



## SE MN Prairie Partners Chapter Newsletter

### March 2022 Volume 11 issue 1



Bison herd at Blue Mounds State Park. These bison are part of a project to ensure genetically pure (no cattle DNA) Bison herds in our state parks. Photo By Chris Engebretsen



Here is a photo of the pandemic mandala I made in my yard during covid spring. I started with a bird bath whose stand had broken. Now I do it every spring. Photo by Holly Fischer. See Holly's member profile on page 4.



Found on live, dead, or dying trees. On living tree, the tree has been attacked by mushroom's parasitic mycelium. Grows as grouping of thick, stemless fan-shaped caps; may be up to 12" wide. Meaty texture, chicken like taste. Late spring through fall. By Laura Teele

Butterfly Quiz: Which butterfly below is the Black Swallowtail and which is the black morph/phase Tiger Swallowtail? Answers on Page 12



Butterfly 'A'  
Photo by  
Barb Bolan



Butterfly 'B'  
Photo by  
Polly Hendee



Bloodroot. Very soon it will once again be time for spring ephemerals to bloom! Photo by Gail Gates

## Prairie Partners Chapter 2022 officers

President – Barb Bolan  
 Vice President – Nancy Schumacher  
 Secretary – Pat Johnson  
 Web Master & Treasurer – Jim Sipe  
 Membership Chair – Alice Burmeister  
 Newsletter Chair – Ann Dybvik

**Wild Ones Mission:** Native Plants, Natural Landscaping promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization.

**Wild Ones National Address:** 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Neenah, WI 54956  
[www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)

**Membership:** Sign up/ renew online at [www.wildoneones.org/membership.html](http://www.wildoneones.org/membership.html) or by mail at above address. Cost is \$40 per year for a household (family) membership. Student and other membership types also available.

**Northfield Prairie Partners Mission Statement:** To preserve, maintain and provide knowledge of native and restored plant communities in a way that fosters friendship.

**Northfield Prairie Partners online:**  
[www.northfield.wildones.org](http://www.northfield.wildones.org)

[Wild Ones: SE MN Prairie Partners | Facebook](#)

**Newsletter Committee:** Lead: Ann Dybvik, Chief Photographer: Bruce Dybvik, Committee: Nancy Schumacher, Jim Sipe, Gary Bullemer, Barb Bolan

**Submitting articles for the newsletter** – We welcome stories about natural areas, a native

garden you have visited or designed, a nature-based vacation, a special flower, bird, butterfly, etc. Please contact Ann Dybvik at [anndbyk@gmail.com](mailto:anndbyk@gmail.com) to discuss your ideas.

## Prairie Partners member local Services

(Please let us know if you have one to list)

### Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL), INC:

Dwayne Vosejпка 651-214-2357

**RBNC** –River Bend Nature Center, [www.rbnc.org](http://www.rbnc.org), Breanna Wheeler, 507-332-7151

**Halfpint Hollow Miniature Donkeys:** Rod and Sue White, 507-263-2716

**Goat Dispatch:** Jake Langeslag, Faribault 507-333-5959

**CRWD** – Cannon River Watershed Program: Paula Corsi at <https://crwp.net/>

## Notes from Prairie Partners President

*by Barb Bolan*

Hi all, I hope you are looking forward to the start of gardening season! We do have some news to share with everyone. Though we do not want to lose our identity as 'Prairie Partners,' we have been wanting our name to be more geographically inclusive as we have members from Lonsdale to Farmington to Faribault, to Redwing to Oronoco to Rochester and beyond. We also need to follow National Wild Ones rules. Therefore, we are changing our name to: **"Wild Ones SE MN Prairie Partners Chapter."**



Summer blooms. By Sue White



**2022 planned Chapter Programs – PLEASE**

NOTE: tour dates are subject to change.

**Jan 13, 2022: “Mushrooms: Delicious, Deadly and Fascinating!”** By Laura Teele, via Zoom

**Feb 10 – 7PM “Landscaping with Native Plants”**, by Cheryl Culbreth video, via Zoom

**March – 10<sup>th</sup>, 7PM “Bringing Back the Bluebirds”**, by Carrol Johnson via Zoom

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 7PM – “Landscaping with Edible Natives”** – By Pete Widin, via zoom

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 6PM – Ephemerals tour**– Cannon River Park – led by Janet Petri. Date subject to changed based on weather and season

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9AM-1PM - Plant Sale** – Emmaus Church Parking Lot – Nancy Schumacher

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 7PM “What’s coming up in my native garden? Identifying seedlings”** – Nancy Schumacher – garden tour

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 7PM – Koester Prairie tour** – led by Dave Kuhnau

**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 5PM - Lashbrook Park** led Ken Kirton and group potluck starting at 6:30PM

**Aug 11 Bus trip – Whitewater State Park Native Garden**, tour led by Joel Dunnette

**Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 6PM – Dakota County White-tail Park native prairie tour** - led by park naturalists

**Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 6PM– Fall and winter trees** – Breanna Wheeler – Hauburg Woods or in church, determined by weather. Followed by fall festival appetizer and desert potluck in church.

**Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 7PM – Ducks and Duck decoys**, by Gary Bullemer. Emmaus Church

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30AM Lunch** – Location TBD

**December - Nature watching where you are.**

**2022 Prairie Partners Native Plant Sale**

Our annual Native Plant Sale, led by Nancy Schumacher, is the major fundraiser for our chapter. We sell plants that are native to our area and have grown from seed for the sale. Due to concerns about possible presence of jumping worms and other invasives, we no longer include plants dug from yards and gardens. While Nancy will again grow many of our plants for the sale, this year we will also wholesale some from South Cedar Greenhouse in Lakeville.

As always, we’d love to have your help with the plant sale. Please contact Nancy Schumacher at [nancy@thevagary.com](mailto:nancy@thevagary.com) if you are available to help the day of the sale or earlier.

**Nov 2021 Presentation** – “Backyard Nature Photography” by Kevin Corrigan

Whether you use a professional, point and shoot or cell phone camera, Kevin shared suggestions to get the best nature photos and how to edit them. For basic composition, the “rule of thirds,” clarity of subject, uncluttered background, and ‘Leading Lines’ (guide the eye), are important. If your camera has the options, optimizing the shutter speed, (stops motion), the aperture (depth of field) and ISO (light sensitivity) will get you the best shots. Early morning and late afternoon are considered “Golden Hours” of nature photography. Cropping, sharpening and exposure corrections can be done after shooting by digital photo programs.

Kevin Corrigan’s Website: [www.corriganphoto.com](http://www.corriganphoto.com)

## Member Profile: Holly Fischer

**My Back Story -earliest memory:** One early spring day when my Dad took Mom and me for an outing to the Wildlife Sanctuary. We were living in Lansing, Michigan and I was about 5. We hiked around, found some animal tracks, listened to the snow melting, and watched for birds. Mom was into birds big time. **-kid in the gully:** When we moved to Peoria, Illinois, our house backed up on *The Gully*. (Mom called it the Ravine.) My friends and I spent lots of time playing and exploring this valley of woods with a little creek at the bottom. It was full of big trees, wild plants and small animals. We owned the part that ended at the creek. Dad made a loop trail there and lined it with branches he cut from the big dead elm. I remember one warm, sunny day after school I made myself an ice cream cone and went to sit on the biggest log. It was nice and smooth... all the bark had come off before Dad finally cut it down. Mom planted a wildflower garden at the edge of the gully. I remember violets and buttercups, but there were lots more kinds than that. I didn't know about the importance of native plants at



the time, I just thought they were pretty! Mom loved nature until the day she died. That's me in green.

**-cabin girl:** Dad loved to fish. His parents had a cabin on Island Lake near Duluth, and we visited them every summer. I liked to walk the beach and look for pretty rocks. I also liked to fish with Dad in Grandpa's boat. Once I caught the biggest fish (a Northern) that anyone caught during the whole vacation. We weren't even in the boat but standing on the shore! I thought I was pretty cool at the time. Our family also took vacation trips where, along the way, we might picnic near a "meadow" which is what I called a prairie back then. **-church camper:** I went to Pilgrim Park for week-long stays in the summers of 4th through 7th grade. Part of our routine was to create a "home in the woods" with logs for benches and rocks for a fire ring. Each day our group would go to our special spot which became our base for hikes in the woods, along the stream, wherever there was a trail. **-day camp counselor:** One of my first summer jobs was as a counselor at a YMCA day camp near Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our groups also made special places in the woods there. There was a staff naturalist who took groups to places of interest on the extensive property and taught us all a wealth of nature lore. This camp had prairie, woods, and wetlands. Frog pond was a popular destination. It was at this camp that I developed an interest in edible plants such as watercress (Mom moved some to her friend's stream up north and it flourished!), wild berries, arrowroot, and chewing on a wintergreen leaf. At this time in my life my family lived near a vacant lot with wild asparagus escaped from someone's garden. There were also wild strawberries in among the "weeds". **-friend of LuAnn the herbalist (Northfield Home Herbalists):** Through my friendship with her I have learned about plantain, dandelions, elderberries,

motherwort, beebalm, yarrow, mullein... some brought by pioneers and some native. -lover of spring ephemerals: Nowadays I make a yearly spring visit to Nerstrand Big Woods Park and see if I can catch the first hepatica in bloom. All the others soon follow! Did you see the photo of the rubber ducky near the hepatica in the December newsletter? -River Bend Nature Center volunteer: I have found RBNC to be a really great place to volunteer, do my capstone project, and earn my MN naturalist certification. I take elementary school-aged children on hikes and help them to see and appreciate the natural world. -Prairie Partner: I am so glad I found out about this group. I continue to learn new and wonderful things about the natural world. I appreciate the extensive knowledge and great fun offered by the Prairie Partners! – Holly Fischer

**Board Meeting:** Following are highlights of the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Northfield Prairie Partners Board Meeting. Attending: Barb Bolan, Pat Johnson, Nancy Schumacher, Jim Sipe, Alice Burmeister, and Ann Dybvik. Submitted by Pat Johnson

1. **Secretary report:** Minutes approved.
2. **Jim Sipe is replacing Jennifer Munnings as Treasurer.** Thank you, Jennifer, and welcome Jim! Jim is now both our webmaster and treasurer.
3. **Treasurer's update:** Our Checking balance is \$10,423.46 and Savings is \$4,822.86 for a total of \$15,246.32. The checking account includes \$1740.19 from the MN Wild Ones Symposium fund that was closed out with funds divided between Minnesota chapters.
4. **Membership update: Alice:** National sends multiple reminders to members about renewal dates so we no longer pester people with additional notices.

5. **Webmaster update.** Jim is updating our website to include changes to our programming.
6. **Plant Sale: Nancy:** This year we will do a combination source sale. Nancy will provide some of the plants; more will come from South Cedar Nursery.
7. **New Name:** We are renaming our chapter to make it geographically more inclusive of our membership. Follow-ups with the board members, post meeting, resulted in approval the new name of "Wild Ones SE MN Prairie Partners chapter."
8. **Presentation Tables** We plan to host tables at the Northfield Earth day event, Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Bluebird Recovery Program, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Rice County Fair. Member help would be greatly appreciated.

**Jan 2022 event - Mushrooms- Deadly, Delicious, and fascinating. By Laura Teele**

Mycology is the study of mushrooms. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of Fungi, not plants. Rather than photosynthesizing their food, they are decomposers that use enzymes to break down what they consume. It is imperative to get an expert's positive identification prior to eating wild mushrooms, and they should never be eaten raw. Trying a small portion of the mushroom first helps check for your body's tolerance to it.

Useful Websites supplied by Laura:

<http://mycology.cfans.umn.edu/>

<https://minnesotamycologicalsociety.org/>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/certified-wild-mushroom-harvester>

North American Mycological Association:

<https://namyco.org/>



Styptic panus

## Native Plant Profile, Obedient Plant –by Pat Johnson



*Physostegia virginiana* flowers with a green metallic bee

*Physostegia virginiana* is commonly known as Obedient Plant and False Dragonhead. While its tendency to spread may make it seem non-obedient, the name refers to the tendency of the flowers, when pushed into a new position, to obediently remain there. It is called False Dragonhead because the open mouth of the corolla resembles a dragonhead.

This plant belongs to the family Lamiaceae (mint). It is a rhizomatous perennial that can create colonies. The stems are square and both the stems and the elongate opposite leaves are smooth, without hairs. The lance-shaped, elliptic, or spoon-shaped leaves are sharply toothed, mid-green, and up to 5 inches long by 1½ inches wide. The plants grow 2 to 4 feet in height and can spread to 2 feet wide. The lower leaves are short-stalked and usually wither, while the upper leaves are stalkless.

Native Obedient Plant flowers are almost stalkless, tubular, and two-lipped. The upper lip is flat, and the lower lip is three-lobed. Flowers can be pink, purple, or white with dark purple or pinkish spots on the inside and four purple-tipped stamens. They are borne on spikes with sometime branched racemes. Flowers bloom from the bottom of the spike from August through October. The calyx persists and holds four 1-seeded nutlets.

*Physostegia virginiana* is native to tall grass prairies and found in Eastern temperate North America in zones 3-7. It is found throughout Minnesota, most commonly on river bottoms and open floodplain forests but also in marshes, moist open woods, and stream banks. It enjoys part shade to full sun and prefers moist soil. *Physostegia virginiana* ssp. *praemorsa* is found in more southern parts of North America and lacks rhizomes.

This is a lovely plant for native plantings. It can be used as a border plant, in rock gardens, and in rain gardens, providing habitat for hummingbirds, bumblebees, and Swallowtail butterflies. I grow it in a rain garden that I care for and have added it to one of the “pocket prairies” in my yard. Its late season blooms always bring that final touch of beauty to the garden and heart and provides hummingbirds a final source of energy for their migration.



Note flower stalk and slender and toothed leaves of the Obedient Plant

## A new Chapter program for 2022.

More information will be forthcoming, but our board has approved offering small grants for a few native plant landscaping projects this spring. A member of our chapter would need to be a project sponsor, for either their own or someone else's. We would offer reimbursement for native plants, shrubs or trees used in the planting. Stay tuned for more information!



## Blue Mounds State Park by Gary Bullemer



Blue Mounds State Park Bison cow and calf. The herd is exceptional, and beautiful all year around. The calves are on their feet soon after birth and are quite playful during their first months of life, as they run and bounce around the herd. Photo by Chris Engebretsen

In Rock County, Minnesota, located in the southwest corner of the state, is a state park every Minnesotan should see at least once. My family and I had the privilege of living in this park for a year as I worked there, starting in August of 1987.

Originally called Mound Springs Recreational Reserve when it was established in 1937, the park benefitted from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program, part of the New Deal. The WPA created some long-lasting facilities and structures designed to provide for recreation at the new park. WPA crews built two dams on Mound Creek, forming small lakes in a county that had no natural lakes. In addition to the beautiful rustic stone dams, project work included a restroom made with local stone known as Sioux Quartzite. The original building is still in use today, having been recently renovated, and is included on the National Historic Register along with the upper dam. The lower dam was severely damaged by flooding in 2014, and was removed after much discussion, to allow the stream to return to its natural state. A picnic area and beach were also formed on the lake shores for the public to enjoy.

The recreation reserve was quite small initially, but lands have been added over time, most notably in the 1960s, and the name was changed to Blue Mounds State Park in 1961. Although the mile -long exposed cliff line is mostly pink, a 100-foot-high rock formation looks blue from a distance with the sun setting behind it. Lands above and below the cliff are quite rocky, and most surfaces in the park have shallow soils or exposed bedrock. Because of this, native prairie was left intact and has been managed over the years by park staff to portray tall- grass prairies of old. Grazing has been used to manage a large portion of the park lands with a herd of bison, which began in 1961 with three animals, transported from a herd in Fort Niobrara, Nebraska. The herd has since increased to around 100 bison and forms the backbone of the state's program to preserve genetically pure bison. Other sites in partnership with Blue Mounds are Minneopa State Park and the Minnesota Zoo. Establishing a herd of 500 bison with no cattle genes is the long-term goal.



Gary Bullemer: Manager Chris Engebretsen, (in photo), is a wonderful, very smart man with a great sense of humor. He claims you can hear the prairie by putting a bison horn to your ear!

In addition to bison grazing, prescribed fire and mowing have been used to maintain the high-quality prairie. Carefully applied herbicide is used as a last resort for removing unwanted non-native plant species. A recent addition to the park for visitors is a bison tour, conducted from a truck fitted with safety railings, which takes a

few lucky folks out among the herd for a closeup look!



A Blue Mounds bison tour in progress.

For the prairie enthusiast this is a place to love. There are many parts to Blue Mounds that create a sum far greater than each individual piece. Some favorite ways to enjoy a visit include birding (with a chance to see blue grosbeaks, a rarity in MN), hiking, biking, rock climbing (the park has a formal process for people interested in this sport, contact the park for details), camping, and picnicking. Campers have choices including the use of drive-in sites, walk-in sites, and even the use of teepees provided by the park.

In addition to seeing Blue Mounds for a day or more, there are a few other attractions nearby that should be part of a trip to the area. Most notable is Pipestone National Monument, just 23 miles north, a unique unit among our national system of special places. Even closer to Blue Mounds is Touch the Sky Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the US Fish and Wildlife program. Local photographer Jim Brandenburg played a significant role in the creation of this 1000 -acre area, just a short drive west of Blue Mounds. Brandenburg's photography is on display in the local art gallery, where visitors will enjoy the outstanding photos he has created as part of his work with National Geographic magazine. Our family has many

positive memories of our time at Blue Mounds park...A few of these events include: hearing bison roar as they guard their territories during breeding season; watching bison calves join the herd in the spring; participating in prescribed prairie burns; exploring the cliff line from both above and below; watching a blizzard approach from the safety of our home or appreciating prairie grasses and forbs swaying in the wind.

I hope you will take a trip to create some wonderful memories of your own, I would love to compare notes if you do!



The Prairie White Fringed Orchid of Blue Mounds State Park. Photo by Chris Engebretsen

## Feb 2022 – “Landscaping with Native Plants”, presented by Cheryl (Culbreth) Jirek

Cheryl's video (see: [Landscaping with Native Plants - YouTube](#)) covers native pollinator habitats and her specialty – controlling invasives. Invasive plants typically have no natural controls in their new locations so run wild and overtake native species. Our native species have evolved to have a symbiotic relationship with our wildlife.

Cheryl's site: <https://landscape-restoration.com/>

Cheryl is highly active in, and recommends: [Minnesota Women's Woodland Network \(mnwwn.org\)](#)



## Minnesota's Swallowtail Butterflies

Article and photos by Barb Bolan unless noted



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

There are about 550 species of swallowtails worldwide, roughly 30 in the US and four that are common in Minnesota – the Eastern Tiger, Black, Canadian and Giant. Three strays also show up now and then - the Pipevine, Spicebush and, very rarely, the Zebra Swallowtail. Swallowtail butterflies are typically large and brightly colored with hindwings terminating in small tails.

While our Tiger, Black and Giant swallowtails have 2 broods per year, the Canadian has only one. As cold weather arrives, swallowtails enter into diapause (a suspended state) as a chrysalis to survive the winter. Adults emerge in the spring, males first. Though larger instars (stages) of swallowtail caterpillars vary in coloration by species, they all start out camouflaged as bird droppings – dark with a whitish saddle on the back.



Early instar Black Swallowtail caterpillars. Note white saddle. by Arlene Kjar



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail with osmeterium out. Photo by "All of Nature"

Additionally, if threatened they can rear up and thrust out little orange horns, called osmeteria, that look like forked snake tongues. Osmeterium emerge from the first thorax section behind the head. They attempt to smear a pungent terpene (an essential oil

from host plant) onto attackers. As a further defense, the caterpillars may use their mandibles to pick up and throw their feces aside to put some predators off their scent. Some may even chew through petioles of leaves they have fed on, to destroy evidence of their presence. Though these defenses help, only a very small percentage of the caterpillars make it to adulthood. While there are variations between the species, Minnesota swallowtail chrysalis' look like small twigs, again using camouflage as a primary defense against predators.



Black Swallowtail chrysalis. Note silky threads tying it to twig. Photo by Jean Novotny

Newly emerged male swallowtails may have 'bachelor parties' or go 'puddling.' Prior to mating, fresh males may congregate and drink from water, mud or urine puddles, perhaps seeking salt or other minerals to aid in reproduction.

While most swallowtail species have specific host foods for caterpillars, as adults, the butterflies use a wide variety of flowers, often flat-topped ones. It is important to offer correct host plants if you wish to attract butterflies to your yard. Enjoy the beauty of them when you can, they only live 2 to 4 weeks as adults.

**Our Rare Strays: Pipevine swallowtail** – Toxic and distasteful to birds, Pipevines have black wings with iridescent blue on lower undersides and a row of orange spots along wing margins plus yellow spots on head and body. **Spicebush swallowtail** are mimics of the pipevines but have two rows of orange spots on wing margins. **Zebra Swallowtails** are black and white striped.

**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail** *Papilio Glaucus*: Locally our most common swallowtail, the Eastern Tiger, is typically yellow but females may also show up as a dark morph (phase) that mimics the Pipevines. Male

Eastern Tiger swallowtails are always yellow and lack the blue wash over the wings. The 'tiger' term



**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Female. Note blue wash at base**



**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail black form female. Tiger stripes are barely visible.**



**Tiger Swallowtail male. By Jerry Wicklund**

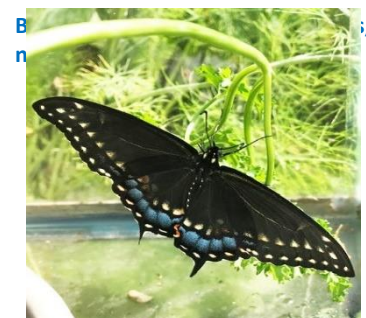
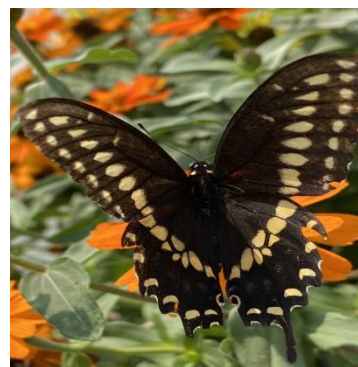
comes from the four bold black stripes on their upper wings, but even their bodies have stripes. Our tigers are happy in many habitats, including woodland edges, prairies, swamps, parks, and yards and often fly high above the trees. As with most swallowtails, their caterpillars start out looking like bird poop but they also have false eyes on their third thoracic segment that make them look like little snakes, for further camouflage. As they grow and molt, later instars are green and smooth with bright blue eyespots rimmed by orange on their backs. Their white saddle transitions to a yellow band with blue spots near it. During the 5<sup>th</sup> and final instar, they turn brown and may purge out undigested food. Tiger swallowtail caterpillars feed on trees such as black cherry, chokecherry, basswood, and willow. The adults are the most polyphagous of the swallowtails, feeding on not only nectar, but sometimes, dung, urine, or carrion.

**Black Swallowtail** *Papilio polyxenes*: The black swallowtail adult coloring mimics the putrid-tasting pipevine swallowtail thus gaining some protection from predators. Females have more blue coloring and smaller yellow spots on their wing tops than

their male counterparts, but the undersides look indistinguishable. Native Alexanders and plants in



**Black Swallowtail Male - large spots on topside of wings. Spotted body. Can't distinguish sexes by underwings. By Barb Bolan**



**Black Swallowtail female—small, spaced-out yellow spots on wings. By Judith Betchum**

the Apaiceae family such as carrots, dills and parsley, and even the invasive Queen Anne's Lace and Wild Parsnip, host the caterpillars. Black swallowtail butterflies prefer the wide-open meadows and big spaces. They tend to fly faster and closer to the ground than our other Minnesota swallowtails.

Female Black Swallowtails lay 30 to 50 eggs per day, one egg per host plant for a total of up to 250-400 in their brief lives.



**Black Swallowtail Caterpillar, 2nd or 3rd instar. By Jean Novotny**



**Late instar Black Swallowtail caterpillar. By Polly Hendee.**



### Canadian Swallowtail *Papilio canadensis*:



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail on dogbane- wide marginal black band, no yellow crescents on margins.



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail - merged yellow spots on marginal bands on lower side of wings. June 2021

Found in northern Minnesota, the Canadian Tiger swallowtail looks very similar to our Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, but a closer look shows that they have only one row of yellow marks along the edge of the upper wings. The lower side of the top wing has a continuous yellow band, rather than distinct spots along the wing margins.

As the young 'bird-poop' caterpillars molt through their instars, they turn green then brown. Their favorite hosts include aspen, crabapple and ash.

Sexual dimorphism, present in most swallowtails, is not seen in the Canadian species so the sexes are not easily distinguished.

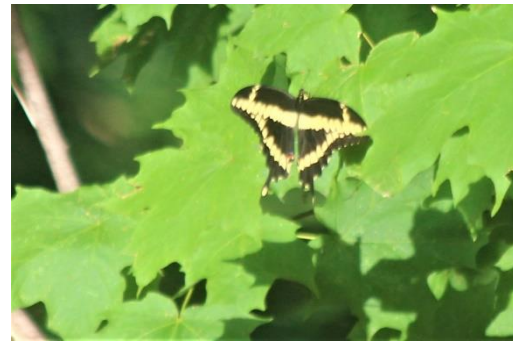
### Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes*



Giant Swallowtail female - black spot on third from wing tip yellow bar on upper wings.

A big beautiful, graceful butterfly, the Giant Swallowtail floats through meadows and woodlands with a wingspan stretching over six inches, dwarfing most other butterflies. It is dark on top with two

bold and distinct yellow bands. Females have a small black spot on the third yellow band on the wing. We have no similar butterflies. The prickly ash and citrus trees are host favorites, but some people claim they will also use gas plants (*Dictamnus*). Their love of orange trees has earned them the nickname 'orange dogs' down south. The caterpillars stay in a dark and white 'bird dropping' coloration until pupation. These butterflies are a real treat to see but don't delay looking for them, they only live 1 to 2 weeks.



Giant Swallowtail male (no black spot on 3<sup>rd</sup> bar on wing)

**March 2022 "Bringing Back the Bluebirds",** by Carrol Johnson, Coordinator of the MN Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP)



The Bluebird Recovery Program encourages individuals and institutions to place nest boxes in

open spaces. Paired boxes, about 12' apart, helps ensure that one will be used by bluebirds while the other is often occupied by tree swallows or other nesting competitors. Buffalo gnats, paper wasps, house wrens, house sparrows, snakes and other predators or enemies can destroy the bluebird nests, eggs or young.

The 2022 Bluebird Expo is Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> in Cannon Falls. Link: [Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota | "Bringing Back Bluebirds For Future Generations" \(bbrrp.org\)](https://www.bbrp.org/)



Return Address:

Barb Bolan

9700 Baldwin Ave Northfield, MN 55057

Address Label



Spring wild harvest season is almost here. Ramps and Morel mushrooms are two coveted favorites.



Warblers will soon return! Black and White Warbler. Photo by Gary Bullemer



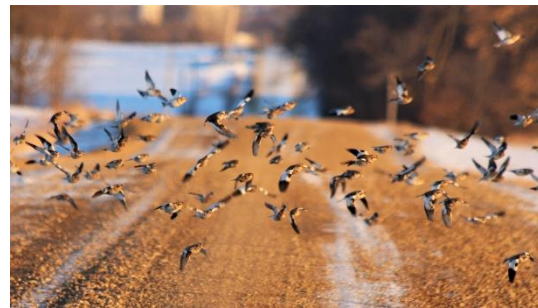
Late instar Black Swallowtail Caterpillar on dill. Like Monarchs, Black Swallowtails are sometimes raised and released. Photo by Judith Betchum

## December nature watching summary

We had 13 participants in our December nature viewing project. A total of 849 individuals of 39 species were observed.

Animals reported: squirrels - Fox, Gray and Red; rabbit; and deer.

Birds: Canada Goose; Mallard; Wild Turkey; Hawks -Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed; Bald Eagle; Mourning Dove; Pigeon; Barred Owl; Woodpeckers - Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy and Pileated; Northern Flicker; Blue Jay; American Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; Nuthatch- Red-breasted, White-breasted; European Starling; Finch - House, Purple; Pine Siskin; American Goldfinch; Dark-eyed Junco; Sparrows - White-throated, Fox, Tree and House; Northern Cardinal; Red-winged Blackbird; Snow Bunting; and Tufted Titmouse.



Part of a flock of Snow buntings in December Wildlife count. Flock had about 110 birds. Photo (and sorry, not a very good one) by Barb Bolan



Fox Squirrel in December Wildlife count



Deer from December Wildlife count

Butterfly Quiz answers: 'A' is the black morph of the Tiger Swallowtail. Note the faint stripes, body that is yellow with black. 'B' is the Black Swallowtail. Note the spotted black body.