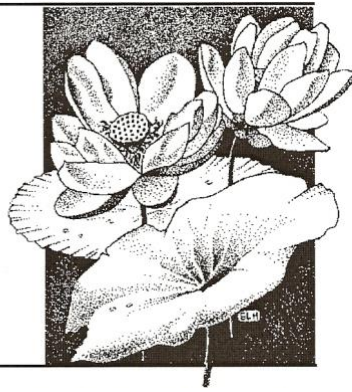


# Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the

NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



SUMMER 2023



THE GREAT CANADIAN  
**BIRDATHON**  
BIRDING FOR CONSERVATION



## George Pond's Report

In the past few years, the world of birding has seen the introduction of an App called "Merlin" which records the song of a singing bird and then names the bird. This is a tremendous learning tool for anyone wanting to bird by ear and now wherever there are birders, many of them will have this App on their phone. However, the App also creates a dilemma for competing against others or recording sightings for such things as the Great Canadian Birdathon. "Can I count a bird that was identified by the Merlin?"

I love birding by ear; even more, I love hearing a bird, identifying it by ear and then seeing it. Over the years I have managed to learn some of the songs of the birds that either breed in our area or pass through in migration. However, there are still a great many that I either don't recognize or am reluctant to identify only by ear, without actually seeing the bird. I envy the experts who know both the songs and call notes of most of the birds that they encounter.

I did my Great Canadian Birdathon on May 15 and this year took four relatively new birders with me: my son, his wife and her mother, who has been birding for several years, and a friend of my son's. He is very keen and is quickly becoming a very competent birder. Both my son and daughter-in-law had the Merlin App on their phones and since this was my Birdathon we established the following rule. I couldn't count any bird by ear unless I identified the bird before they announced what their Merlin's had identified or we actually saw the bird. We left at 6 AM and drove to the St William's Forest sand road which we drove at a snail's pace with the windows down. It was very cold which kept the

mosquitos at bay and probably silenced the birds to some extent. There was still some bird song indicating that some of the resident birds were back on territory. I was doing my Birdathon a week or so earlier than usual and it seemed obvious that many birds had not yet arrived at their breeding territories. We identified Yellow, Common Yellow throat, Hooded, Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, Pine and Ovenbird warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Indigo buntings, Eastern towhees, Field Sparrow and Wood Thrush. The Merlins also recorded a Brown Creeper, Wilson's warbler, Tufted Titmouse and Blue-headed vireo. I probably heard the vireo and mistook it for a Red-eyed vireo, of which there were several.

From the St William's Forest, we drove to the Backus Woods sand road and walked a trail to the "Prothonotary warbler pond". On the way to the woods, we heard the insect-like song of a Savanna sparrow. In Backus Woods a Northern waterthrush was calling loudly and we heard the "rat-a-tat-tat- drilling of a Yellow-bellied sapsucker. A Swainson's thrush foraged along the trail and a wood duck flew past some of the others. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet tanagers sang. The Merlins heard a Great crested Flycatcher which I failed to hear. I also didn't hear the Prothonotary warbler but others. I'll have to go back.

From Backus it was off to Long Point where we visited the Old Cut banding area and the old Provincial Park looking for migrants. Unfortunately, there had been little or no migration the previous night but a few stragglers remained allowing us good sightings of Cape May, Magnolia, Northern Parula, Black and White, Black-throated blue, American redstart warblers,

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Warbling vireos, catbirds, White-throated sparrows, house wrens, Carolina wren, a Least flycatcher, a Pied-billed grebe and several other common species.

A drive up Hastings Drive to the most western part of Long Point was good for Bald eagles, Caspian terns, kingfishers, double crested cormorants and Red-breasted mergansers but none of the hoped for shorebirds. We checked the marsh viewing stand and heard a distant American bittern. I had planned on returning in the evening for other marsh birds but that wasn't to be. We scanned another part of the marsh and bay with my scope from the Port Rowan cemetery and were rewarded with Lesser Scaup, Ruddy ducks, a Redhead and a female Shoveler.



**Scarlet Tanager**

**Photo by George Pond**

We had a great picnic lunch which we ate on the porch of a Birding friend. Her bird feeders were good for Ruby-throated hummingbirds, Orchard and Baltimore orioles, white-breasted nuthatch as well as a Black-billed cuckoo which called from the thick hedge. The familiar “cu-cu-cu-cu” song didn't register with me until it was mentioned. We never did find the bird. We watched a Vesper sparrow singing and sitting on a post and sat for several minutes watching a scarlet tanager about 20 feet from us in the Coppen's tract (always a favourite with birders). Further along the road, in a pasture field, several Bobolinks put on their “Helicopter” flight display. The feeders at Front Road home produced a House finch, White-crowned sparrows and a Purple finch that I failed to call but the Merlin identified, much to my chagrin. At another property we saw a newly banded baby Bluebird that would soon be fledging.

About 4 PM my body told me that I was finished. We still had the Townsend lagoons where I knew there were 8 to 12 species of ducks and shorebirds that we hadn't tallied, but I also knew that I couldn't walk into and then around the lagoons to record them. I'm sure my crew was disappointed, and I know my former “Birdathon Buddies” will be saying “What! George gave up before he finished the game?” Sorry but that's the way it was. As a team we had identified 87 species and the Merlins had suggested an additional 14 which we couldn't count. Hopefully my crew were satisfied with the day and will continue to be interested in birds.

### **Birding Hurts Your Neck** — *Charismatic encounters with nature*

**Article by Karim Ganem Maloof**

After spending whole days looking up, your neck grows sore. You get spasms and realize how unnatural it is to gaze at the sky for more than a few moments. After several days of doing it, your head can remain fixed in that position, your gaze glued to the ceiling, your cramped muscles not letting you look down again. I imagine an island of birdwatchers, their heads in the clouds, visited by Gulliver on one of his voyages. It could be located in the middle of the Amazon River.

If you look at a map of Colombia, you will note that its southern tip has what could be a fanciful little tail drawn by a child. It was drawn in a 1922 treaty that granted Colombia a trapezoid of Amazonian Forest in Peru that provided access to the largest river in the world—and with it a Peruvian port that has since passed into Colombian hands: Leticia.

Learn more about Karim Maloof's journey as a birder [here](#).



# Great Canadian Birdathon

## Mike McMillan's Report

I picked up Barry Jones at his home in Port Dover at 6:00 am and we headed to the Townsend sewage lagoons where we found ten species of ducks – northern shoveller, blue-winged teal, lesser scaup, ruddy duck, redhead, gadwall, mallard, wood duck, canvasback and black duck. There were four shorebird species—least sandpiper, spotted sandpiper, lesser yellowlegs and dunlin. Also in one of the ponds, almost side by side, was a trumpeter swan and a tundra swan. In a nearby field we located a savannah sparrow and a song sparrow.

Farther west on the sewage lagoon's road we stopped at a low spot with a stream nearby. Here we could hear the “witchity-witchity-wichity” chant of a common yellowthroat. During a short walk along the road we spotted a rough-winged swallow and a bobolink.

Just south of Hay Creek on the Port Ryerse Road as we were approaching an eagle's nest in a tree a mature eagle flew from near the nest. Our only action at Port Ryerse was the incessant sound of a red-eyed vireo.

As we were leaving Port Ryerse heading west on the Front Road a pair of flickers were flittering in a roadside tree. A little further on we stopped in front of Mike & Lorraine Fletcher's property and scoured the large field across the road. Back in the field a bluebird was perched on a bush. Then a meadowlark landed on the same bush scaring off the bluebird. Immediately after that as we stood on the roadside a green heron flew in and landed high up in a nearby tree.

A stop at Turkey Point produced nothing new so we went straight to the sand road one concession north of the Forestry Station. We slowly drove along this road with the car windows down. At a clear area we stopped and walked back in. Here we spotted a chestnut-sided warbler and heard a mourning warbler. As we returned to the sand road the trill of a pine warbler rang out. Further on we stopped again where we spotted a towhee and a veery.

We drove west on highway 24, crossed highway 59 and continued straight ahead on county road 60. We stopped and spent some time at a wet area where we saw a warbling vireo, a yellow warbler and heard a swamp sparrow.

Further on we stopped at the Timpf property where we spotted a kingbird in a tree near the road. We walked into the property and listened to the musical song of a brown thrasher. Then we heard a field sparrow. As we chatted with Matthew Timpf a sapsucker landed in a nearby tree. A little further down the road we spotted a vesper sparrow.

At the Old Park on Long Point I added a parula warbler and house wren to my list. After a lunch break we stopped at Old Cut where some cowbirds were feeding at one of the feeders. There were plenty of purple martins at the martin house and from that lookout point we spotted a great blue heron in the marsh below. The only other birds I saw at Old Cut were a white-throated sparrow, a black-throated blue warbler and a Carolina wren.



Carolina Wren

Photo by Allen Murray

Our next stop was at the Backus Woods which we entered off concession 3. The woods were unusually quiet but we did manage to see an indigo bunting and a pair of great-crested flycatchers. We headed north and, just west of Walsingham, stopped to check Diane Salter's bird feeders. As usual the feeders were busy. After a short stay I had seen a white-breasted nuthatch, a red-bellied woodpecker, a downy woodpecker, a goldfinch, a hummingbird and an orchard oriole as well as hearing a red-breasted grossbeak.

Next we headed south to the bridge at Port Royal on the Front Road where we spotted pigeons and cliff swallows. During a quick stop at the Port Rowan wetland we found a solitary bufflehead. Since it was late afternoon we decided to drive back to Port Dover.

After dropping off Barry I headed straight back to Port Rowan. Following a quick bite to eat I checked the downtown for chimney swifts without success. A few minutes later as I was walking up the road to Bayview Cemetery I saw Diane Salter, Betty Chanyi and Anne Wynia doing their birdathons. They were pointing up at a tree and motioning for me to look up where they had located a red-headed woodpecker.

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**Red-headed Woodpecker**

Photo by Jan Grincevicius

I was allowed to join them and we headed to Hastings Drive on the point. During the drive on Hastings I spotted a ring-billed gull flying along the lakeshore. At the end of Hastings we found three Bonaparte gulls. At our next stop at the lookout on the causeway we heard an American bittern and, in the distance, sandhill cranes. My final stop was on the East Quarter Line at Highway 24 and as darkness settled in I was able to hear both a whip-poor-will and a woodcock.

After a promising start to the day at the sewage lagoons my final tally was 87 species, a bit disappointing. The warblers which had been around a couple of days previously were just not there resulting in my lowest warbler count ever on a birdathon. Again, I am indebted to Barry Jones for accompanying me. His expertise was a tremendous help.

When all the money is in the total should exceed \$6000, money that will help Birds Canada for its bird conservation programs and the Norfolk Field Naturalists for its conservation efforts.

American Bittern*	Bald Eagle	Yel-bel Woodpecker	Carolina Wren	Savannah Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Wild Turkey	Downy Woodpecker	House Wren	Song Sparrow
Green Heron	Sandhill Crane*	Northern Flicker	Eastern Bluebird	Swamp Sparrow*
Turkey Vulture	Killdeer	Gr. Crested Flycatcher	Veery	White-throat Sparrow
Mute Swan	Lesser Yellowlegs	Eastern Kingbird	American Robin	Northern Cardinal
Canada Goose	Spotted Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	Gray Catbird	Rose-br. Grosbeak*
Tundra Swan	Least Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo*	Brown Thrasher*	Indigo Bunting
Trumpeter Swan	Dunlin	Blue Jay	European Starling	Bobolink
Wood Duck	American Woodcock*	American Crow	Northern Parula	Red-winged Blackbird
Am. Black Duck	Bonaparte's Gull	Purple Martin	Yellow Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
Mallard	Ring-billed Gull	Tree Swallow	Chest-sided Warbler	Common Grackle
Blue-winged Teal	Rock Pigeon	N. Rough-wing Swallow	Black-thr Blue Warbler	Brn-headed Cowbird
Northern Shoveler	Mourning Dove	Cliff Swallow	Pine Warbler*	Orchard Oriole
Gadwall	E. Whip-poor-will*	Barn Swallow	Mourning Warbler*	Baltimore Oriole
Canvasback	Ruby-thr Hummingbird	Black-capped Chickadee	Common Yellowthroat	American Goldfinch
Redhead	Red-hd. Woodpecker	White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Towhee	House Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Red-bell. Woodpecker		Chipping Sparrow	<b>Total: 87</b>
Bufflehead			Field Sparrow*	
Ruddy Duck			Vesper Sparrow	*heard bird

# The American Woodcock in Literature and in Life

Article by Jeffrey Hiebert

There we were, a dozen or so people standing in a field, waiting, watching, and listening. The sky began to darken, the pinks and oranges of sunset had mostly disappeared, melting into a deep purple. The chorus of trilling toads (*Anaxyrus americanus*) and the Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) calling out its name in the woods only increased the tension on our strained ears. Suddenly, we heard the first sharp *peent* from the distance. We moved as a group to try to line ourselves up with the repeated metallic sound. The almost electronic or perhaps frog-like sound was produced by a very strange-looking bird, a bird that was our focus tonight. Once we thought we knew where the bird was calling from, we resumed our watchful stance, binoculars and camera lenses trained on the brush and the purplish sky above it. Then suddenly our guide, Audrey Heagy, announced that the bird was rising through the air because she could hear its wings whistling upward. Looking around I couldn't see any living thing against the dusk sky. It felt for the first few times like a sort of magic trick. And indeed, misdirection is the bird's intent. Eventually I got used to watching the sky for tiny dark shapes and my ears became attuned to the pitch of the birds' wings on their ascents and descents above the darkening fields. Even so, there were times when we would hear the *peent* of a grounded bird so sharply and clearly that we knew exactly where it was patrolling on the ground despite not being able to see it. We would focus all of our senses on this presumed location and then be fooled by the mysterious bird's magic tricks.

There are many natural phenomena that I have read about before encountering personally. This was one such event: the skydance of the American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) male.

There are a few ways the Woodcock gets away with such an obvious display and yet remains safe from predators. When first launching and on final landing approach, the Woodcock moves not vertically but horizontally for a few meters, without making a sound. This silent horizontal movement really works to confuse observers as evidenced by the group of naturalists whipping their heads around every time a Woodcock would begin ascending not directly above where it was on the ground, but several meters away. The sound of their whistling wings seems to fill the air, making it extremely difficult to pinpoint where in the sky the sound is coming from.

Besides a blurry shape overhead (once winging directly over our group), we didn't get a visual on these

mysterious dancing birds. I had observed one of these stealthy creatures on a previous occasion in the woods of Pinery Provincial Park and every time I looked away I had to re-locate the foraging Woodcock. Their camouflage helps them escape predators and is extremely effective.

*Here is a photo I took of the Woodcock I observed in Pinery Provincial Park in October 2018. My wife spotted the Woodcock first, somehow picking out its amazingly camouflaged form from among the fallen leaves.*



I would like to end where I began my encounters with the American Woodcock: in the pages of a book. Here is a passage from one of my favourite natural history authors, Edwin Way Teale, who described the Woodcock's behaviour so elegantly and inspired me to seek it out myself.

From *A Naturalist Buys an Old Farm*, by Edwin Way Teale:

"Its performance begins with the brown chunky long-billed bird walking about in the open field, turning this way and that, uttering again and again a buzzing nasal 'peent!'... The call seems now far away, now close at hand, according to the direction the bird is pointing. Then there is a moment of silence. It is followed by the winnowing sound of its wings, and we see its dark little form speeding in a wide climbing curve against the light of the sky... Higher and higher in great sweeping circles it mounts above the pasture. We follow with our eyes its retreating form, often losing it in the sky. At the height of its ascent the song begins. The sweet frail twittering sound at times seems to come from all directions, the notes to shower down

Cont'd. p.6

around us. And while the song goes on it is joined by a quavering musical strain produced by three stiff narrow feathers at each wingtip. They vibrate into the wind as the bird plunges, veering wildly, falling through the sky like a gust-blown leaf. The end comes abruptly – an almost vertical descent to the darkened meadow. Then the ‘peenting’ calls begin once.”



**Some attendees at Timberdoodle Walk - Photo by Elisabeth Duckworth**

**“Folk in the Forest” Fridays — Early Birds, Signs of Spring, Spring Migrants, Ephemeral Wildflower and Nature Hike at Trout Creek — were held this Spring**

**Thanks — Bernie Solymar, Audrey Heagy and Len Grincevicius**



**Photo by Len Grincevicius**



**Photo by Bernie Solymár**



**Photo by Len Grincevicius**

### **What are Boxelder Bugs?** **Also, why you should never squash them.**

It's not a beetle, not a cockroach, and not something you should squash, no matter how many squeeze their way into your home.

It's black with red edges, almond-shaped and about two centimetres long. Antonia Guidotti, an entomology technician at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, says they are likely boxelder bugs. They are native to North America and get their name from the boxelder tree, also known as Manitoba maples, whose seeds are an important food source for the insects.

To read more about these insects you may find in your home, go [here](#).





## The Subtle Differences Between Male and Female Bald Eagle Facial Features

Of course, there is the size difference. Generally, females are much larger than males. These pictures demonstrate how to tell them apart not only by their size and shoulder pads (female is built more like a “linebacker”), but also by their heads.

The female’s head is overall a bit flatter on top, especially when her head feathers are not roused. Females are well known for having a “fierce” or “stern” look. It’s because females have a more pronounced Supraorbital Ridge (the bony protuberance above the eye socket that shades and protects the eye). Males’ Supraorbital Ridge is not that intense.



Bald Eagle eyes are amazing! They have a better resolution and focus allowing them to see everything in great detail, with superior binocular vision and the ability to see more colors. All eagles’ visual acuity is 20/5, compared to 20/20 visual acuity of mere humans. They can spot a rabbit up to three miles away!

A female’s beak is overall larger and thicker than a male’s from top to bottom. Her upper beak (Maxilla) is not only thicker but also a bit longer. Her beak “runs for miles” while a male’s curves down faster.

Females have a curvy wavy ridge on the bottom edge of the upper beak (the Tomial Ridge) that overlaps with the lower beak (Mandible) a bit more. Males’ Tomial Ridge is a bit flatter in comparison, probably making them look not as threatening. This wavy curve is a common feature for raptors that helps them subdue prey quicker.



Jackie is the female and Shadow is the male. See more about them [here](#).

### Feeling down? Listen to the Birds

– by Richard Sima

Birdsong is associated with better physical and mental health. Easily accessible, it helps quell anxiety and stress, and may even lower blood pressure.

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

Yellow Warbler — Photo by Jan Grincevicius



## Planting American Chestnut Trees in Norfolk County

Article by Member, Jan Grincevicius  
(with input from Dragan Galic and Tony Jovan)

It all started several years ago when I learned about the Chestnut blight on a Winter Backus Woods Tree Ecology Hike with Brett Norman. He told us that the American Chestnut has faced extinction since the early 1900s. Today, few American Chestnut Trees remain in the wild.

The Canadian Chestnut Council has dedicated itself to restoring the tree to its historical range in Canada. Since 2000, the Council has undertaken a cross-breeding program to develop a blight resistant tree.

Each Fall, under the direction of University of Guelph lead researcher and Science Advisory to CCC, Dragan Galic, nuts from CCC tree plantations are collected and then seeded the following spring for planting later in the year. This seeding activity is an important step in developing a blight resistant American Chestnut Tree.



**Tree in Port Dover Cemetery**

In February 2023, I volunteered along with some other NFN members to prepare several thousand pots for seeding of chestnuts at the Agriculture Research station near Simcoe. While I was there, I learned from NFN member, Tony Jovan, that his property had been approved as a CCC tree plantation.

Fast forward to the end of June when Tony invited Len and I to help transplant seedlings which were planted in February. Unfortunately, Len was not able to attend, but I was there to do my small part. I was amazed at how much these seedlings had grown in the greenhouse since the winter.

Dragan was present to provide instruction on how the trees were to be planted to give them the best chance to reach adulthood, including proper depth, staking, tree guards and mulching.



**Tony digging holes**

All trees are tagged with the year planted, parent information, etc. I learned these seedlings are third generation trees with Canadian resistance from 26 surviving Ontario “mother trees”. There are three main forms of resistance. One relates to the bark which provides a barrier to disease entry. Another concerns the ability of trees to cover wounds with callusing. The third relates to the production of phytoalexins – plant derived antibiotics that attack the blight. The seedlings are mathematically 90% American Chestnut (pure) and only genetically cannot be distinguished from the original parent. There are both pure and hybrid trees in the breeding program which involves crossing the most tolerant trees, i.e., those that develop the smallest lesions when exposed to the disease. Through successive generations, it’s hoped the level of resistance can be increased so that American Chestnut trees can be re-established throughout their former Ontario range.

One more round of inoculation/infestation of the blight will occur when these seedlings/saplings reach 5 cm. caliper size (in about four-years-time). The survivors will then be crossed with American.

About 400 trees have been planted on Tony’s farm. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Seedling planted**





## The Tallest Poison Ivy in the World is in Ontario

When Robert Fedrock from Paris first happened upon what is now a Guinness World Record-holding poison ivy, he wasn't quite sure what he was looking at.

"The vine is so big that, at eye level, it really just looks like a hairy creature.  
Learn more [here](#).



**The NFN is looking for the following:**

### **TREASURER**

Current or former background as a trained bookkeeper or accountant would be helpful.

### **ENVIRONMENT DIRECTOR**

### **PUBLICITY DIRECTOR**

**&**

### **DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

(no experience necessary)

Attends four Board Meetings and the Annual Meeting each year.

Contact Bernie at:  
[info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org)

## **Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Program**

This is a new program developed by Birds Canada, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, and NatureServe Canada. KBAs are places around the world that are critical to the persistence of species and ecosystems. Sites are designated as KBAs when they host species that are range-restricted, at-risk, or congregate in large numbers; or when they host ecosystems with high biodiversity value. Long Point peninsula and marshes is one such place. To learn more, go [here](#).



**Immature Bald Eagle Photo by Jan Grincevicius**

**Reduce Your Environmental Footprint  
What You Can Do**

Our planet's natural environment is under unprecedented stress.

We need systemic change to address the most pressing environmental issues we face today, like climate change and biodiversity loss. Companies and governments of all levels have a critical role to play and must step up, but there are still many ways that we as individuals can contribute to restoring a healthy planet by reducing our environmental footprint.

[See some suggestions to get you started.](#)

**ON Nature Magazine**

To read the Summer Issue of ON Nature magazine, go [here](#).

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

[ontarionature.org](http://ontarionature.org)

**Welcome New NFN Members**

**2022 - 2023 Season**

**Mary Dempsey & Bob Miller, Ann & John  
Meuris, Jane Peer & Patrick Mercuri,  
Angelle & Glen VanKleef, and Charlotte  
Wright**

**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**

It has been a particularly busy year for your Board of Directors. We now have the Harry B. Barrett Scholarship all set up and are looking forward to awarding our first scholarship this year. We are also updating our bylaws and policies as required by the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Incorporations Act. Our push for a Natural Heritage Strategy for Norfolk County is on-track. Tom Via (Chair, Long Point Biosphere Region) and I met with county staff to discuss a path forward and were pleased to find that the County has plans to add such a strategy into their updated Official Plan, slated for release in 2028.

We are happy to announce that we will be returning to an in-person meeting schedule this fall and winter! Our new location is the Norfolk Room in the Simcoe Recreation Centre. There will be live speakers from September thru December, and in April. For the winter months we will have speakers "beamed in" on the big screen. I look forward to seeing everyone this fall!

During the spring we held a number of "Folk in the Forest" hikes on Fridays. We usually had 8 to 10 people out on our hikes, which were led by Audrey Heagy or me. We look forward to expanding this program, but also returning to our Saturday hikes in the Fall.

We are now able to officially announce that the NFN is one of the beneficiaries of the estate of Harry Frishette. We have received \$360,000 from Mr. Frishette's estate and are anticipating another \$30,000 or so. This puts our little club into the enviable position of deciding how we will utilize these funds over the coming years. The Board of Directors will be developing a policy as to how those funds can be spent. Of course, all decisions will be brought to our membership for ratification as per our bylaws.

A final (sad) note is that our Environment Director, Cindy Presant, has resigned for personal reasons. Cindy was instrumental in reviewing and providing input to Norfolk County on the draft forest conservation by-law on our behalf. She also kept abreast and represented us on several other municipal environmental issues and been a strong advocate for conservation in Norfolk.

The above means that NFN is now looking for a replacement for the Environment Director position, as well as a Treasurer. Please do consider volunteering for these positions, or as a director-at-large as we move towards some new exciting directions. Keep in mind too, that we are a real congenial bunch and our Board meeting commitments is normally no more than 4 meetings a year. Call me at 519-427-9969 or talk to any of the other directors if you'd be willing to join us.

Wishing you a safe and eventful summer!

Bernie

## Upcoming NFN 2023 Autumn Event

### Mushroom Hike

September 30, 2023, 1-3 p.m.

Backus Woods

## Which Species is This?

Large groups of this stylishly patterned duck congregate in shallow wetlands, lakes, and bays throughout much of the continent in the fall and winter. Their long necks and slender profiles readily separate them from other ducks, as does the male's brilliant white chest and stripe up the neck. Are you sharp enough to work out the ID? Check your answer [here](#).



## Pile It on For Snakes

There are lots of really simple things you can do to help reptiles — without even picking up a hammer! Just leaving some brush piles or mounds of stone and rock will create good places for snakes to rest and hide from predators. Check out this LPBLT video [here](#).

## NFN Meetings

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

Meetings take place at the **Simcoe Recreation Centre, 182 South Drive, Simcoe**. The meetings are free and visitors are always welcome. Doors open at 7:15 pm, programs begin at 7:30 pm.

**Meetings in January, February and March will be held on Zoom**

## NFN Mailing Address

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

## Next Lotus Issue:

**October 2023**

**Input deadline:**

**Friday, September 22,  
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](http://www.norfolkfieldnaturalists.org)

## 2022 - 2023 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

Email: [info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org](mailto:info@norfolkfieldnaturalists.org)

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