

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Draft Minutes of the 141st Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, 14 January 2020

Place and time: K.W. Neatby Building, Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, 7:00 pm

Chairperson: Diane Lepage, President

Forty-six attendees spent the first half-hour reviewing minutes of the previous ABM, the financial statements, Treasurer's Report, and annual reports of OFNC committees for 2018–2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. During the meeting, relevant documents were projected on a screen for the audience's information.

1. Minutes of the Previous Annual Business Meeting (ABM)

It was moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by David McNicoll, that the minutes of the 140th ABM be accepted as distributed and published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN).

Carried

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. Communications Relating to the Annual Business Meeting

Diane Lepage noted that the Club had received a Christmas card from her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada.

4. Treasurer's Report by Ann Mackenzie

Ann MacKenzie, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for 30 September 2019 as prepared and reviewed by the accounting firm, Welch LLP. Copies of the complete statement as well as the written Treasurer's Report were available as hand-outs to those attending the meeting.

In the presentation Ann reviewed the basis for the substantial difference in the deficit from the previous year, 2018, to the current statements for 2019. These included the Club having given fewer donations to outside organizations, increased subscription fees for CFN, lower website costs, and a surplus from the Pelee trip. Ann then reviewed the sources of income and expenses for the year. A chart comparing with the previous year showed little change with the income from membership, donations, and interest available for general club activities. Some activities like CFN and Fletcher Wildlife Garden generate some income to offset their expenses. Overall the Club remains in a solid financial situation.

It was moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Ken Young, that the Financial Statements be accepted as a fair representation of the financial position of the Club as of 30 September 2019.

Carried

5. Nomination of the Accounting Firm

It was moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Ken Young, that the accounting firm of Welch LLP be contracted to conduct a review of the OFNC's accounts for the fiscal year ending 30 September 2020.

Carried

6. Committee Annual Reports

It was moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Ian Whyte, that the committee reports be accepted as distributed.

Carried

7. Highlights from 2019

a) Education and Publicity (Gordon Robertson)

Gord presented several initiatives being implemented by the committee:

- i) Storyboards have been erected at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG) with bilingual descriptions of examples of the flora and fauna of the garden. These are changed with the seasons.
- ii) Check-box brochures have been developed for groups touring the FWG and are being created for other trails in the area.
- iii) Species trail maps, e.g., for trees, are also being developed for trails in the area.

Gord expressed interest in any technology that could be used to create cellphone based species maps for local areas. He also noted that the committee needs new members.

b) SafeWings Ottawa (Anouk Hoedeman)

Anouk noted that SafeWings is becoming bus-

ier each year and is taking in an increasing number of birds for rehabilitation. Of particular note is the upcoming launch of the Ottawa Bird Strategy, a joint project with the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada, and the National Capital Commission. The project addresses the hazards birds experience and potential ameliorating strategies. It will be launched with the annual bird display to be held this year at the Museum of Nature on 26 March.

c) Publications (Annie Belair)

Annie was delighted to advise that all issues of *Trail & Landscape* are now archived online on the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) website. This archive can be accessed through the OFNC website. Five issues of CFN were published in 2019, including the second part of the special issue titled “Studies on Canadian Amphibians and Reptiles in Honour of Dr. Francis Cook”. The new CFN layout artist has updated the appearance of the publication. Annie noted that several papers published this year received media coverage. A new volunteer Book Review Editor is required.

8. Nominations for Board of Directors Positions

Fenja Brodo presented the slate of candidates nominated to the Board of Directors for 2020:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Diane Lepage	President
Jakob Mueller	1 st Vice President and Chair, Events Committee
Owen Clarkin	2 nd Vice President and Chair, Conservation Committee
Elizabeth Moore	Recording Secretary
Ann MacKenzie	Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Fenja Brodo	Past President
Robert Cermak	Chair, Birds Committee
Edward Farnworth	Representative, Fletcher Wildlife Committee
Catherine Hessian*	Member-at-Large
Anouk Hoedeman	Chair, Safe Wings Ottawa
Diane Holmes	Member-at-Large
Diane Kitching	Representative, Macoun Field Club
Bev McBride	Member-at-Large
Gordon Robertson	Chair, Education and Publicity

*Catherine Hessian manages the OFNC's investments.

Jeff Saarela	Chair, Publications – Board Representative
Henry Steger	Chair, Membership
Ken Young	Chair, Finance
Eleanor Zurbrigg	Chair, Awards

EX OFFICIO

Annie Bélair, Editor of <i>Trail & Landscape</i>
Dwayne Lepitzki, Editor of <i>The Canadian Field-Naturalist</i>

It was moved by Fenja Brodo and seconded by Ann MacKenzie that this slate of nominees be accepted as members of the Board of Directors of the OFNC for 2020.

Carried

Fenja was pleased to note that all last year's Board Members are returning and that Owen Clarkin, Conservation Chair, has also accepted the long vacant position of 2nd Vice-President. Fenja warmly welcomed Diane Holmes as a Member-at-Large, noting that her experience in municipal politics will be a valuable asset to the Club.

9. New Business and General Discussion

a) Colacem L'Original Cement Plant

Gord Robertson drew the attention of the meeting to the approval by the Ontario Municipal Board of the construction of a cement plant by Colacem Canada Inc. in L'Original, Ontario.

The Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society (VKHDNS) had requested OFNC assistance in attempting to overturn approval of the plant which will be situated close to the Ottawa River adjacent to a number of areas of ecological interest, including Alfred Bog. Colacem submits that the emissions from the proposed 125 m tall kiln will be within Ontario standards. Daniel Cloutier of the VKHDNS had presented data to the OFNC suggesting that the emissions are significantly underestimated. Furthermore, as there is no rail or water access, all materials will be delivered to and from the plant by heavy trucks. VKHDNS had requested financial support to pay an expert to validate the data gathered by the Society and also asked that OFNC consider becoming a participant in the appeal process.

b) Burnt Land's Alvar

Diane Lepage reported that the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists' Club (MVFNC) had sought OFNC assistance in promoting protection of the Alvar which

is under increasing threat from development and recreational use. The MVFNC is keen to develop a website to promote understanding of the importance of the Alvar.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Eleanor Zurbrigg, that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Presentation: After the meeting was adjourned, Jakob Mueller gave a short presentation entitled “Hiding in Plain Sight: Some Conservation Discoveries in Eastern Ontario”. Jakob described how, despite the dearth of reports of reptiles and amphibians east of Highway 416 on species maps, OFNC members had readily found examples in this area.

ELIZABETH MOORE
Recording Secretary

Annual Reports of OFNC Committees for October 2018–September 2019

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee manages the process to annually recognize those Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) members and other qualified persons who, by virtue of their efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition. In late 2018, nominations were received and evaluated (see awards criteria at <http://ofnc.ca/about-ofnc/awards>), resulting in nominees for four awards being recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. Biographies were written for each award recipient for inclusion in the Club's publications and posting on the website. The awards were presented at the annual Awards Night in April 2019. The recipients' names, type of award, and rationale for recognition follow below.

- Gregory Zbitnew—Member of the Year Award for writing an informative four-part series for *Trail & Landscape* as a tool for birders.
- Henry Steger—George McGee Service Award for managing the Club's membership program and long-time service with the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.
- Anouk Hoedeman—Conservation Award for a Member for establishing and expanding Safe Wings Ottawa including bird rescue and short-term care.
- Bill McMullen—Mary Stuart Education Award for connecting students with nature especially through photography.

President Diane Lepage selected Ann MacKenzie as the recipient of the 2018 President's Prize to recognize her efforts in guiding the Club toward financial sustainability, professionalism, and accountability.

The Awards Committee thanks Mark Brenchley for helping with awards certificate design and printing.

ELEANOR ZURBRIGG, Chair

Birds Committee

Birds Committee (11 members, one ex officio), Bird Records Subcommittee (11 members), and Bird Feeders Subcommittee (one member who coordinates and fills in when needed and five volunteers) coordinated OFNC bird related activities and directed and encouraged interest in birds within and outside the OFNC area.

A committee member administered the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's Facebook group (2142 members in November 2019) which is a place for OFNC members and non-members to discuss ideas and exchange information relating to all aspects of natural history, club outings, and club initiatives, as well

as for prospective members to get a feel for what the OFNC is about.

A committee member provided weekly provincial (Ontbirds) reports of OFNC area (Ottawa-Gatineau) bird sightings which with photos by local photographers was also provided on OFNC Facebook and the OFNC website.

Committee members provided articles on a variety of subjects in *Trail & Landscape*, led OFNC field trips, found volunteers to lead the 2019 Point Pelee Bus Excursion, participated in the OFNC Website Working Group and improved Birds content on the website, and responded to bird related enquires from members and the public. The Bird Studies Group organized talks and workshops on topics of interest to birders such as the Chirps, Tweets & Trills workshops which were attended by about 75 people. We coordinated updates to Department of National Defense's Shirley's Bay causeway access list which currently contains about 400 OFNC members.

Committee members conducted surveys of ground nesting species at risk, Eastern Whip-poor-will (Threatened) and Common Nighthawk (Special Concern), on Torbolton Ridge land (404 ha along Thomas A. Dolan Parkway) owned by the City of Ottawa in support of the Friends of the Carp Hills. Their Carp Barrens Trail Study is assessing the sensitivity of impact of mountain bike trail construction and use that is sensitive to the preservation of the special ecology of the Carp Hills.

OFNC Birds Committee and the Club des Ornithologues de L'Outaouais (COO) organized the 100th Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count in December 2018 with 145 field observers in 73 parties plus 33 feeder watchers finding 75 bird species and 26 056 individual birds.

Birds Committee organized and participated in the 2019 Seedathon "Big Day" birding event which was held in early fall to raise funds for the purchase of seeds for the OFNC bird feeders. 129 bird species were found and about \$900 was donated.

BOB CERMAK, Chair

Conservation Committee

As in years past, the committee was busy with two main types of conservation work:

- responses to conservation issues which appeared during the year; and
- active fieldwork, with an aim to fill gaps of knowledge regarding species and habitats of eastern Ontario and southern Quebec.

Our responses to issues ranged from the conservation of particular species such as cormorants and related possible changes to hunting regulations, to proposed changes of the *Endangered Species Act* itself. For 2020, we intend to more closely monitor conservation issues such as proposed changes to legislation, to enable responses with more lead time and flexibility as topics arise.

This was a productive year for fieldwork, and the following are some highlights. We made a conscious effort to check apparently suitable habitat for reptile and amphibian species in areas of eastern Ontario for which reports were lacking, and found that “just showing up and looking” resulted in a number of significant discoveries, at least “officially”. For example:

- Orleans Ravines: first Wood Frog since 1983, first record for Spotted Salamander, and confirmed presence of Blue-spotted Salamander, Eastern Red-backed Salamander, American Toad, Gray Treefrog, and Spring Peeper;
- Warwick Forest Conservation Area: first records for Eastern Garter Snake and Midland Painted Turtle; and
- Summerstown Forest: first records of Eastern Red-backed Salamander, Eastern Garter Snake, and confirmed presence of Blue-spotted Salamander.

Similar significant discoveries occurred during field trips to sites such as Green’s Creek, Garry Fen, Carlington Park, and the Carp Hills.

Special thanks to committee member Jakob Mueller for leading our herpetological survey effort this year, and for being the driving force behind its success. For 2020 we intend to build on this work with another focussed campaign, and search for new species such as Mudpuppies.

We searched for, and came up empty-handed, looking for the S1-ranked shrub *Rhodora* this spring but will look again in 2020 with more organization and anticipated success.

We discovered that the Red Spruce belt of eastern Ontario is even larger than surveys in previous years had indicated, with apparently suitable habitat found throughout Cumberland Forest, and new populations of this S3-ranked species were discovered east of Vars in autumn 2019. Over the winter of 2019–2020 we will finish our push to complete our main work on the multi-year “Red Spruce / Acadian Forest in eastern Ontario” project.

During the course of the year we also found new records of apparent significance for a variety of plant species, such as:

- in eastern Ontario: American Hazelnut (Constance Bay), Southern Arrowwood (Cumberland Forest), Balsam Willow (Bourget), and

Dwarf Strawberry Bush aka *Euonymus nanus* (Gillies Grove); and

- in southern Quebec: using the 2009 publication “Plantes Rares du Québec Méridional” as a guide, new records of many species were documented including Rock Elm, Hackberry, Butternut, Wild Ginger, American Plum, and Bur Cucumber.

We also (painfully) discovered that Fire Ants had appeared at two sites along the Ottawa River, including the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre.

In 2019 we began to focus on exploring specific habitat types threatened by resource exploitation, such as bogs (peat extraction) and limestone uplands (quarrying); we plan to continue and expand upon this theme into 2020.

OWEN CLARKIN, Chair

Education and Publicity Committee

Storyboards continue to be developed. Seven new ones added. Stories were rotated every season.

We held a third Open House at the Resource Centre in collaboration with Jane’s Walks. Several members hosted about 100 visitors with drinks, cookies, and tours of the garden. This was approximately the same number of people as the previous year.

This year we had only one application for sponsorship to the Youth Summit of Ontario Nature. The candidate was judged worthy to attend the summit. Kathy Conlan, Diane Lepage, and Gordon Robertson were judges at the annual Ottawa Regional Science Fair. They awarded four OFNC awards (\$100 each) and one-year club memberships to the winning students.

We hosted numerous group tours of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden this year including one tour for home schoolers, three tours for Scouts/Beavers/Brownies, and two tours for school groups. We also developed several new Visual/Audio Scavenger Hunts for use with these groups at Petrie Island and several Mer Bleue trails.

Presentations were given to the Kanata Seniors Centre Camera Club, which had about 50 attendees and a kindergarten class at St. Marguerite d’Youville. Lynn Ovenden and Gia Paolo hosted our booth at the Wildlife Speaker Series in May.

Finally, we had lost several members and only gained one new member, Ms. Beesan Sarrouh. Ms. Gia Paola continues to help out at our events despite being a non-member.

GORDON ROBERTSON, Chair

Events Committee

The 2019 Events Committee coordinated 62 events, consisting of field trips, workshops, and presentations

for monthly meetings. With challenging, late spring weather and a prolonged flood on the Ottawa River, a number of events were postponed, but were ultimately held on new dates; only one event (not counted in the 62) was cancelled. Among the other events, after a two-year hiatus, a multi-day excursion to Point Pelee and Rondeau was held in May.

Each of the Club's 10 monthly meetings included a presentation. Nine of these were the feature event of the meeting, while the January ABM included an abbreviated presentation. The diverse topics included forest ecology (salamanders, urban trees, and mycorrhizae), conservation challenges (Monarch Butterflies, road ecology, Chronic Wasting Disease, and microplastics), the application of field biology (fish surveys and genetics in birds), and a travelogue (wildlife in Japan).

Topics for the various trips and workshops included birding (20), fungi (seven), herpetology (five), botany (four), entomology (four), photography (four), molluscs (one), and geology (one), with the remainder being general interest (10). (Four trips fit more than one category, not including general interest.)

The committee extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals who lead, presented, or assisted with events. While all volunteers are too numerous to mention, the committee would like to extend a special thank-you to a few OFNC members who are not part of Events: Martha Farkas, who acted as trip coordinator on the fabulous Point Pelee excursion, and Joan Heyding, Lynn Ovendon, and Brett Stevens, who were instrumental in adding much-needed content related to fungi.

Finally, the Chair would like to commend and thank Julia Cipriani, a stalwart member of the Events Committee, for the tireless effort and guidance she has provided over many years.

JAKOB MUELLER, Chair

Finance Committee

This report covers financial matters during fiscal year 2018–2019, which extended from 1 October 2018 through 30 September 2019. Many of these matters go directly to the Board of Directors for resolution. However, they are mentioned here to give OFNC members a sense of the financial issues that occur.

The primary task of the Finance Committee is to prepare a draft budget for consideration by the Board of Directors. The Finance Committee receives suggestions, and expected revenues and expenses from Board of Directors members and committee chairs. The budget for FY2018–2019 was approved at the Board of Directors meeting of October 2018. The draft budget for FY2019–2020 was presented to the Board's September 2019 meeting. After discussion,

a revised version was approved at the October 2019 Board meeting. The budget forecasts revenues of \$129 800, expenses of \$153 550, for a deficit of \$23 750. A copy of the budget, as approved, is included as an appendix to the minutes of the October 2019 Board of Directors meeting. These minutes are posted on the OFNC website (<https://ofnc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/OFNC-Board-Minutes-2019-10-22.pdf>).

The question arises from time to time whether our spending is appropriate. Members have two concerns. On the one hand, will we exhaust our investment fund prematurely? A member of the Board and the Finance Committee, Catherine Hessian, has projected our financial situation into the future. Using deficit figures higher than we are actually running (\$75 000 or \$100 000) and interest rates of 2%, 3%, or 4% (currently we are earning 3%), our investment fund will be maintained for between 16 and 37 years. Based on this, the Board feels that our deficits are reasonable.

The other concern is that we are not spending enough. The Board of Directors reviews proposals for spending, during the budget process and on an ad hoc basis during the year. Proposals are evaluated based on the Club's objectives, for example natural history education, and our policies, for example a focus on eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Valley. The Board is responsive to proposals, but also prudent.

During the 2018–2019 fiscal year, the Board dealt with several additional financial issues:

- a policy on accepting advertisements in *Trail & Landscape*;
- a policy on mileage rates—who was eligible and what rate to use; and
- a proposal to support financially a bird observatory, not in the Ottawa area, was discussed but not approved.

The Treasurer continued her work to improve our systems for bookkeeping, donations, and payments.

KEN YOUNG, Chair

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

The wet cold spring delayed the season for volunteer work at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG), and throughout the spring and summer the growth of many flowers, shrubs, and trees was slow. However, the dedication of our volunteers ensured that visitors to the garden were able to enjoy the many plants, trees, insects, amphibians, and mammals that inhabit the property.

Our plant sale, which was held in early June, attracted more customers this year than ever before, in part due to advertising in community newsletters circulated by two local city councillors. The sale is our

biggest source of revenue. For many of our customers, it is their first visit to FWG.

The Backyard Garden continues to be one of the most visited parts of the site. This year we got to see the benefits of the work put in last year to complete a fern bed. Many of the flowers were blooming later than usual, but their arrival soon attracted a wide variety of pollinators. The bird feeder was a popular place for a large number of birds that in turn attracted many regular visits by photographers/birders.

Our Facebook page saw a lot of activity this summer. Almost daily, spectacular pictures of birds, small animals, insects, reptiles, and flowers showed the wide biodiversity to be found at the FWG.

Our three main volunteer work groups—Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday evening, and Friday morning—were kept busy maintaining the property's plants, shrubs, and trees as well as continuing our battles against Dog-strangling Vine (DSV), Buckthorn, Comfrey, and Burdock. Several areas of the garden are now relatively free of noxious and invasive plants, which have been replaced with indigenous plants. Node workers, who adopt part of the FWG, have created a new native flower bed at the entrance to the FWG and expanded the regeneration of the "gully".

Several groups from government departments, public institutions, private companies, and post-secondary faculties came to the FWG as part of their community service and outreach programs. The work by these groups on resurfacing pathways, clearing DSV, preparing new beds, and maintenance around the pond helped us to make improvements in large areas of the property.

We put in over 4700 hours of volunteer work this season. Ten percent of this was provided by external groups.

The recent addition of bilingual story boards at various locations throughout the FWG has made a valuable contribution to our mandate to educate the public. The story boards are updated regularly to keep up with the seasonal changes. We have also expanded our brochure collection. The new brochures can be used by visitors as they walk along our paths to easily identify various conifers, deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines.

In terms of community outreach, the FWG presented workshops and talks on pollinator gardens, bees, Monarch Butterflies, and wasps. As a member of Wild Pollinator Partners (WPP), the FWG hosted a colloquium in early March, bringing together 35 organizations and individuals to exchange information on pollinator habitat, identification, and conservation. The FWG also donated plants for new pollinator gardens at several schools, churches, and a library. In collaboration with the University of Ottawa, we also

conducted pollinator surveys at community gardens (and the FWG) and set up an iNaturalist project to collect pollinator data in our region.

Also, as part of WPP, the FWG was instrumental in the city's presentation of a wildlife speaker event on pollinators this spring, the establishment of a pollinator garden at City Hall, and the mayor's proclamation of Pollinator Appreciation Day.

TED FARNWORTH, Committee Member

Macoun Club

The Macoun Field Club for children and young people (ages 8 to 18) runs every Saturday through the school year, except for public holidays. Indoor meetings at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden's resource centre alternate with field trips. During 2018–2019, Committee Members organized and oversaw 18 indoor meetings, with presentations and workshops, and led 14 field trips. The two principal locales for field-trips, the Club's "Study Area" in Stony Swamp and "Pakenham" in Lanark County, have been regular Macoun Club destinations for 50 years. A special field trip took the group to the Ecomuseum in Montreal by bus.

For the third time, the Macoun Club hosted the nature quiz at the OFNC's Awards Night event.

An up-to-date record of all Macoun Club activities was maintained on the OFNC website by Committee members. A Macoun Club member took on the editorship of the Club's newsletter, and renamed it *The Macoun Monthly*. It was made available online to members for the first time, too. As always, Issue No. 73 of the Club's annual magazine, *The Little Bear*, was made available to members in hard copy only.

ROBERT E. LEE, Chair

Membership Committee

This report for 2019 is presented in a different format than in previous years in two aspects. First, non-Canadian memberships are not reported by type because they represent only 1% of total membership.

Second, the total membership of previous reports is divided into two groups. The first consists of those who pay club fees, or are "Honorary" members or participate in the "Macoun Club". This group is defined as the "Membership". The other consists of the membership aggregate "Other" which represents mostly designated individuals and affiliate organizations that receive complimentary copies of the *Trail & Landscape* (T&L). They have a mission-oriented partnership, not a financial relationship, with the Club. This group, together with "T&L Subscriber" are reported separately.

The distribution of Club membership for 2019 on 30 September 2019 and on 30 September 2018 is shown in the table below. The increase in membership observed for 2019 continues the trend of long-terms gradual growth but with annually noted increases and decreases in membership.

Members within 50 km of Ottawa comprised 747 of the total membership of 860.

	2019	2018
Individual	402	384
Family	339	314
Student	30	23
Honorary	24	24
Life	39	40
Macoun Club	17	15
USA	7	9
International	1	2
TOTAL	859	811

The distribution of “Other” Club relationships for 2019 on 30 September 2019 and on 30 September 2018 is shown in the table below. The decrease arises because counting the distribution of T&L within the Club as “Other” has been halted.

	2019	2018
T&L Subscriber	3	3
Other	23	24
TOTAL	26	27

HENRY STEGER, Chair

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee manages publication of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN), T&L, and Special Publications. The committee also advises OFNC with respect to issues relating to research, including managing the research grants program.

Trail & Landscape

Five issues of T&L were published: 52(4) and 53 (1–4). In collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Nature, major progress was made in completing imaging and uploading of T&L back issue content to the Biodiversity Heritage Library. As of 30 September 2019, content up to the end of volume 34 (2000) was freely available on the site: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/115961#/summary.

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Four issues of CFN were published: 132(1–4). Issues 132(1) and 132(2) comprised a two-part special issue titled “Studies on Canadian Amphibians and Reptiles in Honour of Dr. Francis Cook”. The 24 papers published in the special issue (parts I and II)

were handled by Guest Editors Dr. William Halliday and David Seburn.

Several papers published this year received media coverage, reflecting not only the important contributions to science published in the journal but also the importance and relevance of the journals content to broader society in Canada. Papers reported on include studies of life history of pair bonding in Canada Geese (<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i3.1966>; Ottawa Citizen, 20 April 2019); the status of the amphibians and reptiles of Essex County, Ontario (<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i2.2053>; CTV Windsor, 7 March 2019); and Snapping Turtle oviposition in asphalt (<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v132i2.2035>; Ottawa Citizen, 22 April 2019). Some papers published in earlier years also received media attention, including studies of road mortality of wildlife in southern Ontario (<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v130i1.1804>; Windsor Star, 21 August 2019; CTV Windsor, 24 July 2019); Beavers feeding on salmon carcasses (<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v119i4.215>; National Post, 10 January 2019); and coyote breeding range in the Northwest Territories (<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v120i1.248>; Northern News Services, 20 June 2019).

Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club Research Grants

2019 was the fifth year of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club Research Grants program. Research grants support field-based research activities that reflect and promote the Club’s objectives within eastern Ontario and/or western Quebec, focussed particularly upon the Club’s study area. A total of \$15 000 is available each year to fund research proposals. The application deadline was 15 January 2019. A subcommittee convened and chaired by Dr. Jeff Saarela reviewed all proposals and submitted funding recommendations to the OFNC Board of Directors. A list of recipients of 2018 Research Grants was published in *Trail & Landscape* 53(3): 162–163.

JEFFERY M. SAARELA, Chair

Safe Wings Ottawa

From 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019, Safe Wings Ottawa (SWO) volunteers:

- monitored 75+ buildings during spring and fall migration;
- documented 3549 window collisions;
- rescued 769 live birds following window collisions;
- provided short-term care to 914 birds, including 558 window collision victims;
- answered more than 3000 phone calls; and
- provided rescue assistance and/or transportation for hundreds of injured birds.

Our outreach efforts to encourage bird-friendly measures for existing and new buildings yielded mixed results in 2018–2019. The Canadian Museum of Nature, National Gallery of Canada, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada were among the property owners/operators to apply retrofit measures to some of their windows. Others, including KRP, the major property owner in Kanata North, declined to make any changes. As the building and its grounds are almost entirely inaccessible to outsiders, staff at Communications Security Establishment began their own monitoring program, and began prioritizing and securing funding to retrofit the most lethal façades.

The City of Ottawa failed again to deliver its overdue bird-friendly design guidelines. The working group, of which SWO is a member, was told to expect a draft in early 2020. In Kingston, Queen's University committed to adopting bird-friendly guidelines for new buildings thanks to an extra push from local allies. The owners of the Chateau Laurier sought our input to make the proposed hotel addition safer for birds, and we participated in public workshops for the design of the new central library, and for the National Capital Commission (NCC) Sustainability Strategy.

SWO attracted public attention and media coverage after raising concerns that Ottawa's new light rail transit stations, as well as those planned for Phase 2, would be lethal to birds, despite assurances from OC Transpo that bird-friendly design had been considered. In a separate initiative, we began working with OC Transpo on a pilot project to retrofit three bus shelters with Feather Friendly. The planned September launch was postponed until spring. OC Transpo staff began investigating ways to make new bus shelters bird-friendly.

We finalized the Ottawa Bird Strategy, a guiding document produced in partnership with the NCC, Nature Canada, Bird Studies Canada, and the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (OVWBCC). It will be officially launched in 2019–2020. We redesigned our bilingual paper rescue bags and produced a printed handout aimed at people working in hazardous buildings.

The addition of a new volunteer doubled the number of permitted rehabbers providing short-term care in their homes, one in the Glebe and one in Orleans. The OVWBCC reduced the hours during which we could transport birds to them, which increased both the number of birds admitted to our care (instead of being transported directly to the OVWBCC), and the amount of time birds remained in our care. With decreasing access to the OVWBCC, we built relationships with other rehabilitators across North America

to access advice and other resources. We arranged for the City of Ottawa to cover the cost of euthanasia for badly injured birds when required at the Ottawa Animal Emergency and Specialty Hospital.

In the spring, we acquired equipment to provide oxygen therapy to birds with head trauma or respiratory distress. This treatment, along with our ability to offer after-hours care and a quieter environment for injured birds, contributed to improved outcomes. Among 2018–2019 window collision victims whose outcomes are known, 52% of birds treated solely by the OVWBCC were released, compared with 62% of those treated by SWO (whether or not they received further care at the OVWBCC).

Since 2014, SWO has documented collisions by 131 bird species, including 13 Species at Risk.

ANOUK HOEDEMAN, Chair

Treasurer's Report

Overall—The OFNC continues to be in a solid financial situation. Despite the generous bequest from Violetta Czasak we are watching our revenues and expenses to ensure that we continue on a sustainable basis. Many organizations such as ours are experiencing declining membership and scientific journals are losing subscribers. Our membership is holding steady. We are watching our subscription renewal levels to be alert to any significant declines.

Reduced deficit—The most notable aspect of our 2019 financial statements is that the deficit has declined from \$42 870 in 2018 to \$3012 in 2019. While there are the usual ups and downs in revenues and expenditures from one year to the next there are four major contributors to the \$39 000 change this year.

\$15 500—Donations from the OFNC to other organizations were down this year. We continue to provide \$5000 to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board to allow more children to attend the outdoor centres. In 2018 we had also provided \$10 000 toward the publishing of the Birds of Nunavut, \$4500 to the Innis Point Bird Observatory, and \$1000 to the Invasive Plant Council

\$17 500—The size of the CFN deficit decreased from \$30 248 in 2018 to \$12 700 in 2019. This can vary depending on the relative match between revenues and expenses in the fiscal year. This year also reflects increased subscription rates for Volume 132.

\$3000—Website—In 2019 we switched to a new web service provider and we did not have re-design costs.

\$3000—Pelee Trip—The Club trip to Point Pelee realized a surplus.

Publications—CFN increased subscription prices for institutions for Volume 132 (2018). Since that volume was issued in 2018–2019 there is a noticeable

ble increase in subscription revenues in the 2019 fiscal year. Renewals for Volume 133 (2019) have been slow coming in. That may be because the first issue of Volume 133 was issued in September 2019. We will need to watch carefully to see if there is a real decrease in subscription revenues or if it is just a timing issue. The CFN is making progress in catching up to its schedule (the first issue of a volume should be published in the first calendar quarter). The more the CFN gets caught up to date the better the match of revenues and expenses for issues within the fiscal year.

Author Charges also show an increase since four issues were mailed during the fiscal year. About one third of the author charges are paid by the Manning Fund. Expenses are decreasing somewhat with a new contract for journal production reducing costs and speeding up production. More copy editing is being done on a volunteer basis which also reduces costs. A hard copy edition is still printed (350 copies) accounting for about 30% of the total volume cost.

Trail & Landscape does not generate revenue although it is now able to accept ads. This quarterly members magazine has been revamped giving it a more modern and lively appeal. Steps are being taken to reduce the cost (\$21 644 in 2019, \$23 778 in 2018, and \$29 292 in 2017) without sacrificing the much appreciated quality improvements.

Fletcher Wildlife Garden—The FWG is a major activity of the Club and there is a separate fund for it showing revenues and expenses. The primary fundraiser is the plant sale which is making more money each year (\$6736 in 2019, \$4416 in 2018). Taking credit cards is contributing to this boost in sales. In

addition they are providing plants to other charities such as Ontario Nature and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Some donations to the OFNC are also earmarked for the FWG. While there are regular, routine expenses sometimes there are major projects such as the erosion control ditch with expenses spread over both 2018 and 2019.

Pelee trip—In May 2019 the Club organized a trip to Point Pelee for the peak of bird migration. The trip took in \$26 850 in revenue and had \$23 745 in expenses for a gain of \$3104.57. The trip is usually offered every two years if volunteers are available. It has previously been run on a break-even basis but this year it made a profit. Given the extensive amount of volunteer time required, consideration is being given to designing future Pelee trips as fund raising events.

Safe Wings—Safe Wings is an initiative of the Club that works to reduce bird mortality from window collisions through research, prevention, and rescue. Their direct involvement with the public, many of whom are not members of the Club, results in substantial donations earning over \$5000 in 2019 and about \$6000 in 2018. The amount of work being undertaken has risen rapidly. In 2019 the expenses of the operation were about \$6000 which was an increase from \$3700 from 2018. This does not include work on a Bird Strategy funded by a grant from the City of Ottawa.

ANN MACKENZIE, Treasurer

Approved financial statements available online at:
<https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/2581/2445>