



Burrowing Owl Submitted by Larry Kirtley

## What's Inside

President's Message

Future Outings

Ontario Nature Report

Arizona Trip

EDRR in Ontario

Volunteer Opportunities

Events Here and There

Poem by John Pratt

Financial Statement

## Newsletter

### Submissions

Please submit your pictures and articles for the September newsletter no later than September 15, 2018. Email all submissions to Nancy Muzik at [john\\_nancy\\_m@rogers.com](mailto:john_nancy_m@rogers.com).

# THE NATURALIST

DURHAM REGION FIELD NATURALISTS  
CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION  
[www.drfn.ca](http://www.drfn.ca)     [drfn1955@hotmail.com](mailto:drfn1955@hotmail.com)

## President's Message

Well another year is just about over! No, it's not December although a few short weeks ago it certainly looked like it. I am talking about the 2017-18 DRFN year. And, I think it has been a very good one. We have had some excellent speakers at our meetings with a variety of topics. We had interesting outings and our newsletters, as always, were entertaining and informative. The club would not exist without the hard work of our executive. We have all worked hard to bring to you, our members, the kind of naturalist club we think you want. Of course, if you have any ideas or thoughts on how we can improve please let us know.



The May meeting is Members Night but it is also our Annual General Meeting, as needed to meet requirements for a charitable organization. You will have the opportunity to vote for the people you wish to fill the executive positions. I announced in the April meeting that I did not wish to continue in my role as President. I will continue in Publicity. In addition, our Vice-president, John Foster, has chosen not to run as Vice-president nor as President. All of the other current executive members wish to remain in their present positions. At the moment we have one candidate who has stepped up to run for the Vice-president position. If you would like to join us in making the 2018-19 season a success please consider joining the DRFN executive. All positions are subject to a vote if there are two or more members running for them. Executive positions include President, Vice-president, Outings, Membership, Conservation, Programmes, Publicity, ON Rep., Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this spring and the summer. It is an exciting time for we naturalists! And remember to take your children, grandchildren or friends with you as you venture through the many

## 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')*

### **May 28, 2018**

AGM and Members Night

### **September 24, 2018**

Tom Shields

The Orchids of Ontario

### **October 29, 2018**

Elizabeth Kellogg

*Bird Banding*

natural areas of Durham Region and beyond. Share your love of nature! DRFN will continue to have outings during the summer as published in this newsletter. So please join us.

*Lois Gillette*

## Future Outings

**Saturday, May 26, 10:00 a.m.**

Butterfly Garden Spring Clean-Up

There's lots to do to get the Butterfly Garden ready for summer - edging, spreading wood-chips, weeding, pulling grass, pruning, cutting dead stalks, planting marigolds, cleaning up litter, etc. etc. Please come and lend a hand to keep this pollinator garden going.

Bring garden tools, gloves, drinking water and dress for the weather.

Park on side streets Glencairn or Ansley, then walk a short distance to the garden on Rossland Road just west of the Oshawa Creek.

Note: Help is also (desperately) needed over the summer – a couple of hours once, or as often as you can come. Contact Dianne to arrange.

Questions: Dianne Pazaratz 905-433-7875 or [dpazaratz@sympatico.ca](mailto:dpazaratz@sympatico.ca)

### **DFRN Annual Weekend Outing – June 8-10, 2018**

This year we will be exploring Frontenac Provincial Park and the surrounding area. If you wish to only attend Saturday, June 9 we will meet at the northern Frontenac Provincial Park entrance at 9:00 AM. This Frontenac Provincial Park entrance is on Kingsford Dam Road off of Devil's Lake Road. A potluck dinner (meat, buns and condiments will be provided) will be held Saturday evening at the Peter's cottage near Verona off of Highway 38 north of Kingston. Google maps 1085 James Wilson Road, Odessa. If you have not previously signed up please contact Otto Peter at [opeter@rogers.com](mailto:opeter@rogers.com) or call 905-725-0982.

**Saturday, June 16 at 6:00 PM**

**Carden Alvar**

Leader: Don Docherty

Difficulty: Light walking.

- The Carden Alvar is a dramatically different experience with prairie smoke, cattle and grassland birds. Weather permitting; we may see Bluebirds, Wrens, Loggerhead Shrikes, Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, a variety of Sparrows, Nighthawks, and listen to lovely Thrush songs as the sun sets. If you stay a little longer you can drive further and listen for Whip-poor-wills. While returning home watch for fireflies.
- Those who wish to carpool can meet at the Northview Library parking lot at 5:00 PM. (Alternately meet Don Docherty at Wylie and McNamee Roads at the Carden Alvar at 6:00 PM.) (Consider driving up earlier and have a picnic at the lift locks at 5:00 PM.)
- Be prepared with water, sun screen and insect repellent.

**Saturday, July 14 at 1:00 PM**

**Butterflies at Claremont Conservation Area**

Leader: Rayfield Pye

Difficulty: Light walking

- Weather permitting, we should see many fine butterflies.
- Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Westney Road and Concession 7.
- Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly.
- Be prepared with water, sun screen and insect repellent.

**Saturday, August 25 at 8:00 AM**

**Presqu'île Provincial Park Nature**

Leaders: Otto Peter and Kristen Osborne

Difficulty: Extensive easy walking. Potential calorie overload due to ice cream at the park store.

- Let's visit Presqu'île to see a wide range of flora and fauna. This year we will start with pond dipping at the Marsh Boardwalk. Afterwards we'll look for late summer wildflowers and see warblers and shorebirds on their southerly migration.
- Meet to car pool at 8:00 AM at the old GO Station parking lot off Simcoe Street South near the Highway 401 on-ramp. Parking is available at the side farthest from the street. (Alternately, meet at the park gates at 9:00 AM.)
- Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly.
- Bring water, lunch, sun screen and insect protection.
- A spotting scope may be helpful although a few should be available.

*Don Docherty*

## Ontario Nature Report

Summer is just around the corner in Ontario and there are so many ways to get outside and explore nature with family and friends.

A new look for Ontario Nature's website

Over the past few months we've been hard at work to create a new website designed to fit your needs. We've updated it to give you more of the nature you love with stunning videos and images of Ontario's wild species and spaces. We've also improved the navigation features to help you easily find the information you're looking for to stay informed about our programs, campaigns and the latest in

conservation news. Getting the latest information is simply a click away!

Get outside and report your sightings

It's that time of year again when we start to see emerging turtles, salamanders, snakes and frogs! Learn more about these species and report your sightings with Ontario Nature's Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas. This citizen-science project helps to increase our knowledge base of these species, but we need your help! We've got a number of ways for you to report your sightings, as well as a comprehensive field guide to help you identify your sightings. By contributing sightings to the atlas, your data directly supports conservation initiatives across the province!

Events Calendar

Now, and throughout the summer check the Ontario Nature Events Calendar for ways to volunteer or explore the natural areas around you. Birding events, bio blitzes, citizen science opportunities, festivals, and more. Get outside and notice nature this summer!

*Maria Prisciak*

## Arizona Nature Trip 2018

Darlene and I spent most of January in Arizona to escape the bitter cold back in Ontario. The weather in Arizona was quite comfortable with upper forties during the night and high 60's low 70's during the day. When we left the temperatures were in the 80's. And there was no snow. Humidity was around 14 percent so if you have arthritis Arizona is the place to visit.

Mesa Arizona was our base but we managed to drive over 3200 miles in the rental car and I took over 3,000 raw images of the wildlife and landscapes. We spent a lot of time in Tonto National Forest and we were blessed with many encounters with the wild horses. These animals were scattered throughout the park, so if you were in the park early or late your chances were excellent

to see the Arizona Wild Horses. Here is a sample of some of the horses that you might see.



Wild Horses Submitted by Larry Kirtley

One memory that stands out is our encounter with a 2-week-old colt that was quite frisky and friendly. But you have to be careful, these are wild animals.

Other encounters that we had were seeing bald eagles, ospreys, those beautiful peach faced lovebirds, vermilion flycatchers, sandhill cranes, burrowing owls, many duck species, gamble's quails, great horned owls that were 200 feet from our residence. Every morning I would go over and get shots of them sitting on the limb.

As the weather warms the venomous snakes awaken from their hibernation. There are 7 species of Rattle Snakes, 3 species of venomous spiders, the venomous Gila Monster and 2 species of Scorpions, the Bark and the Hairy. We saw none of these in January as the ground is cold so most snakes are hibernating. But your chances of seeing black bears and cougars are good, as the bears do not hibernate. Fire ants are present so you must watch where you walk.



Vermillion Flycatcher -Submitted by Larry Kirtley

Arizona is an excellent place to visit Wilcox and White-Water Draw. You will see upwards of 20,000 Sandhill Cranes at each facility, along with Northern Pintails, Northern Shoveler, shorebirds, etc. We had 3 encounters with beautiful Vermillion Flycatcher, one of the prettiest birds in Arizona.



Sandhill Crane Submitted by Larry Kirtley

There are ample opportunities for hot air ballooning, wonderful landscapes, cactuses, Botanical Gardens, Grand Canyon, just to name a few.

Arizona is to me one of the best places to visit.

*Larry & Darlene Kirtley*

## EDRR in Ontario

EDRR stands for Early Detection Rapid Response. EDRR was started in 2015 through the cooperation of the Ontario Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council in

Peterborough. Ontario has the highest rate of Invasive Species occurrence in Canada. Many of these Invasive Species are spreading rapidly in the southern part of the province. EDRR aims to train and educate volunteers with the knowledge to help in the fight to control and to eliminate Invasive Species.



Phragmites: credit Ontario Plant Council

Invasive Species includes plants, insects, fishes, mammals, birds, fungi, and micro-organisms from other parts of the world. These Invasive

Species enter the natural environment and out-compete the Native Species here. The Invasive Species can eliminate Native Species entirely from the natural environment and cause their local extirpation. Examples include the complete replacement of Common Cattail in marshes by Phragmites Grass, elimination of Wildflowers in forests by Garlic-Mustard, and the almost complete destruction of all Ash tree species in Ontario by the insect - Emerald Ash Borer.

Early detection of Invasive Species is key to preventing them getting established and to finding invasions already underway. By training volunteers to find, track, and control these Invasive Species we can hope to eliminate them from the natural environment. EDRR starts with volunteers learning how to identify Invasive Species, and learning how to find, track, and control them. To get involved in Invasive Species control volunteers can take part in Invasive Species training, report Invasive Species they find, and participate in Invasive Species control. EDRR does early detection mapping where volunteers can see the locations and occurrences of Invasive Species in the province. The mapping

system is known as the Early Detection and Distribution Map System (EDD Maps). It is a very important component of Early Detection Rapid Response. If you wish to get involved in Invasive Species control, please refer to the following relevant websites for information and direction:

- 1) Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) - <http://edrrontario.ca/>
- 2) EDRR Subscribe - <http://edrrontario.ca/index.php/subscribe/>
- 3) EDRR Get Involved - <http://edrrontario.ca/index.php/pilotareas/>
- 4) EDRR Events - <http://edrrontario.ca/events/>
- 5) Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDD Maps) - <https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/>
- 6) EDD Maps - <https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/report/>
- 7) EDD Maps Distribution Maps - <http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/distribution/>
- 8) EDD Maps Species Information - <http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/Species/>
- 9) EDD Maps Training - <http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/training.cfm>
- 10) The Ontario Invasive Species Centre (OISC) - <http://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>
- 11) The Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) - <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/>

I hope you find the above information useful. Many of the Invasive Species in the province of Ontario, already, can be controlled with good attention and due diligence. Early Detection Rapid Response is a good first step in the control of Invasive Species.

*John F. Foster*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Co-Observer-Driver Wanted for AAS Surveys

Fellow naturalists, I need a Co-Observer-Driver for the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Adopt-A-Site Surveys

I am doing this in conjunction with Wildlife Preservation Canada. In the past, I and my Co-Observer-Driver, Ron Stephenson, did 3 surveys i.e. one in each of the months of April, May, and June. We have been assigned areas to survey by the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Program. We go to each of our assigned areas and do one or more stops in them. At these stops we look for and listen for Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes. These surveys are for 15 to 20 minutes at the stops we select for the optimum chance to record Shrikes.

There are surveys being done in Carden Alvar, Napanee Plains, the Bruce Peninsula, and on the limestone alvars on Manitoulin Island. My surveys, that I need a Co-Observer Driver for, are being done on the Carden Alvar. My Co-Observer-Driver, Ron Stephenson, is unable to participate this year.

As a result of the mini-winter in the middle of April, that survey has been cancelled. I still have time to do a survey in May and one in June if I can get a Co-Observer-Driver. If you are interested in this important endeavor, you may contact me at 1 (905) 242-3434 or [gavian.stellatan@gmail.com](mailto:gavian.stellatan@gmail.com)

*John F. Foster*

### Piping Plover Monitoring Program

This season Allison Slater is the Piping Plover Biologist and Volunteer Coordinator for Ontario Parks Southeast Zone.

We have started to see the arrival of Piping Plovers at Darlington and Presqu'île Provincial Parks and are ramping up this year's monitoring program.

Allison is currently looking for those interested in being Volunteer Piping Plover Guardians for the 2018 season. Just like past years, volunteers will be acting as citizen scientists to collect information about the chicks and breeding behaviours that will help our conservation efforts. In addition, Volunteer Guardians will ensure adults, chicks, and eggs are safe, monitor breeding progression, as well as, engage the public on Piping Plover conservation efforts.

Those interested in volunteering this year can contact Allison at [allisone.slater@ontario.ca](mailto:allisone.slater@ontario.ca) to be added to future mailing lists or for further information.

*Allison E. Slater*  
*Piping Plover Biologist*  
*Southeast Zone, Ontario Parks*

## Events Here and There

### Feathered Friends Festival

**Saturday, June 2, 2018**

General Motors of Canada Headquarters, 1908  
 Colonel Sam Drive, Oshawa

## Thickson's Woods Land Trust Annual Fall Nature Festival

**Saturday September 15, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Many of your favourite attractions will return as well as some exciting new offerings. Max the magician with his bag of tricks and Speaking of Wildlife with their four legged and winged guests will return. Save the date.

## Changes in Our Great Land By John H. 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,  
 While a film of oil and plastic islands cover the sea  
 Thus, the phytoplankton are in danger too, you see.

Noxious gases pumped into the air  
 From cars and industry everywhere.  
 It threatens even the air we breathe  
 And it's warming ocean water to seethe.  
 Great storms at sea and drought on land  
 Cause suffering that is hard to stand.  
 But lack of fresh water and food is worse  
 Hungry people become restless and war is a curse.

Civilizations have gone when this comes along;  
 Better we take actions to right what is wrong.



**Financial Statement Apr 30/2018**

Cash Balance as of Dec 31/3016 - \$2,530.63

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Bird Studies Canada Donation Received	\$1,008.75	Bank Fees	\$7.80
Float In		Communications	
Memberships	\$485.00	Donations Out	\$100.00
Raffle		Dues	
Refreshments		Float Out	
		Miscellaneous	\$15.00
		ON Insurance	\$907.20
		Rent	
		Speakers	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,493.75</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,230.00</b>

Cash on hand as of April 30, 2018 is **\$2,794.38**

Investment: CIBC GIC(as of Nov25/2017) - \$2,329.08 @ 0.5500%    Matures Nov 27/2018