

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 8

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Membership Renewal Form



Bronze Copper Submitted by Lois Gillette

THE NATURALIST

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

President's Message

A new season for DRFN! Welcome back as we start our 2018/19 season. But you haven't really gone have you, because even though we don't have meetings during the summer months we do have outings. I hope you were able to join us for at least one of them.



We start the year with a new executive, well one new member anyway. John Foster is no longer in the position of Vice President. Thank you, John, for the fine job you did over the last five years. Taking his place is Kristen Osborne. Welcome Kristen! As V.P., Kristen will chair the meetings that I will not be able to attend. During the winter, southern climes beckon. Please offer your support to Kristen and all of members of the executive throughout the coming year.

Feel free to give us your ideas and input as to how you think the club should be run or things you would like to see us doing. And newsletter articles! John and Nancy always need articles for the newsletter. So please put in writing your adventures or interests in nature and pass them along to them.

The executive is excited about a request from CLOCA to take on a couple of projects they have in mind for us. We were given three suggestions. Now we are in the process of choosing one or two and asking for more details from CLOCA. More to follow on that one! I hope you enjoyed summer. It was a bit hot! Global warming? Climate change? And did you remember to take your children and/or grandchildren or friends with you as you ventured through the many natural areas of Durham Region and beyond. Did you share your love of nature!

We have a four-year-old granddaughter who loves nature and animals of all kinds. We have tried to play a part in influencing her in that direction. We take her for forays into our garden which is full of native plants and creatures. Together we have watched and studied spiders, bees, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, butterflies, flowers and birds. In August we found some monarch caterpillars on our swamp milkweed and were able to discuss the life cycle of butterflies. We have since seen many monarch butterflies in our garden. And we found out that butterflies love zinnias, a flower that she helped plant in our garden in the spring. In early September we marvelled at a hummingbird that visited our lovely red-flowered Butterfly Sage that we like to plant in our veggie garden. It seems that the hummingbirds love it. As we sat in

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 24, 2018

Tom Shields
Orchids of Ontario

October 29, 2018

Elizabeth Kellogg
Bird Banding

November 26, 2018

Kevin Callan
"Paddling the Thames: An Epic Canoe Journey"

January 28, 2019

Rayfield Pye
Hawk Identification Workshop

Newsletter

Submissions

Please submit your pictures and articles for the November newsletter no later than November 14, 2018.

Email all submissions to Nancy Muzik at
john_nancy_m@rogers.com

our chairs nearby we watched it return three times. So, if you have young children or grandchildren I hope you take the time to enjoy nature with them. For me the sharing makes it twice as enjoyable.

Lois Gillette

Future Outings

Saturday, October 13 at 10 AM

Darlington Generating Station Parkland

Leader: Don Docherty

Difficulty: Light walking.

Meet at the parking lot to the SW of the pond at Darlington Generating Station. (From the 401, take the Courtice Road exit, go east on the Service Road to Solina Road and go south to the parking lot nearest the lake.)

Darlington is a great place to visit any time of the year. It has been 6 years since we last visited so we'll see the changes, highlight the best places to check and look for interesting birds.

Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. Bring water.

Sunday, November 25 at 8 AM

Niagara Gulls

Leader: Rayfield Pye

Difficulty: Casual walking on sidewalks will be required.

Niagara Falls is a common destination for gulls in late fall and winter. 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.

It can be very cold, wet and/or snowy beside the Niagara River. (It can also be warm and dry...) Dress to stay warm and dry. Wear layers of clothing for flexibility.

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

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Saturday, December 22

Durham Christmas Bird Count

Leader: Contact Rayfield Pye to participate @ 905-436-7998 or raypye@interlinks.net.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting.

Check for weather forecast and dress accordingly.

Don Docherty



Darlington Provincial Park Piping Plover Chick was sadly predated by a mink 5 minutes after the photo was taken on July 6, 2018

Submitted by Rayfield Pye

Past Outings

DRFN Annual Weekend 2018, June 8-10

The annual DRFN weekend was held June 8 – 10 at the cottage of Otto and Dianne Peter. The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with a group of us having dinner at The Cove Restaurant in the picturesque village of Westport. It was a perfect evening and we ended up having dinner on the patio “surrounded by lush gardens, shady trees” and overlooking the Westport Pond. After dinner, those staying in Westport headed off to their motel, while the rest of us hopped into Otto’s limo and went back to the cottage. While sitting on the deck at the Peter’s cottage as dusk settled in, we were treated to a pair of whip-poor-wills calling back and forth. Later, as darkness descended upon us, a pair of barred owls paid us a visit. They started with their familiar “who cooks for you” call then quickly escalated into caterwauling, probably a little

agitated by us shining our flashlights upon them. As we all went off to bed, we were serenaded by the haunting call of the common loon echoing off the cliffs of Canoe Lake.

Saturday morning started with a visit to Frontenac Provincial Park. Highlights included finding an active blackburnian warbler nest, and an oven bird with a grub in its beak taking a circuitous route to its nest to avoid detection from any predators. Further on down the path a cerulean warbler was spotted high in the tree tops. We didn’t get a very good look at it, but we all got good case of warbler neck. On the way back to the parking lot we discovered a phoebe nest tucked up inside a sign. At the dam we had an up-close look at a yellow-bellied sapsucker and a muskrat swimming around. After about three hours at the park, we headed back to the Peter’s cottage for lunch.



Submitted by Maureen McVarish

After lunch we toured the James Wilson and Canoe Lake Roads area around the Peter’s cottage. At the Canoe Lake Dam, we found a black northern water snake. Near the dam there were plenty of ringlets, skippers and butterflies, including a giant and tiger swallow tail. Along the road and on the banks, we saw map turtles, and evidence of snapping turtle nest predation. Further up the road, we got a couple of good looks at indigo buntings.

We concluded our afternoon tour with a visit to the property of David Stocks, a friend and neighbour of the Peter’s. The Stocks have a large property with a pond and plenty of places to hike. On the hike we encountered a beaver, tree frog and several bird species. The highlight of the hike was observing a pair of yellow throated vireos, a lifer for some of our hikers. When we returned to the house someone

noticed a very agitated chickadee flitting up and down in one spot. Upon further investigation, we discovered a large garter snake encroaching on its nest. We called the expert snake wrangler, Otto Peter, who picked up the snake and carried it off to a location far from the chickadee nest.



Submitted by John Muzik

After our visit to the Stocks property, we all headed back to the Peter's cottage for a barbeque and potluck dinner.

Overall approximately 60 species of birds were observed over the weekend, as well as several mammals, reptiles, amphibians and plant species. Everyone had a good time, the weather was perfect, and the Peters were excellent hosts. I look forward to next year's outing.

John Muzik



Submitted by Maria Prisciak

Carden Alvar Outing, June 16

Weather conditions were fine and we managed to see most of our target species. Compared to last year, road conditions were better and it was easy to drive Whylie Road to the marsh. What makes the Carden special are the grassland birds and they are relatively easy to see from the road. We had great views of Brown Thrashers, Bluebirds, Meadowlarks,

Savannah Sparrows, Wilson's Snipe, Kingbird and Bobolink. It was difficult to find a Loggerhead Shrike but we finally did at a distance using spotting scopes. We saw as many as 4 Common Nighthawks at one time as they traversed the sky in search of insect meals. Sedge Wrens sang infrequently at the marsh and we only had fleeting glimpses of them. Upland Sandpipers were also challenging but we eventually saw some in the fading light. The nicest surprise was hearing a Golden-winged Warbler as the trip ended for most participants.



Submitted by Kristen Osborne

Rayfield stayed at Whylie Road a bit longer and heard several Whip-poor-will. I drove Shrike Road and heard one too. I also saw some fire flies along the road as I headed home.

We had a great group of participants who contributed to making it a very pleasurable evening.

Don Docherty

Presqu'île Provincial Park, August 25

What a lovely day for an outing to one of the favorite locations for DRFN member field trips. A warm sunny day with a nice breeze. Thirteen members and two other eager bird watchers started the day going slowly around the board walk to where Kristen Osborne a DRFN member who works at the park was doing pond dipping for park visitors. An Osprey could be heard whistling in the distance and when we looked for it a Great Egret was spotted roosting in a tree to the south.

Some of the group took the opportunity to take a net and root around in the muck along the shore being careful to not get a soaker. Lots of invertebrates were discovered along with some frogs. The Water Scorpion was of particular interest to many since it was the first one that they had ever seen. As well, we found and identified 2 types of fresh water pond snails. Nice finds since it seems the only snails we see commonly anymore are the invasive Grove snails from Europe.



Submitted by Lois Gillette

On the way back to the parking lot a number of aquatic water plants were identified by John, including Water Hemlock, Slender and Common Arrowhead. Of course, as we walked a number of birds were heard and seen including Gray Catbird, Blue Jay, Swamp Sparrow and Cedar Waxwings. The vegetation is so dense and high that seeing the birds was very difficult.

After the marsh boardwalk we went over to the lighthouse. Along the trails a large number of passerines were seen feeding in the trees along the shore including 6 species of warblers, 3 species of vireos, 3 species of woodpeckers and both nuthatches and a Carolina Wren. A walk along the cottage road was uneventful until one of our group asked a cottage owner if they could go into his famous backyard. They were invited in and saw Purple Finches, and a brown Thrasher along with the usual suspects at the feeders. Lunch was enjoyed by all under the trees near the Park Friends store.

After lunch the Calf Pasture was our next destination. Who would have thought we would be able to see Yellow-Bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers along with a Northern Waterthrush? We couldn't remain there for long because a large number of park visitors decided that our location was good for fishing so we headed for the Owen's Point Trail at the beaches. By this time the humidity and heat were intensified by the still air on the trail because of the unusually high vegetation (phragmites). I think most of us had forgotten that it was a long way to Owen's Point from the parking lot. However, it was productive with 9 species of shorebirds including Baird's Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstones along with many Cormorants, Caspian Terns and other gulls. One feature of this area was the intense odour of rotting algae, a strong stomach was required.

In all at least 63 species of birds were seen by most of the group which was a good days birding in the dog days of August. Most of the group ended the day with ice cream, always a treat especially given the warm day.

Otto Peter

Rossland Road Butterfly Garden-Annual Update



Submitted by Maria Prisciak

May 29, this year's Spring Maintenance Day, was a perfect day for gardening - cool and not much sun. In fact, when we first arrived, a few raindrops fell, but not for long. We accomplished a lot and I want to thank the following people for coming and working so hard to get the gardens freshened up: Lois Gillette, Betty Moss, John and Nancy Muzik, Satu Pernanen, Otto and Diane Peter, Lorna Plunkett (my sister, all the way from Ennismore!) and Rayfield Pye. Also thanks once again to the Shreves, good neighbours who allowed us to use their water for the plantings, and to City of Oshawa for delivering lovely fresh piles of woodchips.

A Baltimore oriole serenaded us most of the morning. I was very happy to see a Butterfly milkweed just peeking up through the soil under the BG sign. This is its third year. I even took it home last year and buried it for the winter when the soil was being dug up to replace the sign posts which had been vandalized. There are now three types of milkweed growing in the garden - common, butterfly and swamp.

Did you know our Butterfly Garden is on Google Maps? Because it is designated as a Monarch Waystation, if you enter a location near it (such as Ansley Court), you will see a marker called 'Monarch Waystation Butterfly Garden'. How about that? We're a landmark!

The rest of the summer went well for the garden with tons of beautiful flowers in the month of August. We planted zinnias by the sign and their

bright colours still look just splendid for passers-by. They'll become a fixture. Lots of butterflies, especially Monarchs, when I worked there on sunny days. And two Monarch caterpillars on a swamp milkweed!

Wish I had more volunteers through the summer. It really is a lovely place to get a bit of outdoor exercise you know. Thanks to my sister Lorna for volunteering several days over the summer, and to staff and clients from Community Living who've driven all the way from Uxbridge to help for the last few Thursdays.

Dianne Pazaratz

Ontario Nature Report

Fall is almost here, the trees are starting to glow with colour, and the birds, and the monarchs are embarking on their journeys south. Check our website for all the great events, and festivals that celebrate the wonderful nature around us. Use them as an opportunity to get outside to explore all the fabulous conservation areas, and the wildlife they help to protect.

More than 4,000 individuals have signed our protected places declaration and 100 organizations have endorsed it. Thank you for your commitment to conservation. We have been inspired by what our supporters are saying about what protected places mean to them. Your comments and passion for nature motivates us to push even harder to reach our goal of protecting at least 17 percent of lands and inland waters by 2020! Now we want your 2 cents. Please sign our protected places guestbook and tell us why you care about protected places. Your stories bring the campaign to life. Look for the login logo on our Ontario Nature website.

We are very pleased to announce that three Ontario Nature Youth Council members, Aidan Brushett, Sujeethan Vigneswaran and Lisa Wang have been recognized as Starfish Canada's Top 25 Environmentalists under 25! These young environmental leaders have spearheaded campaigns on key conservation issues, including our pollinator and climate change campaigns. As they move on to university this fall, there's no doubt they will continue to be inspirational environmental leaders.

This fall we'll undertake a prescribed burn at our Stone Road Alvar Nature Reserve. Fire is a natural part of the ecology of grassland-alvar communities

and needed in order to decrease the abundance of wood shrubs and increase the native alvar species such as nodding onion, grey-headed coneflower and climbing prairie rose. With our partner groups, we will monitor the effectiveness of the prescribed burn for maintaining habitat for species at risk.

Maria Prisciak



Great Spangled Fritillary submitted by James Kamstra

Durham Region Butterfly Counts 2018

Two butterfly counts were conducted in portions of North Durham attended by members of Durham Field Naturalists and North Durham Nature as well as other lepidopterous enthusiasts. The Oshawa count extends from the north side of Oshawa to north of Port Perry, while the Sunderland count includes parts of Uxbridge and Brock townships in north Durham, and part of Georgina township in York Region. 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 24th year for the Oshawa count and the 22nd year for Sunderland.

A total of 47 species were recorded at Oshawa which is slightly above average. Oshawa had to be postponed to June 30 because heavy rain fell on the original date of June 24. The Sunderland count recorded 49 species which is somewhat lower than the long-term average of 54. Overall numbers of many species were lower than average. The migrant species Red Admiral and American Lady were very low this year but Monarchs were in good numbers, especially at Sunderland. There it was the third highest count, only 2007 and 2012 had more. Most skippers were lower than average except for a few species such as Silver-spotted, Delaware and Dun Skippers. There were no new species or particular rarities on either count and the only record high species was Eastern Tiger

Swallowtail on the Sunderland count. This southern species has increased in our area in recent years.

Participants

Oshawa: Dennis Barry, Susan Blayney, Dan Bone, Margaret Carney, James & Lynda Kamstra, Carolyn King, Steve Laforest, Tom Mason, Maria Prisciak, Jay Thibert.

Sunderland: Dennis Barry, Dave Bishop, Susan Blayney, Dan Bone, Margaret Carney, Derek Connelly, Paul & Debbie Harpley, Jim Hopkins, James & Lynda Kamstra, Carolyn King, Steve LaForest, Craig & Kathryn Lloyd, Tom Mason, Ginny Moore, Dave Paddock, Ed Poropat, Rayfield Pye, Bob & Karen Yukich.

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

Species	Oshawa 30-June	Sunderland 08-Jul
Black Swallowtail	2	12
Canadian Tiger Swallow	4	1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	19	86
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	19	86
tiger swallowtail sp.	20	
Mustard White	11	75
Cabbage White	251	339
Common Sulfur	144	2310
Alfalfa Orange	7	11
Bronze Copper	7	5
Coral Hairstreak		16
Acadian Hairstreak		6
Banded Hairstreak	2	
Striped Hairstreak	1	3
hairstreak sp.		6
Eastern Tailed Blue	5	28
Summer Azure	18	122
Silvery Blue	4	5
Great Spangled Fritillary	28	80
Silver-bordered Fritillary		1
Meadow Fritillary	1	11
Pearl Crescent	27	19
Northern Crescent	411	276
crescent sp.	32	5
Baltimore		191
Question Mark	5	6
Eastern Comma	16	24
Gray Comma	2	17
comma sp.		10
Mourning Cloak	1	22
American Lady	1	
Red Admiral	2	5
White Admiral	54	25
Red-spotted Purple	4	
Viceroy	4	14
Northern Pearly-Eye	56	19
Eyed Brown	40	314
Appalachian Brown		28
Little Wood Satyr	23	7

Common Wood Nymph	14	205
Inornate Ringlet	60	6
Monarch	65	367
Silver-spotted Skipper	50	30
Northern Cloudywing	3	12
Dreamy Duskywing	1	
Arctic Skipper	1	
Least Skipper	18	40
European Skipper	254	150
Peck's Skipper	1	84
Tawny-edged Skipper	7	74
Crossline Skipper	1	15
Long Dash Skipper	35	62
Northern Broken Dash	1	16
Little Glassywing	1	8
Delaware Skipper	16	71
Hobomok Skipper	9	9
Broad-winged Skipper		15
Dion Skipper		11
Dun Skipper	5	195
TOTAL SPECIES	47	49
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1744	5469
Butterflies / hour effort	42.5	79.5
No. of Participants	11	22
No. of Parties	6	9
Km. on foot	33.5	66.5
Km. by car	217	301
Hours on foot	33.5	61
Hours by car	7.5	7.75
Total Hours	41	68.75

James Kamstra

Adopt A Site 2019 Survey Co Observer Driver Wanted

Hello fellow DRFN members, for over a decade I have been volunteering with the Adopt-A-Site program run by Wildlife Preservation Canada. Observers go out in the field in the Carden, Napanee, Grey-Bruce, and Manitoulin Island Areas searching for Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes. Wildlife Preservation Canada has been working to raise captive Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes, hatch them at the sites, and then release them. They and volunteers like myself are working to maintain and increase the Canadian population of the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike.

The person I originally worked with who was both co-observer and driver can no longer fulfil this volunteer work. I am looking for a new volunteer from amongst our membership who might wish to participate in this important endeavor. The volunteer work entails visiting assigned areas once each in April, May, and June - during the breeding season. We record any Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes we encounter, as well as any grassland or other birds. One-person compiles-observes and the other

person drives-observes. Binoculars are required, a good eye, and knowledge of birds.

I do not own a vehicle and hence the reason for this article. If I have piqued your interest, and you would like to participate in the 2019 AAS Survey, please contact me as follows:

Email - gavian.stellatan@gmail.com or by mobile phone - (905) 242-3434 [You can leave a voice mail.]

Thank you fellow DRFN members.

John F. Foster

Did You Know?



Submitted by Lois Gillette

The **Indigo Bunting** is a regular neotropical migrant found in most of southern Canada, except in the prairies. Their vibrant blue colour, like for most blue birds, isn't due to a pigment, but rather to a structural effect on light.

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 Genera 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.