

Meeting Notes:

September 2007 Meeting

NFN Annual General Meeting

The club's AGM was held in conjunction with the September meeting. Peter Carson welcomed those present; the minutes of the previous AGM were approved; the financial statements were reviewed and approved, Peter gave his President's Report and Zeb Landon presented the Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2007-2008. Candidates were nominated and voted in for the vacant Publicity position - Nina Cameron - and the Honorary President position, vacant since the death of Arthur Langford in February. Our new Honorary President is Al Robinson. The complete list of 2007 - 2008 Directors appears on the back page of this issue.

Our new President, Audrey Heagy, thanked outgoing President Peter Carson and Director Zeb Landon for their service (and also Zeb for looking after coffee at meetings, asking for help at future meetings). Audrey requested members' inputs regarding projects they would like to see undertaken, interest in serving on the Board and field events they would like to have.

Announcements:

Norfolk - 2008 Forest Capital of Canada: Anne Wynia reminded us that Norfolk would be the Forest Capital of Canada in 2008. NFN is participating along with other groups such as the Woodlot Owners Association. A calendar of events is being developed and Norfolk Council will launch the special year with a Crier. Seasonal events such as maple syrup in March, spring plantings of trees, educational sessions and the July 100th anniversary of the Forestry Station are being planned. Watch for announcements of specific dates as plans are firmed up.

October 2007

Causeway Project: Vivienne Heydorn reported that about 100 people attended the Open House on August 18 and that funds had been raised for the consultant's work. Ecoplans took the project to the Eco Passages Conference where the problems were discussed and ideas were proposed.

There will be at least one more open house before the final report, expected in March.

Long Point World Biosphere Reserve: The President and Vice-President of the Reserve are Bernie Solymar and Peter Black, who are also NFN Directors. Details of the Causeway project can be found at the Biosphere web site - www.kwic.com/~longpointbio/

Migration Sightings: Hawk movements are well underway. At Diane Salter's waterfall, a frog caught a goldfinch's tail in its mouth and would not let go. Diane had to rescue the bird.

September Speaker:

Dan Schneider, Naturalist, Grand River
Conservation Authority was introduced by NFN
member Rick Dowson, who interviewed and hired
Dan for Guelph Lake about 25 years ago. Rick
said he could not stump him with any question he
asked and that Dan has always had a keen
interest in damselflies and dragonflies. They
worked together for many years and Rick praised
Dan's photography and his rapport with
youngsters. Dan's children are keen naturalists.

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Dan began by saying that damselflies and dragonflies are the insect "birds of prey" and their primitive design has lasted for 300 million years - they saw the dinosaurs come and go. Fossils as large as 71cm (8-9") in length have been found but the large insects did not survive. The name of their order, Odonata, means "toothy ones".

Their large compound eyes can contain as many as 20,000 simple eyes; since every facet has a slightly different angle of view, they can detect motion very quickly as far as 12 meters away. In dragonflies, the eyes cover the head like a helmet, while the eyes of damselflies bulge to the side and are separated.

Over the years, folk names have sprung up for them.

Parents told their children that the "Devil's Darning Needle" would sew their lips shut if they told a lie. Some believed they collaborated with snakes and called them "Snake Doctors". Another name was "Horse Stingers" as they were often seen



around livestock (possibly searching for horse flies?).

Four powerful wings move independently, enabling them to fly forward and backward. Long legs, unsuitable for walking, form a "basket" to catch prey in flight. Odonata cannot fold their wings against their bodies; dragonflies extend them horizontally to the side and damselflies hold them vertically. Both mate in flight and later the eggs are deposited in or close to water. The wingbeats are slow but powerful, 20-70 per second, (a fly 1000), and 24% of the body weight is flight muscle. They usually catch prey on the wing.

Nature Is Contagious - Pass It On!

NFN meetings and outings are open to the public and members are encouraged to bring friends and neighbours to these events. Why not pick up a few extra copies of the 2007-08 Speakers and Outings program to hand out to others who might be interested?

Most of their life is spent underwater as nymphs. Damselfly nymphs have feathery gills and propel themselves with a wiggly motion. Dragonfly nymphs pass oxygen through a lining and suck water in, then expel it to move in quick bursts of speed. The nymphs are aquatic predators that extend a grasper in about a tenth of a second to catch insects, tadpoles, even small fish. The nymphs and adults destroy huge numbers of mosquito larvae / adults and the adults also search out biting insects like deer flies.

Some dragonflies, such as the Green Darner, migrate. Their flights are usually followed by flights of Kestrels, which prey on them. Migrants arrive in the early spring, lay their eggs and die. Then the resident larvae emerge from the water, split the skin along the middle of the thorax and release the adult. The larvae that develop from migrant eggs emerge in the fall (about now) and then will migrate. There is still a good month of watching left for us to observe these creatures (to mid- or late October).

Dan emphasized that these insects provide good biological controls and are also indicators of good water quality in addition to preying on insects that bite humans. He urged us to "get out to our local bodies of water and start appreciating these fascinating creatures" as a homework assignment. In closing, he quoted Alfred, Lord Tennyson's 1833 poem:

Today I saw the dragon-fly
Come from the wells where he did lie.
An inner impulse rent the veil
Of his old husk: from head to tail
Came out clear plates of sapphire mail.
He dried his wings: like gauze they grew;
Thro' crofts and pastures wet with dew
A living flash of light he flew.

For further reading, Dan recommended these books as excellent references:

- <u>Dragonflies and Damselflies of Southwestern</u>
 <u>Ontario</u> by Ian Carmichael, Alistair MacKenzie and Brad Steinberg. Published by Friends of Pinery Park, RR2, Grand Bend, ON N0M 1T0
- A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America by J. Reese Voshell Jr., McDonald and Woodward Publishing Co., Blackburg, VA 2002 (Ed: This is available online at Amazon priced about \$33 new).
- <u>Dragonflies Through Binoculars</u> by Sidney W.
 Dunkle. Oxford University Press (Ed: This is available online at Amazon for about \$25 new)

Recent NFN Field Outings 2007

Audrey Heagy, Field Trip Coordinator

Over the spring and summer, there was an array of successful NFN field outings. The weather cooperated for almost every event and there was a good turn out of enthusiastic participants.

On a cool but sunny morning in late April, Matt Brock led a Tour of the NFN's Rowanwood Sanctuary

property in South Walsingham. Many

Walsingham. Many species of early spring wildflowers were flowering including Hepatica, Spring Beauty, Pink Spring Cress, Marsh Marigold, and Trout Lily. Many trees and shrubs were also flowering and we could see that many flying insects



were attracted to the Spicebush flowers, including a few blackflies! Photo by Alan McKeown

Several of the club members who came out for the outing to the **Long Point Bird Observatory banding** station on Old Cut Boulevard in early May had never been there before. Weather conditions were on the cool side and the few birds around were staying high in the trees, making for difficult viewing and not many captures in the nets. We did see a variety of colourful neotropical migrants back from their winter in Central or South America including Baltimore Orioles, Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian Warblers.

Despite strong winds, ominous dark clouds, and even a tornado warning, a handful of people came out for an evening walk led by Audrey Heagy around the dykes at the **Big Creek Wildlife Area** on May 15th. The young Sandhill Cranes from the nest near the dyke that had been spotted a few days earlier on Birdathon had moved elsewhere, and the other marsh birds and frogs were also keeping a low profile that evening.

The weather was perfect for the **Canoe Trip on Big Creek** in June, sunny and not too hot. The group set out from the 1st Concession in four canoes and three kayaks. After a leisurely paddle down to the Front Road we stopped for a picnic lunch at the bridge by Port Royal, before heading further downstream through the marshes to the bridge on the Causeway. One of the highlights of the trip was the excellent view of a Black Tern perched on a stump in this lower section of the creek. We'll be running this trip again in 2008, but not on the opening day of bass season!

Conditions for the Walk at the Heagy/Okines property near St. Williams in July were perfect for butterflies - hot, blazing sun, and only the slightest breeze. An intrepid group of more than 20 naturalists. outfitted with hats, sunscreen and water, ventured forth along the pathways through the old field habitat. Many butterflies seen flitting over the field or nectaring on the butterfly milkweed including several Great Spangled Fritillaries, Tiger and Black swallowtails, Coral and Striped hairstreaks, Pearl Crescents and Wood-Nymphs. Unfortunately, the nesting bluebirds didn't cooperate. The one pair had finished their first nest; the adults and fledged young were off feeding somewhere else that day. The female of the second bluebird pair was sitting tight on her second clutch of eggs.

Long Point Butterfly Count Results

Adam and Doug Timpf

Although we were slightly undermanned this year, the weather on July 7th was perfect and we set a new count record with 55 species (previous 53 in 2005)!.

Some of the highlights are as follows; the bracketed number (#) is the old count high.

Harvester - 1

Striped Hairstreak - 13 (6)

Baltimore Checkerspot - 34 (13) (extra effort / extra

bodies in theT.P. Marsh)

Grey Comma - 1 (1)

Compton Tortoiseshell - 2 (1) (first since '96)

Mourning Cloak - 36 (16)

Red Admiral - 410 is 2nd highest count

Tawny Emperor - 1

Common Wood-Nymph - 136 (44)

Monarch - 184 (134)

Southern Cloudywing - 0 (first time ever missed)

Common Sootywing - 1 (1) (first since '97)

Tawny-edged Skipper - 1

Crossline Skipper - 12 (9)

Broad-winged Skipper - 6

Dion Skipper - 2

Black Dash Skipper - 3

Dun Skipper - 69 (2nd highest)

Thanks to all who participated, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Ed. Note: The chart on the following pages contains the results going back to 1992, the inaugural year of the count. All the high counts are shown there.

NABA Bufferfly Counts - Long Doi	afulle	200	100		Ortario Canada		1007	Drogont	45							
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High Count	Jul 04	Jul 05	Jul 09	Jul 01	Jul 06	Jul 05	Jul 08	Jul 03	Jul 01	Jul 07	Jul 06	Jul 05	Jul 03	Jul 02	Jul 01	Jul 07
English Name	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2002	2006	2007
Black Swallowtail	5	က	10	13	4	∞		10	~	4		2	2	~	2	7
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	28	25	61	118	13	45	107	175	122	153	62	35	44	53	47	20
Spicebush Swallowtail	13	24	48	73	22	39	94	105	64	51	73	80	25	27	44	18
Pipevine Swallowtail								4				~				
Checkered White					-											
Mustard White			2													***************************************
Cabbage White	96	206	124	286	177	114	81	205	202	167	42	304	132	526	318	158
Clouded Sulphur	10	19	38	09	48	44	4	169	96	24	46	30	69	22	36	44
Orange Sulphur	16	132	34	18	4	51	2	62	28	15	12	0	38	4	2	. 60
Harvester								9		~				2		. ~
American Copper		_	15		4	2	18	28	က	21		~	2	-	က	- 10
Bronze Copper	10	0	17	17	2	33	_	2	2	7	7	13	22	12	75	000
Coral Hairstreak	7	_	13	က	20	7	36	19	15		4	9	12	24	26	28
Acadian Hairstreak		2	34	12	က		12	~	2		~	~	4	20	17	18
Edward's Hairstreak	_		9	22	က		73	∞	22	21	10		က	28	45	15
Banded Hairstreak	7	_	47	∞	39	_	23	29	10	28	က		40	36	57	26
Hickory Hairstreak		ě	2	7	-					_	9			က	4	3
Striped Hairstreak						_	2	~	~	9			2	4	7	13
Gray Hairstreak								2	_							
Eastern Tailed-Blue	7	9	24	53	25		2	22	31	4	1	4	ဗ	14	22	က
Summer Azure	66	28	9	00	7	4	2	81	140	66	00	317	28	36	151	20
Great Spangled Fritillary	9	œ	40	47	23	12	09	138	63	45	17	10	49	92	86	89
Silver-bordered Fritillary	-															
Meadow Fritillary		-								-					-	
Aphrodite Fritillary		_	2	-	~											
Silvery Checkerspot	∞	7		∞	30	47	4	20	53	27	9	39	42	23	10	12
Pearl Crescent							178	က	4	2	7	က	O	00	7	12
Northern Crescent	41	80	224	415	214	307	343	223	367	392	169	309	313	203	250	88
Baltimore Checkerspot	4	13	7	∞	13	10	4	12			13	4	7	4	က	34
Question Mark	œ	က	7	7		7	က	21	10	4	7	2	4	9	7	7
Eastern Comma	4	_	2	4	4	10		6	15	œ		80	7	0	22	20
Grey Comma	,													-		
Compton Tortoiseshell	_	~			~											2
Mourning Cloak	တ	_	7	15	တ	4	~	6	6	16		7	7	က	14	36
Milbert's Tortoiseshell															-	
American Lady	9	_	16	4		7	∞		~	တ	_	2	က	~		12
Painted Lady	21			9					4	ග				က	4	
Red Admiral	153	18	49	32	7	47	20	22	130	521	19	4	09	29	6	410
Red-spotted Purple	7	6	13	18	4	30	9	2	14	2	9	12	28	26	14	80

NABA Butterfly Counts One	ofull	200	Doint	2	2		4002		- ye							
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Tawny Emperor									7			2	39	7	7	_
Northern Pearly-Eye		7	_	9	4	7	28	36	15		5	9	22	41	7	2
Eyed Brown	9	19	48	35	24	19	ဗ	09	7	7	31	4	2	64	17	12
Appalacian Brown	4	4	-	38	-	19	23	ъ	4	9	_		ග	5	4	17
Little Wood-Satyr	249	117	22	140	102	265	21	20	122	28	22	223	49	37	42	. 0
Common Ringlet	6	~		4		17			4	_	₩	9	~	က	2	-
Common Wood-Nymph		က	25	4	4	က	4	28	_	15	က	_	17	26	30	136
Monarch	22	21	29	25	56	134	7	21	22	4	2	27	12	34	29	184
Silver-spotted Skipper	26	19	22	154	86	64	161	105	98	83	65	29	108	28	29	14
Southern Cloudywing	7	_	_	18	26	18	-	17	4	2	_	22	4	5	7	
Northern Cloudywing	4	_	~	7	2	14	7	က	က	7	~	_		_	2	m
Dreamy Duskywing		4		က	_	-)
Sleepy Duskywing	~					7						_				
Juvenal's Duskywing	4	5		2		-		_				•				
Common Sootywing			_			_									-	
Least Skipper	31	151	26	26	7	72		22	13	8	ო	~	4	ဖ	. 16	28
European Skipper	243	1058	183	1789	602	3913	39	64	544	66	383	852	1250	3802	3106	222
Peck's Skipper	O	14	~	9	10	4		~	7			က	_	က		
Tawny-edged Skipper	~			2	_		2		τ-					8		_
Crossline Skipper	~	က		လ		7	-		4		က	7	6	2	5	12
Long Dash	22	31	80	12	9	32	2	9	တ	က	2	9	4	7	~	2
Northern Broken-Dash	_	10	56	21	10	œ	87	22	19	26	21	0	17	15	13	33
Little Glassywing	9		_	19	4			_	-	က	7	7	19	4	7	n
Sachem			-)
Delaware Skipper			9	5	က	7	4	12	7		က	_	7	က	00	က
Hobomok Skipper	92	36	4	31	23	19		4	0	က	4	17	9	10	7	_
Broad-winged Skipper	~		9	7		7	4	24	_	-						9
Dion Skipper			7			~		9		က						2
Black Dash			7				_	4				_				m
Two-spotted Skipper	.31	7	~	7				က			-	က)
Dun Skipper			15	2	_		171	6	~	10	œ	4	4	16	~	69
Total Individuals	1340	2145	1401	3619	1667	5472	1713	1952	2322	2032	1095	2597	2565	5146	4652	1925
Average since 1992	2603													:)
Total Species	47	47	21	52	48	47	43	52	51	48	43	48	47	53	51	55
Average since 1992	49															
Grand Total Species:	71															

2007 Baillie Birdathon Interim Results

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Once again, NFN members did an outstanding job in the annual Baillie Birdathon fund-raiser.

As of August 10th, NFN participants had turned in more than \$17,000 in pledges to Bird Studies Canada (BSC). Under the Birdathon club revenue-sharing arrangement, the NFN will get a cheque for some \$7,500!

Another portion of the Birdathon revenue is allocated to the Baillie Fund, which provides grants in support of amateur bird research and conservation project across Canada. The Baillie Birdathon benefits birds by helping the many amateur ornithologists and conservation organizations working to understand their needs and conserve bird habitat.

Ecological Restoration Tour

DE MARIE

Anne Davidson

Led by Mary Gartshore and Peter Carson, fifteen of us set out just after 1 pm on Sept. 15, 2007 to view ecological restoration and preservation projects being carried out by the Long Point Basin Land Trust. At Pterophylla, we viewed three different approaches - 1) Little action taken to restore, 2) Some action taken to restore and 3) Full restoration activity.

First, we went to a radar installation set up to measure wind direction and velocity, viewing, en route grasses, plants and hedgerow trees being



cultivated. The antenna of the radar installation fills a large field which is restoring itself from the trees and plants around the margin of the field; these are seeding and moving into the field without human intervention (Approach 1).

After visiting a beaver pond (very low after the dry summer), we continued east beside a tall prairie grass plantation, an area that had been fully restored by planting (Approach 3).



Beyond that, an area that had trees both planted and started from seed, was also showing signs of restoring itself from existing plantings (the second approach - some action taken). We saw that trees started from seed were stronger and more symmetrical than planted ones, indicating how stressed bare-root plantings are and pointing to seed planting as a preferable method of starting trees.

Driving south one concession from Pterophylla, we visited the Stead 50-acre plantation, which, in 1989, had been sand fields sown with rve. Entry to the planted area was through a woods with huge poison ivy plants. This plantation is a hognose snake breeding area and we looked for holes and nests as well as young ones which would have been hatching now, but none were seen. A lot of the sand had developed a dense mossy cover, which is likely keeping moisture from the soil. Audrey Heagy found a baby tiger beetle, which expressed its displeasure at being picked up by biting her. Sand prairie plant species such as arrow-leaf violet were found and we saw three kinds of cricket: snowy tree. black-backed horned and four-spotted. Peter and Mary located them easily, but I never found one myself.



A tiny cricket on an oak leaf at the Stead plantation Photo(s): Anne Davidson

Many young oaks, planted from acorns, were in various stages of growth. This location, the most mature one we saw, demonstrated how the restoration strategy supports insect and other life immediately, an important consideration for areas being restored

Just east of Pterophylla, we visited Lake Erie Farms, a Nature Conservancy (NCC) property. Seeded in 2006, only 185 of its 400 acres require restoration: the rest is forest. This new restoration area still looks like "fields of weeds" at first glance. Aggressive weeds are still abundant; however, they require soil turning to thrive and, each year, fewer will remain because the ground will not be tilled again. Peter told us that a sample of field soil usually contains 30% weed seed and weed growth cannot be prevented at first. But, once we stood out in the fields, we found a wide variety of the other plantings below the weeds. such as lupins, daisies, wormwood, etc., and many tiny young oak trees. This brand new area, too, already is supporting insect and other life. A species of bee, thought to be extinct for about 10 years, (and having only one other record in Canada) was found there as well as Checkered White butterflies.

All of us found the tour fascinating and informative. We lingered on at the end, talking and asking questions for another hour. We had a super day out, and learned so much from Mary and Peter.

Sand Ridges Stash and Dash Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007 9:30 am

USA USA USA

The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontatio Region, invites members of the Norfolk Field Naturalists to join NCC staff and partners in restoring former agricultural fields, one acorn at a time.

The "Sand Ridges Stash and Dash" will take place on the 400-acre Lake Erie Farms property located within the significant South Walsingham Sand Ridges in the heart of Carolinian Canada.

For more information, contact: Wendy Cridland Tel: 519-586-7773 x 202

Picture Gallery



Al Robinson, was appointed NFN's Honorary President at the September 2007 AGM Photo:by: Nancy Baldock



April Wildflower Walk at Rowanwood Photo by: Audrey Heagy



The well-attended February Tree Identification hike Photo by: Alicia Salyi

Upcoming NFN Outings

Sat. Oct. 20/07 1:30 pm **Backus Woods Mushrooms Hike** Audrev Heagy 519-586-9464 Family-friendly.



Sun. Nov 18/07 1:30 pm Late Fall Walk at **Turkey Point Park** Audrey Heagy 519-586-9464 Family-friendly



Christmas Bird Counts

Plan to join one of the local **Christmas Bird** counts. \$5 per participant, waived for BSC members. Or, phone in to report the number of birds at your feeder on count day (no charge).







Sat. Dec. 15/07 **Long Point Count** Ron Ridout 519-586-3531 rridout@bsc-eoc.org

Sun. Dec. 16/07 **Woodhouse Count** (Simcoe Area) David Okines 519-586-9464 davidokines@aol.com

Sun. Dec. 23/07 Fisherville Count (Haldimand Co.) Linda Thrower 905-774-1230 giantindians@sympatico.ca

Next NFN Meeting

Tue. Nov. 13/07 7:30 pm

Planning for Sustainable Communities

Dr. Dan McCarthy & Sara Edge, University of Waterloo

NFN Meetings

Norfolk Field Naturalist meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from September to May. The election of Directors takes place at the September meeting.

Meetings take place at the Simcoe Seniors Centre on Pond Street. They are free and visitors are always welcome. The doors open at 7:15 pm and the program begins at 7:30 pm.

> **Next issue of Lotus:** December 2007 Input cutoff date:

Fri. Nov. 23 / 07

Club Mailing Address

Norfolk Field Naturalists P.O.Box 995, Simcoe, ON N3Y 5B3

About the NFN

Norfolk Field Naturalist members participate in the meetings and frequent field outings, many of which are family-friendly.

Membership fees, due in September, are \$20- Individual and \$30- Family; donations are eligible for income tax credits.

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. published bi-monthly from October to June by volunteer club members. Copies of the Lotus are available at meetings but will be mailed (free of charge) to members if not picked up. Articles published in the Lotus reflect the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the NFN.

A complete listing of Norfolk's flora and fauna, compiled by NFN members, can be found on the NFN website. Visit it at:

www.kwic.com/nfn

2007 - 2008 NFN Directors with Contact and Project Information

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President + Field Outings	Audrey Heagy	586-9464	aheagy@bsc-eoc.org
Past Pres. + Natural Areas	Peter Carson	586-3985	gartcar@kwic.com
Vice-President	Tara Crewe	586-3531 x	232 tcrewe@bsc-eoc.org
Treasurer	Lynda Kosalle	426-0826	kosalle@amtelecom.net
Secretary + Causeway	Vivienne Heydorn	586-9528	heydorn@amtelecom.net
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Environment	Colleen Dale	586-9726	cdale22@yahoo.ca
Dir. + Lakeshre 2ndary Pln	Peter Black	426-5036	peterblack@kwic.com
Director- at-large	David Okines	586-9464	davidokines@aol.com
Director-at-large	Shirley Rothery	586-9535	shirleyrothery@hotmail.com

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Butterfly Counts Doug Timpf 586-9964 timpf@nornet.on.ca **Lotus Editor** Anne Davidson 446-3589 anne.davidson@sympatico.ca