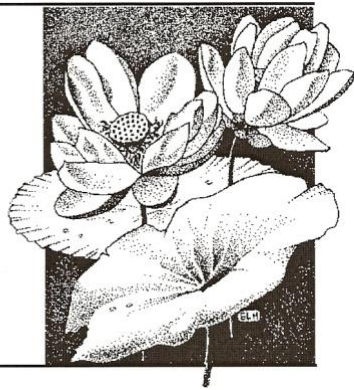


Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



FEBRUARY 2019



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FISHERVILLE

Report by: Linda Thrower

The Fisherville Christmas Bird Count was held on Friday December 28th, 2018. Thanks so much for all the effort that was put out that day to count birds. Fisherville CBC has 7seven new records all for the lowest number since the count began but that's what the day held. The weather was not what I expected for late December, but it was a nice day for a walk. The temperature was +11C with no snow and open water visibility of about 10 km. As the afternoon arrived, so did the clouds and light drizzle. The winds picked up to about 20 to 25 km/hour from the south. Even then the birds hid.



Cooper's Hawk
Photo by Larry Monczka

- Trumpeter Swans first time spotted since 2012.
- Mallards with their lowest number since 1993.
- Canvasbacks liked the day as they came in with a new highest number since 2007.
- Ring-necked Ducks are on the count for the sixth time since the count began.
- Lesser Scaups had a new high record, a first since 2008.
- Hooded Mergansers are back on the count with none since 2014.



Snowy Owl

Photo by Len Grincevicius

- So first a new high number record Sandhill Cranes. First time seen in Square 8 and in their largest number since the count began with 12 being seen.
- Canada Geese were well-hidden with the lowest number since 1997.

- Cooper's Hawk had their lowest number since 1999 when 1 was also counted.
- Ruffed Grouse is back on the count with the last time being 2016.
- Wild turkeys were out taking advantage of the weather in their highest number since 2008.
- Rock Pigeons were found in their highest number since 2012.
- Eastern Screech Owl was absent from the count for the first time.
- 1 Snowy Owl was found this year.
- 1 Long-eared Owl was seen.

cont'd. p.2

- 1 Belted Kingfisher was spotted.
- Even the woodpeckers were in hiding with the red-bellied having its lowest number since 1989.
- Crows could not be found in their regular stops, so we recorded their lowest number since 2003.
- Black-capped Chickadees showed up in their lowest number since 1989.
- Tufted Titmouse were in their lowest numbers since 2002.
- Marsh wren was first time on the count.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet —1 on the count in the same area as last year.
- Eastern Bluebird absent from count for the first time since 1995.
- Horned lark was absent from the count for the first time since 1989.
- Gray Catbird back on the count for the third time. 2011 was their last appearance.

- American Tree Sparrow in their lowest number since count began.
- Field Sparrow back on the count again it had been missing since 2012.
- Song Sparrow in their lowest numbers.
- Even the Slate-coloured Junco have a new low record.
- Snow Buntings were nowhere to be found for the first time since the count began.
- Northern cardinal lowest number for the count.
- American Goldfinch were in hiding with a new low as well.
- Just to end this on a high note: House Finches have their highest number since 2012. Common Redpoll new high number with the last time on count being 2012.

With all of that effort put forth, the total species for the count was 74.

Horned Grebe	2	Peregrine Falcon	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	19
Great Blue heron	11	Ring-necked Pheasant	6	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Canada Geese	1656	Ruffed Grouse	1	Gray Catbird	1
Cackling Goose	2	Wild Turkey	276	Northern Mocking bird	1
Trumpeter Sawn	2	Ring-bellied Gull	56	American Robin	1
Tundra Swan	19	Herring Gull	23	European Starling	1214
Wood Duck	2	Rock Pigeon	426	American Tree Sparrow	67
Am. Black Duck	3	Gr. Black Backed Gull	5	Field Sparrow	2
Mallard	97	Mourning Dove	252	Song Sparrow	4
Canvasback	30	Great-horned Owl	3	Swamp Sparrow	1
Red-headed Duck	71	Snowy Owl	1	White-throated Sparrow	8
Ring-necked Duck	2	Long-eared Owl	1	Slate-colored Junco	88
Greater Scaup	750	Belted Kingfisher	1	Northern Cardinal	58
Lesser Scaup	99	Red-bellied Woodpecker	34	Red-winged Blackbird	25
Bufflehead	269	Downy Woodpecker	31	Common Grackle	2
Common Goldeneye	70	Hairy Woodpecker	8	Yellow-shafted Flicker	3
Hooded Merganser	10	Northern Shrike	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	394
Common Merganser	63	Blue Jay	115	House Finch	129
Red-breasted Merganser	129	American Crow	92	Common Redpoll	90
Bald Eagle	6	Black-capped Chickadee	138	American Goldfinch	132
Northern Harrier	29	Tufted Titmouse	2	House Sparrow	977
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	Marsh Wren	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	42	Sand hill Cranes	12
Red-tailed Hawk	91	Brown Creeper	5	Total Species	71
Rough-legged Hawk	16	Carolina Wren	6	Total Individuals	9,214
Am. Kestrel	31				

cont'd. on p.3

The birders whose effort I greatly appreciate are:

Area 1 — Rob Crawford, Cody Rowe. Wanda Rowe

Area 2 — Trish Borger, Garnet Faulkner, Kevin Stephens, Nickolas Stephens

Area 3 — Bill Read, Jerry Geuther, Mary Galli

Area 4 — George Pond, Rick Dowson, Allan Aubin

Area 5 — Adam Timpf, Matt Timpf, Janice Chard

Area 6 — Tom Thomas, Bill Smith

Area 7 — Honey Cornfoot, Howard Cornfoot, Liam Cornfoot, Hugh McArthur, Julia Weaver, Randy Wilson

Area 8 — Matt Mills, John McBride, Rob Smuck, Bob Stamp, Terry Tait, Al Thrower, Linda Thrower

Area 9 — Audrey Heagy, Diane Salter

Total Number of Participants: 33

The rest of the data is:

Number of parties — 15; Number of feeders — 2;
Total Party Hours — 184.5; Total Driving Hours — 104;
Total Km Driving — 1718; Total Hours Walked — 80.5;
Total Km Walked — 105.5

Owling Total:

Hours — 1.5; Distance — 15 km



Red-Breasted Nuthatch
Photo by Jan Grincevicius

Feeders:

Hours — 8; Total No. Feeders — 2

Thank You to one and all who had the time to count the birds!!

Thanks to Ontario Power Generation site for allowing access to their property.

Photo Quiz — Trees

In the winter months, we do not have the leaves to help identify trees. Can you identify these Norfolk trees from their bark? The answers are on page 6.



WHERE ARE WE AT WITH THE HERBICIDE TREATMENT OF PHRAGMITES IN NORFOLK?

Public Information Session — August 20, 2018
Report by Inga Hinnerichsen

What's been done:

- After three years of treating phragmites in Rondeau Provincial Park, Long Point Bay nearshore, Crown Marsh, Turkey Point Marsh plus adjacent areas, the results are very encouraging. Only small pockets of phragmites remains and some re-growth where it was missed.
- Any areas treated will require "mop-up" work.
- Norfolk County is on board and is eradicating phragmites in the ditches along public roads.

In a Simcoe Reformer article of July 28, 2018, Toby Barrett, MPP, indicated that “One only need stop at the Joe Csubak lookout on the Front Road in Norfolk to see the effectiveness of spraying. Where there used to be a sea of phragmites, there is now open water, native marsh vegetation and broad areas of the dead invasive.”. Mr. Barrett went on to say “As Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry ... I look forward to seeing a continued concerted effort provincially to take on this present threat.”.

How this is being done:

- The Nature Conservancy of Canada is the operational lead for this work, in partnership with the MNRF who acquire the necessary approvals from Health Canada.
- Large, dense stands of phragmites are being sprayed by helicopter, from the MarshMaster

amphibious vehicle, or from a Jon boat. Mop-up spraying is also done by the MarshMaster or, by foot, with people carrying backpacks of the herbicide and spraying by hand.

- The helicopter flies slowly at a maximum height of over the phragmites. Spraying by air is only possible on days with no or very light wind; and the spray nozzle is adjusted to produce small droplets, not a fine mist, to prevent drifting into areas not to be treated.
- The MarshMaster is very light weight. If it happens to move over a reptile in its path, it only gets pressed into the soft substrate unharmed. Operator and exterminator on upper deck of MarshMaster are constantly scanning for wildlife and take steps to avoid such travelling in dense Phragmites stands as much as possible.

Hurdles along the way:

- Phragmites is a grass, which was introduced from Europe. It spreads rapidly by the large number of seeds it produces, long rhizomes and even last year's fallen growth, which can grow new mother plants out of all nodes along the stalk. Further spreading of this invasive plant is mostly due to human activities, both recreational and construction.
- Government approvals, both federal and provincial, are required before any spraying over wetlands can be done.
- The glyphosate (Roundup Custom) herbicide is surfactant-less and needs to be imported to Canada from the USA and have an aquatic-safe surfactant added from Canadian chemical manufacturer.



Hand Cutting
Photo by Inga Hinnerichsen

cont'd. p.5

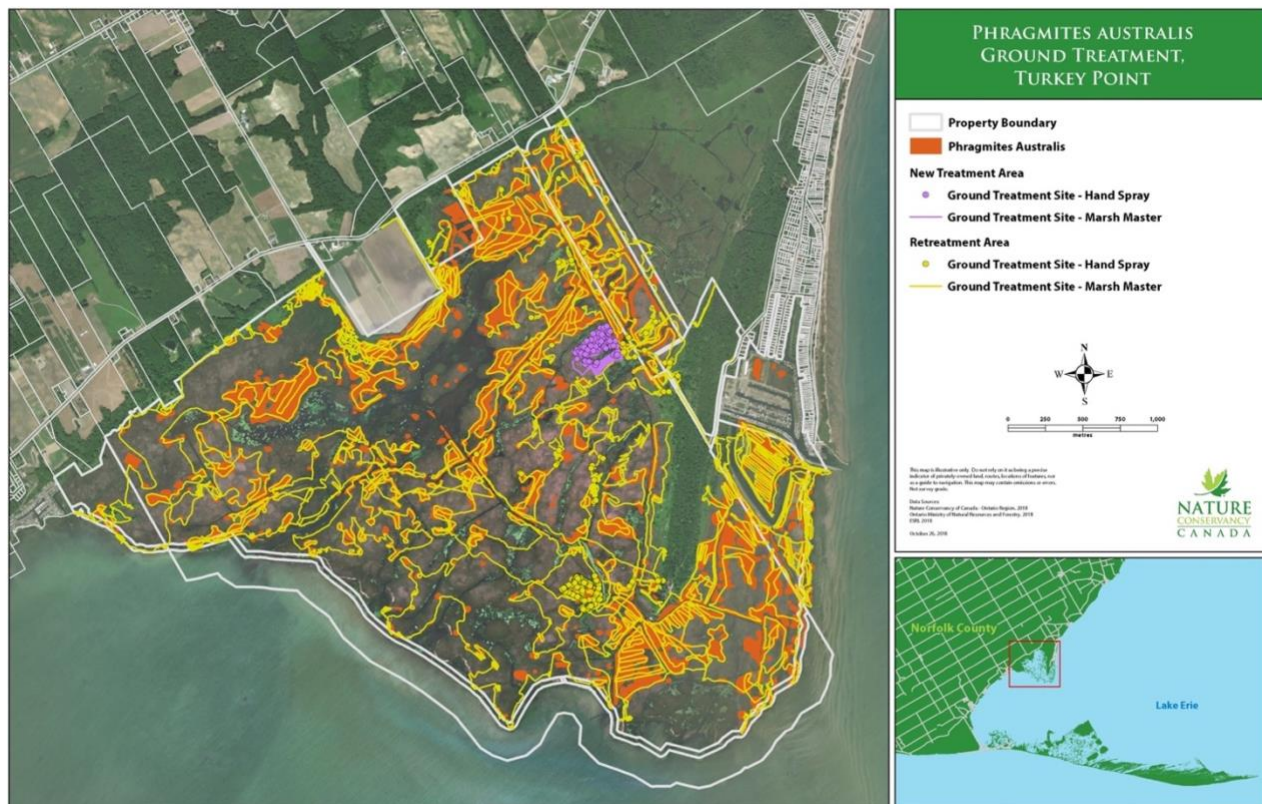
2018 Herbicide Treatment Update on the Phragmites EUR Project

Report by Eric Gunnell (LPRA) and
Eric Cleland (NCC), LPPAA Co-chairs
(printed with permission)

The 2018 Treatment season was a resounding success. The primary focus was to search through areas treated with herbicide in the previous two seasons and target any Phragmites re-growth that may have returned. We know from experience that most often Phragmites is not fully controlled in one treatment season. This work was primarily accomplished through the use of NCC's MarshMaster and a contracted MarshMaster owned by Eric Giles of Giles Restoration Services Inc. As you can imagine, the scale and size of areas covered was significant and this work took a lot of long days to accomplish. While the work was slow to complete, the good news is that most areas showed very little Phragmites re-growth and as a result a greatly reduced volume of herbicide was applied this year. See an example map of treatment and coverage at Turkey Point.

There were a few new sites treated as part of the program this year to close in gaps from previous years and ensure as landscape-scale of an impact as possible. In 2018 the remaining private wetlands in lower Big Creek near Port Royal were treated as well as the last coastal wetland in the Turkey Point complex. Aerial work using a helicopter was a small portion of these new treatment areas in 2018, accounting for about 10 ha in lower Big Creek, 14 ha at Long Point Company and 3 ha at the Crown Marsh. The remaining new areas in Turkey Point, including Ordnance Beach, were treated from the ground using the MarshMasters.

We will be working with the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation to significantly update the project information on our website and will upload the rest of the 2018 project maps and a detailed summary as well as future plans to that website over the coming months.



cont'd. p.6

Integrated Pest Management Follow-up Actions

As part of a good IPM program several steps are often required to achieve control of a pest. With the Phragmites control program as a follow-up to the herbicide treatment, larger stands are cut, rolled and/or prescribed burn during the winter months. This work has begun in the coastal wetlands at lower Big Creek, Turkey Point and Long Point. and will continue rolling and cutting until hard freeze up arrives and start again when thaw occurs in late winter. The window to do this work is very small with the ice limitations and the need to work after turtles begin overwintering and before spring emergence along with the return of migratory birds. We anticipate some prescribed burns to occur in the meantime if mother nature works with us and limits snow cover.

Next Steps for 2019

NCC has been very fortunate to receive funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's CWS Ontario (CWS) department to support a number of Phragmites-related activities this winter. Recognizing the need to support the important on-the-ground work as well as planning requirements to move the control program forward and inland, CWS has provided funding to promote Phragmites rolling, cutting and burning this winter in the Long Point area as well as much-needed NCC staff time

to develop an implementation plan for Phragmites control in the Big Creek watershed. NCC has agreed to match these funds dollar for dollar and the result will be a plan that prioritizes, maps and outlines how to eradicate upstream seed sources that may re-infest our treated coastal wetlands, approximately 60 ha of created/restored wetlands in the lower Big Creek watershed, Phragmites cut and rolled using mechanical and manual methods across the Long Point region and a number of prescribed burns. This important funding will lay the cornerstone for moving this program to the next phase and position us well to deliver control inland in 2019. NCC greatly appreciates this partnership with CWS and looks forward to another successful Phrag-fighting season. Updates on the winter activities including plan development will be forthcoming.

Through this partnership, NCC has brought Karen Alexander to Norfolk part-time to help prepare the watershed implementation plan. Karen has been working with NCC in our Windsor office for most of 2018 and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in Phragmites management from her previous role at the Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative in Michigan. Karen is establishing a working group to help her develop the implementation plan which will consider all aspects of trying to control Phragmites in the inland agricultural landscape.

Photo Quiz — Trees

Answers:

1. Black Oak
2. Kentucky Coffee
3. Eastern Flowering Dogwood
4. Tulip
5. Eastern Hemlock
6. Black Walnut

BRUCE PENINSULA – NATURE WEEKEND

May 24 – 26, 2019

With South Peel Naturalists' Club

BIRDING and GENERAL NATURE/BOTANY
FIELD TRIPS — BUCKET RAFFLE AND BIRD
QUIZ

Limestone cliffs and sand beaches, hardwood forests and cedar swamps, fens and alvars – this variety of ecosystems on the Bruce Peninsula makes it a special place for naturalists.

The cost per person for the weekend:

- \$20 registration fee to cover cost of bucket raffle prizes and lodging for volunteer leaders
- \$244 (+ 13% taxes) for two nights' accommodation at Evergreen Resort, Mar, ON (includes all meals and snacks)

For further information: mail@spnc.ca

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WOODHOUSE

Report by: Adam Timpf

These are the results of the 32nd Woodhouse CBC held on Sunday, December 16, 2018. The Woodhouse CBC is centred seven kilometres east of Simcoe, at the crossroads of Highway 3 and Cockshutt Road at Renton in Norfolk County and roughly covers from Port Dover to Waterford and just west of Simcoe to east of Jarvis.

Weather: The weather this year was relatively warm, being on the plus side of 0. The lack of precipitation made for comfortable birding conditions, but the lack of snow cover made it tricky to find the birds since they were not concentrated. The wind was mostly calm or light from the northeast.

Total Species: 82 with 1 additional Count Week species (average for the last 31 years = 80; average for the last 10 years = 86)

Total Individuals: 16,635 (average for the last 31 years = 25,827, average for the last 10 years = 24,038)

Number of participants: 37



Common Goldeneye

Photo by Larry Monczka



Brown Creeper

Photo by George Pond

RECORD HIGH: (previous high)

Horned Grebe	14	(5)
Brown Creeper	18	(14)
Eastern Bluebird	93	(86)
Common Raven	2	(2) Resident pair near Port Dover

RECORD LOW: (previous low)

Great Black-backed Gull	1	(2)
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NOTABLE ABSENTEES

Brown-headed Cowbird	1 st year missed in 32 counts
Ruffed Grouse	9 th year in a row
Rusty Blackbird	1 st miss since 2009
A variety of ducks considering all the open water	

ALSO WORTHY OF MENTION

Common Loon	1 (8 th record)
Trumpeter Swan	1 (1 st since 2010)
Eastern Phoebe	1 (1 st since 2007 and 4 th record)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2 (1 st since 2006)
Evening Grosbeak	27 (highest count since 1997)

NEW SPECIES TO THE COUNT: None

COUNT WEEK SPECIES: A Snow Goose that has been hanging out with the Canada Geese in downtown Simcoe.

cont'd. p.8

FULL SPECIES LIST AND TALLY

Common Loon	1	Wild Turkey	78	Golden-crowned Kinglet	31
Horned Grebe	14	Bonaparte's Gull	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Great Blue Heron	2	Ring-billed Gull	163	Eastern Bluebird	94
Mute Swan	5	Herring Gull	71	Hermit Thrush	1
Trumpeter Swan	1	Great Black-backed Gull	1	American Robin	32
Tundra Swan	41	Rock Pigeon	879	Northern Mockingbird	3
Canada Goose	7057	Mourning Dove	481	European Starling	749
Cackling Goose	5	Eastern Screech-Owl	4	Cedar Waxwing	46
Mallard	799	Great Horned Owl	2	Myrtle Warbler	4
American Black Duck	17	Belted Kingfisher	7	American Tree Sparrow	227
Gadwall	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	40	Chipping Sparrow	4
Redhead	657	Downy Woodpecker	82	Field Sparrow	2
Greater Scaup	315	Hairy Woodpecker	17	Song Sparrow	51
Lesser Scaup	24	Yellow-shafted Flicker	11	Swamp Sparrow	22
(Scaup Sp)	21	Pileated Woodpecker	1	White-throated Sparrow	31
Common Goldeneye	132	Eastern Phoebe	1	White-crowned Sparrow	5
Bufflehead	152	Northern Shrike	2	Slate-colored Junco	950
Hooded Merganser	10	Blue Jay	240	Northern Cardinal	162
Common Merganser	44	American Crow	537	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Red-breasted Merganser	80	Common Raven	2	Common Grackle	1
(Duck Sp)	405	Horned Lark	3	Purple Finch	2
Bald Eagle	16	Black-capped Chickadee	376	House Finch	90
Northern Harrier	6	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	2	Common Redpoll	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	19	Pine Siskin	15
Cooper's Hawk	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	98	American Goldfinch	278
Red-tailed Hawk	64	Brown Creeper	18	House Sparrow	734
Rough-legged Hawk	3	Carolina Wren	12		
American Kestrel	24	Winter Wren	1	Total	82 Sp
Merlin	2				



Snow Goose

Photo by Len Grincevicius

The [Winter Issue of ON Nature](#), is available. It features stunning photography and in-depth articles by nature specialists. Explore articles about: wolverines, the Sacred Water Circle — a traditional approach to protecting water, scuba diving in winter and how Indigenous knowledge compliments science.

Miranda Baksh believes that data shows that the MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry must be more diligent in protecting species at risk. She and a colleague collected data of 167 species that were on the Species at Risk in Ontario List in January 2018 as part of a research project at York University. To see her report, go to:
<https://ontarionature.org/new-year-new-plea/>

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

Welcome New NFN Members

2018 - 2019 Season

John Carson, Jim and Ruth Daw, Elisabeth Duckworth, Dolores Duke, Marilyn Korobka, Rick Levick, John McKinstry and Suzan Yates

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

Thank You!

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

The Board of Directors held a meeting on January 22, 2019. The following are highlights from this meeting.

The Board welcomed Lisa Timpf as our new Director of Publicity and Assistant to our Webmaster Will Partridge.

Treasurer's Report: According to the most recent statement from Jen, our bookkeeper, our total assets are \$54,186.71. Some additional donations have been made to the Harry B. Barrett fund.

Correspondence: Our umbrella organization, Ontario Nature, has sent us many notices, flyers and newsletters. We will be forwarding by email condensed forms of the most important messages to the NFN Membership. The Ontario Nature newsletters will be available at our monthly Members' Meetings.

Directors' Reports: Jan Grincevicius reported that new memberships keep coming in, even at a normally quiet time of the year. The Board updated the membership form clarifying the wording of tax-deductible donations.

Len Grincevicius is now beginning to collect speakers and ideas for more interesting outings for the 2019-2020 season. We tossed around many good suggestions.

A couple of amendments for the current bylaws were discussed and approved. They will be ratified at the AGM in September.

Bernie Solymár proposed to take the subject of roadside mowing again to the new County Council. The NCEE Forest School is going very well. The group is fundraising to meet high insurance and other costs.

The NFN will again have a display at the AGM of the Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association in March. We will donate a one-year free membership and the Harry B. Barrett book "Lore and Legends of Long Point" as a door prize.

The next BoD Meeting will be held on April 23, 2019. The report from this meeting will be in the Summer issue of the Lotus.

Upcoming NFN 2019 Spring Events

**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: St. Williams Interpretive Centre. Check the NFN website for updates. *Contact Bernie at (519) 427-9969.*

**Sunday, March 17, 2019,
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Winter Backus Woods Tree Ecology Hike

NCC Ecologist, Brett Norman, will take us on a crisp walk in the north tract of Backus Woods to learn how to identify trees in winter and their ecology. Meet at the Backus Woods parking lot on the south side of Highway 24 (#218). Dress for the season. *Contact Len at 519-428-6796.*

**Friday, April 12, 2019,
7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**

Timberdoodle Night Hike

Come out for a night hike to witness the spectacular courtship display of the American Woodcock (aka Timberdoodle). We'll take a short walk along mowed trails through an old field. Bring a headlamp or flashlight as the display starts about dusk. **Weather dependent, rain date is the following night.** Meet at 273 Charlotteville Road 2, St. Williams, 2.2 km east of Forestry Farm Road just north of St. Williams. *Contact Audrey at 519-586-9464.*

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:

April 2019

Input dead line:

Friday, March 22, 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

2018 - 2019 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

		<u>All 519-</u>	
President	Inga Hinnerichsen	875-5601	daveinga@live.ca
Vice-President	Len Grincevicius	428-6796	portie_1989@eastlink.ca
Sanctuary	Peter Carson	586-3985	gartcar@kwic.com
Past President	Bernie Solymár	427-9969	solymar@nornet.on.ca
Treasurer	Barb Hourigan	583-1198	bbhourigan@gmail.com
Secretary	Cindy Present	586-9258	cindy.present@gmail.com
Director/Membership	Jan Grincevicius	428-6796	pwdtwo_2@eastlink.ca
Director Speaker Program and Field Events	Len Grincevicius	428-6796	portie_1989@eastlink.ca
Director Publicity	Lisa Timpf	226-440-2483	lisa.timpf@gmail.com
Director Environment	Bernie Solymár	427-9969	solymar@nornet.on.ca
Director-at-large	vacant		
Director-at-large	vacant		
Director-at-large	vacant		
Director-at-large	vacant		
Lotus Editor (appointed)	Jan Grincevicius	519-428-6796	pwdtwo_2@eastlink.ca
Butterfly Counts: (appointed)	Adam Timpf	429-4147	
Christmas Bird Counts: (appointed)	Adam Timpf - Woodhouse Count	429-4147	
	Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count	905-774-1230	
Honorary President:	George Pond		
Honorary Directors:	Anne and Dolf Wynia		