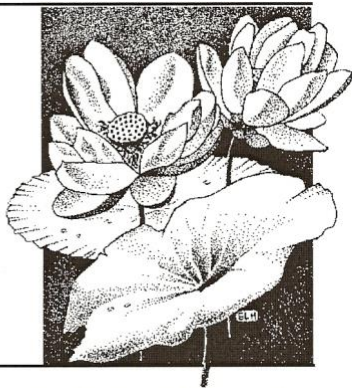


# Lotus

NEWSLETTER

of the  
NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS



OCTOBER 2023



## LONG POINT BUTTERFLY COUNT

Article by Adam Timpf, NFN Member and Organizer

The results of the 2023 Long Point Butterfly Count are in and the complete list is shown below. It was a hot, somewhat uncomfortable day to be out, and it seems the butterflies might have felt the same way.



Clouded Sulphur Photo by Bernie Solymar

Most groups commented on the lack of butterflies, but we still turned up a respectable 52 species which is above the all-time average of 50, and just slightly below the 10-year average of 53.5. As for individual butterflies, our total of 1764 is fairly low considering the past three years we had totals of 3997, 3762, and 2496. The all-time average and 10-year average are 2621 and 2729 respectively. In 2019, we only recorded 1706, but that year we had storms and not everyone made it out on the day. The numbers aren't corrected for the number of participants, amount of effort, and weather conditions. And of course, big hatches of individual species can really skew the total. We will leave the more complex analysis to the statisticians, but it's still interesting to look at the data.

We didn't set any new count highs or lows, but here are some points of interest:

Black Swallowtail - 10 is the most seen since 2012  
Orange Sulphur - 1 is rather low although we missed it entirely in 2019  
Hairstreaks were generally in low numbers apart from the 30 Coral Hairstreak. Other hairstreak totals are: 2 Acadian, 10 Edward's (lowest since 2010), 8 Banded, 1 Hickory, 5 Gray  
Summer Azure - 75 was the highest tally since 2011  
Grey Comma, both Tortoiseshells, and American Lady were missed entirely  
Tawny Emperor - second year in a row with only one  
Eyed Brown - 30 is the most since 2012  
Little Wood Satyr - 134 is the most since 2008  
Monarch - 38 is below our average of 53, but not an overall depressing total  
Silver-spotted Skipper - 25 is the lowest since 2010  
Juvenal's Duskywing - 3 is our first since the count high of 5 in 2019  
Wild Indigo Duskywing - first since 2014  
Mulberrywing - 1 recorded, and seen each year since first appearing on the count in 2020  
Dun Skipper - 2 is the lowest tally since 2009  
Next year the count falls on Saturday July 6th, 2024.



Appalachian Brown Photo by Len Grincevicius

Cont'd on p.2

## Butterfly Count ...continued from Page 1

The entire species list from this count is below:

Black Swallowtail	10
Giant Swallowtail	0
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	63
Spicebush Swallowtail	0
Pipevine Swallowtail	26
Checkered White	0
Mustard White	0
Cabbage White	412
Clouded Sulphur	25
Orange Sulphur	1
Harvester	0
American Copper	6
Bronze Copper	1
Coral Hairstreak	30
Acadian Hairstreak	2
Edward's Hairstreak	10
Banded Hairstreak	8
Hickory Hairstreak	1
Striped Hairstreak	0
Gray Hairstreak	5
Eastern Tailed-Blue	20
Summer Azure	75
Silvery Blue	0
American Snout	0
Variegated Fritillary	0
Great Spangled Fritillary	32
Silver-bordered Fritillary	0
Meadow Fritillary	0
Aphrodite Fritillary	0
Silvery Checkerspot	27
Pearl Crescent	30
Northern Crescent	258
Baltimore Checkerspot	4
Question Mark	10
Eastern Comma	12
Grey Comma	0
Compton Tortoiseshell	0
Mourning Cloak	3
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	0
American Lady	0

Painted Lady	1
Red Admiral	133
Buckeye	0
Red-spotted Purple	15
Viceroy	20
Tawny Emperor	1
Northern Pearly-Eye	6
Eyed Brown	30
Appalachian Brown	8
Little Wood-Satyr	134
Common Ringlet	3
Common Wood-Nymph	79
Monarch	38
Silver-spotted Skipper	25
Southern Cloudywing	11
Northern Cloudywing	11
Dreamy Duskywing	0
Sleepy Duskywing	0
Juvenal's Duskywing	3
Columbine Duskywing	0
Wild Indigo Duskywing	1
Common Sootywing	0
Least Skipper	62
European Skipper	76
Peck's Skipper	0
Tawny-edged Skipper	8
Crossline Skipper	1
Long Dash	3
Northern Broken-Dash	13
Little Glassywing	2
Sachem	0
Mulberry Wing	1
Delaware Skipper	3
Hobomok Skipper	3
Broad-winged Skipper	0
Dion Skipper	0
Black Dash	0
Two-spotted Skipper	0
Dun Skipper	2
Common Roadside Skipper	0
Common Checkered Skipper	0
Total Individuals	1764
Total Species	52

### Purposes in NFN Articles of Incorporation

With the recent approval of The Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, the Board of Directors took the opportunity to review the “purposes” outlined in the Articles of Incorporation, a document required by all not-for-profit organizations.

At the Annual Meeting on September 12, 2023, on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the members approved the following “Purposes” for the revised Articles of Incorporation (2023):

*We strive to enhance the understanding, appreciation and conservation of Norfolk’s nature and biodiversity by:*

- 1. Stimulating public interest and knowledge of our local nature via hikes, field trips, speaker presentations, workshops, newsletters, etc.;*
- 2. Enhancing scientific knowledge by supporting local conservation research and biological surveys, including the organization of annual bird and butterfly counts;*
- 3. Providing stewardship of the Rowanwood Nature Sanctuary;*
- 4. Supporting, financially and through volunteerism, other not-for-profit and charitable organizations with similar missions;*
- 5. Advocating for protection and stewardship of natural and green urban spaces, and affirmative climate change action.*

### 2023 - 2024 NFN Board of Directors

President	Bernie Solymár
Vice-President	Peter Carson
Sanctuary	Peter Carson
Past President	Inga Hinnerichsen
Treasurer	Bernie Solymár (A)
Secretary	Inga Hinnerichsen
Director/Membership	Jan Grincevicius
Director Speaker Program and Field Events	Len Grincevicius
Director Publicity	Elisabeth Duckworth
Director Environment	Bernd Mueller & Madaline Wilson
Director-at-large	Elisabeth Duckworth

### “The Rise and Fall of Appalachia” The Story of the American Chestnut Tree

As the Appalachian Trail was first being built, the forests along the Trail were dramatically changing. American chestnut trees, the largest and most abundant trees in the forest, were dying en masse. Chestnut blight, a disease caused by the airborne fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*, reduced the population of American chestnut trees from four billion (one-quarter of all the trees in eastern U.S. forests) to functional extinction, meaning the population cannot reproduce enough to sustain itself.

Learn about the devastation caused by the chestnut blight to the American Chestnut tree in the Appalachian Mountains by going [here](#).



**The Nature of Norfolk**  
**Taquahyah's Secrets Beckon (May 21, 1975)**

**By Harry B. Barrett** (reprinted with permission)

The river road from Caledonia to Cayuga was a welcome change from the breakneck pace of the 'old plank road', now No. 6 highway. The warm afternoon, with a light wind had filled the bank of the Grand River with warblers and vireos, while ducks and heron were to be seen frequently in the marshes and shallows. Bobolinks, several species of sparrows and plover sang from the fields and meadows as we passed.

**Drawing by  
Liz Barrett-Milner**



The courthouse grounds in Cayuga were quiet and inviting, with a marvelous view of the river valley, as the trees are still only partially in leaf. Oak and ash in particular are little more than bursting their buds. We could not help but wonder at how beautiful I must have been from this vantage point before railways, roads and farms, and the white man's urge to develop and modernize began to work their insidious change on the landscape.

Turning north off the busy highway at Decewsville, we soon entered Taquanyah operated by the Grand River Conservation Authority. This 336 acre modern facility for outdoor education, with use of a small control dam, maintains a shallow marsh habitat of some 143 acres. The remainder is made up of 110 acres of meadow and 83 acres of hardwood forest.

Ducking under the chain at the gate we crossed the ridge and strolled down to the board walk that crossed the upper end of the marsh. A bobolink sang his welcome from the top of a small pine, while meadow larks, field and savannah sparrows sang all around us. As farmers now cut hay at a much earlier stage than they used to, many of the nests of the bobolink are destroyed before their first brood of fledglings can leave. Although bobolink are a curse in the southern states each fall where thousands congregate during migration, to be shot as "rice birds", I miss their cheery

call, so familiar in every field and pasture, when I was a boy.

There was great activity in the reeds as we approached. Red-winged blackbirds yodeling and scolding everywhere, while coot could be heard and often seen diving, displaying to the females and swimming about with their peculiar, jerky motion throughout the rapier-like green blades of the cattails.

We had a special thrill when a different call directed out attention to a nearby heavy clump of reeds. Instead of the now familiar white frontal shield of the coot, we picked out a bright red frontal shield and bill and the slate grey breast of a common gallinule, peering at us curiously. Electing to ignore us entirely he swam into open water and as he turned away showed the typical white rump spots and upturned tail.

A large bundle of floating grass and reeds caught our attention as it bobbed unpredictably in the water. As we watched in quiet amusement it sped toward us, to pass under the walk and up a narrow channel, propelled by an industrious muskrat. We noticed two or three freshly formed three-foot diameter saucer-like depressions in the clay bottom beneath the board walk. In one a "pumpkinseed" or sunfish swam purposefully back and forth over it. Obviously defending his "nest" from all comers. Occasionally he would nose down into the nest's centre, where the slender white roots of the cattails had been recently uncovered by his energetic excavating.

In a small backwater already filled with ropey green algae a female blue-winged teal probed the bottom purposefully, while her handsome mate stood on a rotting log watching us warily. They finally rose to settle some distance down the shore, disturbing two coot that flew weakly over the brown reeds, legs dangling awkwardly to drop noisily again some one hundred feet away.

We next followed interesting trails through the wood lot of maple, beech and various species of oak. Rick Dawson and Peter Seifert, before him, have done an excellent job of marking the flora and fauna to be found. Although the somewhat sparse undergrowth and bare, exposed roots indicate the woods was pastured by cattle at one time, it is a walk that is well worth taking. As we reluctantly turned back toward the marsh, first a towhee called from a fence row and then a great-crested flycatcher called overhead. As the sun sank low

**Cont'd. on p.5**



over the pond sending warm, mellow shafts of colour through the trees, the liquid notes of a wood thrush reached us from the cool, swampy end of the woods.

As we walked by the Centre on our return three savannah sparrows marked our passing from the eaves of the Centre, while overhead the raucous squawk of a great blue heron drew our attention until he dropped into the marsh to begin his evening vigil. As we watched a pair of little green heron flew the length of the marsh to light in a dead elm nearby. We felt they had come to bid a fond farewell to us, as we backed out of the driveway.

Returning via the back concessions, over the grey outcrop of the Onondaga escarpment we watched for bluebirds without success, though meadow larks and bobolinks were frequently seen. Suddenly a pair of upland plovers, a misnamed sandpiper, fluttered across the road in front of us to meld into the brown backdrop of a newly sown oat field. One of them, upon alighting, stretched his back and white barred underwing straight over his tiny head, as if to offer a silent prayer for their safe deliverance from the red monster now humming westward along the concession road.

## **Stay Sharp and Improve Memory by Birding**

Can you identify a specific bird species by sight or sound? If you can, congratulations— birding probably changed your brain (in a good way)! It turns out that breaking open that field guide could help uncover and improve your innate perception skills.

Gaining deep expertise in a subject area, like birding, can change your mental scaffolding, literally rewiring your brain. That's why brain and memory researchers have long turned to birders as a go-to group of test subjects in cognitive research. [Keep reading for more on how birding changes your brain and memory.](#)



## **Are We Loving Monarch Butterflies to Death?**

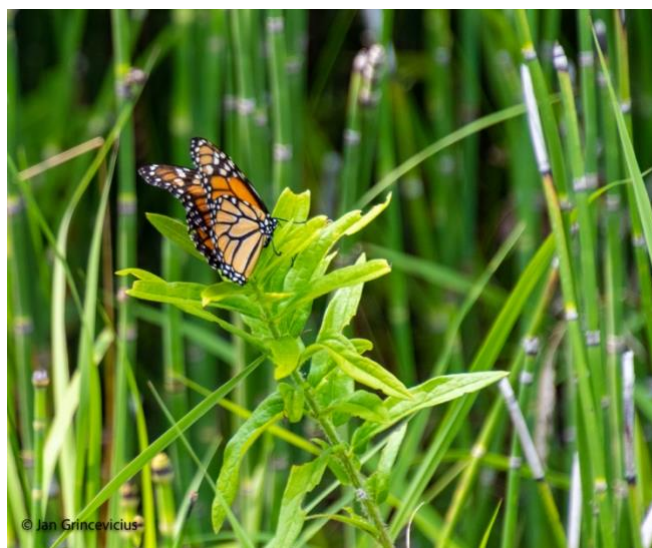
**Article by David Hawke**

There is quite a touchy controversy brewing about how best to assist these butterflies ... dive in and give them a direct hand, or back off and focus on the bigger threat of habitat loss?

Nowadays the practice of collecting wild caterpillars and raising them to adulthood is a huge activity that has attracted hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people to become engaged in 'saving the monarch butterfly'. This well-intentioned activity is to ensure that many adult butterflies can be added to the population and hopefully help the species retain its presence on the planet.

But whenever people meddle with wildlife the ripple effects, the second steps, the hidden threats, the side effects, must be looked at and respected.

Read the entire article [here](#).



**Monarch**

**Photo by Jan Grincevicius**



## Fungi Hike

About 16 people joined Inga Hinnerichsen and Leanne Lemaiche on September 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Ischnoderma Resinous (Resinous Polypore)**



**Laetiporus Sulphureus  
(Chicken of the Woods)**



**Hericium Americanum (Bear's Head Tooth)**



**Entoloma Abortivum (Shrimp of the Woods)**

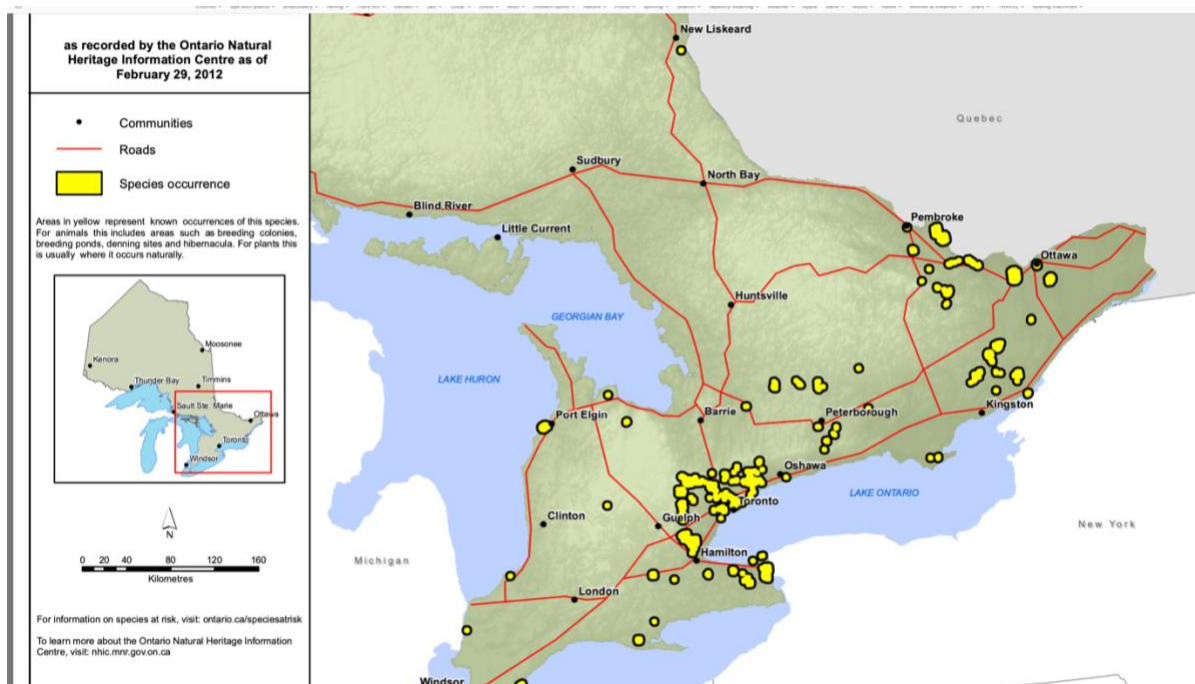


## Species in Focus

### Butternut Tree (*Juglans cinerea* L.)

The butternut, a species at risk in Ontario, is a member of the walnut family. It is a small to medium-size deciduous tree. It is relatively short lived, rarely living longer than 75 to 100 years. It is intolerant of shade but can be found scattered individually or in small groups within mixed hardwood stands, along fence lines or in open fields. Butternut produces an edible and nutritious nut which is an important food source for birds, squirrels, and other small mammals.

For more information, go [here](#).



## Wild Egg Rescue from Birth to Release

We don't have oystercatchers in Norfolk County, but you will appreciate the sentiment and effort expended in this video. A rare bunch of wild eggs belonged to a bird species Alwyn had never raised before. He decided to film her growth every day — on a neutral background to see her development in detail. This was an amazing journey from the wild egg rescue up until her release into the wild again.

To see the video, go [here](#).



## The Mysterious Black Swift

Did you know there's a rare species of bird that hides its nests near waterfalls? The Black Swift is Endangered in Canada, and you've probably never seen one – until now! See the breathtaking, inaccessible rock faces where these birds nest and hear from Birds Canada staff in British Columbia about their challenging quest to gather information that can help conserve this declining species. [Watch a short video](#).



## Thanks to Linda and Alan Thrower

Linda and Alan Thrower organized the Fisherville Christmas Bird Count, compiled the results and prepared a report for Birds Canada, participants and the Norfolk Field Naturalists for many years but have now retired.

On behalf of our members, we wish the Throwers all the best.

The Haldimand Bird Observatory has stepped up to the plate and assumed responsibility for this important collection of data. We look forward to receiving information from Nancy and Faye in future years.



**Nature Guides** – These guides provide an excellent resource to learn about Ontario's charismatic wildlife and habitats.

### **Reduce Your Footprint**

As you know, our planet's natural environment is under unprecedented and increasing stress. Here are eight easy ways you can reduce your footprint:

1. Use [green search engines](#) when browsing the internet
2. Make your garden or backyard [pollinator friendly](#) using this [guide](#) to get you started
3. [Recycle what you can't reuse](#) and compost organic waste
4. Avoid [food waste](#), which is an important source of greenhouse gas emissions
5. [Create a green roof](#) to provide habitat for native species
6. Power your home with [green energy](#)
7. Use [cold water](#) for washing and rinsing your laundry
8. Be aware of [the impacts of fast fashion](#) and opt for sustainable shopping options instead

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

**ontarionature.org**

What fabulous September weather we had! Now, in early October we still have so much to enjoy outdoors. Lots of folks travel to Central and Northern Ontario to view the magnificent fall colours, but we have just as beautiful an autumn here in Norfolk — it's just more prolonged due to our much greater diversity of tree species. Do make sure you spend lots of time in nature over the next few months and enjoy our great outdoors!

The other directors and I were pleasantly surprised to see the great turn-out at our Annual Meeting last month — over 40 people, plus another 30 that proxy-voted. It was good to get all the governance issues straightened out with the passing of our updated purposes in our Article of Incorporation, and the passing of our revised by-laws (to meet the Ontario's government's requirements). Our speaker, Don Scallen, did an amazing presentation after the Annual Meeting, with fantastic video of mating salamanders, creek fish and night creatures. Personally, it was so nice to see many of you in-person again and I am excited to be back to face-to-face meetings.

At our first board meeting a week later, the 2023-24 officers and directors were elected. I'm happy to report that every director has either an "officer" role or has taken on a specific directorship. The list of your new board roles is found in the issue.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!

The next BoD Meeting will be held on November 28, 2023.

## **Welcome New NFN Members**

**2023 - 2024 Season**

**Sarah Bonnett, Jane Booth, Gail Harrington,  
Alan Ladd, Charles Mitchell, Gerry McLellan  
& Laurie Wood, Mark Sandford, Edward &  
Sara Van Hamme, William Van Hemessen,  
Cherrie Winfield**

**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**

## Upcoming NFN Events

Watch for Pop-Up Hikes

## NATURE

*"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than they seek."*

~ John Muir



### Rare insect that poses risk to wine, fruit, vegetable industries found in Oakville

A Spotted Lanternfly, a planthopper indigenous to parts of China and Vietnam, was found in Oakville earlier this month. The rare insect poses a significant risk with the potential damage it can cause the wine, fruit, and vegetable industries. See more [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.

## NFN Mailing Address

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

## Next Lotus Issue:

December 2023

Input deadline:

Friday, November 24,  
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)

## 2023 - 2024 NFN Executive with Contact and Project Information

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

### President

Bernie Solymár

### Vice-President

Peter Carson

### Sanctuary

Peter Carson

### Past President

Inga Hinnerichsen

### Treasurer

Bernie Solymár (A)

### Secretary

Inga Hinnerichsen

### Director Membership

Jan Grincevicius

### Director Speaker Program and Field Events

Len Grincevicius

### Director Publicity

Elisabeth Duckworth

### Director Environment

Bernd Mueller & 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

Nancy Furber or Faye Socholotiuk-

Duym - Fisherville Count

George Pond

Anne and Dolf Wynia