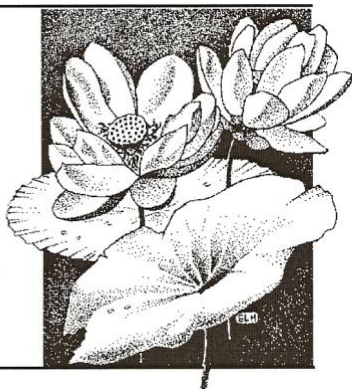


Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



OCTOBER 2022



Celebrate of the Norfolk Field Naturalists

Following is the speech made by Ann Wynia regarding Harry Barrett at the 50th Anniversary Dinner:

“What an honour to be allowed to speak in honour of Harry B. Barrett affectionately known as HarryB.

He has contributed so much to Norfolk with his incredible knowledge of history and ability to write so well. Few have been so passionate about our natural environment as long a Harry.

I knew Harry's sister, Norah, long before I knew Harry when we worked together at the Kitchener's Rotary Children's Centre and school. Norah was the link between the NFN and the Kitchener field naturalists. Harry mentions in some of his writings sharing field trips with the Kitchener club.

Harry grew up on a farm in Woodhouse Township near Port Dover and took the train to Simcoe Composite School. Sometimes he missed the train home when he stayed to visit his girlfriend, Hellen, (later his wife) and had to walk home. Maybe he hitched a ride.

He joined the Navy before he completed all his high school subjects. When I read his book “The Navy and Me” I learned that it is indeed quite amazing that he survived not only the war but the training period before he was sent into action. When completing an exercise from Hamilton through the Welland Canal and Lake Erie into Lake Huron and then in to Georgian Bay Harry asked the captain if each of the lighthouses have a different light signal they give off to which the captain replied “yes”. Then said Harry “We are not at Port Stanley” as I have seen that light many times and it is the signal for Port Dover. The captain was not amused that Harry corrected him. Then in Georgian Bay in the dark and fog Harry was directed to sit on top of the wheelhouse to keep watch. There was nothing to hang on to. Had they hit rock Harry would have gone flying over the bow into the cold waters of the bay probably never to be seen again. If you want to know more about Harry's

many escapades in the navy read his book “The Navy and Me”.

After the war Harry attended and graduated from OAC. Then the Ontario Collage of Education and began teaching at Hagersville school, then Simcoe Composite School and later at Fanshaw College.



Ann Wynia with
Harry Barrett

In 1962 Monroe Landon invited several friends to his home including Helen Straith, Harry B., Barbara Browne, (Harry's sister-in law) and Bertha McKnight. Monroe presented the idea that it was time to restart a field naturalist group The previous group called the J.W. Crowe Naturalists had fallen by the wayside during the war. Monroe suggested that Harry should be the president, Bertha McKnight the secretary and that they should become members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Monroe had invited a representative to his house as well.

At the first meeting Barbara brought a drawing of a Dogwood flower to be the logo for the NFN and a drawing of a Lotus as a logo for the newsletter.

Chris Lee, who many of you will remember was the driving force behind the Lynn Valley Trail became part of the program committee.

Cont'd. p.2

Harry published the first issue of the Lotus on the SCS gestetner machine as he had access to the school to water the plants in the greenhouse on Sundays.

At the FON meetings which Harry attended he recalls a schoolteacher who constantly was doodling produce sketches in caricature of those sitting around the table. It was Robert Bateman.

Harry was selected to present a brief to Queens Park and was aggressively questioned by the Prov. Drainage Superintendent. Later Harry learned he was very impressed with Harry.

In 1965 when Harry had agreed to host an FON conference, he really had not thought out how the club would do this, but he decided that it should be held in the Norfolk Theatre. The next day he read in the reformer that it would be demolished. In the end Harry was congratulated for organizing a very successful conference with 500 in attendance.

When someone asked Harry to write an introduction to a book about William Pope Harry asked, "How do you know I can write?". The answer was "I don't but you're the only one who knows anything about him". In the end Harry was asked to write the complete text. So that was the beginning of Harry's writing career. Since then, Harry has written many books some of which are at the back of the room so if you want to know more you might like to purchase and read them.

There were regular outings lead by Monroe Landon frequently ending at the Forestry Farm where Frank Newman, the nursery Superintendent, hosted a potluck supper in the barn while sightings were tallied.

It is impossible to list all of Harry's accomplishments but to name a few.

- Harry was a provincial appointee to the LPRCA.
- He was a founding member of the Backus Heritage Association
- In 1986 he was appointed to the Ontario Heritage Association
- Shortly after that he became a member of the newly formed Carolinian Canada Coalition
- Chair of the Niagara Escarpment Committee
- A founding member of the Long Point Foundation - I think president

He still attends many meetings and has written many books including a history of the St. Williams Nursery - They Had a Dream, the alligator tug history - Alligators of the North, the Nature of Norfolk and for all I know may be working on yet another book.

Harry we all love and appreciate all you do. Please come up and accept this pin representing the 50th Anniversary of the NFN."

Biologist Finds Behemoth Tree in North Vancouver Nearly as Wide as a Boeing 747 Airplane Cabin

We have some very large trees in Norfolk County but nothing to compare to this western red cedar found in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park. Experts estimate it is 1,000 to 2,000 years old.

To learn more about this amazing tree, go [here](#).



Bald Eagles Raise Baby Hawk

A pair of bald eagles in British Columbia have taken the extremely unusual step of adopting a baby red-tailed hawk into their nest. See video [here](#).

Birds — All About Their Feathers

Bird flight, displays, and even some bird sounds rely on their feathers! How are feathers structured and what other uses do they have? What physical characteristic is unique to birds? You may think of beaks, feathers, wings, laying eggs, or walking on two legs. All of these are important elements of bird anatomy, but only one of them sets birds apart from all other living creatures.

To learn more about all aspects of feathers, go [here](#).

NATURE

"No garden truly blooms until butterflies have danced upon it."

— K. D'Angelo

LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Adam Timpf, NFN Member and Organizer

The 31st Annual Long Point Butterfly Count took place this year on Saturday July 2nd, with 27 observers in various groups surveying different areas in an attempt to identify and count each butterfly encountered. Even though we had great count day weather, pretty much all groups lamented a lack of butterflies. However, numbers don't lie, and we still managed to record the second highest species count with 57 species recorded — just two shy of the record we set last year. The 2496 individuals tallied is not as low as it might have felt like on the day, and only a touch below the long-term average of 2649. Perhaps the butterflies seemed scarce in comparison to the past two years when we counted 3997 and 3762 in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Although most species were in lower numbers, we did manage to set record highs for two species. This year's six Compton Tortoiseshell beat last year's record of five, and it's the second year in a row being spotted after not being recorded since 2009. Hopefully, this trend continues, and it becomes an expected count day find. The 18 American Lady found surpassed the old record of 16 set way back in 1994.

Other interesting finds included two American Snout which is only the third time it has been seen on the count day, while Mulberry Wing appears to be a new mainstay with the two found marking the third year in a row we have had this species.



American Copper

Photo by Len Grincevicius

We didn't set any record lows since most species have been missed entirely before, but there were many species found in single digits. A lone Tawny Emperor was the lowest tally since 2009, while Common

Ringlet and Common Sootywing were both missed. Ringlet and Sootywing were likely both between broods, meaning one generation was flying earlier in the year, and another generation was flying sometime after the count day.



Tawny Emperor

Photo by Bernie Solymar

There were 42 Monarchs counted which is a touch under the long-term average of 53, but is still a pretty good count considering we had fewer observers looking than on other recent counts. Hopefully, they were able to build their numbers before the last generation heads back down to Mexico.

Thank you to all the participants for volunteering their knowledge and efforts — it wouldn't be possible without their dedication and enthusiasm. Next year the count falls on Saturday July 1st, 2023. Sometimes this creates a conflict with Canada Day celebrations, but hopefully many of the participants will be back again next year.



Northern Crescents & Banded Hairstreak

Photo by Bernie Solymar

Cont'd. on p.4

Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 3

The entire species list from this count is below:

Black Swallowtail	7	Red Admiral	15
Giant Swallowtail	0	Buckeye	0
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	31	Red-spotted Purple	9
Spicebush Swallowtail	23	Viceroy	15
Pipevine Swallowtail	0	Tawny Emperor	1
Checkered White	0	Northern Pearly-Eye	24
Mustard White	0	Eyed Brown	12
Cabbage White	842	Appalachian Brown	7
Clouded Sulphur	58	Little Wood-Satyr	46
Orange Sulphur	14	Common Ringlet	0
Harvester	0	Common Wood-Nymph	167
American Copper	5	Monarch	42
Bronze Copper	3	Silver-spotted Skipper	60
Coral Hairstreak	66	Southern Cloudywing	14
Acadian Hairstreak	2	Northern Cloudywing	27
Edward's Hairstreak	388	Dreamy Duskywing	0
Banded Hairstreak	21	Sleepy Duskywing	0
Hickory Hairstreak	5	Juvenal's Duskywing	0
Striped Hairstreak	0	Columbine Duskywing	0
Gray Hairstreak	8	Wild Indigo Duskywing	0
Eastern Tailed-Blue	2	Common Sootywing	0
Summer Azure	21	Least Skipper	14
Silvery Blue	0	European Skipper	64
American Snout	2	Peck's Skipper	1
Variegated Fritillary	0	Tawny-edged Skipper	4
Great Spangled Fritillary	36	Crossline Skipper	1
Silver-bordered Fritillary	0	Long Dash	1
Meadow Fritillary	0	Northern Broken-Dash	23
Aphrodite Fritillary	0	Little Glassywing	7
Silvery Checkerspot	39	Sachem	0
Pearl Crescent	18	Mulberry Wing	2
Northern Crescent	258	Delaware Skipper	9
Baltimore Checkerspot	3	Hobomok Skipper	2
Question Mark	3	Broad-winged Skipper	5
Eastern Comma	20	Dion Skipper	2
Grey Comma	2	Black Dash	0
Compton Tortoiseshell	6	Two-spotted Skipper	0
Mourning Cloak	2	Dun Skipper	16
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	1	Common Roadside Skipper	0
American Lady	18	Common Checkered Skipper	0
Painted Lady	2	Total Individuals	2496
		Total Species	57

Which Species is This?

In September and October, flocks of this small raptor can consist of thousands of circling birds, like an invisible giant stirring a vast cauldron in the sky. This highly visible spectacle, known as a kettle, contrasts with the birds' behavior during nesting season, when they haunt forest interiors and are more difficult to spot. Think you know the name of this beautiful buteo with a boldly banded tail? [Check your answer](#).



Photo by Matthew Addicks

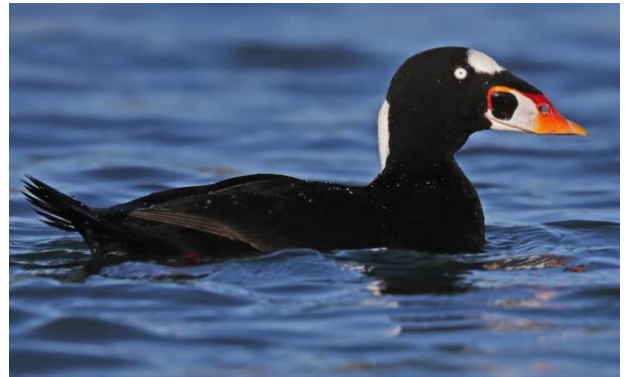
Watch as Four American Kestrel Chick Take Their First Flights

Enjoy this compilation of first flights by the four chicks from the American Kestrel cam in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. Go [here](#).



Salish Sea Marine Bird and Mammal Atlas Story Map

The Pacific Northwest coast of British Columbia contains some of Canada's most iconic scenery — snow-capped mountains next to the ocean, pine trees, sparkling creeks and bald eagles soaring. The Salish Sea is the largest inland sea on the west coast of North America. Work on the Atlas began in 1999 with many of the survey routes occurring within Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). To see this pleasing and interactive user story map of the completed atlas, go [here](#).



Sea Scoter

Photo by Matt Davis,
Cornell Lab Macaulay

Tiny Bug Could be Key to Fighting Invasive Plant

Researchers are hopeful that a tiny bug could be the key to fighting one of the most common invasive plants — garlic mustard. Because it is so hearty, it can take over a forest floor quickly.

A new bug, the grenade aphid (*lipaphis alliariae*) has been found in the Midwest US., including Michigan, and may move into Ontario. The aphid sighting also coincided with some notable damage to garlic mustard plants. An early detection map is included in the article.

To read the entire article, go [here](#).



Bat Hike

Ten of us joined Liv Monck–Whipp of NCC on August 12th. Liv told us about the general biology of bats and the different species that are in our area. We learned that bats give birth to live young. Of the eight species which live in Norfolk, five hibernate in caves and three migrate to warmer climates.

At twilight, we went on a short hike looking and listening for bats. Various devices were used to help us hear them. We were able to spot two species — the Big Brown Bat and the Eastern Red Bat.

The Big Brown Bat has uniformly brown fur and its muzzle, wing membranes and ears are black. It is found in various habitats but is more common in areas of mostly deciduous forest. It mainly hibernates in houses, barns, churches, storm sewers and mines. Some hibernate in caves, tree cavities and rock crevices.

The Eastern Red Bat has brick-red to yellow-red fur that is tipped with white, giving the bat a frosted appearance. They are insectivorous and prefer to feed on moths. During the summer months, red bats are found in various forested habitats including deciduous woodlands with elms and maples. In the fall, they migrate south.



Big Brown Bat Photo from Wikipedia



Eastern Red Bat Photo by Merlin Tuttle

Make Your Own Suet

With this easy vegetarian recipe, you can attract insect lovers like woodpeckers and nuthatches.

With this vegetarian version of suet (traditionally it's made from rendered animal fat) you can provide the perfect winter substitute for birds that normally feast on insects. This lipid-rich treat can help prepare year-round residents for the long winter and is quite the draw for birds such as woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice.

Materials:

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- Ice cube tray

Steps:

1. Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.
2. Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.
3. Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Spoon mixture into the ice cube tray.
5. Freeze for one to two hours and place in your suet feeder!
- 6.

Note: Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees.

Fungi Hike

About ten people joined Inga Hinnerichsen and Leanne Lemaiche on October 2nd for a walk in Backus Woods to learn about the species of fungi found there. Lots was learned about the amazingly different shapes, sizes and features of these wonderful organisms.

Thanks, Leanne, for the photos.



Lots of learning going on



Hericium Americanum



Calvatia Gigantea



Old Man of the Woods – *Strobilomyces Strobilaceus*

"ParsNIP it in the Bud"

By Bruce and Stuart Mackenzie
(with permission)

Seldom has an old expression been more important than "Nip it in the Bud" in reference to a relatively new plant to Port Rowan and Norfolk County, Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*).

Wild Parsnip an invasive, non-native plant that is moving across eastern North America. In some places like Niagara and Norfolk it still not well known and widespread yet which means it is the perfect time to try to put a stop to it. For once it gets going it is virtually impossible to stop.



Wild Parsnip is in the Parsnip Family like Giant Hogweed. Both of these plants have toxic sap that makes Poison Ivy look like a walk in the park. The sap from Wild Parsnip and Giant Hogweed causes a photosensitivity of our skin to sunlight and may cause the equivalent of second and third degree burns and make one's skin sensitive to sunlight for possibly years. Under no circumstance do you want to come into contact with the sap.



One of the main problems with getting rid of Wild Parsnip and Hogweed is that the seeds can lay dormant in the soil for up to 5 years or so before it germinates. So even if you eliminate a plant, or plants, you have to keep going back to kill off the next generations that pop up. It's akin to the Groundhog in Caddyshack - the plant just keeps popping up.

Wild Parsnip is fairly easy to identify but is easily overlooked by the non-botanist especially as it grows with many other plants. The plant is a biennial, meaning it grows leaves in the first year and then flowers in the second year. This is good for you have two years to kill it before it goes to seed. It likes to grow in disturbed soils, so it is particularly pervasive along roadsides, and one of the largest patches in the county is on a soil pile in Duck's Landing in Port Rowan which has all gone to seed. Once established, it easily moves into fields, gardens, and savannahs. The plant is most easily identified when it is in flower with a flat-topped crown of small yellow flowers.

There are a couple of strategies to control it. Spraying the plant with herbicides like Round up or Clearview, cutting off the seed heads, or mowing it before the flowers go to seed are all effective. Raspberry pruning hooks are very good at cutting stems. Cut roadsides are particularly well suited for propagation of the plant. It is best for professionals to carefully apply herbicide and kill it down to the root once and for all. Mowing isn't as easy as it sounds — if you mow it just once the plant will most likely replace the one flowering stem with three flowering stems. Removing it by mowing does present a possible

Cont'd. p.9

danger to the mower operator or anyone who may touch or clean the machine later as the sap will stick to equipment. The operator must take precautions. Please, whatever you do, do not use a weed whipper as the sap will spray everywhere. Lastly, you can contact your local and provincial representatives to let them know how important our natural spaces free of invasive and harmful species are to you and your family.



There is an exceptional opportunity for our community, with leadership from Norfolk County and others, to aggressively control spread of Wild Parsnip before it gets too established in the County. The City of Ottawa has a major problem with the plant, and the State of New York has given up trying to control it. It would be a shame to let a relatively minor roadside scourge progress into a menace that can harm our children, change our way of life, or compromise any of our hard work conserving our natural heritage and spaces across the county. If our community can rally to

collectively tackle Phragmites, we can easily handle parsnip that is just starting to get a foothold. If you have any on your property or roadside, please try and do your part before it's too late!

A map of the distribution of Wild Parsnip in Norfolk is available [here](#). You can contribute to this project by using iNaturalist and adding your observations to the project 'Wild Parsnip Spread in Norfolk County'.



Find more information about Wild Parsnip and other invasive species [here](#).

The Cornell Lab Bird Academy

Find a list of upcoming free on-line events as well as access to all archived recordings of presentations [here](#).



ON 2021-22 Annual Report

You can read about ON's accomplishments in protecting places, safeguarding wild species and connecting people to nature in the [2021-2022 Annual Report](#).

Kingston Groups Win Fight Against Wetland Destruction

Many groups in Kingston have been fighting a proposed development that would see a past industrial site on the waterfront clearcut and part of the Provincially Significant Wetland destroyed in the name of remediation. Kingston City Council voted to deny zoning changes. See ON's statement [here](#). Read article [here](#).

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

Welcome New Director!

Elisabeth Duckworth

We are thrilled to have you on board.

Welcome New NFN Members

2022 - 2023 Season

Mike & Marilyn McMillan, Ross, Anna & Ronan Fairley, Liv Monck-Whipp, Allen Murray, Laurene Via

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next few weeks will provide us with some amazing visuals as Fall colours peak in Norfolk. Obviously, we don't get the brilliant, synchronized peaks that, say Algonquin Park does, but I always like to tell folks that's because our biodiversity of trees and shrubs is so much richer down here in "the south". Do make sure you get out for as many hikes/wanders as you can and drink in the sights, smells and sounds!

I am pleased to report that we have two new Board members following our AGM on September 20th: Luke Haze and Elizabeth Duckworth. Luke, a retired CCA, will be taking over the Treasurer duties from Peter Vaughan, who has stepped down. Peter was thanked for his service to our organization over the last two years. The rest of your 2022 directors are back for one more year to carry us through to September 2023.

The revised (final draft) Norfolk Forest Conservation By-law has now gone to Council. Our Environment Director, Cindy Presant, worked diligently to strengthen this by-law. Unfortunately, we did come out short in our recommendations on several areas, i.e. size of woodlot has increased to 1 hectare, "good farming practices" made it into the document, and species-at-risk wording has been watered down. On the other hand, we can take satisfaction that the by-law was not scrapped and re-written completely (as was attempted by a farming interest), and strong provincial and federal laws on species-at-risk protection still supersede municipal by-laws.

At our AGM last month, we made a big announcement that NFN has been left a large bequest in the will of a former member. We do not have the final dollar amount until the funds are transferred but we can say they are in the six figures. The Board of Directors will have some deep discussion over the next year on how best to allocate those funds to meet our mission and eventually come back to the membership to approve our decision(s).

The next BoD Meeting will be held on November 22, 2022. The report from this meeting will be in the December issue of the Lotus.

Thank You!

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

Upcoming NFN Events

Watch for pop-up events.



Balsam Fir Needles Can Kill Ticks That Cause Lyme Disease

Shelley Adamo, a professor in the department of psychology and neuroscience at Dalhousie University in Halifax, said she noticed ticks often didn't survive where there are thick stands of balsam fir trees.

The results of a three-year study into how balsam fir needles could help control tick populations was published recently in "Scientific Reports".



Read the entire article from CBC News [here](#).



Land Point Basin Land Trust has lots of videos to watch. Go [here](#).

NFN Meetings

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

Meetings take place at the **Vittoria Community Centre, 35 Oakes Blvd., Vittoria**. The meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 7:15 pm, programs begin at 7:30 pm.

CURRENTLY, MEETINGS ARE HELD ON ZOOM

NFN Mailing Address

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

Next Lotus Issue:

February 2023

Input deadline:

Friday, January 20, 2023

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

2022 - 2023 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

Email: info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org

President	Bernie Solymár
Vice-President	Peter Carson
Sanctuary	Peter Carson
Past President	Inga Hinnerichsen
Treasurer	Luke Haze
Secretary (Interim)	Inga Hinnerichsen
Director/Membership	Jan Grincevicius
Director Speaker Program and Field Events	Len Grincevicius
Director Publicity	vacant
Director Environment	Cindy Presant
Director-at-large	Elisabeth Duckworth
Director-at-large	Bernd Mueller
Director-at-large	Madaline Wilson
Lotus Editor (appointed)	Jan Grincevicius
Website Coordinator (appointed)	Lisa Timpf
Butterfly Count (appointed)	Adam Timpf
Christmas Bird Counts (appointed)	Adam Timpf - Woodhouse Count
	Linda Thrower - Fisherville Count
Honorary President	George Pond
Honorary Directors	Anne and Dolf Wynia