

Bryan Pfeiffer

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Employment

Consulting Field Biologist

Conduct field inventories of birds and insects for clients that include governments, non-profits and private landowners. Research Associate at Vermont Center for Ecostudies in Norwich, Vermont. 2001 - present

Adjunct Lecturer, The University of Vermont

Lecturer on topics in field biology and professional communications at the graduate level in the Field Naturalist Program, which prepares students for careers in the natural sciences, conservation and public policy. 2018 - present

Adjunct Faculty, The University of Vermont

Instructor for courses on practical and professional writing in the Field Naturalist Program. 2012 - 2018

Writer

Author, essayist and journalist specializing in wildlife and wild places. Publication credits include *Aeon*, *Orion*, *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Field and Stream*, *Eating Well*, *Vermont Life*, and other publications. Blog at www.bryanpfeiffer.com. 1998 - present

Chief Field Lepidopterist, Vermont Butterfly Survey

Co-designed and managed citizen science project documenting distribution and abundance of butterflies across Vermont. Authored and designed project manual and field forms. Trained survey volunteers. Served as lead field lepidopterist. 2001-2007

Nature Guide

Founder and operator of Vermont Bird Tours, offering guided natural history outings across North America. Frequent lecturer on birds and natural history. 1997 - 2013

Wildlife Photographer

Create images from nature and offer innovative digital photography workshops informing hundreds of students in academia and private life. 2000 - present

Maple Corner Media

Co-founder of an alliance of writers specializing in journalism, publishing, public relations and digital media. (Partnership dissolved in 2017.) 2010 - 2017

Editor and Staff Writer, The Times Argus and Rutland Herald

Award-winning journalist covering natural history, environmental policy and government. As assistant editor, supervised staff of reporters for the combined Sunday edition for these two family-owned newspapers. 1986 - 1999

Air-Quality Chemist, Environmental Research Group, Inc., Ann Arbor, MI

Supervised air pollution monitoring projects at private industries and at a federal Superfund site. Produced technical reports on test results. 1980 - 1984

Recent Field Work

- Short field study of sequential stamen movement and herkogamy in *Parnassia glauca*. Self-funded. 2022. Publication pending.
- Photography of Maine Butterflies for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. 2018-2021.
- A Rapid Field Survey for Birds and Invertebrates of the McConnell Pond Tract, Nulhegan Basin, Vermont, for The Conservation Fund. 2019.
- "Getting the Blues." An overview of *Celastrina* in Vermont and the region. Self-published: <https://bryanpfeiffer.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Getting-the-Blues-Celastrina-2Apr2018.pdf>. April 2018.
- The Vermont Damselfly and Dragonfly Atlas, a project of the Vermont Atlas of Life. Principal investigator. <http://val.vtecostudies.org/projects/vermont-damselfly-and-dragonfly-atlas/> 2017-present.
- Invertebrate Survey of Maine Army National Guard Hollis Training Site. Hollis, Maine. 2016.

- An investigation of Odonata in Vermont rivers and peatlands. For the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2007-2010.
- The dragonflies and damselflies of Teal Farm, Huntington, Vermont. For the Foundation for a Sustainable Future. 2005-2006.
- The breeding birds of Teal Farm, Huntington, Vermont. For the Foundation for a Sustainable Future. 2005-2006.
- A Study of Breeding Birds in the Southeast Quadrant of South Burlington, Vermont. For the City of South Burlington. June 2004.
- Vermont Butterfly Survey. <http://val.vtecostudies.org/projects/vermont-butterfly-survey/> 2002-2007.

Journal and Other Scientific Articles

"Follow up sightings of *Polyommatus icarus* in the United States." Bryan Pfeiffer. *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*. Vol. 63, No. 4. 2021

"The Scrupulous Reproduction of Fen Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*): An Exercise in Floral Focus." Bryan Pfeiffer. *Mitchelliana*. Vol. 32, No. 4. 2021

"*Polyommatus icarus* (European Common Blue) Expands into the United States." David Barrington and Bryan Pfeiffer. *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*. Vol. 63, No. 3. 2021.

"A Mystery Solved: Tiger Spiketail in Vermont." Bryan Pfeiffer. *Argia*. Vol. 31, No. 3. September 2019.

"The Extinction of Meaning." Bryan Pfeiffer. *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*. Vol. 60, No.4. 2018.

Principal reviewer for article on Odonatology for *Northeastern Naturalist*. <https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/journals/nena/northeastern-naturalist.shtml> 2017.

"The Odonata of Vermont." Michael Blust and Bryan Pfeiffer. *Bulletin of American Odonatology*. Vol. 11, No. 3-4, 23 November 2015. 69-119.

"A Conservation Action Plan for Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)." In collaboration with Vermont Center for Ecostudies, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service and Bird Studies Canada. www.bicknellsthrush.org/conservation.html. July 2010.

"Ovipositing behavior of *Stylurus scudderi* Selys." Bryan Pfeiffer and Greg Hanisek. *Argia*. Vol. 18. No. 4. 2007.

"The view from Vermont." Bryan Pfeiffer. *Argia*. Vol. 16, No. 3. p 22. 2004.

"Two new dragonflies for Vermont." Bryan Pfeiffer. *Argia*. Vol. 15, No. 3. p 14. Oct. 2003.

"*Williamsonia fletcheri* encountered in Vermont." Bryan Pfeiffer. *Argia*. Vol. 14, No. 3. p 10. 2002.

"Interesting encounter between *Dromogomphus* and *Sympetrum*." Bryan Pfeiffer. *Argia*. Vol. 13, No. 4. p 14. 2002"

Cytochemical evidence of a role for lysosomes in steroidogenesis: acid phosphatase and 3 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase in porcine corpora lutea." Elfont, E.A., Brooks, N.R., Pfeiffer, B.M., Kochanowski, A. and Dimino, M.J. 1979. *Micron*, 10(3), 225. 1979.

Books and Chapters

"The History of Avian Conservation in Vermont" — A section for *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont*, edited by Rosalind Renfrew. University Press of New England. 2013.

"The Natural World" — A chapter on the natural history of the Long Trail, published in *A Century in the Mountains: Celebrating Vermont's Long Trail*. The Green Mountain Club, Inc. 2009.

"Birdwatching in Vermont" by Ted Murin and Bryan Pfeiffer. University Press of New England. 2002.

Keynotes, Seminars, Lectures and other Public Events

"Insects for Birders," a presentation to the Seacoast Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon. March 9, 2022.

Butterfly Identification and Ecology. An online course for the North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. June-July 2020.

Field Photography for Entomologists. Presentation for the Center for Systematic Entomology. Gainesville, Florida. January 18, 2020.

Vermont Housing Conservation Board Annual Retreat. Evening speaker. Ripton, Vermont. November 14, 2019.

"The Audacity of Monhegan Migration." A talk for Monhegan Associates. August 8, 2018.

Moths and Butterflies: A Field Course. Biodiversity University. Montpelier, Vermont. June 29 - July 3, 2019.

Point-and-Shoot Photography for Birders. North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. May 11, 2019.

Field Photography for Naturalists and Biologists. North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. March 2, 2019.

"Naked in the Lake: A Superior Adventure." For the Naturalist Journeys lecture series. North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. February 15, 2019.

"A Forest on the Wing of a Butterfly." Keynote address. Northern Woodland Conference, Fairlee, Vermont. October 14, 2018.

"The Audacity of Migration." A presentation to the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute. Stowe, Vermont. October 10, 2018.

Insect Macrophotography. A seminar for biologists and naturalists at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. June 16, 2018.

"Birds. Words. Notes." Readings, reflections, photography and music at North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. April 27, 2018.

"Butterflies for Birders (and Beginners)." A presentation for Green Mountain Audubon, Richmond, Vermont. April 25, 2018.

Dragonflies and Damselflies: An Introduction and Field Priorities for the Northeast. Session presentation at the Northeast Natural History Conference, Burlington, Vermont. April 15, 2018.

Field Photography for Biologists. A seminar at the Northeast Natural History Conference, Burlington, Vermont. April 13, 2018.

Dragonflies and Damselflies: Field Techniques and Identification. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. July 2-8, 2017.

Moths and Butterflies: Identification, Specimen Preparation and Taxonomy. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. June 23-July 1, 2017.

"The Audacity of Migration." A presentation at James L. Goodwin State Forest Conservation and Education Center, Hampton, CT. April 4, 2017.

"Insects for Birders," a presentation for the Hoffman Bird Club, Pittsfield, MA. April 3, 2017.

"Birds, Butterflies, Backyards and Beyond," a presentation for The Nature Museum, Chester, Vermont. March 1, 2017

"The Audacity of Migration," a presentation at Schoodic Institute, Acadia National Park, Winter Harbor, Maine. January 19, 2017

"Naked in Norway: Backpacking Above the Arctic Circle," a presentation in Brookfield, Vermont. August 31, 2016

Moths and Butterflies: Identification, Specimen Preparation and Taxonomy. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. June 23-28, 2016

Dragonflies and Damselflies: Field Techniques and Identification. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. June 28-July 2, 2016

"The Wild Trail," keynote address at annual Meeting of the Green Mountain Club, Lyndon, Vermont. June 11, 2016

Better Birding: Field Identification for Advancing Birdwatchers. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. May 22-28, 2016

"Birds, Butterflies, Backyards and Beyond," a presentation for the Thetford and West Fairlee Conservation Commissions, Thetford, Vermont. April 14, 2016

"The Art of Winter," a presentation at Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont. April 1, 2016

"Naked in the Canyon," a presentation for the North Branch Nature Center's Naturalist Journeys lecture series, Montpelier, Vermont. January 22, 2016

"The Audacity of Migration," a presentation to the Friends of Green River Reservoir, Hyde Park, Vermont. October 9, 2015

Moths and Butterflies: Identification, Specimen Preparation and Taxonomy. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. July 12-18, 2015

Dragonflies and Damselflies: Field Techniques and Identification. A seminar for the Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, Maine. July 5-11, 2015

Digital Photography Workshops, the AVA Gallery and Art Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire. April 18, 2015

"Naked in Norway: Backpacking Above the Arctic Circle," for the North Branch Nature Center's Naturalist Journeys lecture series February 6, 2015

"Lakeside Confidential," a presentation to the annual meeting of the Vermont Federation of Lakes and Ponds, Fairlee, Vermont. June 7, 2013

"Animal Attractions," a presentation in the Distinguished Writers Series for the New England Federal Credit Union, Williston, Vermont. March 26, 2013

Digital Photography for Naturalists, a workshop for the Field Naturalist and Ecological Planning programs, University of Vermont. March 22, 2013.

"Darwin Meets St. Valentine," a presentation to Green Mountain Audubon, Richmond, Vermont. February 12, 2013.

"A Wing and a Prayer: Faith, Fact and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker," an address to the Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Boise, Idaho. March 10, 2012.

"Into the Canyon, Into the Earth: The Natural History of the Grand Canyon," a lecture in the North Branch Nature Center's Naturalist Journeys series, Montpelier, Vermont. January 27, 2012.

Digital Photography. Most recent workshop series delivered in Montpelier, Vermont. January 2012.

Better Birding Lecture Series. Concepts and themes in birdwatching. Delivered the first Monday of the month in Montpelier, Vermont. Throughout 2012.

Digital Photography, a lecture and workshop on theory and practice delivered at Nichols College, Dudley, Massachusetts. October 23, 2011.

"The Mushroom and the Thrush," address to the annual meeting of the Northern Rivers Land Trust, Hardwick, Vermont. June 12, 2011.

"A Charles Darwin Birthday Celebration," a lecture at Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, Vermont. February 12, 2011.

"Photography for Farmers," a presentation to the Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference, Fairlee, Vermont. November 2, 2010.

"Chasing Woodpeckers, a lecture for the Greensboro Historical Society, Greensboro, Vermont. June 26, 2009.

"Why I Love Charles Darwin," lecture celebrating Darwin's 200th birthday in the "Why I Love ..." series at Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier, Vermont. February 12, 2009.

"A Bird's Eye View," fund-raising lecture at Studio Place Arts, Barre, Vermont. April 27, 2008.

"Chasing Woodpeckers," lecture for the Tunbridge Historical Society, Tunbridge, Vermont. January 9, 2008.

Keynote address at the wrap-up celebration of the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas, Norwich, Vermont. November 17, 2007.

"A Closer Look at Shorelines," a presentation to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc., Montpelier, Vermont. July 23, 2007.

"Ivory-billed Woodpecker: Dream or Discovery?" a lecture at North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. June 16, 2006.

"Wild Orange," a presentation to the town of Orange, Vermont. April 27, 2006.

"WEC, Wires and Wildlife," keynote address to the annual meeting of Washington Electric Cooperative, East Montpelier, Vermont. May 3, 2005.

"Skippers and Skimmers," an OSHER Lifelong Learning presentation, Rockingham, Vermont. February 4, 2005.

"Life Along Lewis Creek," keynote address to the Lewis Creek Association, Starksboro, Vermont. October 17, 2004.

"The Mushroom and the Thrush," keynote address to the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Essex, Vermont. April 2, 2004.

"The Mushroom and the Thrush," keynote address to the annual meeting of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Quechee, Vermont. September 6, 2003.

"A Vermont Vision: The Future of Odonata Study in the Green Mountain State," a presentation to the New England Odonate Conference, Athol, Mass. April 17, 2004.

"The Mushroom and the Thrush," keynote address to a meeting of the Green Mountain Club. April 4, 2003.

"Jericho-Underhill Wild," an address to the Jericho-Underhill Land Trust. February 10, 2003.

Selected Essays, Articles and Commentaries

- "A most duplicitous flower," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. September 4, 2022.
- "Nightlife: The Many-Splendored Moths of Montpelier," an essay and photo montage for *Seven Days*. August 10, 2022.
- "Leave the light on for them," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. July 31, 2022.
- "Silent Spring' at 60," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. June 12, 2022.
- "Resilient nature amidst the ravages of war," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. April 24, 2022.
- "What Stories Do Stray Masks Tell?," an essay and photo spread for *Seven Days*. February 22, 2022.
- "Time flies — but I know one way to beat the clock," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. October 31, 2021.
- "Copulating in the cold on the shortest day of the year," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. December 19, 2021.
- "In life as in the wold, a fading serenade," an essay for *The Boston Globe*. September 19, 2021.
- "The Extinction of Meaning," an essay for Medium.com. <https://medium.com/s/story/the-extinction-of-meaning-1d8d495f5f75> August 16, 2018.
- "Ghosts and Small Treasures," an essay for *Aeon* magazine. <https://aeon.co/essays/we-need-a-chronic-passion-for-nature-not-a-passing-storm> April 27, 2016 .
- "Hillary and Me," an essay for *The Valley News* and *VT Digger*.com. <http://www.vnews.com/home/16540500-95/column-if-you-come-to-vermont-hilary-i-have-a-question> April 19, 2015.
- "A Bobolink's Carbon Fingerprint," for *Northern Woodlands Magazine*. Spring 2015 Spring 2015.
- "The Snowy Owl," an essay for *Aeon* magazine. <http://aeon.co/magazine/nature-and-cosmos/the-snowy-owl-is-a-messenger-from-the-arctic/> February 2014.
- "Peacham Bog," an essay for *Orion Magazine's* feature "The Place Where You Live," online at <http://tinyurl.com/c3dxlgm>. Print version in press for Summer 2013. March 31, 2013.
- "The Real Meaning of Groundhog Day," *Vermont Public Radio* commentary. <http://www.vpr.net/episode/52928/pfeiffer-ground-hog-day/> February 2, 2012.
- "Charlie Cogbill's Trees," *VT Digger* and several Vermont newspapers. January 27, 2012.
- "Snowy Owls Invade Vermont," *VT Digger* and several Vermont newspapers. January 13, 2012.
- "A Winter Moth," *Vermont Public Radio* (commentary). www.vpr.net/episode/52622/pfeiffer-winter-moth/ December 14, 2011.
- "Are You Gullible or Lariphobic?" *Northern Woodlands* magazine. Winter 2011.
- "Eat More Birds," *Vermont Public Radio* (commentary). December 1, 2011.
- "Dragonfly Swarms – Revisited," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2011/08/08/dragonfly-swarms-revisited/ August 8, 2011 .
- "An Ode to Warblers," *Northern Woodlands*. Summer 2011.
- "When It Rains Birds," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2011/05/06/when-it-rains-birds/ May 6, 2011.
- "Mob Mentality," *Northern Woodlands*. Spring 2011.
- "The Snow Goose Scoop: A status report on Greater Snow Goose," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2010/10/08/the-snow-geese-scoop/ October 8, 2010.
- "Feather Morphology," *Northern Woodlands*. Winter 2010.
- "A Mystery Solved," an essay on an *Ectoedemia* species, *Northern Woodlands*. Fall 2010.
- "Twisted Duck Sex," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2010/10/30/twisted-duck-sex/ October 30, 2010.
- "Solving Shorebirds," *Northern Woodlands*. Summer 2010.
- "Size and Time in the Grand Canyon," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2011/03/10/size-and-time-in-the-grand-canyon/ March 10, 2011.
- "Impressions: An Analysis of Wing Prints in Snow," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2011/01/31/impressions/ January 31, 2011.
- "Glenn Beck and the Fog of Journalism," *The Daily Wing*. www.dailywing.net/2010/10/21/glenn-beck-and-evolution/ October 21, 2010.

"Mercury in the Mountains," white paper prepared for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. www.vtecostudies.org/PDF/researchnotes2.pdf January 2010.

"Maple Leafcutter and its Turtle-like Existence," Outside Story series. http://northernwoodlands.org/outside_story/article/maple_leafcutter_and_its_turtle-like_existence/ September 24, 2009.

"Salamander Strategies," a white paper prepared for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. www.vtecostudies.org/PDF/Research%20Notes%20No%203%20-%20Salamanders.pdf January 2009.

Radio and Television Appearances

War and Nature

Guest on episode of Radio Vermont's Vermont Viewpoint to discuss an essay about nature and human spirit during the war for Ukraine. April 2022.

Dragonfly Migration

Guest appearance on Outdoor Radio, a project of Vermont Public Radio and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. <http://digital.vpr.net/post/outdoor-radio-migrating-species-dragonflies-wandering-glider#stream/0> September 19, 2018.

Getting Gulls

Guest appearance on Outdoor Radio, a project of Vermont Public Radio and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. January 17, 2018.

Birding in Vermont, Vermont Public Television

Developed and hosted one-hour special on birdwatching practices and enjoyment across Vermont. March 7, 2007.

Nature Notes, WCAX

Field naturalist on weekly nature segments during the evening newscast. 2004 – 2008.

For The Birds, WDEV

Co-host award-winning weekly radio program on birds and birdwatching. 1990 – 2010.

Event and Project Leadership

Regional Meeting Dragonfly Society of the Americas

Co-organizer of field gathering of entomologist studying Odonata to be held in northern Vermont and New Hampshire. July 13-16, 2017.

NymphFest 2016

Co-organizer for meeting on the discovery and identification of larval Odonata, involving biologists and amateur naturalists in Bennington, Vermont. www.odes.bryanpfeiffer.com/nymphfest March 4-6, 2016.

Vermont Center for Ecostudies Web Site

Supervised a web site redesign for non-profit group of research biologists. Wrote and edited large portion of the site's content. www.vtecostudies.org April – November 2014.

Annual Meeting of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas

Organized annual meeting for 85 biologists in Orono, Maine. Created and maintained web site. Produced on-line and printed maps and conference materials. www.wingsenvironmental.com/dsa/ June 24-27, 2010.

The Montpelier BioBlitz

Organized and coordinated 24-hour biological assessment of the Vermont state capital. Created and maintained web site. Produced all BioBlitz materials. www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/bioblitz/ July 11-12, 2008.

NymphFest 2008

Organized regional meeting on the discovery and identification of larval Odonata, involving biologists and amateur naturalists in Athol, Massachusetts. www.odes.millersriver.net/nymphfest2008.htm February 9-10, 2008.

The Vermont BioBlitz

Conceived organized and coordinated first major BioBlitz to be held in Vermont, drawing more than 120 biologists and naturalists and countless visitors to Quechee, Vermont. June 25-26, 2004.

Biodiversity University

Conceived and co-organized field school bringing distinguished biologists to Vermont to conduct courses. Instructors included Robert Michael Pyle (butterflies), James Lloyd (Lampyridae), Paul-Michael Brunelle (Odonata), Jerry Jenkins (botany). 1999-2005. Model and name now adopted by the North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont.

Former or Current Affiliations and Public Service

Dragonfly Society of the Americas (president, 2018-2021; current board member)
Vermont Endangered Species Committee, member appointed by the governor, 2019-present
Scientific Advisory Group on Invertebrates, Vermont Endangered Species Committee
Monhegan Associates Ecology Committee (member)
Montpelier Parks Commission (past chairman)
Vermont Center for Ecostudies, research associate
Lepidopterists Society
Xerces Society
Vermont Entomological Society (past president)
American Birding Association
American Bird Conservancy
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
North Branch Nature Center (capital campaign committee member)
North Branch Nature Center (former board member)
Green Mountain Club (former board member)
Upper Winooski Field Naturalists
Plainfield Fire & Rescue (former volunteer firefighter)

Journalism Awards

Vermont Press Association Mavis Doyle Award, 1994
New England Press Association, First Place, Best Serious Column, 1989
Take Pride in America and Vermont Award, 1989
Vermont Press Association Outstanding Daily Reporter, 1988

Exhibits

The Art of Nature. The Nature of Art — An exhibit and discussion at North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Vermont. February 2, 2018.
Flight — Photography exhibit at Maple Valley Café and Gallery, Plainfield, Vermont September-October 2015.
WINGS — Photography at Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier, Vermont. June – July 2012.
ArtWalk Montpelier — Prints on display at Global Gifts, Montpelier, Vermont. December 9-16, 2011.
WINGS — An exhibit of 29 prints at the Korongo Gallery, Randolph, Vermont. Oct 14 – Nov 23, 2011.

Education

B.S Chemistry with Honors, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. 1980.

Other Interests

Birdwatching	Photography
Botany	Major League Baseball
Insect observation	Newspapers
Backpacking	My English Shepherd Odin
Mountain climbing	Greasy-spoon diners