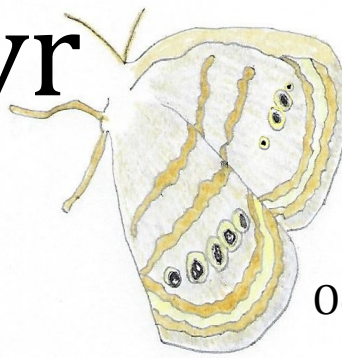


The Lonely Satyr

For Butterfly Enthusiasts
of Northeast Indiana



October 1, 2023

Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly Delights

by Fred Wooley

I have been retired from my job as interpretive naturalist at Pokagon State Park since March of 2015. It's hard to believe it has been eight years.

After leaving Indiana State Parks, I soon began working for the land restoration and resource management group in northeast Indiana, Blue Heron Ministries. Many readers know of our work. Basically, we remove unwanted invasive species and then enhance, replace, and manage for the native landscapes that once occupied our worksites.

Basically, I am doing the work I promoted as an interpretive naturalist. It's work I preached over a 40-year career. We understand and appreciate the natural world and work to maintain and sustain healthy, ecologically sound environments.

I am doing the same on our own property. My wife Jackie and I purchased 21 acres of an old farm in 1997. I've slowly been working the land, converting fallow ag fields and the home landscape into native, natural habitats. I'm working in a once semi-degraded wetland fen and bringing it back to its native brilliance.

The joy of living on the land is seeing daily the fruits of our labor. My sweet Jackie passed away four years ago, but I carry on with our legacy to the land and our work of restoration and promotion of native, natural landscapes.

The success of individual plants and animals may vary season to season, year to year, based on several variables: weather, status of host plants, competition from other species, etc... Naturalists often speak of a "good year for yellow-billed cuckoos," or "a good year for eastern bluebirds," or "a good year for nodding onion/blue flag irises/sky blue asters, etc..."



Fred Wooley photographing an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail.
Photo credit: Louise Miller, 8/1/23

Delights continued

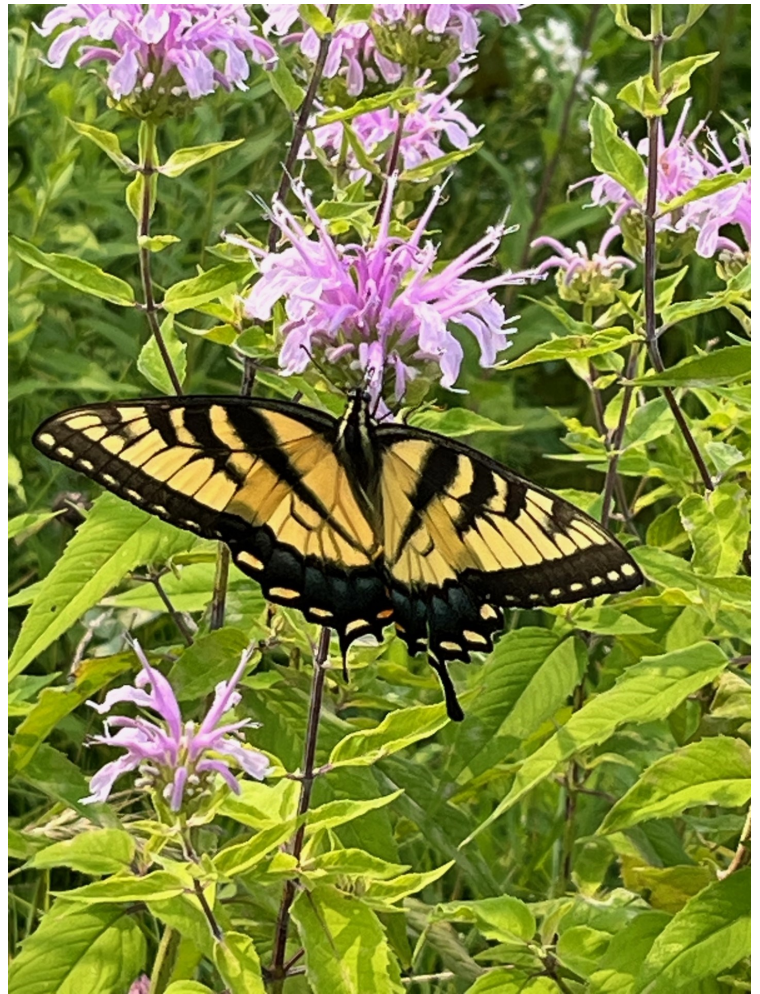
The year 2023 on this old farm was a good year for eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies. I seemed to have noticed them everywhere on a variety of plants. I'm happy to say they had mostly an eye on the native species I have nurtured.

I do have one nonnative butterfly bush planted years ago over the septic field distribution tank. The soil there is just inches deep. I cut the shrub to ground level every winter and it flourishes and sends up an igloo-sized bush every growing season. A perfectly named bush, the butterflies love it. This year I counted seven tiger swallowtails there at one time.

Every time I see a beautiful tiger swallowtail, I think back to my boyhood times in Illinois. We had a neighborhood family, the Webers. They had four kids, around the same age as my younger brother and me. We all played together. One, Terry, was a butterfly nut. I have this sixty-some year-old memory of a summer day and hearing, "TIGER SWALLOWTAIL!" and looking up to see Terry charging across our back yard with a long-handled net held high above his head as he ran.

I long lost track of Terry Weber. I hope wherever he is, he's still enjoying tiger swallowtails as much as I do.

Fred Wooley is a naturalist, writer, and land preservation/restoration enthusiast. He lives on part of an old farm overlooking an extensive fen in northern Steuben County. He can be reached at fwooley@frontier.com.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Monarda, Wooley Preserve Monarch Meadow. Photo credit: Fred Wooley, 8/1/23

As another season of "The Lonely Satyr" draws to a close, I want to thank everyone for your incredible contributions. We were truly delighted this year with lots of great articles and colorful photos. This newsletter is fun and special because of you! I appreciate your support of the local butterfly community. I look forward to sharing with you all again next year! Please continue to send in fall butterfly photos. I will save them and share them next spring. I know those Buckeyes are out there somewhere! ~ Cheers, Leslie

A Caterpillar in Aphid's Clothing by Leslie Arnold

Thank you to Ronda Spink, who inspired this article by sharing some great Harvester photos.

Last month, we heard from several butterfly monitors that Harvesters were spotted in big numbers this year. I thought it might be fun to shine a spotlight on the Harvester—North America's only carnivorous butterfly.

The Harvester is a member of the Gossamer wing family, which includes the Blues, Hairstreaks, and Coppers. There are some Blues and Hairstreaks that have special relationships with ants, who protect them in exchange for a taste of a sweet secretion from the caterpillar. The funny children's book *Butterflies are Pretty...Gross!*, by Rosemary Mosco, has an entire page devoted to the ant "babysitters" of the Alcon Blue butterfly. But, the Harvester caterpillar doesn't produce any secretion or "honeydew," making the caterpillar all predator. (3)

Female Harvesters lay their eggs within the colonies of Woolly aphids. The caterpillars live amongst the aphids, eating them. Ants also live amongst the caterpillars and aphids. The ants are "farming" the aphids who do ooze forth the delicious "honeydew." In exchange for the sweet stuff, the ants are allegedly protecting the aphids. (1, 3)

Why then are the caterpillars not discovered by the ants and booted out?

One theory is the caterpillars take on aphid camouflage. The caterpillars can appear hairy because the secretions from the aphids will stick onto the caterpillars. The caterpillars will also create cover by attaching dead aphids and the aphid fluff to their bodies. Another theory is the caterpillars have a chemical disguise. A smell will rub off of the aphids and onto the caterpillars so the ants only detect aphids. (2, 3)

Because of their high protein meals, the caterpillars are able to complete all life cycle stages very quickly. The favored habitat for the Harvester is woodlands and stream edges. Be sure to stay on the lookout for this special butterfly next summer. (1, 2)

REFERENCES

1. Alabama Butterfly Atlas. <https://alabama.butterflyatlas.usf.edu>
2. Belth, Jeffrey E., *Butterflies of Indiana: A Field Guide*. Indiana University Press, 2013: 32.
3. Redmond, Kate. "Harvester Butterfly." University of Milwaukee, Saukville Field Station, 2003. <https://uwm.edu/field-station/harvester-butterfly/>

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Lohman DJ, Liao Q, Pierce NE. 2006. Convergence of chemical mimicry in a guild of aphid predators. *Ecological Entomology* 31: 41-51.

Youngsteadt E, Devries PJ. 2005. The effects of ants on the entomophagous butterfly caterpillar *Feniseca tarquinius*, and the putative role of chemical camouflage in the *Feniseca*-Ant interaction. *Journal of Chemical Ecology* 31: 2091-2109.



Above: Harvester caterpillar (left of red arrow)
Photo credit: Ronda Spink
Black Alder, Sarett Nature Center, MI
8/27/23



Harvester Ovipositing in Florida
Photo credit: Ronda Spink

Local Sightings

Right: Eastern Tailed Blue
Photo credit: Madeline McQuiston,
Blue Heron Ministries Summer Intern
Marsh Lake Wetlands State FWA,
Fremont, IN
8/4/23



Right: Hayhurst's Scallopwing
Photo credit: John Michael Durback
The Oxbow, Lawrenceburg, IN
9/8/23

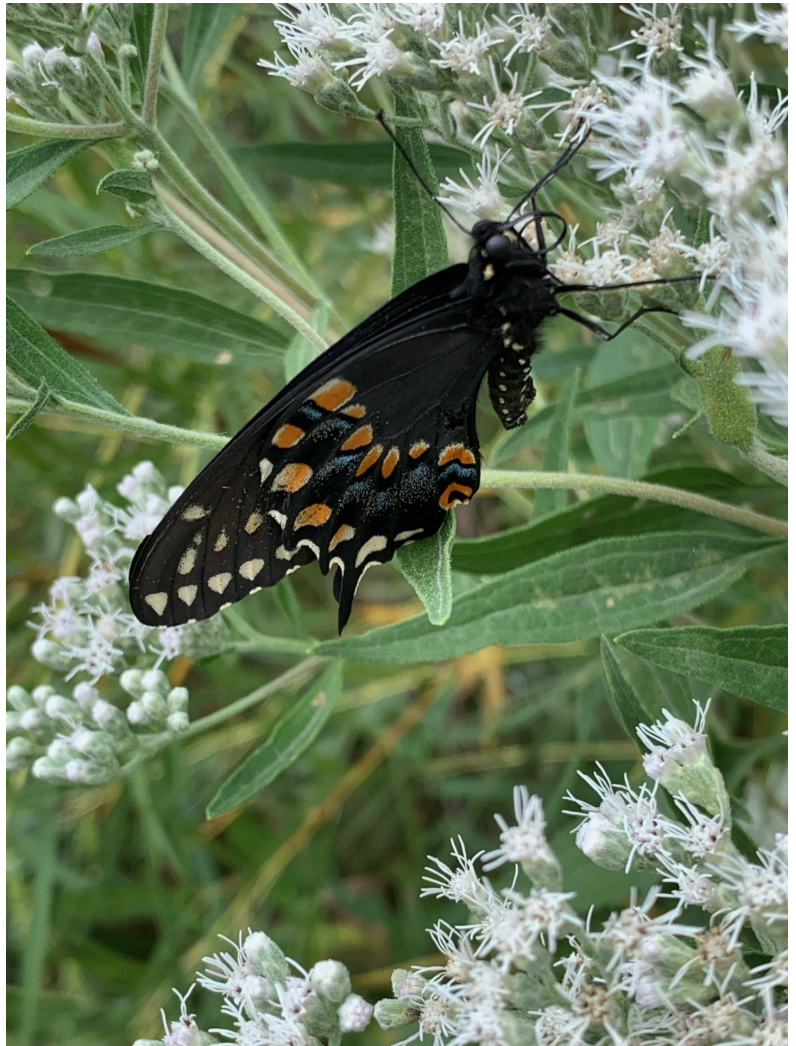
John Michael also reported a Sachem and
seeing several Gray Hairstreaks.



Local Sightings

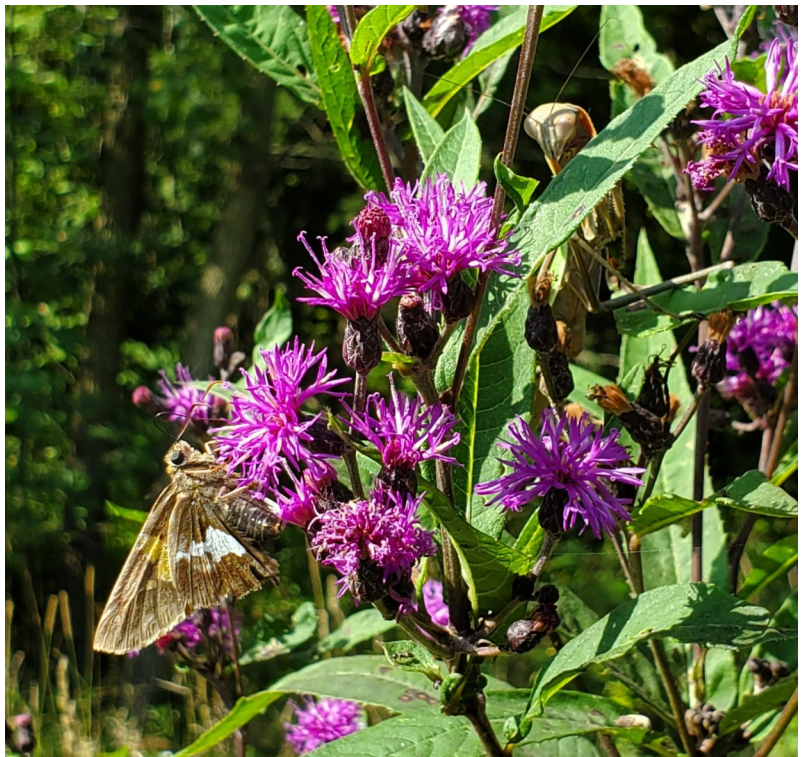
Right: Black Swallowtail
Photo credit: Andy Barry
Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne, IN
9/7/23

Andy also reported a Pearl Crescent, Eagle
Marsh, 8/22/23



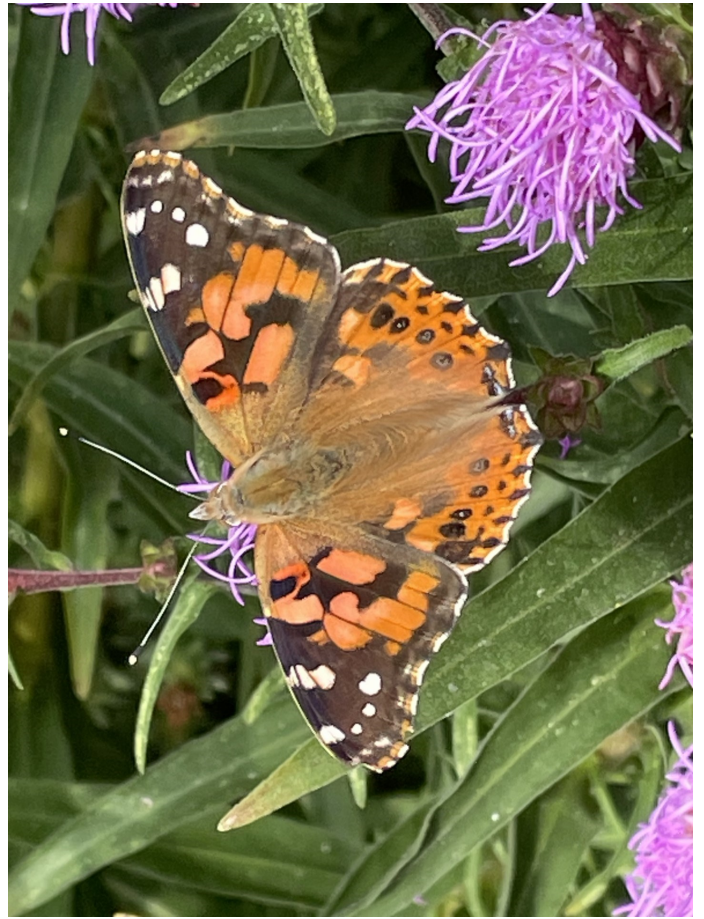
Right: Silver-spotted Skipper & Praying Mantis!
Photo credit: Carole Mitchell
Goshen, IN
9/16/23

Carole also reported an American Copper



Local Sightings

Right: Painted Lady
Photo credit: Jan McGowan
South Bend, IN
9/10/23



Right: Great Spangled Fritillary
Photo credit: John Brittenham
Hillsdale Co., MI
9/11/23



Community Calendar

Contact the event host prior to traveling to make sure it's not cancelled.

Dessert with Discussion: Genetic Rescue to the Rescue

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (talk at 7:00 p.m.)

W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, MSU

3700 E. Gull Lake Dr., Hickory Corners, MI

Drs. Sarah Fitzpatrick and Cinnamon Mittan-Moreau will present an overview of "genetic rescue" and how it is being considered as a way to save the Mitchell's Satyr butterfly. FREE - Registration is required for in-person attendance and virtual Zoom viewing option.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/kbs-fall2023-dessert-with-discussion>

Native Prairie Plant Seed Harvest

Saturdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Blue Heron Ministries

Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, 2955 W. Orland Rd., Angola, IN

Help further their mission by collecting seeds to be used on future projects. Tools and supplies are provided.

<https://blueheronministries.org/get-involved/events/>

(No endorsement or discrimination of specific events or vendors on this community calendar is intended or implied.)

To subscribe and submit, contact:

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46795



Tagging Monarchs - Monarch Watch

<https://monarchwatch.org/tagging/>

2023 Monarch Tags are now available to order:

Online: <http://shop.monarchwatch.org>

Mail, Phone, Fax:

Monarch Watch Shop

c/o Nonprofit Business Solutions

2701 Centerville Rd.

Wilmington, DE 19808

1-800-780-9986

1-877-687-4878 - Fax

If you would like paper copies of tagging instructions and an order form, please let me know and I'll mail you some. According to Monarch Watch, due to our Latitude, our region should begin tagging mid-August.



Photos Right: Monarch tagging event

Photo Credit: Marilyn Doerr

Photo of: Owen and Jennifer Doyle

Indianapolis, IN

9/16/23