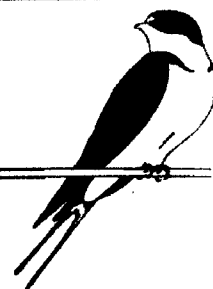




The Swallow

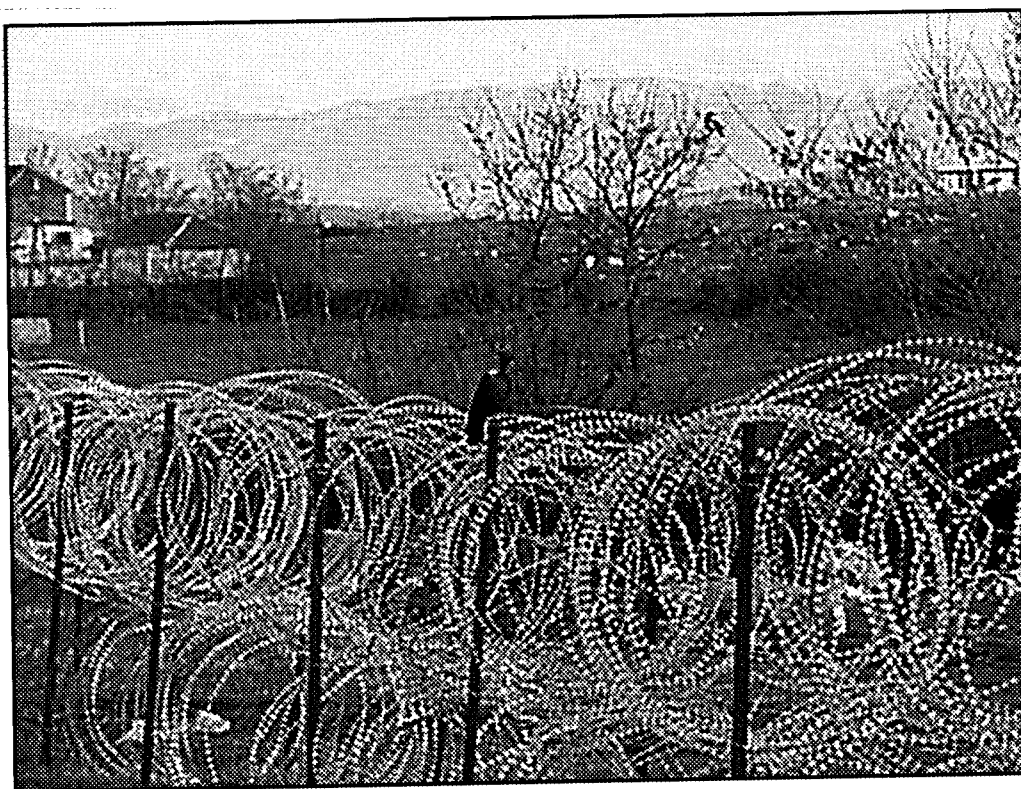


Volume 18, # 1
Autumn 2000

Directors:

President: Carey Purdon	625-2610	Jean Brereton	Chris Michener
Vice-President: Leo Boland	735-7117	Rob Cunningham	Gwen Purdon
Treasurer: Bernd Krueger	625-2879	Jason Dombroskie	Elizabeth Reeves
Secretary: Manson Fleguel	735-7703	Myron Loback	Martin Roncetti

Alain Vallieres



This Jackdaw, sitting on razor wire, was photographed in Kosovo by Martin Roncetti while he was serving with the peacekeepers.

Membership in the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists is available by writing to: the PAFN, Box1242, Pembroke, ON K8A 6Y6. 2000/2001 dues are: Senior \$5, Individual \$7, Family \$10, Individual Life \$150, Family Life \$200.

Editor, *The Swallow*: Chris Michener, R.R.1, Golden Lake, ON K0J 1X0 - Submissions welcome!
ph: (613) 625-2263; e-mail: cmichener@renc.igs.net

PAFN internet page: <http://www.renc.igs.net/~cmichener/pafn.index.html>

Astronomy - Sky Walk

Date: Friday, Sep. 29 if clear, or in case of clouds, Sunday, Oct. 2.

Messier objects will be on the agenda.

Meet at 8 P.M. on Cement Bridge Rd. at the marsh. (tentative meeting place) Call Jean for directions and to confirm meeting place. 625-2263.

Renfrew County Woodlot Conference

Date: Sep. 30, just north of Germanicus Lutheran Church on the west side of Lake Dore Rd. on the property of Sheldon Davis, PAFN Club member. The PAFN will have a booth there. Events include: chainsaw sharpening demonstration; mushroom walk; forestry demonstrations and more.

Starts at 9 A.M.

web site: www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/forestry/conference.htm

County of Renfrew - phone 735-7784

Westmeath Dunes

Dates: Sunday, Oct. 1 at 8 AM., and Saturday, Oct. 7 at 8 AM.

Both trips start from the municipal dock in the town of Westmeath. Coming from the west on County Road 12, turn left in Westmeath before the gas station at the blue apartment building and continue down to the water. The trips are intended to find Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a hit and miss affair at the best of times, but other hard to find species are seen every year, including American Pipit, Lapland Longspur and some shorebirds. We will drive from the town west to Sand Point Road for the walk. For more information, please call Chris Michener at 625-2263 or e-mail at cmichener@renc.igs.net

Beachburg County Forest Walk

Date: Saturday, Oct. 21.

Check our web site or call Rob for more details. 732-8402

Lake Dore Birds

Date: Nov. 4 at 9 AM

Meet at the parking area at Hwy 41 and the Lake Dore Rd. The focus of this trip will be ducks and other waterfowl as well as any songbirds still frequenting the adjacent habitat. Some species that have been seen on Lake Dore in the first week in Nov. are Red-throated Loon, Tundra Swan, Brant, the three grebes, the three scoters and the three mergansers. Call Chris, 625-2263 for more info.

Pembroke Christmas Bird Count

Date: Saturday, Dec. 16

Place: In the 15 km. circle. Feeder watchers count birds all day and report the bird totals to Manson Fleguel.

Field participants drive or walk a designated area counting birds and report to Manson their numbers. Everyone is invited to meet at Manson's after 5 PM to go over results. Field Participants are asked to pay \$3.00 publishing costs. To see a map and download forms, go to our web page. (see cover) Call Manson to confirm participation, 732-7703.

Eganville Christmas Bird Count

Date: Sunday, Dec. 17

Place: Eganville circle includes Augsburg, Golden Lake town, Green Lake, Lake Dore, Mink Lake and more. Participation as above. see web page.

After Count, meet at Carey & Gwen Purdon's home at 5PM to go over results. They are first house on right south of Hwy. 60 on Island View Dr. west end. This is about 3 km. west of Golden Lake town.

Killaloe Christmas Bird Count

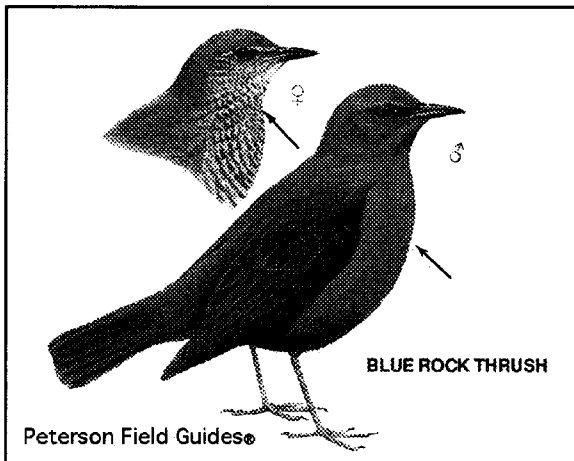
Date: Saturday, Dec. 23

Circle is centred in Killaloe. Participate as above... see web site for forms and map. Meet at Golden Sands at 5 PM after Count to share experiences. Chris M.

Birding in Kosovo

At the fall directors' meeting for the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists (PAFN), Past President, Chris Michener asked me to write a brief story on birding in Europe. As for the topic, Chris asked me to describe a moment while on tour overseas where a birding memory really stood out in my mind. Here it goes.

While enjoying my second R'n'R in Kalvala, Greece I spotted what to me is one of the most brilliantly coloured birds in Europe. Not so much as a multitude of colours, but just the sheer intensity of one colour. The bird is called the Blue Rock Thrush (Plate 77, pg. 179, Peterson Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe). I was walking from the



hotel where I was staying to a small city park along the Aegean Sea(?) and there it was. What a breath-taking colour of blue! The closest bird in North America with this colour of blue would be the Indigo Bunting. The Blue Rock Thrush is a deeper blue and equally as brilliant. All in all, a great bird to see. My tour in Kosovo was my second time in Europe on a NATO mission; winter-spring '96 I was on IFOR in Bosnia. So most of the species I saw in Kosovo, I had already seen in Bosnia.

If you get a chance to go to Europe, definitely do some birding. Buy a field guide for Europe and learn your European species as they are different than ours. Some species are the same but many are not.

Good Birdin',
Sgt. Martin J. Roncetti

Surfing the 'net' with cmichener@renc.igs.net

<http://www.nearctica.com/nathist/vascular/wildflwr.htm>

Nearctica

This page presents sites on wildflowers. The sites are arranged alphabetically by state or province beginning with general sites.

Examples of some links on this page are:

DesertUSA Wildflower Field Guide. Desert USA. Photographs and information on the wildflowers of the United States with particular emphasis on the deserts of Southern California.

Wildflowers of British Columbia. Interactive Broadcasting Corporation. Photographs and information of some species of wildflowers of British Columbia. Frames.

Florida Wildflower Showcase. Michael Abrams. Photographs of wildflowers from northern Florida.

Surfing the 'net' cont'd ...

Wildflowers of Rhode Island. Barbara Money. A photograph album of the wildflowers of Rhode Island and links to other wildflower sites.

<http://www.rom.on.ca/contents/index.html>

Royal Ontario Museum

ROM Contents: Search/Site Map/and

Subject Index:

visiting the ROM / exhibitions / what's on calendar of events / programs / discovery / gallery / adventure / hands-on biodiversity / gallery / web activities / quizzes / about the ROM / dig@rom / libraries & archive / museum builders / publications / research@rom / vision and objectives / media releases / restaurants / ROM members / ROM foundation / rotunda / shops / qtvr tours / gem / movies / postcards / about this site / jobs / what's new / sneak peak / ancient Egypt discovery case / ROM travel

From Main Page:

"I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it the right way, did not become more complicated." Poul Anderson, 1969

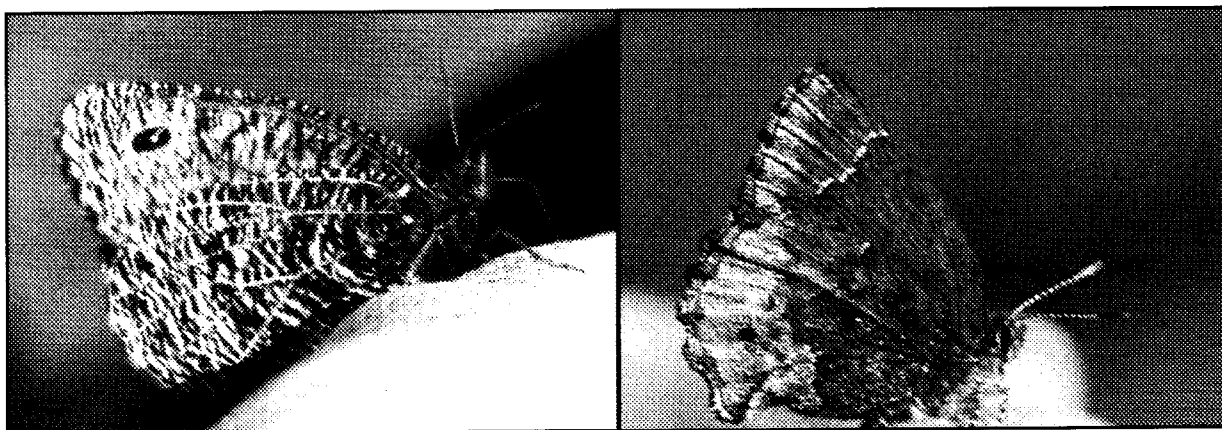
<http://www.botanique.com/>

"**Botanique** is the portal to over 1800 gardens, arboreta, and nature sites for the USA and Canada as well as other helpful features for garden, landscape, arbor and nature enthusiasts. In the near future we will be including sites in Mexico and Central America.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wildseed/wildflowers.html>

"**The Wildflowers in bloom photo album** contains images of many of the most showy wildflowers. The images of the flowers are "clickable"; click on the image and a full screen photo appears. The pages contain pictures of the plants in their seedling stage, a map of the U. S. showing their distribution range, and other useful information regarding planting and growing the wildflowers. All images and text are copyrighted by **WILDSEED FARMS.**"

Two new species land at Pembroke Airport



Carey and Gwen Purdon, invited by Viola Nitschke to view some flowering plants on her property on May 19, were surprised to find a couple of firsts for the PAFN area, Chryxus Arctic and Hoary Elfin. Viola had the beautiful Painted Trillium in bloom in her woodlot beside the airport.

Odonate (Dragonfly) Count 2000 (3rd PAFN Count)

The current odes count uses the basic principles that the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) adopted many years ago. It allows a group of volunteers to contribute a large volume of data to help us understand more about the fauna, including their ranges.

In 1988, Chris started the Lake Dore Butterfly Count. At the time it was very daunting as it was a new concept and we were beginners at identification. The Count, however, provided us with a forum to explore and share a new area of interest, which we all enjoy and look forward to every year.

In 1996, Colin Jones, Algonquin Park Naturalist, broke new ground and started an Odonate Count in Algonquin Park using the CBC protocols. Two years later, our own Lake Dore Odonate Count was started. This year was our 3rd annual.

We use almost the same circle we use for the Butterfly Count which provides us with a plethora of habitat diversities and great places to explore. We always start at "The Shaw Pond". As a marshy pond with a causeway it allows us a good platform to view and see the odes, and it gives the odes a good area to patrol, allowing us a chance to practice our swing!! It also allows us to safely introduce children to the world of aquatics. We then move on to a different habitat as time and enthusiasm dictates.

Odonates are a very diverse group of insects, with about 5000 in the World. We have about 159 species of odes in Ontario with Ottawa and Algonquin park having about 119 and 101 respectively. In 1995, 48 species were all that was documented in Renfrew County!! Since then, naturalists have accumulated 93 records of odes species for the County. In PAFN Circle we are at 78 species. This year 11 people tallied 2438 individual dragons and set a new record for species at 45. There were 31 new count high's, and we added 10 new species to the count list, now at 52 species. Wow. Great Day for all!!

I would like to thank Bob Bracken and Chris Lewis, who drove from Ottawa to share their expertise and experiences with us. I would like to thank the new odonater's who braved the mountain of names and information and still enjoyed the day.

It is because of interested, spirited naturalists such as yourselves that we have created this day to learn about this order of insects. Please feel proud as you swing at that elusive winged "T-Rex"... it may just have been a new species for your life list or even the county..!!.....This is a wonderful opportunity to have fun, meet new friends, while making history at the same time.

Thanks to all.

Good Odonating.

Carey

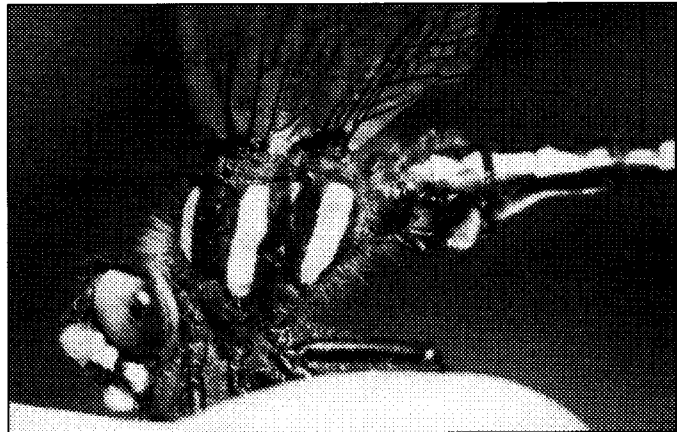
Odonate Hotspots in PAFN

This year has been a great odonating year for Club members. We have about 78 species documented in the area now. The best places to see the Dragons and Damsels in the PAFN circle is at the Shaw Pond and areas near Lake Dore. At these wonderful places, about 40 species can be seen if you visit in early to mid June, mid July and early August.

Other spots for hard to find odes include:

- Biederman Park at Lake Dore for Vesper Bluet (*Enallagma vesperum*) in late July;
- Cement Bridge Road north of Golden Lake for Sedge Sprite (*Nehalennia irene*), Fragile Forktail (*Ishnura posita*), and some Darners (*Aeshnas*);
- Trailblazer's Road pond (Dore Bay) for Beaverpond Clubtail (*Gomphus borealis*), and Delta-spotted Snaketail (*Cordulegaster diastatops*) (both very rare), Fawn Darner (*Boyeria vinosa*), and Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*);
- and Pansy Patch Park in Pembroke for River Jewelwing (*Calopteryx aequabilis*) and Powdered Dancer (*Argia moesta*).

This year, we found a first record for the Halloween Pennant (*Celithemis eponina*) in Westmeath PP. This very pretty dragon is a migrant to this area and found more often in the southern parts of Ontario. This is not only a new species for Renfrew County, but is the most northerly record for it in Ontario. The Lyre-tipped Spreadwing (*Lestes unguiculatus*), a species that loves old flooded gravel pits was serendipitously discovered at Dea-



Delta-spotted Snaketail found by Carey Purdon at Dore Bay, August 7, 2000 - 1st record for PAFN. photo: CM

con while looking for young American Bitterns. Although not unexpected, this damsel was a new Renfrew County record and left a lasting impression on the memories of all who saw it that day.

So much is to be discovered about this ancient order of insects. Have fun, we have.

The Toronto Entomological Association (TEA) has a new publication out on the Odonates of Ontario. It has a nice summary of the Odes of Renfrew County done by Colin Jones et al.

For a copy, send \$20.00 to Alan J. Hanks, Treasurer TEA, 34 Seaton Drive, Aurora, Ontario. L4G 2K1.. Alan Hank's email is A.Hanks@aci.on.ca

Until next year,
Good Odonating,
Carey

Bellowes Bay Field Trip, 2000

Once again I was privileged to lead a group of 12 intrepid birders to the waterfront on Bellowes Bay to view the duck life as it was returning from the south and pausing for a few days in the food rich shallow bay, prior to heading still further north to nest. (One of the members of the trip advised that there are 60 acres of wild rice growing in the western section of the Bay) We had picked the date, April 15th, in the latter part of winter and were really lucky with both the weather and the ducks.

Our field trip started as usual, at the Pembroke Marina. The morning was beautiful with an almost glass like Ottawa River. Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneye, Rock Doves and a Belted Kingfisher were sighted as we listened to Song Sparrows and Killdeer. An Eastern Phoebe bobbed on the sign telling unknowing tourists of the past days of the Swallow Roost. Both Ring-Billed and Herring Gulls were also seen.

The next stop was in town, listening for the Cardinals that have become more common each year in the east end, but once again they were silent this morning. A few Common Redpolls lingered, Mourning Doves flew off the sides of the streets. However, we did observe a House Finch pair seemingly setting up housekeeping under an awning on the front of a house. (For those of you who would like to see a Cardinal, a walk in the Fraser Street area, eastward to the Clemow Street area should produce a singing male on any given morning in late April or early May. Just follow the loud whistled song to it's source.)

Ron Laderoute, and his father Frank, have allowed us free access across their property to get to the waterfront. For that we all say thanks. This year was no exception. (An earlier trip, in late March, to make arrangements with the Laderoutes, had been sidetracked by the sighting of a large flock of puddle ducks in a corn field, in which a lone male Eurasian Wigeon stood out with it's reddish head. Several other avid birders who are on the rare bird phone list, were also able to see it.) I am sorry, I digressed! Anyway, the neighbours must wonder why he has so many visitors each year for one morning!

The walk to the Bay yielded sightings of Eastern Meadowlark, Pileated, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black Capped Chickadee, Red and White Breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, European Starling, American Robins, Common Grackles, Brown Headed Cowbirds, American Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Dark Eyed Juncos, a Yellow Rumped Warbler (the first warbler of the year for us), and a Rusty Blackbird sang it's squeaky song a few times before flying further into the bush.

The water level was as low as I have seen it on any of our previous trips so we were able to stand at the edge of the vegetation and get a breathtaking view of the multitude of species within range of our binoculars and scopes. The bay was alive with Pied-billed Grebes, Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, Green-winged Teal, American Black Ducks, Mallards, N. Pintails, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads and Hooded Mergansers. Once again 2 immature Bald Eagles entertained us as they made the geese and ducks nervous at regular intervals. However, we did not observe any "passes with intent to kill", but one of the eagles was obviously feasting on some prey laying on the shore farther up the bay.

Other birds observed on our trip were Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Merlin, Ruffed Grouse, an early Barn Swallow, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak and House Sparrow.

The trip ended about noon. We had sighted 54 species, many of which were the first for the 2000 year. Thanks to all the participants for making this such an enjoyable trip to lead.

Manson Fleguel