) of bird seed. Our thanks to everyone who made this such a success. Without all of you we wouldn't be able to get such a good price.

"Special thanks to Jim Cashmore and Chris Risley who helped unload the truck when it arrived and to Jim Dunsire who helped load all the individual bags in everyone's car. All I did was collect the money. Thanks again. Pat Dunsire."

The Book

"Our 50th Anniversary challenge has gone to the publisher. May we express our sincere gratitude to Ted Nugent, Pat Dunsire and Gord Barry for their hours of work put into this publication. We hope to see it in May,"

Note: The book was *Kawarthas Nature*, A Boston Mills Press Book, Stoddard Publishing Co. Limited. The book was finally published in 1992. A copy is in the PFN Archives.

RAC Committee - Miller Creek Tower

“Terry Hunter reports that the viewing tower is virtually finished at Miller Creek Conservation Area. It will need a bit of tidying in the spring. Hopefully we will be able to get a work party, including the kids, to get this done as soon as the snow is gone. The club would like to express thanks to the following for many hours contributed in this project: Terry Hunter, Len Lockwood, Ted Nugent, Don White, Brian Pearce, Tom Atkinson, Stan Reiten, Aus Hill, Del. Burke, Clayton Vardy and Jim Dunsire.”

The State of Canada’s Birds

From a Birds Canada Mailout

Birds Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada [have launched] The State of Canada’s Birds.

The State of Canada’s Birds provides population assessments for 463 species regularly occurring in Canada. We’ve learned that grassland birds have declined by 67% since 1970, and some species like the Chestnut-collared Longspur have declined by a disheartening 95%. Yet, we’ve also seen incredible population growths, for example, wetland species have increased by 21% overall. Many of those wetland birds faced the same challenge that grassland birds face today– habitat loss– and their recovery shows what is possible when we direct our conservation efforts to the species that need it most.

[Birds Canada supporter], we couldn’t have done this without supporters like you, the thousands of Citizen Scientists who have helped to collect data, our partners, and the staff who have worked so hard to bring this incredible new resource to life. Please take the time to learn about the key takeaways in our blog or take a deeper dive on the website, and share what you learn widely. Together, we are Canada’s voice for birds.

Website: StateOfCanadasBirds.org

Please join us on November 6 at 1 p.m. EST for our Annual Public Meeting. This year, you will hear from key experts behind The State of Canada’s Birds. We will decode what the birds are telling us and discuss ways we can work together to protect birds and their habitats. To register, go to:

https://birdscanada-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CGNuH4g4RBKWRobhxFcZxg#/registration



Don’t Fly on an Empty Stomach! (or maybe any stomach?)

Submitted by Marilyn Freeman

Are you ready to be grossed out? We all generally know that birds have to eat a lot before migration because they’ll be busy burning all those calories in flight. But the Bar-Tailed Godwit takes the cake – and eats it.

This wading bird migrates between New Zealand and Alaska, a journey of 11,000 km. To accomplish this feat of flying, the bird must build up a huge storage of fat but also be light enough to fly. This is a conundrum. How does the godwit do it?

Here comes the gross part: the Bar-Tailed Godwit absorbs up to 25% of its alimentary canal including its liver and kidneys. Even more amazing – when migration is complete these organs are reformed in their entirety!



Breeding adult male Bar-tailed Godwit. Photo: Andreas Trepte/ Wikimedia (CC BY SA 2.5)



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

Sep. 20	Sue Paradisis and Marilyn Hubley saw a late migrating Great Crested Flycatcher at the Hammer Nature Preserve. A late Barn Swallow was spotted by Dave Milsom at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Don Sutherland saw a couple of Bobolinks and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flying over at Scriven Heights.
Sep. 21	Two Soras were heard calling at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Angela Mattos. Cathy Dueck saw a Solitary Sandpiper foraging in her pond on County Rd 44 north of Havelock.
Sep. 22	A Snow Goose was seen by Iain Rayner with 5 Canada Geese at Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, but they did not land.
Great Egrets	Great Egrets continue to be regular yet rare migrants through the Peterborough area, and occasionally seem to persist at specific locations for several weeks prior to their southward migration. Below is a summary of their sightings. The individual reported at Briar Hill Sanctuary earlier in the fall was reconfirmed by Dan Newman on September 21. Over the month, additional birds were spotted at this site, and a single bird was reported here as of October 19. An individual continuing from earlier in the fall at the swamp on Best Rd, Cavan, was confirmed by Marilyn Hubley and was last sighted on October 7. Matthew Tobey spotted 3 birds roosting in trees at the Lang-Hastings Trail at Asphodel 3 rd Line. on September 22. Caleb Catto noticed a single bird in the marsh at Scollard Bay on September 23 and two were seen at this location by Matthew Tobey on September 24. On September 25, Rob Crawford observed a single bird flyover at Lock 22, Otonabee River. On September 28, Matthew Tobey had 3 birds flying over in the evening at Scriven Heights. Dan Newman saw one foraging at the Millpond at Baxter Creek Trail on September 29. On October 1, Marilyn Hubley noted a bird at Meadowvale Park. Jake Nafziger saw a bird at Millbrook Millpond Park. A single bird was seen foraging at Jackson Park beaver pond on October 14 by Jim Conley.
Sep. 24	Matthew Garvin spotted a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird in his Peterborough backyard.
Sep. 25	Wilson Warblers were seen by Don Sutherland and Dave Milsom at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons, and by Scott Gibson at the Cunningham Blvd Stormwater Pond.
Sep. 26	A Carolina Wren was heard on Hwy 7 by the Indian River Resort, by Jacqueline Murison.
Sep. 27	Dave Milsom and Don Sutherland encountered 9 American Golden-Plovers in a flock of Killdeers , at Scriven Heights. They continued to be seen in this location for several days. Marilyn Hubley and Jane Kroes spotted a single Red-headed Woodpecker flying over the water at the Hammer Nature Preserve. Leo Weiskittel heard a Northern Waterthrush at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Another Wilson's Warbler was spotted by Drew Monkman at Meadowvale Park.

Sep. 28	Matthew Tobey saw a Greater White-fronted Goose at the Brown Line pond. A juvenile Broad-winged Hawk was seen by Don Sutherland at Scriven Heights.
Sep. 29	A Snow Goose was seen in a field on Duncan's Line by Marilyn Hubley and Sue Paradisis. Sue Paradisis saw a Carolina Wren on Tudor Crescent which was seen again October 4. A Fox Sparrow was seen on Corrigan Hill by Tim Haan. Cathy Douglas, Dave Milsom and Leo Weiskittel spotted a late migrating Yellow-throated Vireo on Hubble Rd. They also saw a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Corrigan Hill.
Sept 30	Dave Milsom also saw a Baltimore Oriole at Corrigan Hill. A Fox Sparrow was seen by Brendan Boyd and Alexandra Israel at Burnham Park.
Oct. 1	A late Warbling Vireo was seen by Matt Garvin in his backyard. Laurie Healey saw a Fox Sparrow on Keene Rd. A late Ovenbird was seen on the Lang-Hastings Trail near Dillon Rd by Bill Crins. Jake Nafziger spotted a late Wilson's Warbler at Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake. A late Chestnut-sided Warbler was spotted by Brendan Boyd at Nichols Oval.
Oct. 2	A Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird , were seen at the Gibson home by Mike Burrell, Matt Garvin, Iain Rayner and Scott Gibson.
Oct. 4	Brian Wales initially noticed a Greater White-fronted Goose grazing with Canada Geese at Del Crary Park, Little Lake, which was then seen by many other observers over the next days and was still being seen as of October 17. It seems likely that it is the same goose that has been moving between Brown's Line and Little Lake over the course of fall.
Oct. 5	A female American Redstart was seen at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Amy Semple, Laurie Healey and Marilyn Hubley. A late Northern Parula was seen by Buddy M. on the Mississauga Trail in Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park.
Oct. 7	While looking for the White-fronted Goose at Del Crary Park, Jax Nasimok heard, then located, 3 Cackling Geese among the flock. These geese were later observed by many. JulieAnn Prentice and Jake Nafziger saw a Gray-cheeked Thrush at their Peterborough yard.
Oct. 8	A very late Northern Parula was seen by Kale Worman at the Lakefield Marsh.
Oct. 9	Don Sutherland noticed a Solitary Sandpiper and a House Wren at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Buddy M. noticed and was able to photograph a Dark-eyed Junco White-throated Sparrow hybrid with 8 regular juncos, at the Lakefield Marsh. This conspicuous bird was still being seen in this location as of October 12.
Oct. 11	A single Greater White-fronted Goose was spotted by Dave Milsom in the Brown Line Pond with Canada Geese. Later seen by others. Laurie Healey noticed a Brant with a flock of Canada Geese flying over her Keene Rd yard. Two late Philadelphia Vireos were noticed by Carol Horner along the canal north of Parkhill. Don Sutherland saw a late Tree Swallow flying over at Scriven Heights.
Oct. 12	An early Northern Shrike was seen by Jake Nafziger at Scriven Heights. Drew Monkman heard and saw a Carolina Wren on Maple Crescent.
Oct. 13	Leo Weiskittel noticed an immature American Goshawk being pursued by a Common Raven down Pigeon Lake on Kerry Line. Tree Swallows continue to stop and feed at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons on their southward migration, where Don Sutherland saw 4.

	Jake Nafziger and JulieAnn Prentice saw a late Northern Parula on Cordova Lake.
Oct. 14	A flock of 76 Brant , as well as 7 Cackling Geese flying with a flock of Canada Geese were seen flying over Scriven Heights in the morning by Jax Nasimok, Kale Worman, Leo Weiskittel and Jake Nafziger. Later in the day, Laurie Healey spotted a flock of 57 Brant flying over her Keene Rd yard. Dave Milsom spotted an American Goshawk and a Northern Shrike on Scollard Dr.
Oct. 15	A dark morph immature Rough-legged Hawk was seen by Angela Mattos being harassed by an American Crow in flight on Duncan's Line.
Oct. 17	Another flock of 40 Brant was seen by Bill Crins over Rice Lake at Pengelly Landing. Angela Mattos spotted an immature American Goshawk in pursuit of Blue Jays in her Douro yard, and later saw another one at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons. Tim Haan also saw an American Goshawk at Raccoon Lake. Another dark morph Rough-legged Hawk was spotted by Randy Smith soaring over Douro 3 rd Line fields. A late Orange-crowned Warbler was seen by Brandan Norman on Hillview Drive.
Oct. 19	Dan Newman noticed around 12 Cackling Geese among a large flock of Canada Geese at the Millbrook Millpond, and another 3 at Pengelly Landing, Rice Lake. A late migrant Osprey was seen near Oak Orchard by Nate Badger. Angela Mattos noticed 3 immature Golden Eagles soaring together over her Douro yard. Andrew Keith saw a very late House Wren on his window screen on Bland Line, Cavan.
Oct. 20	A Blue-winged Teal was observed at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons by Tim Haan. Scott Kendal heard a Swainson's Thrush singing on Old Orchard Road and another at the Lakefield Sewage Lagoons.
Oct. 21	Drew Monkman noted a very late Eastern Phoebe at the Cavan Swamp and Iain Rayner had one in his Lakefield yard. Another Carolina Wren was heard by Iain Rayner from his Lakefield yard.
Oct. 22	A Blue-headed Vireo was observed by Marilyn Hubley at Brown's Line.

PFN OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice-President	Fiona McKay	fcmkay@peterboroughnature.org	705-875-2317
Secretary	Anda Rungis	secretary@peterboroughnature.org	613-298-9062
Treasurer	Sandy Garvey	treasurer@peterboroughnature.org	705-768-0904
Directors	Tamara Brown (they/them)	tamaraebrown@gmail.com	613-620-5726
	Cathy Douglas	membership@peterboroughnature.org	905-751-5292
	Steve Paul	stevepaul70@gmail.com	705-930-8370
	Philip Shaw	pshaw78@hotmail.com	705-874-1688
	Linda Sunderland	linda.sunderland@gmail.com	705-768-7857
	Ted Vale	tedandmarion@sympatico.ca	705-741-3641

KEY CONTACTS

Membership	Cathy Douglas	membership@peterboroughnature.org, ph: 905-751-5292
Outings Coordinators	Steve Paul and Linda Sunderland	stevepaul70@gmail.com, linda.sunderland@gmail.com
Ontario Nature Rep	Steve Paul	stevepaul70@gmail.com
PFN Juniors	Shelley King	juniors@peterboroughnature.org
Social Media	Marilyn Hubley	media@peterboroughnature.org
The Orchid	Kathryn Sheridan	orchid@peterboroughnature.org
Orchid Diary	Pamela Martin and Marilyn Hubley	orchiddiary@peterboroughnature.org

PFN on Social Media:		 YouTube	peterboroughnature	
	Instagram	@PtboNature	 TikTok	peterboroughnature
	Twitter	@PtboNature	 Facebook	Peterborough Field Naturalists
Peterborough Field Naturalists, P.O. Box 1532, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H7				
General e-mail: info@peterboroughnature.org Newsletter e-mail: orchid@peterboroughnature.org				
Website: www.peterboroughnature.org				



Junior Naturalist News

peterboroughnature.org email: juniors@peterboroughnature.org November 2024

UPCOMING JUNIORS EVENT!

“Kids With Cameras”

DATE: Saturday, November 23rd

TIME: 2pm to 3:30pm

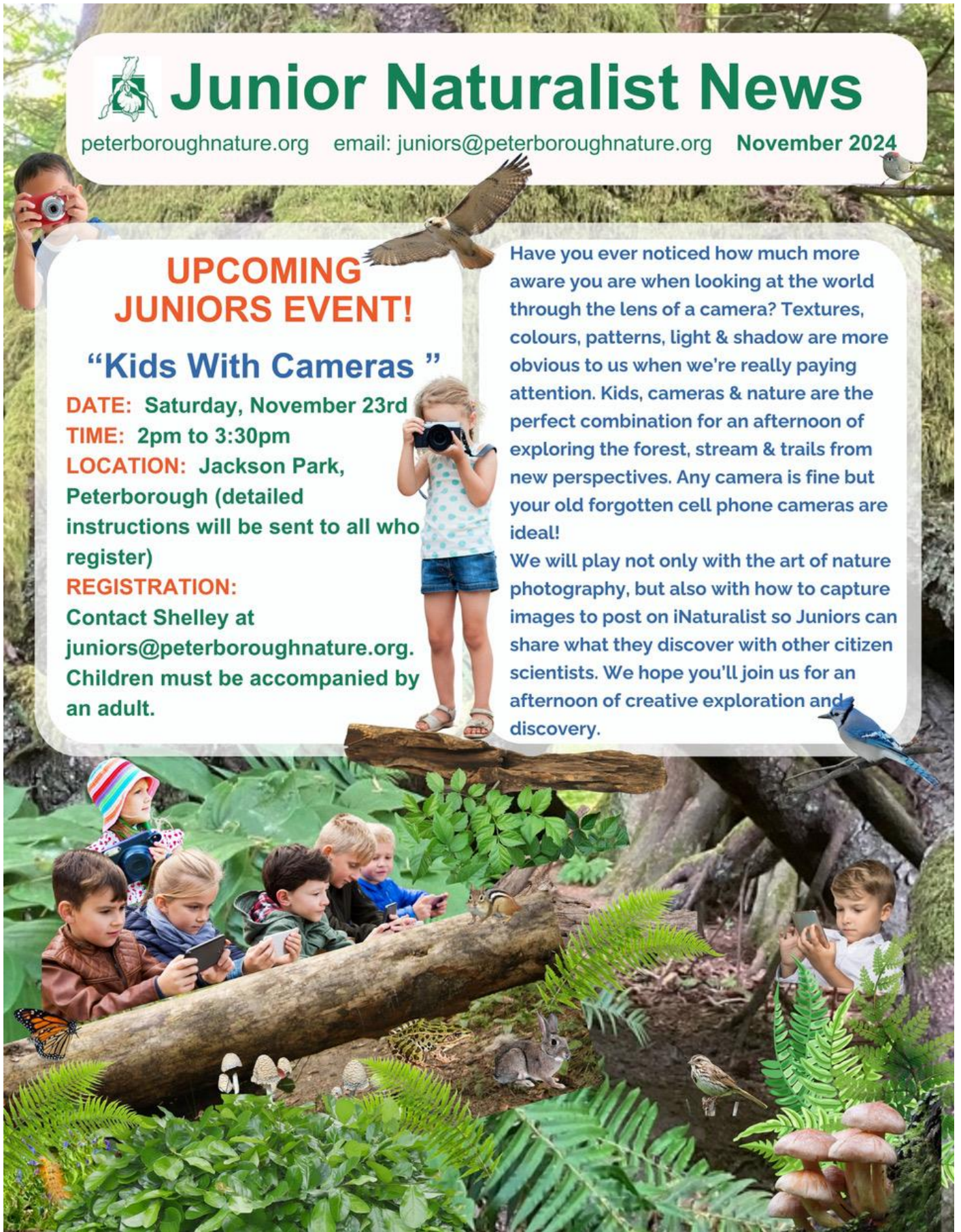
LOCATION: Jackson Park, Peterborough (detailed instructions will be sent to all who register)

REGISTRATION:

Contact Shelley at juniors@peterboroughnature.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Have you ever noticed how much more aware you are when looking at the world through the lens of a camera? Textures, colours, patterns, light & shadow are more obvious to us when we're really paying attention. Kids, cameras & nature are the perfect combination for an afternoon of exploring the forest, stream & trails from new perspectives. Any camera is fine but your old forgotten cell phone cameras are ideal!

We will play not only with the art of nature photography, but also with how to capture images to post on iNaturalist so Juniors can share what they discover with other citizen scientists. We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of creative exploration and discovery.



Confusing Fall Warblers



Dave Milsom's photo collection of confusing fall warblers in Peterborough County this year. See if you can identify them all.

Left to right, top to bottom: Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Bay-breasted Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Cape May Warbler.

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?

- 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:** _____