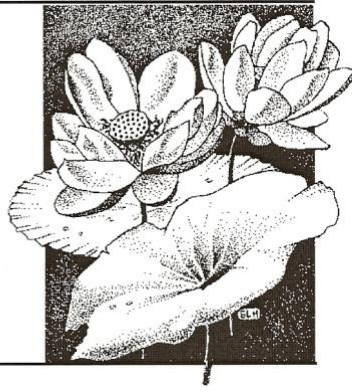


Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



OCTOBER 2021



LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Adam Timpf, NFN Member and Organizer

On July 3rd, 2021, 35 observers spread amongst 12 groups scoured the Long Point area in search of butterflies for the 29th Long Point Butterfly Count. The day was sunny and warm with minimal wind which is ideal weather to look for butterflies. Together we tallied an amazing 59 species, surpassing our record of 56 set in 2015, and well above the long-term average of 50. A total of 3813 Individuals were counted, our highest tally since 2012 and above the average of 2655. Numerous high-count records were also broken.

High counts and interesting sightings are as follows (old record in brackets):

109 Coral Hairstreak (76)
12 Gray Hairstreak (2)
226 Eastern-tailed Blue (64)
824 Northern Crescent (573)
5 Compton Tortoiseshell (2 in 2007 and rarely recorded)
86 Mourning Cloak (36)
78 Northern Pearly-Eye (41)
1 Snout (1st since 2013)
1 Meadow Fritillary (1st since 2014)
1 Columbine Duskywing (2nd record and 1st since 2016)
4 Common Sootywing (ties high)
1 Mulberry Wing (2nd year in a row after being new for the count last year)

It's always hard to say why one year is better than another, but it was likely a combination of climatic variables that led to many species having a good year, great count day weather conditions, and excellent coverage by enthusiastic volunteers.

Even though it was a record setting count in so many ways, there are always a few species that get missed. Nobody spotted a Black Swallowtail (last missed in 2002), Baltimore Checkerspot (last missed in 2001), Gray Comma (last missed in 2012), or Peck's Skipper (last missed in 2016).



Eastern-tailed Blue Photo by Bernie Solyman

Monarchs had a healthy showing with 89 counted. This is above the 30-year average of 53. Looking at monarchwatch.org, it sounds like there is optimism that conditions for population growth have been favourable, and we can be hopeful that there will be a larger overwintering population in Mexico this year.

Thank you to all the participants this year, and I hope we can have another great count next year on Saturday, July 2nd, 2022.



Cabbage White

Photo by Len Grincevicius

Cont'd. p.2

Long Point Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 1

The entire species list from this count is below:

Black Swallowtail	0
Giant Swallowtail	0
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	56
Spicebush Swallowtail	13
Pipevine Swallowtail	0
Checkered White	0
Mustard White	0
Cabbage White	416
Clouded Sulphur	91
Orange Sulphur	28
Harvester	0
American Copper	163
Bronze Copper	2
Coral Hairstreak	109
Acadian Hairstreak	5
Edward's Hairstreak	273
Banded Hairstreak	211
Hickory Hairstreak	6
Striped Hairstreak	2
Gray Hairstreak	12
Eastern Tailed-Blue	226
Summer Azure	52
Silvery Blue	0
American Snout	1
Variegated Fritillary	0
Great Spangled Fritillary	63
Silver-bordered Fritillary	0
Meadow Fritillary	1
Aphrodite Fritillary	0
Silvery Checkerspot	17
Pearl Crescent	44
Northern Crescent	824
Baltimore Checkerspot	0
Question Mark	3
Eastern Comma	17
Grey Comma	0
Compton Tortoiseshell	5
Mourning Cloak	86
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	1
American Lady	2

Painted Lady	2
Red Admiral	55
Buckeye	0
Red-spotted Purple	8
Viceroy	11
Tawny Emperor	36
Northern Pearly-Eye	78
Eyed Brown	15
Appalachian Brown	14
Little Wood-Satyr	61
Common Ringlet	3
Common Wood-Nymph	209
Monarch	89
Silver-spotted Skipper	105
Southern Cloudywing	2
Northern Cloudywing	31
Dreamy Duskywing	0
Sleepy Duskywing	0
Juvenal's Duskywing	0
Columbine Duskywing	1
Wild Indigo Duskywing	0
Common Sootywing	4
Least Skipper	18
European Skipper	145
Peck's Skipper	0
Tawny-edged Skipper	10
Crossline Skipper	18
Long Dash	7
Northern Broken-Dash	51
Little Glassywing	8
Sachem	0
Mulberry Wing	1
Delaware Skipper	4
Hobomok Skipper	6
Broad-winged Skipper	2
Dion Skipper	1
Black Dash	2
Two-spotted Skipper	0
Dun Skipper	36
Common Roadside Skipper	0
Common Checkered Skipper	0
Crescent Sp.	35
Skipper Sp.	16

Sky Hunters, The World of the Dragonfly

They hover over ponds and pools and inhabit the banks of rivers and streams. With their dazzling metallic colours and unique ways of flying they are truly jewels of the air. This film presents dragonflies as they have never been seen before. Fascinating close-up shots take us into the world of these insects, which have lived on earth since the age of the dinosaurs. However, these amazingly colourful flying acrobats are in danger. The dragonfly's preferred habitat in and around water is rapidly diminishing. See the video [here](#).



Common Whitetail Dragonfly (Immature Male)
Photo by Jan Grincevicius

It's OK for Bird Lovers to Skip Raking this Fall

Want to help birds this autumn? Try doing as little as possible! To turn your yard into a place where birds can safely shelter in winter, all it takes is a laid-back approach—and not minding a bit of a mess.

Find out why birds and bugs thrive in less manicured landscapes, and what you cannot do this fall to create a haven for winter birds.

To learn more, go [here](#).



Northern Cardinal
Photo by Len Grincevicius

Bird Brawlers Love Spectators

We know that some people compete harder in front of a crowd. Did you know that some mammals, birds, fish and insects fight more vigorously when they know they are being watched by members of their own species? A study was done involving tufted titmice and Carolina chickadees. Learn more about the [results](#) in this article from *Scientific American*.



Tufted Titmouse Photo from Cornell Lab

Why is the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Disappearing?

Between 2004 and 2018, changing climate at the monarch's spring and summer breeding grounds has had the most significant impact on this declining population. In fact, the effects of climate change have been nearly seven times more significant than other contributors, such as habitat loss.

Understanding the monarch decline and doing what we can to reverse it is important not just for preserving biodiversity, but also because insects are prolific pollinators. The eastern population of monarchs migrates between Mexico and the eastern half of the U.S. and southern Canada every year—with summer layovers in Michigan and other U.S. states.

Learn more about the monarch populations [here](#).



Eastern Monarch Butterfly Photo by Bernie Solymar

Fungus Hikes

NFN - Pop-Up on August 22 (Led by Leanne Lemaich)
NFN & LPBLT on October 2-3 (Led by Inga Hinnerichsen)



Coral Mushroom



Black Earth Tongue Mushroom



Beefsteak Fistula Hepatica Mushroom



Bolete
Mushroom



Crowded Parchment



Orange Mycena Mushroom

Photos by: 1. Len Grincevicius 2. Terry Hannam 3. Jeff Hiebert 4. Leanne Lemaich, 5. Jan Grincevicius

Fungus Hikes

NFN - Pop-Up on August 22 (Led by Leanne Lemaich)
NFN & LPBLT on October 2-3 (Led by Inga Hinnerichsen)



Cinnabar Chantrelle Mushroom



Rooted Oudemansiela Mushroom



Indigo Milky Mushroom



Jelly Tremella False Coral Mushroom



Mycene sp. Mushroom



Waxy Cap Green Mushroom

Photos by: 1. Len Grincevicius 2. Terry Hannam 3. Jeff Hiebert 4. Leanne Lemaich, 5. Jan Grincevicius

Fungus Hikes

NFN - Pop-Up on August 22 (Led by Leanne Lemaich)
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Earthball



Oyster Mushroom

Photos by: 1. Len Grincevicius 2. Terry Hannam 3. Jeff Hiebert 4. Leanne Lemaich, 5. Jan Grincevicius

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly ... And The Weird and The Wonderful, Too

By Inga Hinnerichsen

Enter the mysterious world of fungi, or at least, get a tiny scratch at the surface of this huge Kingdom. There are at least an estimated 5,000,000 species on our planet, maybe much more. Nobody knows for sure.

Fungi were considered to be part of the Plant Kingdom up until the mid-1960s when they were separated out forming their own Kingdom. The science of fungi, mycology, is constantly evolving, little is still known about these fascinating organisms.

What we normally refer to as “mushrooms” are really the fruiting bodies of the fungus, much like apples on a tree. The major portion of the fungus is under ground or inside tree trunks, live or decaying. It can spread out into very large areas. This hidden part is called “mycelium” and consists of thread-like filaments, some thick as shoelaces, others more like spider silk. When conditions are perfect for a species – temperature, humidity, amount of daylight hours, etc., it will produce its fruiting bodies.

Mycology has barely scratched the surface of the potential of their use in modern western pharmacology. Asian cultures have been using them in traditional medicine for thousands of years. Penicillin is derived

from a mold fungus. Psilocybin is a hallucinogen found in over 140 species and has been found helpful in treating depression, anxieties, and other mental disorders. A fungus compound is commonly used to make a patient’s body accept an organ transplant. Fungi might even be able to clean up oil and chemical spills. Fungi help us make bread, cheese, beer and wine, besides making delicious accents to our meals.



Long Point Biosphere Former President Rick Levick Honoured with Ian Shenstone Fraser Memorial Award

Ontario Nature has recognized Norfolk Field Naturalists' member and Long Point Biosphere Former President, Rick Levick, with the Ian Shenstone Fraser Memorial Award. He was recognized for his work in reducing road mortality in reptiles on the Long Point Causeway. Rick, along with the municipality and members of the community, came together in 2006 to help protect turtles and snakes, many of which are endangered. He says although it is nice to be recognized, it is a tribute to all who have worked on this project and that the best result is their work has reduced roadkill in reptiles on the Causeway by nearly 80 percent.

The Ontario Nature Conservation Awards honours the work of individuals, groups, government agencies and corporations that have done to protect wild species and wild spaces throughout the province.



This award was officially presented at the NFN AGM on September 21, 2021.



Peter Carson (l) Presenting Award to Rick Levick (r)

Species in Focus

Ghost Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)

This fascinating plant is one of nature's weird wonders. Because it has no chlorophyll and doesn't depend on photosynthesis, this ghostly white plant is able to grow in the darkest of forests. Many people also refer to this strange plant as Indian pipe fungus, but it is not a fungus at all – it just looks like one. It is actually a flowering plant, and believe it or not, it is a member of the blueberry family.

Each ghost pipe plant consists of one 7.5 to 23 cm. stem. Although you may notice small scales, no leaves are required because the plant does not photosynthesize. A white or pinkish-white, bell-shaped flower, which appears sometime between late spring and fall, is pollinated by small bumblebees. Once the bloom is pollinated, the "bell" creates a seed capsule that eventually releases tiny seeds into the wind.

Watch a [Learn Your Land video](#) to find out more.



Ghost Pipe

Photo by Jeff Hiebert

Through publications and resources, ON promotes nature conservation and build awareness. Most of the publications are the result of years of research and help support the fight to protect Ontario's wild spaces and species. Look [here](#).

You can read the Fall Issue of the ON magazine [here](#).

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

ontarionature.org

Welcome new Directors!

Bernd Mueller and Madaline Wilson

We are thrilled to have you on board

Welcome New NFN Members

2021 - 2022 Season

Howard Crocker, Corry Curtis, Barb Hawke, Jeff Hiebert, Albert Lava, Leanne Lemaich and Robert Stark

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**

Watch a Baby Eagle Grow Up

Watch "Bird of Prey", the remarkable movie about the Philippine Eagle. This feature-length documentary takes viewers inside the nest of one of the largest and rarest eagles on Earth and introduces the heroes working tirelessly to save it. Produced by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Go [here](#).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

A Board of Directors meeting was held on September 21st, 2021.

Forest Conservation By-Law Update

By Cindy Present, Environment Director

The NFN has submitted three letters this year to the County commenting on the draft Forest Conservation By-law. This document was posted for comment this past spring, as an initial step to public consultation. We focused on specific sections of the by-law, comparing new sections and new wording, along with deletions from the existing by-law. Our letters looked at the expected impacts on Species-at-Risk, weakened or eliminated protections for habitat corridors such as hedgerows, windbreaks, and forested areas, schedules, and management approaches. Many thanks to Mary Gartshore for her careful analysis of the by-law document, and for recommending various best management protocols, and line-by-line recommendations for improving and strengthening the draft that was presented.

The County website noted that comments on the draft by-law from the public would be considered, and then stakeholder groups would be consulted using the revised by-law as a template. The completed by-law would be presented to Council later this year. As far as we know at this point, the by-law has not yet gone to Council. Considering our extensive input, and historical contributions to the existing Forest Conservation by-law, we would like to maintain this collaborative relationship with the County as they revise and improve the effectiveness of this document.



Eaglet

Photo by Neil Rettig, Cornell Lab

Upcoming NFN Events

No Fall events are scheduled.

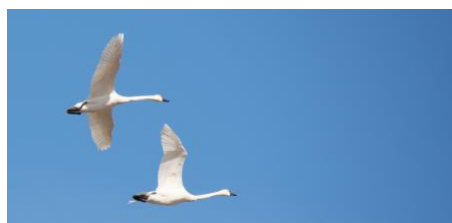


Learn All About Wolves and Coyotes

Dave Taylor is a wildlife photographer and the author of more than 40 books and several dozen magazine articles on wildlife and ecology. He made an excellent presentation which was sponsored by The Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga. Go [here](#) to see the recording.

5 Amazing Ways How Birds Prepare for Migration

One of the most amazing things about birds is their migration. It takes a great deal of energy to fly hundreds or sometimes thousands of miles in a short span between breeding grounds and wintering grounds. Our feathered friends transform their bodies in incredible ways to make this happen and it all takes place just weeks before departure. Some of these fascinating changes include things like shrinking internal organs and sleeping while in flight. So, let's delve into some remarkable transformations our avian buddies go through to make the long journey. Look [here](#).



Tundra Swans Photo by Jan Grincevicius

NFN Meetings

Norfolk Field Naturalist meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from September to May.

Currently, meetings are being held via Zoom. Information about each meeting, including the Zoom link, is emailed a few days ahead of the scheduled meeting.

NFN Mailing Address

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

Next Lotus Issue:

December 2021

Input dead line:

**Friday, November 24,
2021**

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

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	Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count	905-774-1230	
Honorary President	George Pond		
Honorary Directors	Anne and Dolf Wynia		