

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

News and Comment

Compiled by Amanda E. Martin

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

The Stewardship Network Conference

The Stewardship Network Conference to be held 23–24 January 2025 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, Michigan. Registration

is currently open. More information is available at <https://conference.stewardshipnetwork.org/>.

Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society for Range Management to be held 9–13 February 2025 at the Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington. Re-

gistration is currently open. More information is available at <https://rangelands.org/annual-meeting-2025/>.

The Forests Conference

The Forests Conference to be held 19–20 February 2025 at the Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel & Suites, Toronto, Ontario. Registration is currently open. More

information is available at <https://forestscanada.ca/en/event/annual-conference>.

Colloque Annuel du CSBQ/Annual QCBS Symposium

The Colloque Annuel du CSBQ/Annual QCBS Symposium to be held 24–26 February 2025 at the Université de Sherbrooke—Campus Longueuil, Longueuil,

Quebec. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://qcbs.ca/symposium-2025/>.

Wetland Science Conference

The annual Wetland Science Conference of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association to be held 25–27 February 2025 at the Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/>.

Eastern Bird Banding Association Annual Meeting

The 102nd annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association to be held 28 February–2 March 2025 at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Charleston, South

Carolina. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://easternbirdbanding.org/2025-Meeting>.

Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference

The Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference to be held 7–9 March 2025 at the Badlands Community Facility, Drumheller, Alberta. The theme of the conference is: ‘Digging Deeper Together: Big

Data Insights’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.actws.ca/conference/>.

Entomological Society of America, Southeastern Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 9–12 March 2025 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. More

information is available at <https://entsoc.org/event-calendar/southeastern-branch-2025-meeting>.

American Fisheries Society, Washington-British Columbia Chapter Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Washington-British Columbia Chapter to be held 10–13 March 2025 at the Pinnacle Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia. The theme of the conference

is: ‘Beyond Borders: Connecting Communities, People and Fish’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://wa-bc.fisheries.org/2025-meeting/>.

Entomological Society of America, Eastern Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 15–18 March 2025 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Har-

risburg, Pennsylvania. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/membership/branches/eastern/meeting>.

International Conference on Forest Mycology and Mycorrhiza Research

The International Conference on Forest Mycology and Mycorrhiza Research to be held 18–19 March 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona. Registration is currently

open. More information is available at <https://itar.in/conf/index.php?id=2778593>.

Entomological Society of America, Southwestern Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 23–26 March 2025 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Round Rock, Round Rock, Texas. Registration is currently

open. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/membership/branches/southwestern/meeting>.

Entomological Society of America, Pacific Branch Meeting

The annual meeting of the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America to be held 30 March–2 April 2025 at the Hilton Salt Lake City, Salt Lake

City, Utah. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/membership/branches/pacific/meeting>.

James Fletcher Award for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* Volume 137

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 eighth 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*. The editorial team of CFN sifted through all papers in Volume 137 of CFN and came up with a list of six papers. From these, the committee ranked the papers and selected the top paper. The award for Volume 137 of CFN goes to:

Sadie Parr. 2023. An overview of known species killed during Alberta’s Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) strychnine program, 2005–2020. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(3): 259–266. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i3.3213>

- A comprehensive review of wildlife mortality caused by the use of strychnine to control wolf populations in Alberta. This work highlighted how often these treatments lead to non-target wildlife mortalities, and its findings contributed to the decision made by Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulator Agency to cancel all predecide uses of strychnine across Canada. Congratulations to Sadie for their excellent paper.

Honourable Mentions (in chronological order):

Shaylyn Wallace, Douglas T. Munn, Kristine E. Hanifen, Gregory F.M. Jongsma, and Donald F. McAlpine. 2023. Preliminary estimate of a Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*) population at a protected site in New Brunswick using photo identification and community

science. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(1–2): 125–130. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i1.3123>

- This study provides the first estimate of *Hyla versicolor* population size in Canada's first amphibian conservation area. It also demonstrates how a pattern recognition software can be used to identify individual frogs from photographs—a non-invasive approach to mark-recapture sampling that can avoid some of the negative impacts of previously-used methods such as toe-clipping.

Brittni Scott, G. Randy Milton, Scott McBurney, and Donald T. Stewart. 2023. Population genetic structure of the provincially endangered mainland Eastern Moose (*Alces americanus americanus*) in Nova Scotia, Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(1–2): 136–149. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i1.3127>

- This study conducted an analysis of the genetic structure and diversity of the endangered mainland Eastern Moose in Nova Scotia, and provided evidence that gene flow is occurring between this population and moose in New Brunswick.

Donald F. McAlpine, Tonya Wimmer, Wayne Ledwell, Pierre-Yves Daoust, Laura Bourque, Jack W. Lawson, Wojtek Bachara, Zoe N. Lucas, G. Andrew Reid, Stéphane Lair, Anthony François, and Robert Michaud. 2023. A review of beaked whale (Ziphiidae) stranding incidents from the inshore waters of eastern Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(3): 201–231. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i3.2967>

- This study examines stranding incidents of beaked whales in eastern Canada, and provided new insights into these cryptic species. This is particularly significant because beaked whales spend most of their time in the remote offshore environment and are chronically understudied. These records provide insights into their spatial distribution and life history parameters.

Cyndi M. Smith, Brenda Shepherd, Mark Bradley, and Shelley Humphries. 2023. Declining population of Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) on the Bow River, Alberta, Canada: 25 years of monitoring. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(4): 358–366. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i4.3183>

- This 25-year study of a small sea duck that breeds on fast-moving mountain streams in western North America and overwinters on the coast combines observations from a multitude of volunteers and professional biologists and population modelling to show a concerning population decline in a protected area. Because similar declines have been documented elsewhere in the Rocky Mountains and along the coast, a multifactorial explanation is warranted.

Emma Kominek, Olivia Cornies, Hannah McCurdy-Adams, and Arne Ø. Mooers. 2023. Evolutionary isolation of Canadian terrestrial vertebrate species. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(4): 367–380. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i4.2673>

- This study estimates, for the first time, the evolutionary distinctiveness of each of Canada's tetrapods. Evolutionarily distinct species can have unique or rare biological features and represent millions of years of evolutionary history independent of other Canadian species. For example, Kominek *et al.* found that Canada's most distinct species, Spiny Softshell Turtle (*Apalone spinifera*), represents an astounding 178.4 million years of independent evolutionary history!

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 137 of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

AMANDA E. MARTIN, WILLIAM HALLIDAY,
and DWAYNE A.W. LEPITZKI
OFNC Publication Committee