

It's Time to Renew Your Membership.

See Diane Peter at the September Meeting or call her at 905-725-0982. Complete Form on page 10

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2017/2018 Executive

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Vice President: John Foster

Secretary: Satu Pernanen

Treasurer: Ted Crichton

Conservation: Rayfield Pye

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THE NATURALIST

DURHAM REGION FIELD NATURALISTS
 CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION
www.drfn.ca drfn1955@hotmail.com

President's Message

Welcome to the 2017-18 season of Durham Region Field Naturalists! I hope you all had a great summer and were able to spend part of it communing with nature.

This season brings us some new faces on the DRFN executive. John and Nancy Muzik have taken over the job of editing our newsletter from Dianne Pazaratz. Many thanks to Dianne for her many years of providing our club with an excellent newsletter. Please remember that the newsletter always requires input from members, be it articles, photos or poems. Satu Pernanen has become our new secretary taking over from Elizabeth Vipond. I know that Satu, like Elizabeth, is up to the difficult task of keeping our executive members in line during executive meetings. So welcome to the new members of the DRFN executive and a thank you to the departing members. And, don't forget that we are always looking for new executive members. None of us want to do these jobs forever!

So, what's on for this year? I am sure that Otto Peter will provide us with many high-quality speakers who will educate and entertain us on a wide variety of topics. And, Don Docherty will take us on local and further afield outings.

There are a few topics I too would like to discuss (or rant on about) during the coming season. Many come down to climate change. The southern United States have started off the hurricane season this year with 2 devastating hurricanes, one in Texas and



Upcoming Meetings

Meetings: last Monday of each month except June-August and December

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Civic Rec Complex, Bobby Orr Room, 99 Thornton S., Oshawa.

Come a little early to enjoy conversation and refreshments ('lug-a-mug')

September 25

Jean Iron - "Wildlife of the Canadian Arctic and Iceland"

October 30

Mike Cadman – "The Decline of Aerial Insectivores"

November 27

Dr. Todd Morris "The Unusual Life Histories of Freshwater Mussels"

December – no meeting

the other in Florida not to mention the complete havoc in some Caribbean countries. Irma was described as the largest hurricane recorded in that area, a "Monster Hurricane", with Jose following behind it and Katia to the west. Why so many and so large.? Climate change? As I write this CBC News Technology and Science has issued a news release based on a soon to be released report [The Living Planet Report Canada](http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/wwf-living-planet-report-canada) by the World Wildlife Federation. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/wwf-living-planet-index-1.4288173> It reports that "species listed under Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) have declined even more quickly on an annual basis since the legislation was adopted in 2002" "Analysis shows that 451 – half the species in the study – declined in numbers between 1970 and 2014. The report suggests habitat loss due to human activity such as farming – the main problem in the grasslands – forestry, urban and industrial development is a major cause, along with **climate change**, invasive species and overfishing. It also states that " [A third of birds in North America are threatened with extinction](#) " And, that's only 2 of the topics I would like to address.

Lois Gillette

dlgill@sympatico.ca

Future Outings

Saturday, October 15

Heber Down Mushroom Walk

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Duncan Vipond

Join the DRFN Fungi Folk to look for mushrooms. Heber Down CA is a great place to look for mushrooms because there is a mix of conifers and hardwood forest. We'll take a pleasant stroll and keep our eyes peeled. Bring a camera for some great pictures of fall colour. If you have mushroom pamphlets or manuals bring them and participate. Exit 401 at Brock St. in Whitby. Take Taunton Rd. LEFT from Brock St. to Country Lane Rd. Go RIGHT on Country Lane Rd. and travel north to the main entrance.

Enter through the main gate and follow the road to the day-use parking lot. Pay and Display Parking is in effect at a cost of \$5 per vehicle/day or \$2 per hour.

Difficulty: Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. We'll be walking the trails so, weather permitting, the footing should be fine although there will be ups and downs.

Sunday, November 5
Lake Ontario Marshes

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Don Docherty

Meet at the entrance to the south trail off Hall's Road in Whitby. (Take Victoria Street in Whitby to get to Hall's Road.)

We'll start by visiting the Cranberry Marsh Hawk Watch. It captures valuable information about hawk migration through south Whitby. It's also a pleasant place to see a good variety of wildlife and learn identification skills from expert hawk watchers. Even if the weather doesn't accommodate hawks, we'll check the marsh for ducks. Next, we'll take the waterfront trail to Cranberry Marsh and the bird feeder loop. We'll finish with a trip to Pumphouse Marsh. Rain or shine the Chickadees want to be your friend.

Difficulty: Light walking.

Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly.

Sunday, November 26

Niagara Gulls Outing

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Rayfield Pye

Niagara Falls is a common destination for gulls in the winter. In past years we have seen a variety of interesting birds have been seen in the past including Lesser Black-backed, Slaty-backed, and California Gulls; Black-legged Kittiwake; Brant; Purple Sandpiper; Red Phalarope, Canvasback; Common Loons; etc.. Niagara is also home to Tufted Titmice so a handful of seed may get you a lifer.

Meet to car pool at the southwest corner of the Pickering GO station. The drive to Niagara Falls should take approximately 2 hours.

Difficulty: It can be very cold, wet and/or snowy beside the Niagara River. Dress to stay warm and dry. Wear layers of clothing for flexibility. Casual walking on sidewalks will be required.

Note: In the event of a forecast of bad weather, an email will be sent to the DRFN distribution list the evening before a trip, with trip cancellation or re-scheduling information. If you are not on the list, you may check the DRFN web-site or call the outing leader.

Bring water and a lunch or prepare to dine at Tim's in Chippawa

Past Outings

DRFN Annual Weekend Outing

This year we held our Annual Spring Weekend outing in June. We went somewhere closer to home, the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area and Campground. Derek and I were the only campers. Others stayed at B & B's or spent the day. There were 13 DRFN members in all. Warsaw Caves C.A. turned out to be a lovely area. This park situated east of Lakefield has not only caves to excite us but trails that traverse limestone plains (alvars) and scenic lookouts along the Indian River. The group hiked all day Saturday admiring nature on a warm, sunny spring day. We also took time to dangle our tired, hot feet in the cool rushing waters of the Indian River while eating our lunch.



1 Cooling Our Feet submitted by Lois Gillette

Then we explored the caves, not too far in - we weren't equipped for spelunking. Some caves still had ice near their entrances. It was an adventurous day! We all rested in the waning evening hours at Derek and my campsite enjoying our BBQ and potluck food with the beverage of our choice.

Where to next June? Otto and Diane Peter have again invited us to their cottage north of Kingston. We saw the Prairie Warbler there last time. Should be fun!

Lois Gillette

Butterflies at Enniskillen Conservation Area Monday, July 3, 2017

Rayfield Pye lead an enthusiastic group of 21 in search of butterflies at the Enniskillen Conservation area. The weather was sunny but a little cool for butterflies. However, we were lucky to find a Red Admiral laying eggs on stinging nettles in the field right by the parking lot within just a few minutes of starting the outing.

Rayfield instructed the group to search locations other than the meadow for butterflies such as dark sand/asphalt where we found many skippers warming themselves. The group also learned about mud puddling. By sipping moisture from the mud butterflies take in salt and minerals from the soil. The picture below, is a Crescent Pearl we discovered mud puddling. It was one of the several butterfly species we found exhibiting this behaviour.



2 Mud puddling submitted by John Muzik

Despite the cooler than normal start to the summer we were able to identify a number of species: Red Admiral, Common Ringlet, Monarch, Crescent Pearl, Cabbage White, Little Wood Satyr, European Skipper, Silver Spotted Skipper, Long Dash Skipper, Orange Sulphur and Silvery Blue.

Thank you Rayfield for a great outing. I for one learned a lot. Now if I can only remember it all for next summer.

Nancy Muzik

Presqu'île Provincial Park Outing: August 26, 2017

After the incredible wet spring conditions, we were happy to see that the Park is getting back to normal. Most naturalists visit at this time in search of shorebirds and head for Owen Point. That was not an option but conditions at Beaches 2 and 3 were favourable and the walk was shorter. There were many Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers and small numbers of White-Rumped Sandpipers and local Killdeer. A single Lesser Yellowlegs was also present. If you walked along the edge of the beach, frogs seemed to hop with every step. Clearly, the wet spring was a dream come true if you were a frog.

The Lighthouse area was rich in high, green growth. There were some birds there but seeing them for more than a few seconds was problematic. Most saw a Yellow Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak female and House Wrens. A Swainson's Thrush walking on a wet area was more elusive. Reports of a dozen warbler species by early birders were tantalizing but unrealistic at noon. The Calf Pasture was accessible as well. Its large deciduous trees

were also accommodating to migrants but most of what we saw were Yellow-Rumped Warblers. A Baltimore Oriole, Phoebe and Pied-billed Grebe were also seen. One of our better finds was a Magnolia Warbler at the park store. All it took was a few hefty ice-cream cones to pass the time while we waited for the bird to show itself.

Presqu'île is worth visiting anytime and shorebirds and migrants will continue to pass through for a few more weeks. It's worth the short drive for a few hours of pleasant walking and an opportunity to see some great birds as they pass south.

Don Docherty



Presqu'île Outing Submitted by John Foster

Feather Friendly Tape

Diane and I live on a ravine in Oshawa with large windows that face the ravine and others that face the street. In one case, you can look from the front of the house through to the backyard. Yes, that view can be a death trap for birds. In the past, we have tried to leave the drapes closed as much as possible but occasionally they are open and in a typical season up to 5 birds have died running into the windows. We also tried numerous decals on the

windows but they didn't always work that well. I was at the new Environmental Sciences building at the U of T Scarborough Campus where I noticed these small silvery squares on all windows. My host told me that it was the window tape that FLAP had mentioned in their newsletter. I did a quick search and found that it is called Feather Friendly Residential Bird Collision Deterrent Tape and thought I should try it. I bought several rolls of tape and installed it on the main windows early in the spring and left the drapes open. I have only found one dead bird this year and that was nowhere near any of the windows. I think it actually worked. Feather Friendly Tape, a high contrast marker-pattern technology helps birds "see the glass" so they don't collide with it. Once you get the knack of it, it is easy to install on the outside of the windows and has an aesthetically pleasing marker-pattern. The tape has ¼ inch square silver squares spaced 2 inches apart that stick to the window after you peel off the backing tape. Rows are spaced two inches apart over the rest of the window. It is noticeable but not annoying in any way.

The tape can be bought on line at Window Film Canada

<http://www.windowfilmcanada.ca/featherfriendly/feather-friendly-commercial> or at Urban Nature stores and costs in the range of \$15-20 per roll which covers 16 square feet of window.

I would encourage anyone who has windows that may be prone to bird strikes, especially those near feeders, to investigate the installation of the Feather Friendly tape.

Otto Peter

Butterfly Garden Report 5-27-17

On my walk over to the BG, with my wheelbarrow full of shovels, pails, marigolds, etc., for planting/maintenance day on May 27, I was very disappointed when the drizzle started. This was not in the weather forecast!

As I started working by myself in the rain, Otto and Diane arrived, then Satu, then John and Nancy, then Rayfield, then Lois. By then the rain had stopped and we all worked hard to get the gardens looking beautiful. There was lots of fresh woodchips, thanks to City Parks, to spread around the edges and on the paths. We didn't need water from the neighbours this year, as the soil was quite saturated - good for the marigolds and butterfly milkweeds we planted. In fact a Monarch butterfly actually came by - my first for the season.

Thanks once again to all those who come out to help on the annual maintenance day, to get the gardens freshened up and ready for blooming season. It always gives me hope that they will flourish for another season, providing food and habitat for many of our important insects.

Dianne Pazaratz

Ontario Nature

Take action for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Government of Ontario is now conducting public consultations on their plan to identify and map a natural heritage system across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Natural heritage systems planning is widely recognized by landscape ecologists and planners as the most effective approach to recover biodiversity and

prepare for the impacts of climate change. It is vital that this plan is done right to protect our region's nature, water and communities! The Oak Ridges Moraine Partnership has identified some major gaps in the government's plan. Take action now and please urge our Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kathryn McGarry, to address these deficiencies, before the plan is finalized. You can find a link on the Ontario Nature website please take a few moments to submit a digital letter by October 4 2017, and urge the government to stand up for stronger protection for nature across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Maria Prisciak

Durham Region Butterfly Count 2017



4 Red-spotted Purple by J. Kamstra

Two Durham region butterfly counts were attended by members of Durham Field Naturalists and other lepidopterous enthusiasts. All of the butterfly individuals encountered within a 25 km² on the count day were recorded and tallied, similar to a Christmas Bird Count. This was the 23rd year for the Oshawa count and the 21st year for Sunderland.

A total of 44 species were recorded at Oshawa which is right on the 23 year average. The rarest species was a Common Buckeye observed by Rayfield Pye which had only once been previously recorded. There were no record high numbers of any species on the Oshawa count and the majority of species were in lower numbers than average. A few lingering early season species were noted which are: Silvery Blue, Juvenal's Duskywing, Dreamy Duskywing and Arctic Skipper. None of these were found at Sunderland a mere week later.

The Sunderland count recorded 50 species which is somewhat lower than the long term average of 54. Like Oshawa, the majority of species at Sunderland were in lower numbers than average. Particularly noteworthy were the very low number of Common Sulfurs on both counts. Average counts are 130 for Oshawa (only 3 seen in 2017) and >600 for Sunderland (only 10 seen in 2017). European Skippers were in surprisingly low numbers as well since average counts are 2900 for Oshawa (335 in 2017) and >4000 for Sunderland (637 in 2017). Two species had record high counts at Sunderland: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Northern Cloudywing. A rare find at Sunderland were two Mulberry Wing skippers, a sedge specialist, found by Dennis Barry.

Overall the spring was delayed and exceptionally wet this year. This weather trend continued through the summer such that butterfly species emerged somewhat later than usual but their flight times were extended later.

The one real bright spot for this summer were the number of Monarchs. Both counts recorded the highest numbers in the last five years. The last year that we saw good Monarch

populations in Ontario was 2012. The species suffered a precipitous decline the following year. Recovery was very slow since then until a rebound in 2017. Let's hope it continues.

The results of the two counts are shown on the table below.

BUTTERFLIES OBSERVED ON THE DURHAM COUNTS IN 2017

SPECIES	Oshaw a	Sunderlan d
	02-Jul	09-Jul
Black Swallow tail	2	1
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	3	8
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	11	78
tiger swallowtail sp.	19	14
Mustard White	11	39
Cabbage White	120	600
Common Sulfur	3	10
Alfalfa Orange	1	1
Harvester		1
American Copper	2	
Bronze Copper	1	26
Coral Hairstreak		6
Acadian Hairstreak		2
Banded Hairstreak		
Striped Hairstreak		1

Eastern Tailed Blue	3	45
Summer Azure	6	20
Silvery Blue	6	
Great Spangled Fritillary	14	83
Silver-bordered Fritillary	1	
Meadow Fritillary		17
Pearl Crescent	9	38
Northern Crescent	349	520
crescent sp.	14	
Baltimore		84
Question Mark	8	9
Eastern Comma	4	12
Gray Comma		9
Mourning Cloak		4
Painted Lady	2	7
American Lady	15	17
Red Admiral	59	45
White Admiral	45	34
Red-spotted Purple	2	
Viceroy	8	18
Common Buckeye	1	
Northern Pearly-Eye	19	78
Eyed Brown	61	160
Little Wood Satyr	104	44
Common Wood Nymph	1	24
Inornate Ringlet	69	33

Monarch	92	69
Silver-spotted Skipper	54	19
Northern Cloudywing	5	31
Juvenal's Duskywing	1	
Dreamy Duskywing	1	
Arctic Skipper	1	
Least Skipper	34	78
European Skipper	335	637
Peck's Skipper	9	73
Tawny-edged Skipper	12	51
Crossline Skipper	3	17
Long Dash Skipper	42	86
Northern Broken Dash	1	32
Little Glassywing		14
Delaware Skipper		38
Mulberry Wing		2
Hobomok Skipper	35	25
Broad-winged Skipper		5
Dion Skipper		1
Dun Skipper		98
TOTAL SPECIES	44	50
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1603	3372
Butterflies / hour effort	35.6	40.6
No. of Participants	11	25

No. of Parties	7	11
Km. on foot	55.5	86.5
Km. by car	307	275
Hours on foot	37.5	74.25
Hours by car	7.5	8.75
Total Hours	45	83

Participants

Oshawa: Dennis Barry, Susan Blayney, Dan Bone, Margaret Carney, John Foster, James, Kamstra, Carolyn King, Steve Laforest, Tom Mason, Maria Prisciak, Rayfield Pye.

Sunderland: Dennis Barry, Susan Blayney, Dan Bone, Jon Boxall, Margaret Carney, Paul Carter, Lori Clancy, John Foster, Paul & Debbie Harpley, Jim Hopkins, James & Lynda Kamstra, Carolyn King, Steve LaForest, Craig & Kathryn Lloyd, Tom Mason, Ginny Moore, Dave Paddock, Ed Poropat, Marie Prisciak, Rayfield Pye, Bob & Karen Yukich.

James Kamstra

Newsletter Submissions

John and I have big shoes to fill replacing Dianne Pazaratz who did such a fine job for so many years. Since we use different software, I created a new template for the newsletter. I hope that you will like the new look and feel for our first attempt. Any feedback and recommendations you have for future newsletters would be greatly appreciated.

Submissions for the November newsletter: deadline November 15, 2017.

Email submissions and photos to:
john_nancy_m@rogers.com.

Nancy Muzik

Fighting Global Warming

By John Pratt

Great forests to our country belong,
But something serious has come along.
Clearing them for other use has long been here.
However, this has gone too far, I fear.
All over the world deforestation goes on.
Many forests, the lungs of our planet are gone
Also, a thin film of oil and plastic island grow
on the sea
Thus, the breathing phytoplankton are in
danger, you see.
Noxious gases pumped into the atmosphere,

From cars and industry, increase here.
They threaten our health by the air we breathe.
Warming causes ocean waters to seethe.
Great storms from the sea and droughts on
land
Cause suffering that is hard to stand!
Yet lack of fresh water and food is worse!
Hungry people feel unrest, so war can be
another curse
Civilizations have failed when such things came
along.
It's better to take action now to prevent, even
slow what is wrong.

Membership Application Form

Please check the appropriate area to indicate membership type.
For Family membership please indicate the number of family members.

Individual (\$25) _____

Family (\$35) _____ # of People _____

Life Member (\$300) _____

Family Life Member (\$450) _____ # of people

Kindly complete all sections of this information form in order that we can update our address & telephone records.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

The membership year is September to June. Memberships not renewed by November 30th are considered lapsed.
Membership fees may be paid by cash or cheque at the DRFN General Meeting, or a cheque may be mailed, payable to:
Durham Region Field Naturalists, Box 54031, 8 King St. E., Oshawa ON, L1H 1A9
Do not send cash by mail.
Revenue Canada Charitable: No. 891631574RR0001.