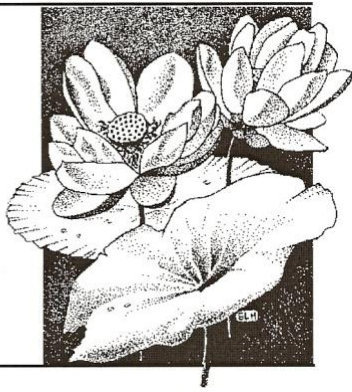


Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



December 2018



LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Inga Hinnerichsen, NFN President and Participant

The Long Point Butterfly Count is organized by our official “Butterfly Counter” Adam Timpf and is supported by the Norfolk Field Naturalists. It is an all-day event and involves identifying and counting local butterflies. This count is part of a North America wide survey providing valuable information of the butterfly populations and the well-being of the environment in general. Members of our team were Dr. Richard Tanner, Mats van Kleef, Anita and Dick (visiting from Calgary — my old stomping grounds!) and myself.



Brown-Eyed Susan

Photo from Wikipedia

Saturday, July 7, was ideal for the count — sunny, not too hot with only a gentle breeze. Our area consisted of Backus Woods and nearby fields. We began our count at a restored field near East 1/4 Line Road.

This is excellent butterfly habitat with many flowering plants at their finest, including Brown-eyed Susan, Milkweed and Orange Butterfly Weed, another type of Milkweed. Sure enough, Monarchs, Sulphurs, Wood Nymphs and Skippers were flitting about. A tick check in the parking lot yielded several wood ticks crawling on our clothing. Fortunately, no black-legged ticks this time! Next, we headed back into Backus Woods where several Tawny Emperors were dancing in the air around a few Hackberry trees, the favourite food



Monarch

Photo by Len Grincevicius

of their larvae. This sighting was particularly nice, since last year we didn't see any at all, and only one the year before. We spent a few more pleasant hours observing 22 different species of butterflies. The day ended with a round-up barbecue where the teams all hand in their count results. The all-time record stands at 55 species. This year 2235 individual insects of 53 species were seen.



Peck's Skipper

Photo by Len Grincevicius

LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Adam Timpf, NFN Member and Organizer

This year the Long Point butterfly count fell on Saturday July 7th, the latest date that the first Saturday in July could possibly fall on. Thirty-five observers were divided into different groups, each group covering a different territory and recording all the butterflies they could find throughout the day. Many thanks go to Peter and Mary for hosting the wrap-up and serving food and drink to the hungry butterfly counters at the end of a long day.

Right after I had emailed out the count results to participants, yet another species was identified from photos uploaded to iNaturalist by one of the counters. Thus, a single Gray Comma bumps up our species total to 54, two shy of our all-time high, and well above our 27-year average of ~50. Total number of butterflies recorded was 2,285, a bit below the average of 2,598.

There were no new species recorded this year, but we did set new highs for three species (old record in brackets): Common Sootywing 4 (2), Delaware Skipper 14 (9), Tawny-edged Skipper 43 (3). We also had some other notable finds with a single Harvester being the first on the count since 2009, and a single Gray Hairstreak was the first since 2000. On the flip side we always miss something and this time it was Bronze Copper eluding counters for only the second count ever.



Eastern Tailed Blue

Photo by Len Grincevicius

Monarchs had a bounce back year as I'm sure most readers will agree. On the count date 142 Monarchs were found marking our third highest count and much higher than the long-term average

of 50. These Monarchs seemed to have had a successful breeding year with numerous Monarchs and their caterpillars being seen throughout summer and into the fall. Let's hope the migrant generation can make it to Mexico safely so we can have another good count next year. It will be interesting to see if the high numbers we have seen in Ontario this year will translate to a higher population at the winter roost sites in Mexico.

Thank you to all the participants and helpers for your efforts on this count and past counts. It wouldn't be possible without your dedication and enthusiasm. Next year, the count falls on July 6th so mark your calendars!



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Photo by Len Grincevicius



Northern Crescent

Photo by Len Grincevicius

cont'd on p.3

Long Point Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 2



Red Spotted Purple

Photo by Len Grincevicius

Black Swallowtail	3
Giant Swallowtail	0
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	58
Spicebush Swallowtail	9
Pipevine Swallowtail	0
Checkered White	0
Mustard White	0
Cabbage White	239
Clouded Sulphur	53
Orange Sulphur	10
Harvester	1
American Copper	38
Bronze Copper	0
Coral Hairstreak	31
Acadian Hairstreak	1
Edward's Hairstreak	558
Banded Hairstreak	27
Hickory Hairstreak	1
Striped Hairstreak	0
Gray Hairstreak	1
Eastern Tailed-Blue	5
Summer Azure	18
Silvery Blue	0
American Snout	0
Variegated Fritillary	0
Great Spangled Fritillary	90
Silver-bordered Fritillary	0
Meadow Fritillary	0
Aphrodite Fritillary	0
Silvery Checkerspot	3
Pearl Crescent	9
Northern Crescent	389
Baltimore Checkerspot	5
Question Mark	5
Eastern Comma	10
Grey Comma	1

Compton Tortoiseshell	0
Mourning Cloak	9
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	1
American Lady	6
Painted Lady	0
Red Admiral	22
Buckeye	0
Red-spotted Purple	10
Viceroy	13
Tawny Emperor	34
Northern Pearly-Eye	5
Eyed Brown	20
Appalachian Brown	3
Little Wood-Satyr	23
Common Ringlet	1
Common Wood-Nymph	35
Monarch	142
Silver-spotted Skipper	103
Southern Cloudywing	2
Northern Cloudywing	3
Dreamy Duskywing	0
Sleepy Duskywing	0
Juvenal's Duskywing	0
Columbine Duskywing	0
Wild Indigo Duskywing	0
Common Sootywing	4
Least Skipper	10
European Skipper	9
Peck's Skipper	2
Tawny-edged Skipper	43
Crossline Skipper	8
Long Dash	3
Northern Broken-Dash	22
Little Glassywing	0
Sachem	0
Delaware Skipper	19
Hobomok Skipper	3
Broad-winged Skipper	0
Dion Skipper	1
Black Dash	3
Two-spotted Skipper	0
Dun Skipper	161
Common Roadside Skipper	0
Common Checkered Skipper	0



Spicebush Swallowtail

Photo by Len Grincevicius

Marvelous Milkweed Seed Collection

Article by Lisa Timpf, NFN Director

When I saw the notice about the "Marvelous Milkweed Seed Collection" event circulated to Norfolk Field Naturalist members, I was intrigued. Sponsored by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the event was scheduled for Friday, October 5th. The purpose was to collect milkweed seeds that would be used for meadow restoration in the Backus Block. It was pitched as a three-hour commitment, which didn't seem like a lot, so I thought I'd take the plunge.



Volunteer Seed Collectors

Photo by Laura Robson

I had my first pleasant surprise of the day when I joined the circle of volunteers as the coordinators did their pre-event sign-in. Two of my former Simcoe Composite School classmates whom I hadn't seen in forty years had also volunteered to help out that day, and it was great to see them.

Right on time, the event began. We got a short briefing from the organizers. The task seemed simple enough—collect milkweed pods. We were each given a large plastic mesh bag, the kind 50-pound servings of sunflower seeds come in, and we were on our way.

A small group of us opted to take the trail westward before heading out into the field. Soon enough, we were ready to strike out into the field of vegetation. Only the small evergreens still bore bright colors. The rest of the field was all beiges and browns.

I made my way through waist-high plants, grasses, and shrubbery, having to take care to elude the odd vine tugging on my foot.

At first, milkweed plants were few and far between, but after a couple of minutes of walking, I spotted one, then a grouping. After that, it always seemed like another plant was in sight once the present one had been dealt with.

Some of the milkweeds had already released their seeds, but there were also plenty of intact pods, and I soon had gathered a satisfying amount at the bottom of the bag.

It was a meditative sort of activity. There was no reason to rush. Rather, the exercise of seed collection seemed a good excuse for living in the present, focussing on the current plant to be harvested, then locating the next. While I was working, I found myself thinking about the monarchs and the difficult journey ahead to their wintering grounds. How many of their descendants would make the trip back, I wondered?

I had no way of knowing the answer, but at least, by collecting the seed for others to plant locally, those butterflies that do visit the area next summer will have additional options for feeding their hungry caterpillars.



Backus Block Seed Collection

Photo by Laura Robson

As I wandered through the field, I kept an eye out for ticks, and was initially startled when I looked down to spot some roundish objects clinging to my pants. Fortunately, these turned out to be what one participant referred to as "woolly pads", round, flat seed pods that clung with the tenacity of burrs. I was relieved they weren't insects, as I'd

Cont'd. on p.8

6th Annual Long Point World Biosphere Reserve (LPWBR) Research and Conservation Conference

Report by Cindy Present, NFN Director

This was my first time attending the Long Point World Biosphere Conference, which was held in Simcoe. There were 85 people registered — the largest number yet according to Administrative Coordinator Sandy Jukes; and included three Norfolk County Councillors, and Norfolk's new Mayor-Elect, Kristal Chopp. After a traditional Metis Elder welcome from Leon and Margaret Fleury, Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation (LPWBRF) President Rick Levick opened the conference and talked about its beginnings. He said that while working on LPWBRF projects on Phragmites control and Eco-passages, they kept meeting scientists and thesis students doing research within the Biosphere. The conference was designed to bring all of these people together, to share their collective research and insights. Kristal Chopp welcomed attendees and mentioned the value of ecological initiatives like the eco-passages, and recent tree plantings.



Conference Participants

Photo by Cindy Present

There were 22 presenters over 5 hours. They included biologists from provincial and federal government agencies, local organizations like Bird Studies Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, private ecological consulting firms, and thesis students from various universities. At the end of the conference, presenters were asked to submit a copy of their presentations to the LPWBRF to be added to the growing database on their website, www.longpointbiosphere.com. This database contains research and reports relating to the Long Point Biosphere, covering many decades.

I have summarized a few of the presentations to give a sense of the range of topics.

The Long Point Walsingham Forest Integrated Conservation Action Plan: Enhancing Conservation Outcomes through Collective Impact

Presenter: Brittany MacLeod, Canadian Wildlife Service

Brittany MacLeod talked about the \$500 million Nature Legacy for Canada Fund, and how the focus was on projects with an ecosystem-based approach, conserving priority landscapes to protect species at risk. She emphasized that this was being done working with local partners, including all levels of government and NGOs. A Norfolk County priority project is protecting the Long Point Walsingham Forest. Two workshops were held in Port Rowan this past spring to develop a shared vision with local partners.

Habitat use by Gray Rat Snake

Presenters: Heather Fotherby and Ryan Archer, Natural Resource Solutions, Inc.

Working with Ontario Nature, Heather and Ryan are examining the habitats of Gray Rat Snakes, a Species-At-Risk, in specific Ontario populations. In the Carolinian population, there are four sub-populations. The Big Creek population is the largest and most robust, but faces many severe threats, and had not previously been well studied. Using radio telemetry, Heather and Ryan have been tracking individuals to determine what habitats are being used by the snakes, and how. They are finding that the snakes like a “mosaic”, using a lot of edge habitats. Large forested riverine corridors, like Big Creek, are ideal, along with large forested areas in general. They found that the snakes they were tracking were 500-2000 m from the hibernacula, which was consistent with other studies. I spoke with Ryan Archer after the conference and asked him if he had any specific comments about the Gray Rat Snake population in Norfolk County. He said in the past, populations had been estimated using mostly anecdotal sightings, and that this approach was not very accurate. This study will help to develop a clearer understanding of suitable habitat

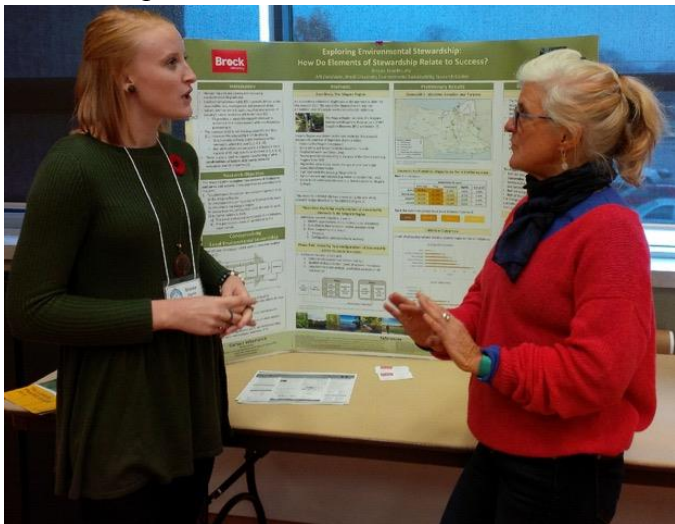
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for the snakes, and then this information can lead to stewardship initiatives. He said that they were always looking for opportunities for outreach with local groups, like the NFN and others. This study is now in its second year.

Exploring Environmental Stewardship: How do elements of stewardship relate to success?

Presenter: Brooke Kapeller, Masters Student, Brock University (Dr. Ryan Plummer)

This was one of the five-minute (“poster”) presentations from students doing relevant research on environmental issues of interest to the Conference attendees. Brooke is doing a comprehensive overview of environmental stewardship initiatives in the Niagara region. She contacted 36 organizations in the area and had 20 that responded to her survey. She is now interviewing these organizations to determine what approaches are most effective for environmental stewardship.



Brooke Kapeller, Masters student at Brock and Valerie Hickey, Member, LPWBRF
Photo by Cindy Presant

Highlights of Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) Landscape Scale Acquisition, Restoration, and Habitat Succession Management

Presenters: Liv Monck-Whip, Julie Vasseur, NCC

Julie and Liv spoke about the scope of the NCC's involvement in land acquisition, conservation, and management across Canada, and specifically in Norfolk County, focusing on the Norfolk Sand Plain

area. Restoration goals include increasing habitat size and complexity, so agricultural fields were being restored to native species; invasive species were being controlled, and earthworks were being built. Earthworks develop wetland areas within the fields and involve moving a lot of soil to create berms and ponds. This excavation/berm building process has the added benefit of stirring up old “seed banks”, long buried, but still viable, which then begin growing. These natural phenomena reduce costs of restoration and ensures that the species being established were previously growing in the area.

Succession management for these natural areas is complex — the goal is to have all successional stages represented at the same time on different sites. Site-specific plans are developed for each, and can include actions such as mechanical thinning, controlled burns, and management for invasive species.

The conference was packed with information, and also provided many opportunities for networking and talking with other environmental professionals. Catering was provided by the Blue Elephant in Simcoe. It was a worthwhile day.

LPWBRF Chair, David Cameron, closed the conference, “The presentations throughout the day were excellent. It is the combination of all of the presentations that is the major highlight. The conference enabled connections between the presenters and also the community. This is an important step to transfer the academic knowledge to the community so that we all can contribute to our sustainable community in a more meaningful way.”

Welcome New NFN Members

2018 - 2019 Season

Jackie Cave, Dave and Carol DeFields, Glenn Panton, Jill Shea, Kristen Thompson & Family, Mats Van Kleef and Bill and Sheila Whiteley

We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in and enjoy all the NFN indoor presentations and field outings.

From Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) (see answers below)



❶ True or false? An adult male polar bear can weigh up to 500 kilograms.



❷ In early April, wintering groups of monarchs will complete their migration journey back from Mexico to Canada. How long is their annual round-trip migration?

Make Bird Watching Greener

Bird watchers are usually careful about their carbon footprint, but these are a few tips to consider:

- Car pooling when in a group
- Do as much birding on foot as possible
- Have respect for wildlife and their habitat as well as the broader environment
- If using a guide or company, hire one who demonstrates commitment to low impact green practices
- Use a thermos instead of bottled water
- Avoid taking highly packaged foods
- Plant native plants in your yard. They support bird populations.



Winter Wonderland Joseph T. Renaldi

There are strange and mysterious sounds
When the winds of winter blow,
The long nights are crystal clear and cold,
And the fields and meadows are covered with snow.
The stars are frosty against the sky,
And the wind's whistle is shrill,
As the snow blows against the house
And drifts against the hill.
Yet, I like to see during the winter
A white carpet on the ground,
To plod aimlessly in the deep snow, where deer tracks abound.
I like to feel the stillness
Of a crisp winter's night,
Watching a full moon rise over the horizon,
Exposing a winter wonderland beautiful and bright.

Answers: ❶ False. ❷ 5,000 km.

Carolinian East Regional Meeting Report

From October 13, 2018 Meeting

Prepared by Len Grincevicius, NFN Director

On October 13, 2018, a number of representatives from various Golden Horseshoe Nature Clubs, including NFN and Long Point Biosphere Reserve, met in Georgetown for the Carolinian East semi-annual meeting.

Various topics and activities of these organizations were discussed including:

- ✓ working with conservation authorities to remove Norway maples which do not support local ecosystems
- ✓ changing the emphasis of gardeners from just pollinator gardens to bio-diversity gardens
- ✓ Niagara Nature has been approaching golf courses to change their practices from manicured habitat to natural habitat
- ✓ South Peel Naturalists report a record number of nesting bluebirds
- ✓ Carolinian Zone protects the water supply for 11 million people. For the protection of our water and soil, 30% natural habitat is required and only 15% currently exists. Of this, only 2.5% is on public land
- ✓ there is a huge need to have all stakeholders work together to make our zone green
- ✓ we need to create a culture of conservation and reforestation by working together
- ✓ we need to include native plantings in municipal plans
- ✓ Toby Barrett is working on promoting the ALUS program across the Province; and is encouraging the maintenance of funding for it. ALUS has now been given charitable status.

Marvelous Milkweed Seed Collection

...continued from Page 4

initially thought at first glance; but less enthused that I'd wandered through them with such carefree abandon that my track pants were liberally covered. I made a mental note to learn what the host plant looked like and keep a closer look-out next time.

Finally, the bag of seed pods seemed sufficiently heavy that it became a nuisance to haul around, so I headed for the rallying spot at the entrance to the field, where a screen with a tarp under it was set up. The idea was to open the pod and grate the innards against the screen, with the seeds falling off, the fluff blowing away, and the core of the pod remaining to be cast aside. Soon the air was filled with white, as though an early snowfall had arrived. The more prudent seed harvesters set themselves in a position upwind of the fluff; those who came later had less choice.

Though it got a bit crowded around the screen, the seeds could also be harvested by hand, by plucking them off the pod one by one.

Just after noon, those of us in the volunteer group headed out. A crew of university students was scheduled to arrive later in the day to continue harvesting and sorting the seeds. The time commitment seemed just right, for me—long enough to feel I'd made a contribution, but short enough that I could still get other things done that day—and feel up to doing them.

As a side bar, one of the event participants mentioned, as we were walking out to the field, that milkweed fluff was used by the pioneers as a form of insulation. I checked it out online and apparently, that's still a thing. For example, there's a Quebec clothing manufacturer who offers a coat that uses milkweed fluff as insulation. Another reason to love milkweed!

Overall, I found the event to be well-organized and well within my capabilities; and was glad the NFN had passed the information on. The online registration through the Nature Conservancy was easy to do, and the pre-event information package emailed to us was very comprehensive. We also received a post-event thank-you email, in which the organizers informed us that 2.5 kilograms of seeds (estimated to be around 352,000 seeds) were collected that day, destined to be used in the restoration of a 29 ha farm field to biodiverse pollinator habitat.

All in all, the milkweed seed collection event is definitely something I'd do again.

What's been accomplished this past season:

- Secured 4,400 individual signatories and 130 endorsing organizations for our Protected Places Declaration urging our government to fulfil their promise to protect 17 percent of Canada's lands and inland waters by 2020.
- Participated in more than 50 events in the Thunder Bay area connecting over 2,000 people to the joy of nature.
- Engaged with 106 youth from 74 diverse communities at our annual Youth Summit.
- Built a wheelchair accessible boardwalk at our Petrel Point Nature Reserve allowing people of all ages and abilities an opportunity to explore the outdoors.
- Recorded 59 sightings of species-at-risk across south Ontario, including the eastern foxsnake, blue racer and broad-banded forest snail.

Did you know that Ontario has eight species of bats? Learn about these bats by going to: [A Guide to Bats in Ontario](#).

Join us in recognizing Ontario's nature heroes by submitting nominations for the 2018 Ontario Nature [Conservation Awards](#). These annual awards recognize excellence by honouring individuals, groups, government agencies and corporations who have worked to protect nature in Ontario. All award recipients will be honoured at our Annual General Meeting on June 1, 2019 at Mohawk College in Hamilton. **The deadline for nominations is March 28, 2019.**

For further info on these topics, and more, visit:
ontarionature.org

Highlights from the October 2, 2018 meeting are:

1. Donations and pledges to the new Harry B. Barrett Fund were discussed. Some donations have been made to the fund, and \$3,000 is already pledged towards matching the \$10,000 donation, but the Board and membership still have a major commitment to reaching the exciting goal of building this fund. Once the fund has earned interest from the capital, the NFN can then begin making grants to students for local environmental field work. The Board will be encouraging supporters to make donations this fall to support this worthwhile campaign.
2. Some new updates to our approach to membership were suggested - these will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting when Jan Grincevicius, the new Membership Director, can attend.
3. A new sign has been installed at the Rowanwood Sanctuary, and there will be trail maintenance done this fall.
4. County roadside mowing policies were discussed, along with a survey sent out to election candidates asking about their views on the environment.

The next BoD Meeting will be held on January 22, 2019.

Welcome New Director!

Lisa Timpf

We are thrilled to have you on board

Thank You!

From Norfolk Field Naturalists to
Will & Morgan Partridge
Guardian Computing
For hosting our website

To All NFN Members
and Friends:
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year



Upcoming NFN 2019 Winter Events

Sunday, January 20, 2019, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Winter Birding in Haldimand County

The fields and pasture of Haldimand attract many wintering raptors, including Short-Eared Owls. The open water along the Lake Erie shoreline can be a good spot for waterfowl and the occasional Bald Eagle. Bring binoculars and wear warm clothing. Meet in Port Dover at the base of the dock on the west side of the harbour. (Weather permitting. Check the NFN website or the Nature of Norfolk Facebook page.) *Contact Len at 519-428-6796.*

Saturday, March 2, 2019, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

What a Hoot — Owl Prowl

Take a moon lit hike as we play the recorded calls of local owls to entice them to answer us. Listen to the deep hoot of the Great Horned Owl and the horse-like whinny of the Eastern Screech Owl. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Location TBA. *Contact Bernie at (519) 427-9969.*

Associated Events

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Woodhouse Christmas Bird Count (Norfolk County)
Contact Adam Timpf,
519-429-4147

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Fisherville Christmas Bird Count (Haldimand County)
Contact: Linda Thrower,
905-774-1230, linda1@295.ca

NFN Meetings

Norfolk Field Naturalist meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from September to May. Meetings take place at the **Simcoe Seniors Centre, 89 Pond Street**. The meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 7:15 pm, programs begin at 7:30 pm.

NFN Mailing Address

**Norfolk Field Naturalists
PO Box 995, Simcoe, ON
N3Y 5B3**

Next Lotus Issue:

February 2019

Input dead line:

Friday, January 25, 2019

About the NFN

Norfolk Field Naturalists members participate in meetings and field outings, many of which are family-friendly. **Membership fees are \$20 Individual and \$30 Family.**

Donations are eligible for income tax credits. Charitable registration # 11905869RR00001

Guest speakers present programs on interesting and relevant natural history and conservation topics. Club members receive the Lotus newsletter with articles on local natural history and club activities. Copies of the Lotus are available at meetings, by mail or by email and posted on the NFN web site. Articles published in the Lotus reflect the views and opinions of the authors, but not necessarily those of the NFN.

www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org

2017 - 2018 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

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and Field Events	Len Grincevicius	428-6796	portie_1989@eastlink.ca
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Director-at-large	vacant		
Director-at-large	vacant		
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Christmas Bird Counts: (appointed) Adam Timpf - Woodhouse Count 519-429-4147			
Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count 905-774-1230			
Honorary President:	George Pond		
Honorary Directors:	Anne and Dolf Wynia		