

# THE BRODIE CLUB



*Established 1921*

Website: <http://thebrodieclub.eeb.utoronto.ca>

## THE 2015 FIELD DAY AND PICNIC OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The annual Field Day and picnic of the Brodie Club took place at the Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve on Sunday, June 14, 2015. The trip was organized and led by George Bryant. Photos were contributed by Curry, Slessor, Steven Rowe, Ann Falls, Kathryn Falls, Hussell and Eadie. Curry and Dunn kept the bird list. This report was compiled by R. Addison and R. Dunn.

Fifteen Brodie Club members and five guests participated (20 total): Abraham, E. Addison, R. Addison, Bryant, Curry, Dunn, Eadie, A. Falls, B. Falls, Hussell, Iron, Pittaway, J. Rising, T. Rising, Slessor. Guests were Calder and Peter Addison (Addisons), Kathryn Falls (Falls), Steven Rowe and Wendy Day (Risings).

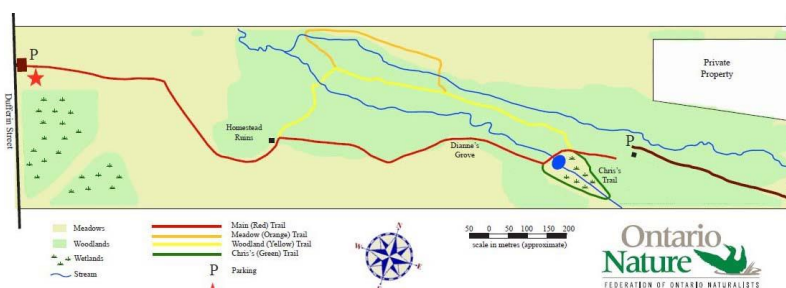
The Cawthra Mulock Nature Reserve was given to Ontario Nature in 2003 by Julyan Mulock and the Cawthra Mulock Foundation. The 108-hectare property is located on the north-west corner of Newmarket.

The group convened in the parking lot at 10 am. The day was overcast and the temperature around 17 C. We passed by an enormous beech tree to a small wetland area, which is part of the larger Ansnorveldt wetland complex and joins with the Holland River before emptying into Cook's Bay of Lake Simcoe. Tracks of a deer and fawn, empty egg shells and nest area of a turtle, and a crayfish burrow were observed along the pond edge. Green frogs, pollywogs, waterboatmen, and backswimmers were observed.

We continued over the bridge, noting the recent beaver activity under the bridge. The trail rose through a section with many planted cedar and pines and opened into old pasture fields where many non-native plants were in flower including Tall goatsbeard *Tragopogon*, Oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum*, Daisy fleabane *Erigeron*. A couple of groups of Black swallow-wart *Cynanchum* were seen. Many butterflies, dragonflies and other flying insects were observed (full list below).

A light shower began just before noon and the group moved to the garden of David and Deirdre Tomlinson on Centre St. in Aurora. Members enjoyed the spectacular gardens and sheltered in the gazebo to share conversation and lunch. As the rain continued in the afternoon, the walk of the wildlife preserve in Aurora was cancelled.

Our thanks to George Bryant for organizing the Field Day and to David and Deirdre Tomlinson for providing us with a lunch location (and juice and cake) out of the rain.



## SPECIES LIST

### BIRDS

Great Blue Heron  
Turkey Vulture  
Killdeer  
Belted Kingfisher  
Hairy Woodpecker (carrying food)  
Northern Flicker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Red-eyed Vireo  
American Crow  
Tree Swallow  
Black-capped Chickadee  
House Wren (nest with 7 eggs)  
Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Ovenbird  
Mourning Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Yellow Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
American Redstart  
Eastern Towhee  
Clay-colored Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
Scarlet Tanager  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Bobolink  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch  
European Starling

### MAMMALS

Scat with rabbit hair (probably Coyote)

### AMPHIBIANS

Green Frog  
Unidentified pollywogs

### MOLLUSKS

Garden banded snail

### INSECTS

#### Dragonflies:

Widow Skimmer  
Four-spotted Skimmer  
Common Whitetail  
Dot-tailed Whiteface  
Unid. Dragonfly nymph in pond

#### Damselflies:

Northern/Vernal Bluet  
Eastern Forktail  
Slender Spreadwing  
Ebony Jewelwing  
Butterflies:  
Hobomok Skipper  
European Skipper  
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
Silvery Blue  
Northern or Pearl Crescent  
Little Wood-Satyr  
Common Ringlet

#### Other:

Virginia Ctenucha *Ctenucha virginica*  
Water boatman  
A predacious diving beetle  
backswimmers

### PLANTS (notes from George Bryant)

#### In flower:

Alternate leaved (Pagoda) dogwood  
Black Swallow-wort *Cynanchum*  
Daisy fleabane *Erigeron*  
Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum*,  
Tall goatsbeard *Tragopogon*  
Garden escapees:  
Long-headed Poppy *Papaver dubium*  
Cornflower / Montane Knapweed *Centaurea montana*  
Bloody Crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum*  
Garden Columbine *Aquilegia vulgaris*  
Gold-balls = Creeping Buttercup double-form

- Many Ostrich Fern, particularly along the path. Perhaps planted them for fiddleheads 50-100 years ago.
- Various invasive Common Buckthorn had faded yellow tags, probably awaiting a licensed pesticide exterminator.
- Lots of insect galls on goldenrod



## THE WALK



George Bryant getting us organized



Pete and Calder Addison



Jean Iron, Ken Abraham, Ricky Dunn,  
George Bryant, Ed Addison ...



... photographing House  
Wren nest with 7 eggs



Jeremy Hussell



Glenda Slessor



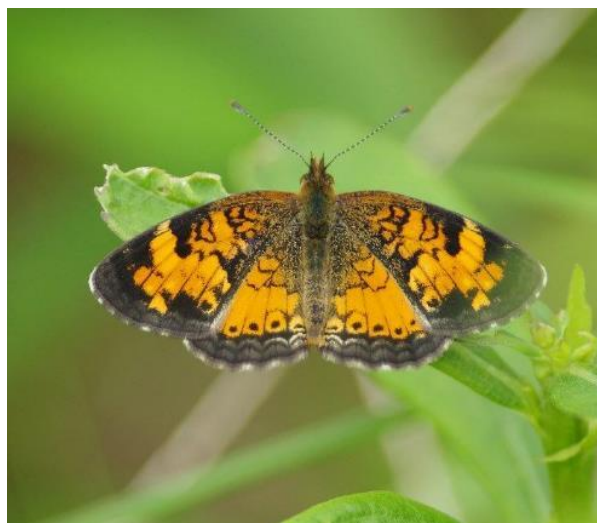
Remains of farm (probably silo)



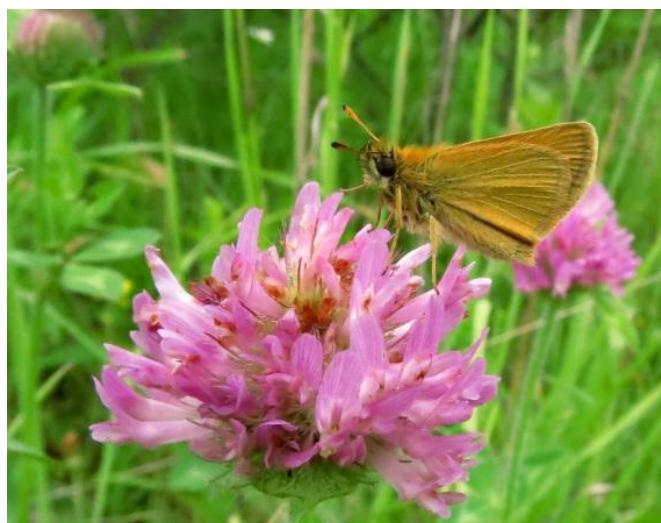
Rain held off to end. Ron Pittaway, Bob Curry,  
Glenda Slessor, George Bryant, Stephen Rowe,  
Ed Addison, Sandra Eadie



## SIGHTINGS



Northern Crescent



European Skipper



Widow Skimmer (teneral male or female)



Virginia Ctenucha



Silvery Blue



Red-winged Blackbird female



Common Ringlet



## PICNIC AT MERLIN'S HOLLOW



Ken Abraham, Jim Rising



Deirdre and David Tomlinson with Adam and Eve



Jean Iron, Rose Addison



George Bryant, Bruce Falls, Jean Iron, David Tomlinson and sculpture made from shovels



Ken Abraham



Ed Addison, Sandra Eadie