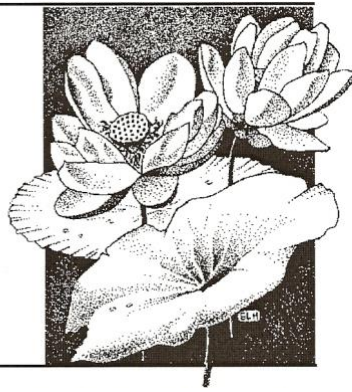


Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



OCTOBER 2019



LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Adam Timpf, NFN Member and Organizer

The 28th annual Long Point butterfly count took place this year on Saturday July 6th, with 36 observers in various groups surveying different areas in an attempt to identify and count each butterfly encountered. The forecast the night before was calling for a lot of rain, but I was hoping there would be breaks in the weather. My optimism was short lived when most of Saturday was dominated by rain. Some groups packed it in early, while others were able to fit in a few hours in the late afternoon. This was by far the wettest count in our 28-year history, and we could have cancelled the event all together. However, despite the fact most groups could only count for a couple hours, we tallied a remarkable amount and diversity of butterflies.



Northern Cloudywing

Photo by Tom Murray

With groups focusing on their most productive areas, we managed to tally an impressive 1706 individuals representing 50 species. Naturally, our individual total was below average, but surprisingly,

our species total was about average. I'm sure we would have added a few more species and many more individuals had the weather cooperated.



Juvenal's Duskywing

Photo by Bernie Solymár

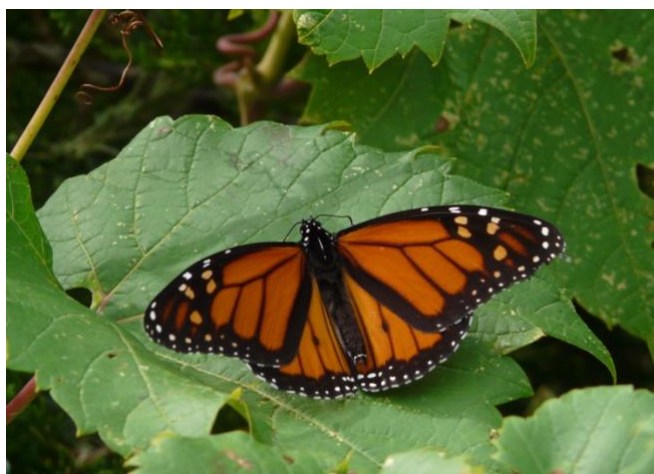
The biggest surprise may be that we managed to set new count highs for a few species despite the shortened day. The 39 Northern Cloudywings and 30 Crossline Skippers smash the old records of 14 and 12 respectively. This is mainly due to a few observers surveying some restored prairie fields on NCC property that were probably not surveyed on past counts. Just goes to show you, if you plant it, they will come! Five Juvenal's Duskywings ties the previous high, perhaps an indication of a cooler than average spring as these are an early season flying species.

We were bound to miss something with the poor weather, and this year it was Orange Sulphur. This represents the first time this common species wasn't

cont'd. on page 2

Long Point Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 1

recorded, and surely would have been found had we been able to put in a full day. Conversely, 93 Monarchs were recorded, well above the average of 51. Extrapolating out, with a full day's effort we may have been able to best our count record of 186. As many readers will have noticed, this has been a banner year for Monarchs in Ontario. My



Monarch

Photo by Bernie Solymár

fingers are crossed the current generation has a safe journey to their wintering site in Mexico, and the population can continue to grow.

Thank you to all the participants and helpers for your efforts on this challenging day. It wouldn't be possible without your dedication and enthusiasm. Many thanks go to Peter and Mary for hosting the wrap-up and providing food and shelter to the wet and hungry counters. Next year the count falls on Saturday July 4th so mark your calendars!



Edward's Hairstreaks

Photo by Bernie Solymár

Black Swallowtail	2
Giant Swallowtail	0
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	31
Spicebush Swallowtail	7
Pipevine Swallowtail	0
Checkered White	0
Mustard White	0
Cabbage White	55
Clouded Sulphur	21
Orange Sulphur	0
Harvester	0
American Copper	2
Bronze Copper	1
Coral Hairstreak	6
Acadian Hairstreak	0
Edward's Hairstreak	479
Banded Hairstreak	26
Hickory Hairstreak	1
Striped Hairstreak	1
Gray Hairstreak	1
Eastern Tailed-Blue	1
Summer Azure	19
Silvery Blue	0
American Snout	0
Variegated Fritillary	0
Great Spangled Fritillary	6
Silver-bordered Fritillary	0
Meadow Fritillary	0
Aphrodite Fritillary	0
Silvery Checkerspot	13
Pearl Crescent	0
Northern Crescent	284
Baltimore Checkerspot	2
Question Mark	12
Eastern Comma	27
Grey Comma	2
Compton Tortoiseshell	0
Mourning Cloak	1
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	0
American Lady	3
Painted Lady	2
Red Admiral	256
Buckeye	0
Red-spotted Purple	3
Viceroy	4
Tawny Emperor	5
Northern Pearly-Eye	3
Eyed Brown	10
Appalachian Brown	4
Little Wood-Satyr	70

cont'd. on page 3

Long Point Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 2

Common Ringlet	0
Common Wood-Nymph	10
Monarch	93
Silver-spotted Skipper	77
Southern Cloudywing	5
Northern Cloudywing	39
Dreamy Duskywing	0
Sleepy Duskywing	0
Juvenal's Duskywing	5
Columbine Duskywing	0
Wild Indigo Duskywing	0
Common Sootywing	2
Least Skipper	5
European Skipper	34
Peck's Skipper	3
Tawny-edged Skipper	6
Crossline Skipper	30
Long Dash	3
Northern Broken-Dash	7
Little Glassywing	8
Sachem	0
Delaware Skipper	6
Hobomok Skipper	0
Broad-winged Skipper	0
Dion Skipper	0
Black Dash	0
Two-spotted Skipper	0
Dun Skipper	4
Common Roadside Skipper	0
Common Checkered Skipper	0



Painted Lady

Photo by Len Grincevicius



Silver-spotted Skipper

Photo by Bernie Solymár

Fall Song by Mary Oliver

Another year gone, leaving everywhere
its rich spiced residues: vines, leaves,

the uneaten fruits crumbling damply
in the shadows, unmattering back

from the particular island
of this summer, this NOW, that now is nowhere

except underfoot, moldering
in that black subterranean castle

of unobservable mysteries - roots and sealed seeds
and the wanderings of water. This

I try to remember when time's measure
painfully chafes, for instance when autumn

flares out at the last, boisterous and like us longing
to stay - how everything lives, shifting

from one bright vision to another, forever
in these momentary pastures.

Welcome New Director!

Peter Vaughan

We are thrilled to have you on board.

AN ADVENTURE TO THE ACADIAN COST OF NEW BRUNSWICK

By Jan and Len Grincevicius

Have you ever taken a road trip to the Canadian Maritime Provinces and just driven right on through New Brunswick to your destination? We've done that several times, but this year, we decided to take our summer vacation along the Acadian Coast of New Brunswick. You're never far from the water, first on the Baie des Chaleurs and then on the Northumberland Strait.



Inch Arran Lighthouse
Photo by Jan Grincevicius

On we went to the first of three "home bases" — Tracadie-Sheila. From here, we visited several places.

Miscou Island is a beautiful, windswept natural island is at the very tip of the northeastern part of the province on Chaleur Bay and is home to spectacular beaches and lots of interesting trails. It is a member of the "Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club". The peaceful sound of the waves made walking the beach a joy.

The lighthouse was built in 1856 with the original wooden, octagonal tower still in use, along with the third-



Miscou Island Lighthouse
Photo by Len Grincevicius

order Fresnel lens. We sat by the water watching for and photographing northern gannets. These large birds stay at sea for the first three years of their lives, then heading for land only to breed. We

also saw many Common Eiders, a colorful duck of the northern seacoasts.



Common Eiders
Photo by Len Grincevicius

Ecological Park of the Acadian Peninsula is a place of unspoiled beauty, where the lushness of the plants and trees has been left untouched. It is a place where wildlife is protected. We were able to roam the trails and experience lots of what this park has to offer. There's an observation tower, a footbridge, and a boardwalk, which stretches across an

estuary and into the forest. We were able to stop at several lookouts to do



Osprey Photo by Len Grincevicius

some birdwatching and saw a number of osprey nests containing young and photographed many adults on the wing. The trail leads to an arboretum containing about 30 species native to the area.

We visited **Pointe-à-Bouveau**, a Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) nature reserve less than five minutes from Tracadie-Sheila. The reserve is a 3.5-kilometre-long and 500-metre wide barrier island and shelters a shallow eel-grass lagoon, salt marshes and mud flats. The dunes function as an ideal habitat for the nationally endangered piping plover. (Unfortunately, we did not see any.) Hundreds of waterfowl and shorebirds are also found there. Plants in the area include sea rocket and beach wormwood.

Our second "home base" was Miramichi. There are many interesting places nearby to visit.

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We visited the **Boishébert National Historic Site of Canada** which is comprised of Beaubears Island and nearby Wilsons Point. Under the leadership of Charles Deschamps de Boishébert, many Acadians found refuge at Wilsons Point from 1756 to 1760. Beaubears Island was also an integral and functional part of the early settlement that gives testimony to the Acadian experience. Prior to Acadian settlement in the region, the Mi'kmaq people camped on the island. We did lots of walking in this area and learned a great deal about the history of the Acadians and Mi'kmaq.

Possibly the highlight of the trip was **Kouchibouguac National Park** which encompasses 238 square kilometres of incredibly diverse natural habitats including forest, marshes, bogs, dunes, estuaries, and rivers. There are many kilometres of sand dunes and several trails/boardwalks. It provides habitat for seabirds, including the endangered piping plover, and has the second largest tern colony in North America. Although we didn't see any, colonies of harbour seals and grey seals inhabit the park's sand dunes. We had a great time on the bog trail, photographing many plants, including several species of carnivorous plants. The flower of the smallest one was about one cm in diameter.



Purple Pitcher Plant
Photo by Jan Grincevicius

Our third "home base" was Shediac. We found the following nearby.

The **Irving Eco-Centre** was developed to preserve and restore one of the few remaining great sand dunes on the northeastern coastline of North America. This sand dune stretches 12 km across Bouctouche Bay, the result of the constant action of wind, tides and sea currents since the last ice age. A rich variety of marine and aquatic plants and animals, especially shorebirds and other migratory birds.



Board Walk at Irving Eco-Centre

Photo by Len Grincevicius

The **Homarus Eco-Centre** on the Pointe-du-Chêne Wharf is a lobster research station. We learned about the life cycle of these sea creatures and saw examples of blue, orange, albino and regularly coloured lobsters.

On a day-long road trip, we visited several locations.

The historic, picturesque village of **Port Elgin** is located near the Nova Scotia border at the mouth of the Gaspereau River where it empties into Baie Verte of the Northumberland Strait. It's a quiet port with many interesting vistas.

Fort Gaspereaux National Historic Site is an archaeological site containing traces of the French Fort Gaspereaux, together with nine graves of Provincial soldiers killed in 1756 while garrisoning the fort. There are beautiful vistas of the Northumberland Strait.

The Cape Jourimain Nature Centre is a great place to hike, walk the beach, and watch birds. We were able to photograph the nineteenth-century lighthouse and see the Confederation Bridge from the observation tower.



Confederation Bridge from Cape Jourimain

Photo by Jan Grincevicius

So, ended our visit to New Brunswick and we began our three-day trip back home.

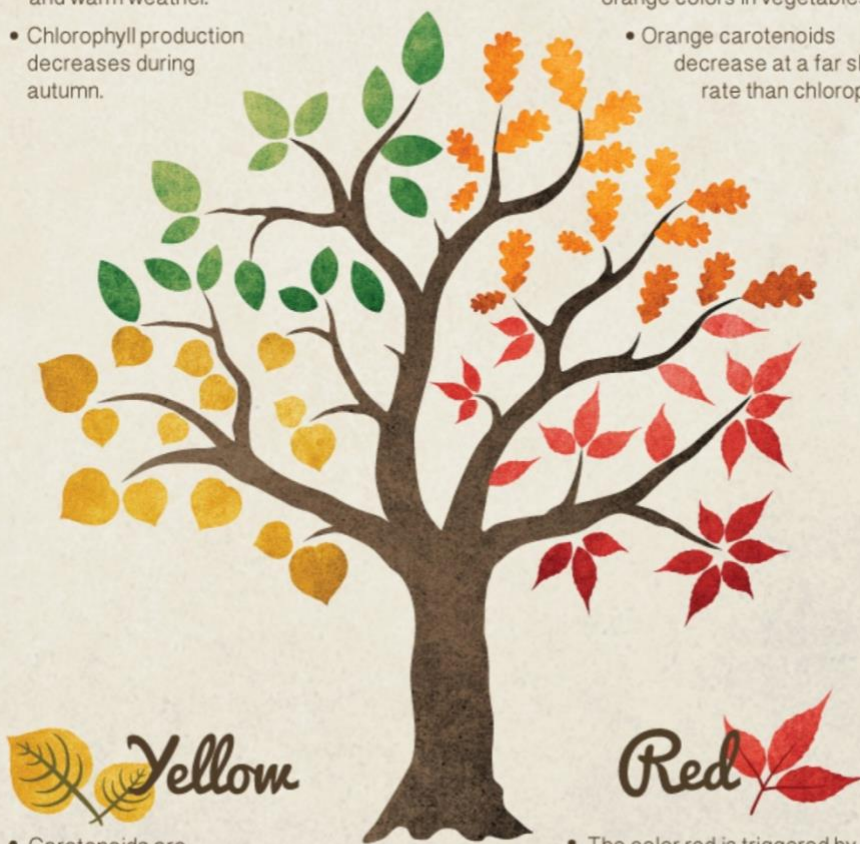
The chemistry BEHIND THE COLORS OF AUTUMN LEAVES



- Chlorophyll gives leaves their green color.
- Plants produce chlorophyll in sunlight and warm weather.
- Chlorophyll production decreases during autumn.



- Orange leaves contain beta-carotene.
- Beta-carotene contributes to orange colors in vegetables.
- Orange carotenoids decrease at a far slower rate than chlorophyll.



- Carotenoids are responsible for yellow leaves.
- Carotenoids are yellow pigments also found in vegetables.
- Yellow colors become dominant when chlorophyll decreases.



- The color red is triggered by anthocyanin synthesis.
- Anthocyanin helps protect leaves from excess light.
- Anthocyanin prolongs the time that leaves fall from trees.

SOURCES: <http://www.esf.edu/pubprog/brochure/leaves/leaves.htm>
<http://www.compoundchem.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Chemistry-of-the-Colours-of-Autumn-Leaves-v2.png>

RYAN
LAWN & TREE

BIGSHOT
INBOUND

Meet Plover Lover and Science Fair Champ Islay Graham



Visiting the Endangered Piping Plovers in her area inspired Islay Graham to become a conservation volunteer and pursue a plover research project. She ended up making a splash on Canada's

science fair scene with her results! [Enjoy an interview with Islay.](#)

Wilderness Walking in Your Own Backyard

Planting native species (instead of grass) is one of the best ways to attract and keep wildlife. Animals need habitat where they can live, eat and reproduce. Planting trees, shrubs and flowers will provide this necessary habitat, while grass does not. In a large backyard, eastern white cedar, white spruce, oak, mountain ash and maple trees can provide shade and protection for birds, mammals and insects. In smaller yards, plant shrubs such as dogwoods, high-bush cranberry, serviceberry or staghorn sumac to provide cover and habitat for wildlife.

The [Fall issue of ON Nature](#), Ontario Nature's award-winning quarterly magazine, is now available.

To receive selected information by email, you can sign up:
ontarionature.org

Thank You!

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

Thank You

**From the Norfolk Field Naturalists to
Jane Thomson of Over the Moon
For designing the Brochure layout**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board met on July 9, 2019. The following are highlights from this meeting.

We dealt mainly with finances this time. A first-ever budget for NFN was reviewed together with the year-end report from Whitton Accounting Services. The year-end report will be published in the Annual Report distributed with the October issue of the Lotus. It will also be reviewed at the AGM on September 10.

The purchase of a new projector was approved. It is to replace our old projector, which is on its last legs and could give up the ghost at any time.

The Board approved getting Directors' Liability Insurance in addition to our \$5,000,000 general liability coverage from Cade Insurance. Most of the Ontario Nature member clubs have this coverage.

Donation to NCEE will be handled at a per-case basis and will require a written request and a short presentation by Bernie Solymár to the NFN Membership on how the funds will be used. The NFN would also like to be recognized for the donations with the NCEE.

The new 2019-2020 brochures are now out and have been distributed to various outlets and mailed to members.

The NFN will be hosting the Ontario Nature Carolinian East Fall meeting on October 19. The meeting will be held at the historic Walsingham Community Hall. A report from this meeting will be published in the December Lotus.

The next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for October 22nd.

Welcome New NFN Members

2019 - 2020 Season

Ted and Paula Gent, Don Grunsten and Karen Walker, Eric Holden and Sherry Pilkington, Bruce Robinson, Alfred Senior, John Tutt, Glen and Angelle VanKleef
We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in and enjoy all the NFN indoor presentations and field outings.

Upcoming NFN 2019 Fall Event

**Saturday, October 5, 2019,
7:30pm.**

An evening of stargazing with Bernie Mueller and the North Shore Erie Amateur Astronomers at Win-del Park in 3178 Nixon Rd., Windham Centre. A number of telescopes will be set up to provide close ups of the night sky. *Contact Len at 519-428-6796.*



From Long Point Basin Land Trust

Keep an Eye Out for Reptiles – Go to

<http://longpointlandtrust.ca/keep-an-eye-out-for-reptiles/>

Amazing Trees

If you love trees, have a look at this website:

<https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/blogs/facts-about-trees>

From Bruce Trail Conservancy

Maple Ridge Nature Reserve is located just south of Action. It secures 490 meters of the Bruce Trail and protect wildlife species and their habitat in the area. For more info, go to

brucetrail.org/pages/land-conservation/maple-ridge

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:

December 2019

Input dead line:

**Friday, November 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

2019 - 2020 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

		All 519-	
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 Presant	586-9258	cindy.presant@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	Peter Vaughan	429-5998	peter.vaughan70@gmail.com
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		