MFNC SEPT. 2021 Bulletin

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Macnamara
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Promoting the appreciation, understanding, and preservation of nature in the Ottawa Valley

Welcome, **<<First Name>>**

WELCOME BACK!

The hot and humid days of summer will soon be behind us. Let's hope autumn will bring more comfortable conditions.

We humans haven't been the only ones suffering, of course. Heat waves amplified by climate change are a big problem for other species as well. Take bird populations, for example. A recent *Audubon Magazine article* describes how nestlings are even more vulnerable to heat than adult birds. Ecologists expect to see chick mortality events with increasing frequency—especially among species adapted for life in cool conditions—because of climate change coupled with growing habitat loss.

In another projection, Audubon scientists reported another two- thirds of North American birds are at increasing risk of extinction from global temperature rise. The bobolink, for instance, has ceded up to 88 percent of its current territory to climate change.

Brackenridge

Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club
www.mfnc.ca

President
Michael Runtz
michaelwruntz@gmail.com

Secretary
Maureen Carrier
info@mfnc.ca

Treasurer
Ritchie Lawrence/John Lawrence
treasurer@mfnc.ca

Communications
Karen Runtz
kruntz@xplornet.com

Field Trips
Janet McCullough
events@mfnc.ca

Macnamara Trail
trail@mfnc.ca

Meeting Speakers
Linda Sewell
speakers@mfnc.ca

Membership
Roger Magoon
membershio@mfnc.ca

Young Macs
Sarah Stewart
youngmacs@mfnc.ca

Ann Lambert saw both male and female Bobolinks on May 19 near McLaren's Landing

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SIGHTINGS: Did you continue to record your sightings this summer? Or did the oppressive heat and humidity keep you sequestered near a fan or air conditioner? Make sure to send your observations to John Lawrence's new email: johndrlawrence8@gmail.com

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NEW TIME AND DAY OF THE WEEK FOR OUR MEETINGS

The good news is that *whenever we can safely resume our in-person club meetings they'll continue to be held at the Arnprior Curling Club*. We've been able to secure our traditional meeting space at the club and we'll see you there once we are sure of a safe return. However, based on the latest public health announcements, it won't be for a while longer and in the interim we'll continue meeting virtually via Zoom.

The curling club had asked us to change our booking to Wednesdays so we have been securing speakers for upcoming meetings based on that requirement. Also, given how late our recent meetings have been running, we agree, as members have suggested, that we should start our meetings earlier. So, beginning with our September meeting, club meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

ONE MORE CHANGE FOR SEPTEMBER ONLY. While club meetings will be the first Wednesday of each month, our September meeting will be held on the second Wednesday, Sept. 8. Got it? Our next meeting will be on Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Special Committee Members
Brian Voss (Membership)
ez760@ncf.ca

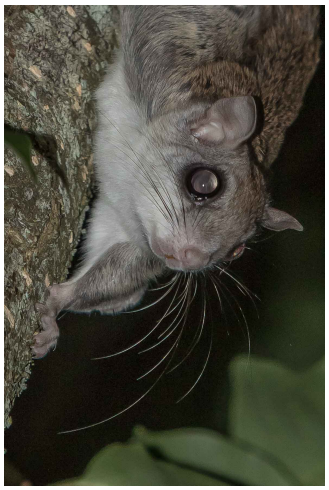
Meetings:
Due to ongoing measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, our in-person first-Wednesday-of-the-month meetings at the Arnprior Curling Club have been suspended until further notice.

Check your email for club updates on our virtual options.

Annual Memberships:
Family $30, Individual $25

Purchase your membership for 2021:
https://mfnc.ca/membership

MEETING
September 8, 2021
7:00 p.m.
The squirrel that would be a bird



Our September speaker's subject matter —*the bird of mammals/ the squirrel that would be a bird* — is one you won't want to miss.

Photo: Southern Flying Squirrel, Michael Runtz

Sasha Newar tags herself as "flying squirrel girl" on Twitter. Stated more formally, she is a Ph.D candidate at Trent University studying the intersection of mammalian ecology and bioacoustics.

On September 8, she will shine a light for us on flying squirrels, the only nocturnal squirrels, that commonly use high-frequency acoustic signals that are so high pitched they are not audible to the human ear. *READ MORE:*

Join us at at 7:00 p.m. when we'll start our meeting with local sightings.

JOIN THE MEETING VIA ZOOM
Click this link:
https://zoom.us/j/4908487254 **then follow the Zoom instructions.**

New to Zoom? Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/4908487254 **then follow the Zoom instructions.**

No Zoom account? **Downloading takes less than a minute.**

WHAT IS AND ISN'T HAPPENING
Keeping current on what is to be open or

closed, along with changes to hours of operation or service due to COVID-19 safety measures has been challenging.

Sadly, we will not be holding our annual banquet this year. We had been keeping our options open but with the latest news on the Delta strain, it is clear that the risks to members would be too great.

We look forward to resuming field trips with the return to safe conditions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MACNAMARA TRAIL MAINTENANCE SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

Haul and spread, shovel and rake. Repeat.

Yes, we're nearing that time of the year again when volunteers descend en masse with wheelbarrows, shovels and garden rakes to undertake fall maintenance on the Macnamara Trail.

The trail has seen lots of use over the past two years and needs wood chips to cover wet and worn areas. You can take part in one or both related tasks:

1. **Spreading wood chips** that will be hauled with a rented tractor and trailer up to the first boardwalk (which was moved to allow for the tractor).We need volunteers to rake the chips that will be dumped from the trailer. **Bring a garden rake.**
2. **Hauling wood chips with wheelbarrows** from the stockpile

near the Nopiming Loop Boardwalk across the Lady's-slipper Boardwalk up to the Lime Kiln — *see Trail Map*. **Bring a wheelbarrow, shovel and garden rake** to haul and spread the chips. We will have a tractor with a trailer to carry your wheelbarrows to the wood chip stockpile and to load the chips as well.

Can you help? Join us at 09:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 25, 2021 (rain date September 26).

These tasks may take several hours to complete. Please let us know if you can come, and if so, will you be bringing a wheelbarrow? Depending on the number of volunteers, we may have to organize shifts.

If you *can* participate, please email us at Trail@mfnc.ca

Many thanks!
Julian & Béatrice Romeskie,
Trail Co-ordinators

👏**Sending a big *Thank You* to Bob Volks and Louise Beckinsale of Gilligallou Bird Store** for repairing our squirrel-proof bird feeder that had been vandalized last winter. Congratulations on your store's 10-year milestone!👏

The repaired feeder will be installed late this fall for the winter bird feeding season.

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