

# The Canadian Field-Naturalist

## News and Comment

Compiled by Amanda E. Martin

### Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

#### Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting to be held as an online meeting, 3–6 August 2020. The theme of the conference is: ‘Harnessing the ecolog-

ical data revolution’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.esa.org/saltlake/>.

#### 18th Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles

The 18th Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, hosted by the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) and IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), to be held as a “virtual experience” 6 August–24 Sep-

tember 2020. The TSA and IUCN TFTSG, in collaboration with Zoo Med Laboratories, are making this event free of charge. More information is available at <https://turtlesurvival.org/2020-symposium/>.

#### The Wildlife Society’s 2020 Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society’s 2020 Annual Conference to be held as an online meeting, 28 September–2 October

2020. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://twconference.org/>.

### James Fletcher Award for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* Volume 133

The James Fletcher Award is awarded to the authors of the “best” paper published in a volume of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN). The award is in its fourth year. The award honours James Fletcher, founder of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club (OFNC) and the first editor of CFN’s earliest iteration, *Transactions of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club*. A subcommittee of the OFNC Publications Committee sifted through all papers in Volume 133 of CFN, and came up with a list of the top five papers. From these top five, the committee selected the top paper. The award for Volume 133 of CFN goes to:

**Andrew Campomizzi, Zoé Lebrun-Southcott, and Kristyn Richardson.** Conspecific cues encourage Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*) prospecting, but not nesting, at new nesting structures. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 133(3): 235–245. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i3.2233>

- The Barn Swallow population has declined substantially in Canada since 1970 and the species is listed as Threatened by the Government of Canada. One possible cause of the decline is loss of nesting habitat. This study, conducted by researchers with Bird Ecology and Conservation Ontario and Bird Studies Canada, tests whether adding artificial conspecific cues (vocalizations and decoys) could increase uptake of artificial nesting structures by Barn Swallows. Barn Swallows were more likely to investigate nesting structures if conspecific cues were present, but these cues did not seem to encourage nesting. This study tested a simple, clear hypothesis with real-world conservation implications.

Congratulations to Andrew Campomizzi and co-authors for their excellent paper.

#### *Honourable mentions*

**Annegret Nicolai, Robert Forsyth, Melissa Grantham, and Cary Hamel.** Tall grass prairie ecosystem management—a gastropod perspective. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 133(4): 313–324. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i4.2217>

- This paper provides results from the first thorough gastropod survey within the tall grass prairie ecosystem in Manitoba, with a focus on different habitat types and management practices used and how these affected species occurrence.

Five gastropod species were newly recorded from Manitoba.

**Rosemary Curley, David Keenlyside, Helen Kristmanson, and Randall Dibblee.** A review of the historical and current status of American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) on Prince Edward Island, Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 133(4): 332–342. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i4.2145>

- The status of beaver on Prince Edward Island (PEI) has been uncertain. This paper uses post-glacial and archaeological records to show that beaver were present on PEI long before European contact, demonstrating that beavers were native to the island.

**David Seburn and Hannah McCurdy-Adams.** Do turtle warning signs reduce roadkill? *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 133(3): 216–220. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i3.2279>

- Roadkill is a major risk for many species of freshwater turtles. In this paper, the authors test the effectiveness of turtle road-crossing signs at reducing roadkill in turtles using a before-after control-impact design. The authors found no evidence of a reduction in mortality when signs were present, suggesting that this method alone may not be sufficient to reduce road mortality for turtles.

**Sean Boyle, Rachel Dillon, Jacqueline Litzgus, and David Lesbarrères.** Desiccation of herpetofauna on roadway exclusion fencing. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 133(1): 43–48. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v133i1.2076>

- Road mortality is well documented as a major risk to herpetofauna. This paper shows that wildlife exclusion fencing, a common road mortality mitigation tool, might increase mortality for amphibians and reptiles. The results have important management and conservation implications.

Congratulations to these finalists. We would also like to show our appreciation to all authors who chose to share their interesting and valuable field-based studies with the readers of Volume 133 of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

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OFNC Publications Committee