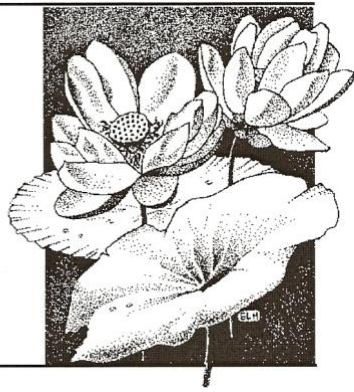


# Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



OCTOBER 2020



## LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Adam Timpf, NFN Member and Organizer

The heat and humidity were a challenge to the comfort and energy of observers, but the weather was far better than the rains we had last year. Some people (author included) found the butterflies to be in short supply, while others reported good numbers and diversity. It was feast or famine depending where you were looking.

We had great coverage with 35 observers in 15 parties spending 67.5 hours in the field, covering approximately 85.5 km. 3997 individuals of 54 species were recorded. This is our fifth highest individual total (average 2615), and just shy of our record species total of 56. We set several record highs and even managed to add a new species to the count!



Giant Swallowtail

Photo by Bernie Solymár

### Highlights

New to the count: Mulberry Wing (3). Amazingly, three groups photographed three individual Mulberry Wing, a skipper that was previously only known from just outside the count circle at the top end of Spooky Hollow. One Individual was photographed near Backus, while the other two were near St. Williams. I'll be curious to see whether this becomes an annual occurrence on the count, or if this is just a fluke year.

### Count Highs (previous high in brackets)

Giant Swallowtail 1 – (1 in 2017, often between broods)  
Banded Hairstreak 1146 – (517 in 2015)  
Gray Comma 9 – (4 in 2014 and 2016)  
Red-spotted Purple 38 – (30 in 1997)  
Tawny Emperor 71 – (39 in 2004) Aside: Still no confirmed Hackberry Emperor records for Norfolk  
Common Wood Nymph 284 – (205 in 2010)  
Common Sootywing 4 – (4 in 2018)

### Notable Mentions

Cabbage White 851 – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (1428 in 2017)  
American Copper 86 – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (205 in 2012)  
Hickory Hairstreak 6 – most since 11 in 2008  
Striped Hairstreak 6 – most since 13 in 2007  
Broad-winged Skipper 1 – first since 2015  
Monarch 71 - which is higher than the long-term average of 52 and well within the wild swings in numbers we have seen in the last five years.



American Copper (male) Photo by Bernie Solymár

Hope you can join us again next year on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

Thank you to all participants for your effort!

Cont'd. p.2

**Long Point Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 1**

Black Swallowtail	3
Giant Swallowtail	1
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	68
Spicebush Swallowtail	11
Pipevine Swallowtail	0
Checkered White	0
Mustard White	0
Cabbage White	851
Clouded Sulphur	55
Orange Sulphur	9
Harvester	0
American Copper	86
Bronze Copper	9
Coral Hairstreak	27
Acadian Hairstreak	3
Edward's Hairstreak	207
Banded Hairstreak	1146
Hickory Hairstreak	6
Striped Hairstreak	6
Gray Hairstreak	0
Eastern Tailed-Blue	5
Summer Azure	6
Silvery Blue	0
American Snout	0
Variegated Fritillary	0
Great Spangled Fritillary	14
Silver-bordered Fritillary	0
Meadow Fritillary	0
Aphrodite Fritillary	0
Silvery Checkerspot	19
Pearl Crescent	17
Northern Crescent	433
Baltimore Checkerspot	2
Question Mark	3
Eastern Comma	18
Grey Comma	9
Compton Tortoiseshell	0
Mourning Cloak	4
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	0
American Lady	1
Painted Lady	0
Red Admiral	37

Buckeye	0
Red-spotted Purple	38
Viceroy	27
Tawny Emperor	71
Northern Pearly-Eye	10
Eyed Brown	12
Appalachian Brown	16
Little Wood-Satyr	36
Common Ringlet	0
Common Wood-Nymph	284
Monarch	71
Silver-spotted Skipper	180
Southern Cloudywing	13
Northern Cloudywing	16
Dreamy Duskywing	0
Sleepy Duskywing	0
Juvenal's Duskywing	0
Columbine Duskywing	0
Wild Indigo Duskywing	0
Common Sootywing	4
Least Skipper	35
European Skipper	28
Peck's Skipper	2
Tawny-edged Skipper	9
Crossline Skipper	7
Long Dash	4
Northern Broken-Dash	11
Little Glassywing	7
Sachem	0
Mulberry Wing	3
Delaware Skipper	5
Hobomok Skipper	2
Broad-winged Skipper	1
Dion Skipper	0
Black Dash	0
Two-spotted Skipper	0
Dun Skipper	49
Common Roadside Skipper	0
Common Checkered Skipper	0

# Tiger Safaris in India

By George Pond

We were in Kanha National Park and tiger reserve in India, hoping to spot a tiger in the wild. We had already spent three half-day safaris in Ranthambore National Park and although tigers had been spotted in some of the other zones, our efforts had been fruitless.

There are several National Parks in India where wild Bengal tigers can be found. Back in 2006 on a birding tour to India I had seen, and, photographed one from a great distance in the Jim Corbett National Park. It was one of my biggest nature thrills at the time and when my daughter Heather suggested a family trip to India for this year I jumped at the chance.

Six of us, my son David and daughter Heather and three of my grandkids Pilar, Chaundra and Eric were spending a couple of days at the Shergarth tented camp in the buffer area of the Kanha National Park in Central India. The tents where we slept were safari type tents, a little bit like those at Long Point Ego Adventure, near Turkey Point but with a little more permanent construction. We were in the buffer zone of the reserve and could hike, with a guide, nature trails leading into the park itself. Tigers had frequently been seen along the river where we walked, and I was surprised that our guide did not carry a weapon.

We had booked three jeep safaris into the park. Our driver/guide was employed by the camp. He had been working there for fifteen years and was very familiar with the wildlife and the road system in the park. When we entered the park, we had to pick up another park registered guide. Kanha including the buffer zones covers an area in excess of 2,000 sq. km., and it contains a very healthy population of tigers. The park, like Ranthambore (and I assume all the parks) is divided into zones. Each zone is the territory of particular tigers and on entry the jeeps are allocated a particular zone that they must stay in. There are a limited number of jeeps, possibly as many as 15, permitted each day, including two or three large open-air vehicles that held about twenty people. Jeeps hold driver and guide and six tourists, so we had a jeep to ourselves.

There are many animals in the park. Literally hundreds of deer including Spotted, Sambar, Barking and Swamp as well as wild boar, many Langur monkeys and a few Rhesus, four-horned antelope, Sloth bears, Gaur or wild ox, Nilgai, a type of antelope and several other nocturnal animals rarely seen. We saw and photographed many animals, but it was a tiger that we were anxious to see.

We were beginning to give up hope on our last trip into the park when our driver suddenly turned the vehicle around and headed in the opposite direction. Although we rarely ever saw another vehicle during our searches the drivers were obviously in connection with each other as our guide informed us a tiger had been spotted about ten minutes away. When we reached the spot, I think every vehicle allowed in the zone was there. From our vantage point and with our binoculars I could finally see the head of a tiger, a long distance from us. There were actually two — a mother and her 10-month old son. Although there was no question that it was a tiger, which we can barely make out in our photos, it was a very disappointing sighting. But I was never-the-less satisfied.



We had sat there for probably ten minutes when the tigers got up and disappeared into the long grass. Many of the jeeps drove back down the trail in the direction the tigers seemed to be heading; but it was here that our guide's 15 years of guiding paid off. He, along with two or three other jeeps headed the opposite way. We drove perhaps a half kilometer and stopped at the side of the road. There was a savanna like open area between us and a thicker forest. We waited, what seemed like a long time, perhaps five to ten minutes when suddenly we could see a tiger, then the cub, just along the side of the forest; far but within digital camera range. They were walking slowly in the direction we were headed. We clicked off several shots. The tigers were at times more or less in the open; at other times, partially hidden by the long grass. They disappeared again into the forest and again our guide

Cont'd. p4

sped down the road another kilometer or so and stopped on a tiny concrete bridge that went over a partially dry, rocky creek bed. Again, we waited — five minutes, ten minutes?. Who knows? When the adrenalin is flowing who knows how long a minute is; but, eventually, the mother tiger jumped down from the bank onto the creek bed. She was followed by her cub. For a few brief seconds they seemed undecided; perhaps, they had seen us, but I doubt it for they would be accustomed to seeing jeeps and people. In any event they turned again and leaped up the bank on the opposite side and were gone.



Serendipity. A bucket list thrill and to top it off we had photos that although not perfect are reminders that sometimes Nature shares. Thanks to the Indian government, who some years ago realized that tigers were threatened and set up reserves in various parts of the country, large enough to hopefully save and protect this species.

As we left Kanha National Park I thought of our own Norfolk County and I thanked God for organizations such as the N.F.N, The Long Point Basin Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Nature. And I reflected on a couple of lines in one of my mother's poems "Lest you lose the Heritage God has given Oh Man! Beware! Beware!"

## Welcome New Director!

**Judy Boone**

We are thrilled to have you on board.

## Species in Focus

### **Bear's Head Tooth Mushroom or Comb Tooth Mushroom, *Hericium coralloides***

This delicately beautiful *Hericium* fruits from dead hardwood logs and stumps, sometimes in huge patches that can be seen from quite some distance. It is recognized by its short (mostly about 1 cm long) spines, and the fact that the spines hang in rows along delicate branches.

It can be found growing alone or in clustered clumps on fallen hardwood branches and stumps in late summer and fall.

The fruiting body is 8–20 cm across; consisting of branches arising from a more or less central core that is attached to the wood. Its branches, 0.5–1 cm thick, are smooth but adorned with fleshy spines. These spines are 0.5–1 cm long, up to 1 mm wide, white when fresh, but becoming faintly yellowish to brownish in old age.



### **Ontario Poison Centre**

The Ontario Poison Centre says it's seeing a rise in calls related to mushroom foraging, including some where people had to be hospitalized after eating wild mushrooms.

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-poison-centre-reports-rise-in-calls-related-to-mushroom-foraging-1.5128852>

### **Long Point Basic Land Trust Webinar**

#### **Monarch Tagging**

To see monarch butterflies being tagged and learn about plants you can grow to attract them (and other butterflies) see:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuiHBPZgD3o&feature=youtu.be&mc\\_cid=9a11c9e82d&mc\\_eid=967e29957f](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuiHBPZgD3o&feature=youtu.be&mc_cid=9a11c9e82d&mc_eid=967e29957f)



# BIRD QUIZ

How Many of These Do You Know?



Answers on p. 8

## A Humble Beginning: The Dunlin

By Kyle Horner — [www.onewordbirds.com](http://www.onewordbirds.com) (with permission)

With so many excellent names to choose from, you might figure that the one-word-bird who first captured my imagination owned one of the more impressive ones. Lammergeier, perhaps, or Hamerkop. Bokmakierie has a particularly lovely ring, as do Bateleur and Pyrrhuloxia. But strangely enough, the bird that started it all – and still the first one-word-bird I think of – is the humbly-monikered Dunlin.

If you're thinking that the name Dunlin doesn't exactly get your motor running, you won't be surprised to learn that the bird itself would seem unremarkable to most. Boring, you might even say. In fact, I'm not entirely sure why this often-drab little bird and its unassuming name have long captivated me, but I suppose matters of the heart do sometimes defy explanation.

The etymology of Dunlin doesn't help in the matter. It may share its origin with the English word *dun*, meaning "of a dull grayish-brown colour," referring to the bird's winter plumage (inspired yet?). Alternately, it may come from the Gaelic *dun*, meaning "hill," and *linne* meaning "pool." This, presumably, is in reference to a place where it was once observed by some long-ago Scot. In either case, this unfortunate bird has been done no favours in the name department.

A typical Dunlin – a spectacular bird in a spectacular setting.

But don't disregard the plucky Dunlin, for there is much to love about this little bird. It is also a good bird to know if you happen to live in North America, Europe or Asia, because it lives and is common on those particular continents. Though it breeds in northern latitudes, the Dunlin can be seen by most during its seasonal migrations. Learn to identify this little-known wanderer, and every sweater-weather stroll with friends will become an opportunity to impress with your preponderance of nature knowledge<sup>1</sup>.

The Dunlin is a shorebird, meaning – you guessed it – that it has a particular affinity for the shore, and in fact any shallow, wet environment. It is roughly the size of an American Robin, though plumper and with a longish, downward-curving<sup>2</sup> bill. For much of the year it is clad in grayish-brown (read: *dun*) plumage, but in the spring and summer it sports a rather handsome rufous back and black belly-patch. Since it nests in the Arctic, though, you probably won't get to see that.

The Dunlin uses its long legs to wade about on mud flats, shallow marshes and beaches in search of its invertebrate prey. It probes its bill into the sand or muck in a fashion often compared (for some reason) to a sewing machine, gobbling up any boneless creature it comes across. It is gregarious during its travels, and may form groups of dozens, hundreds or even thousands of individuals which feed together. These impressive flocks often take to the air when startled, banking and swirling in unison before resettling on the feeding grounds.

It may seem strange that this rather plain bird has earned the honour of a unique, one-word name. It is even more so because the Dunlin belongs to a group of about 20 closely-related shorebirds<sup>3</sup> which share many similarities. Most of its kin have names like White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper and so on. The origin and persistence of the Dunlin's special name may be a mystery, but I believe most birdwatchers would agree that it is somehow fitting.

The Dunlin in its summer plumage is almost pretty...but you probably won't see it.

While at first the Dunlin may appear strikingly similar to its cohorts, it somehow manages to be different enough that it is unmistakable once learned. Its summer belly-patch is unique among the shorebirds, but even in its "dun" plumage its long, curved bill and chunky body instantly distinguish it from any other bird in its company. The Dunlin is so common and recognizable that in shorebird aggregations, it is often the baseline by which all other species are measured. While passing a gaggle of vest-and-tilly-clad shorebirders, it is not uncommon to overhear "the bird has a shorter bill than a Dunlin," "the bird is more slender than a Dunlin," or other, similar comparisons.



I considered starting this project with one of the more impressively-named one-word-birds, like the Jabiru or the Shikra, or perhaps even the Kakapo. But none of the other options felt right. Sure, their exotic monikers may have mass appeal, but pandering to a desire for excitement and drama ultimately felt hollow. Deep down I knew there had always been only one true choice. The bird that started it all. The Dunlin.

<sup>1</sup> If you have the sort of friends that are impressed by such things, that is.

<sup>2</sup> Birders would insist on calling it 'drooping'.

<sup>3</sup> For all you would-be bird-nerds out there, these are the sandpipers of the genus *Calidris*.

### **Piping Plovers at Sauble Beach**

Found guilty last year of intentionally destroying piping plover habitat in 2017, the Town of South Bruce Peninsula has applied for two permits under the Endangered Species Act 2007 to do so again – but this time with government approval. The government's decision is pending. 1,850 persons spoke up for the plover.

The submission made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks from Ontario Nature, Environmental Defence and the David Suzacki Foundation can be found at <https://view.publitas.com/on-nature/ero-019-1818/page/1>

### **Fall Issue of *ON Nature* Magazine**

Go to <https://view.publitas.com/on-nature/fall-2020/page/1> to see the virtual version.

### **5 Ways to Help Migrating Birds**

- Keeps cats indoors
- Turn off your lights
- Minimize window collisions
- Move your bird feeder within a meter of your windows
- Take up bird-friendly gardening

To see more information, go to

<https://ontarionature.org/top-6-ways-you-can-help-migrating-birds/>

To receive selected information by email, you can sign up at [ontarionature.org](https://ontarionature.org)

## **Thank You**

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

## **Thank You!**

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

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The Board of Directors had a meeting on August 11 on Inga's front lawn under shady trees. Everyone brought their own chairs and we set up a large circle, well-spaced apart. It was a beautiful evening and the bugs weren't bad at all.

Here are the highlights:

We welcomed a new Director-at-Large, Judy Boone. We're so pleased to have you on board, Judy!

The membership fees were kept at the previous rates of \$20 for individual and \$30 for family.

Barb reported that our bank balance stands at \$47,341.66 as of June 30.

The speaker program and field events for the 2020-2021 season has been published this year in a black-and-white format in order to cut the printing expense, particularly since all programs are on hold until further notice.

Our Director of Publicity, Lisa Timpf, stepped down from this position, but agreed to assist Will Partridge keeping the website updated.

Barb Hourigan, our Treasurer for several years, also is stepping down at the end of this season. Thank you, Barb, for all the work you've done for NFN!

We adjourned the meeting as the dusk was gathering. A few moments later the Pterophyllas began to sing.

### Actions after the meeting:

Inga contacted our insurance agent to inquire if we could qualify for a refund for the General Liability coverage, since there are no meetings of field events in the next foreseeable future. We can't separate the Directors' Liability coverage from the General, so we're keeping the insurance status quo.

By the time you read this our AGM is also behind us with a few updates that you can read about in the October Lotus and the Annual Report.

## **NFN is now on Facebook**

Check out our new page at

<https://www.facebook.com/norfolkfieldnaturalists>

Join us in being part of our local online naturalist community. Heard about environmental projects or issues you want to see discussed? Send us a message via Facebook while you are visiting our page.



## Upcoming NFN Events

**All events are postponed until further notice.**

### Bird Quiz Answers:

- 1) Wood Duck
- 2) Hooded Merganser
- 3) Indigo Bunting
- 4) Great Blue Heron
- 5) Yellow Warbler
- 6) Pied-billed Grebe eating a Goby!
- 7) Red Necked Grebe with chicks!
- 8) Eastern Kingbird



"A Murmuration of Starlings is when great numbers of starlings flock together, wheeling and darting through the sky in tight formation." Here's a video from the UK.

"<https://www.youtube.com/embed/88UVJpQGi88>

When two well-known birders in Norfolk were contacted, it was learned that starlings are not here in such great numbers. However, swallows do flock going to roost at Long Point Marshes, as do mixed groups of blackbirds. They often form long lines (rivers) rather than the whirling, rolling balls of the starlings seen in the UK video. To see a recent video of swallows going to roost at Long Point, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=582760459064523&extid=4KPL5kiZZO9IkKRA>

The thousands of birds appeared as precipitation on the weather radar (blue patch).



## 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.

**POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## NFN Mailing Address

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

## Next Lotus Issue:

**December 2020**

**Input deadline:**

**Friday, November 27,  
2020**

## 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](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org)**

## 2020 - 2021 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

		<u>All 519-</u>	
<b>President</b>	Inga Hinnerichsen	875-5601	daveinga@live.ca
<b>Vice-President</b>	Bernie Solymár	<u>427-9969</u>	solymar@nornet.on.ca
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Peter Carson	586-3985	gartcar@kwic.com
<b>Past President</b>	Bernie Solymár	<u>427-9969</u>	solymar@nornet.on.ca
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Vaughan	429-5998	peter.vaughan70@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Cindy Presant	586-9258	cindy.presant@gmail.com
<b>Director/Membership</b>	Jan Grincevicius	428-6796	pwdtwo_2@eastlink.ca
<b>Director Speaker Program and Field Events</b>	Len Grincevicius	428-6796	portie_1989@eastlink.ca
<b>Director Publicity</b>	Cindy Presant		
<b>Director Environment</b>	Bernie Solymár/ Cindy Presant	427-9969 586-9258	solymar@nornet.on.ca cindy.presant@gmail.com
<b>Director-at-large</b>	Judy Boone	336-5838	MikeandJudy@2boones.com
<b>Director-at-large</b>	vacant		
<b>Director-at-large</b>	vacant		
<b>Lotus Editor (appointed)</b>	Jan Grincevicius	428-6796	pwdtwo_2@eastlink.ca
<b>Butterfly Counts (appointed)</b>	Adam Timpf	429-4147	
<b>Christmas Bird Counts (appointed)</b>	Adam Timpf - Woodhouse Count	429-4147	
	Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count	905-774-1230	
<b>Honorary President:</b>	George Pond		
<b>Honorary Directors:</b>	Anne and Dolf Wynia		