# News and Comment

## Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

### American Ornithology 2017

American Ornithology 2017, the inaugural meeting of the American Ornithological Society and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des ornithologistes du Canada to be held 31 July–5 August 2017 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. The theme of the conference is: 'Birds in the Anthropocene'. Registration is currently open. More information is available at http://aossco2017.fw.msu.edu.

### Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America to be held 6–9 August 2017 at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon. The theme of the conference is: 'Linking Biodiversity, Material Cycling and Ecosystem Services in a Changing World'. Registration is currently open. More information is available at http://www.esa.org/portland/#.WF06uVMrLIU.

### Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Annual Meeting

The Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Annual Meeting to be held 8–10 August 2017 at the Mountain Lake Biological Station, Pembroke, Virginia. Registration is currently open. More information is available at http://northeastparc.org/next-meeting-info.

### American Fisheries Association Meeting

The 147th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Association to be held 20–24 August 2017 at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Florida. The theme of the conference is: 'Fisheries Ecosystems: Uplands to Oceans'. Registration is currently open. More information is available at https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org.

### 51st North American Moose Conference/Workshop

The 51st North American Moose Conference/Workshop to be held 28 August–1 September 2017 at the Keltic Lodge, Ingonish, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The theme of the conference is: 'Hyper-Abundant Moose Populations – Ecological Consequences and Management Strategies'. Registration is currently open. More information is available at http://alcesjournal.org/index.php/alces/announcement/view/20.

## Ontario's Environmental Review Tribunal overturns the Renewable Energy Approval for a second wind farm project on the grounds of serious and irreversible harm to wildlife

On 26 April 2017 Ontario's Environmental Review Tribunal issued a decision that substantially reduced the size of wpd White Pines Wind Incorporated's Prince Edwards County, Ontario wind farm project, on the grounds of serious and irreversible harm to wildlife. This is the second time that a Prince Edwards Country wind farm project, approved under the *Ontario Green Energy Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*, has been overturned by the Tribunal because of its potential effects on at-risk species. In June 2016, the Tribunal revoked the Renewable Energy Approval for the Ostrander Point Wind Farm.

The wpd White Pines Wind Incorporated wind farm project was issued its Renewable Energy Approval by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on 16 July 2015. As approved, this project would have involved the construction, installation, and operation of 27 turbines and two transformer stations, plus associated underground electrical cabling, distribution lines, and other infrastructure, including roads.

This project was opposed by John Hirsch and the Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County, who filed a notice of appeal with the Environmental Review Tribunal. They argued that the project's Renewable Energy Approval should be revoked on the grounds that it would cause serious and irreversible harm to plant and animal life, the natural environment, and human health. In particular, the Tribunal proceedings focused on the potential harm to the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Blanding's Turtle, and the actions proposed by wpd to mitigate those risks. Both of these species are federally listed as endangered, and are thus protected under the *Species at Risk Act*.

For the Little Brown Bat, the Tribunal found that it was possible for wpd to mitigate the main risk posed by the wind farm, i.e., the risk of mortality from the rotating turbines. To mitigate the risk of bat mortality, turbines will not operate under wind speeds of 5.5 m/s when the bats are most active, i.e., from sunrise to sunset each day, from 1 May – 30 September. The area around each wind turbine would also be monitored and if any bat fatalities were found further mitigation actions would be required.

For the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), the Tribunal found that the proposed mitigation actions were not sufficient. The main risk to turtles considered by the Tribunal was the network of access roads needed for turbine installation and maintenance, specifically that the required modifications to the local road network would increase rates of adult turtle mortality and nest predation. The Tribunal accepted the mitigation actions to minimize nest predation, including relocation of roadside nests to a wildlife rehabilitation centre for incubation and caging nests to reduce predation. However, the Tribunal found that there was not enough evidence to support the implementation of wpd's proposed mitigation actions to reduce rates of adult turtle mortality. In response to the concerns that the wind farm project could increase rates of adult Blanding's Turtle mortality, the Tribunal decided to remove from the Renewable Energy Approval all the proposed turbines associated with the modified road network in Blanding's Turtle habitat. This resulted in the removal of 18 of the 27 proposed turbines from the project.

This is not the first time that a Renewable Energy Approval has been overturned on the grounds that the approved project would cause serious harm to the Blanding's Turtle: the Ostrander wind farm project was previously halted for very similar reasons (see Canadian Field-Naturalist 129: 182–183 and Canadian Field-Naturalist 130: 215). However, the difference is that the Ostrander wind farm project would have been built on crown land, while wpd's turbines would be on private property. This decision shows that the benefits of renewable energy generation do not take precedence over other environmental concerns, including wildlife protection, regardless of whether those projects occur on public or private lands.

For further information, see:

**Environmental Review Tribunal**. 2017. Hirsch v. Ontario (Environment and Climate Change). Case No. 15-068. Accessed 3 May 2017. http://www.ert.gov.on.ca/files/201704/00000300-FGU397EFEXO026-HDQ508076QO026.pdf.

**Government of Canada**. 2017. Species at Risk Public Registry. Accessed 21 May 2017. http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=24F7211B-1.

**Stantec Consulting Ltd**. 2012. White pines wind project project description report. Stantec Consulting Ltd., Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Accessed 22 May 2017. http://canada.wpd.de/uploads/tx_projectdownloads/WPWF_2_PDR_20120901_Web.pdf.

AMANDA E. MARTIN
Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada

## Remembering Leslie Cody

Leslie was always cheerful and positive. She was also very kind and had some remarkable skills which she applied happily to her father's (Bill Cody's) botanical research and to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN), a science journal of field biology and ecology locally-published by the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC). She typed and commented upon so many scientific manuscripts that it can be said she played a significant role in the dispersal of botanical information on Canada's north, where her father's research was focussed.

As part of the CFN production team, Leslie produced indices for 21 four-issue volumes (nos. 106–126, authored as Leslie Durocher and later Leslie Cody). These indices were often around 30 pages in length and were remarkably complete and accurate. She sometimes found mistakes and contacted authors so that spellings would be correct in the index. It was in 1992 that she took over the job of indexing from Harvey Beck, whose *modus operandi* was to compile index entries in a card file, merge and organize all entries once a volume was complete, and then type the index. Leslie did all this with a computer, modernizing the production of the journal. Leslie also maintained the CFN mailing list and she took great pride in keeping it up-to-date. She played a key role in the achievements of the OFNC and she helped to advance the club's objectives, particularly that of diffusing the results of natural history research as widely as possible. Her contributions to the OFNC and particularly to CFN can be figured in the thousands of hours.

Leslie passed away on 31 January 2017 after a long battle with cancer. It is a pleasure to remember her cheerful disposition and her very substantial contributions while part of our team. She was a superhero and a close friend who carried a burden of seriously ill health very courageously and all of us thoroughly enjoyed working with her.

PAUL CATLING, FRANCIS COOK, JEFF SAARELA, WENDY COTIE, FRANK POPE – OFNC PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE