

News and Comment

Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada Annual Meeting and Awards 2008

The 2008 annual meeting of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC) was held in Ottawa on 22 and 23 September. This was the fifth anniversary of this network, which was created in 2003 to enhance collaborative work in the areas of research, collections development and education about the natural environment.

A reception was held the evening of 23 September on Parliament Hill, where the second annual Bruce Naylor Award was presented. The award recognizes significant contributions to museum-based natural history in Canada. This year's recipient was Dr. Jon C. Barlow, who held the position of Curator of Ornithology at Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) for 35 years until 2001. Over the course of his career, Barlow personally contributed over 6000 specimens to the provincial bird collection, building it into one of the largest in the world, and was a world authority on vireos (small to medium-sized songbirds). Through his combined talents as a researcher, collector, curator, educator, mentor, editor, administrator and larger-than-life personality – he transformed the ornithology program into a flagship department at the ROM. His collaborations included 25 museums around the world and extensive involvement with American and International Ornithological Societies. He also led the University of Toronto's Museum Studies Program. That his efforts elevated the status of Canadian museum-based research in the minds of North American and European aca-

demics is attested to by colleague Dr. James Rising of the University of Toronto and Dr. Bruce McGillivray a former student of Barlow's and now director of the Royal Alberta Museum. The award was accepted by members of Barlow's family as failing health prevented his attendance.

The ANHMC's 13 members from west to north to east are: the Royal British Columbia Museum, Royal Alberta Museum, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Manitoba Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Canadian Museum of Nature, Montreal's Nature Museums (Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Gardens and Planetarium), New Brunswick Museum, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, and The Rooms Provincial Museum, Newfoundland and Labrador. These institutions are responsible for preserving the record of Canada's natural history through time. Together, member museums safeguard more than 19 million catalogued specimens of plants, animals, minerals and fossils collected over 150 years. The purpose of the national collections strategy is to ensure that this crucial record is complete and is preserved in perpetuity. Pauline Rafferty, President of the ANHMC and Director of the Royal British Columbia Museum, stressed that the member institutions are "... working on a national strategy for developing a collection that will represent all of Canada's biodiversity."

USA National Phenology Network

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) monitors the influence of climate on the phenology of plants, animals, and landscapes. They encourage people to observe phenological events like leaf out, flowering, migrations, and egg laying, and provide a place for people to enter, store, and share their observations. They also work with researchers to develop tools and techniques to use these observations to support a wide range of decisions made routinely by citizens, managers, scientists and others, including decisions related to allergies, wildfires, water, and conservation.

The USA-NPN is comprised of many partners, including federal, state and local agencies, universities, colleges and schools, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers. Participants range from individual ob-

servers making observations in their backyards to professional scientists monitoring long-term plots.

The efforts of the USA-NPN are organized and directed by the staff at the USA-NPN National Coordinating Office at the University of Arizona, with support from the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Science Foundation, and many other funding agencies, organizations, and partners. The USA-NPN is governed by an executive committee consisting of a 12-member Board of Directors, the NCO Executive Director, and Assistant Director, as specified in its constitution. Several working groups have also been established within the USA-NPN to address specific issues within the field of phenology.

Marine Turtle Newsletter (122) October 2008

28 pages: ARTICLES: An introduction to Bayesian statistics without using equations (T. Eguchi) — Ebi-bionts associated with Green Sea Turtles from Cananéia, Brazil (B. Oliveira De Loreto and C. V. Bondioli) — Analysis of a live stranded Leatherback, *Dermochelys coriacea*, in Brazil (M. R. Werneck, G. H. P. Dutra, and B. M. G. Gallo) — NOTE: Juvenile Hawksbill tagged in The Bahamas nests in Tobago K. A. Bjoundal, T. Clovis, K. J. Reich, G. Alkins, P. J. Ellazar, and A.B. Bolten) — LETTER TO THE EDITOR — BOOK REVIEW — MEETING REPORT — ANNOUNCEMENTS — IUCN-MTSG QUARTERLY REPORT — NEWS & LEGAL BRIEFS — RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Ontario Crayfish

This attractive identification brochure condenses a multitude of information. It is printed on glossy-finished cardboard for durability in field use. Ten species are depicted in exquisite detail in lateral view in colour by Aleta Karstad, seven native, one spreading westward from Quebec in the St. Lawrence River, and two introduced. Brief range, maximum size, behaviour and or habitat notations are given. Black-and-white diagrams by Parmek Hamr compare dorsal views and detail the rostrum, chelae, carapace, abdomen and cop-

The Marine Turtle Newsletter is edited by Lisa M. Campbell, Nicholas School of Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University, 135 Duke Marine Lab Road, Beaufort, North Carolina 28516 USA; and Matthew H. Godfrey, NC Sea Turtle Project, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, 1507 Ann Street, Beaufort, North Carolina 28516 USA. Subscriptions and donations towards the production of the MTN can be made online at <<http://www.seaturtle.org/mtn/>> or postal mail to Michael S. Coyne (Managing Editor), Marine Turtle Newsletter, A321 LSRC, Box 90328 Nicholas School of Environment and Earth Sciences, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708-0328 USA; e-mail: mcoyne@seaturtle.org.

ulatory stylets. There is a labelled diagram of “the shape of crayfish”, and a map showing the number of species in various Ontario regions. Brief statements are given on the ecological importance, possible disappearance, lifestyle, and how to find crayfish. More information is available at www.crayfishontario.ca.

Production has been supported by the Bishops Mills Natural History Centre, Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists) and the Toronto Zoo.

Canadian Association of Herpetologists Association canadienne des herpetologues Bulletin 16(1) Fall 2008

CONTENTS: Instructions for Authors — EDITORIAL NOTES — MEETINGS: Northeast Natural History Conference, Albany New York 16-18 April 2008 (Shane de Solla) — Joint Meeting in Herpetology in Montreal 23-28 July 2008 (Leslie Anthony) — FEATURE ARTICLE: Keeping the ‘Herps’ in Herpetology: Is the use of live animals in teaching being threatened? (Stephen Hecnar) — FIELD NOTES: What the heck happened to that thing? Tales from the field notes of a turtle biologist (Amanda Bennett) — BOOK REVIEWS: Review of *The Ecology and Behavior of Amphibians* by K. Wells 2007 (Richard Wassersug) — Review of *Malformed Frogs* by M. Lannoo 2008 (Janet Koprivnikar) — THESIS ABSTRACTS IN CANADIAN HERPETOLOGY: Christine Baptista BSc 2007, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, *The effects of environmental variables on five-lined skink (Eumeces fasciatus) abundance in Point Pelee National Park* (Supervisor: Stephen Hecnar); Pascale Belleau MSc 2008 McGill University; Montreal, Quebec, *Habitat selection, movement patterns, and demography of the common musk turtle (Sternotherus odoratus) in south-western Quebec* (Co-supervisors: Gabriel Blouin-Demers and Roger Titman); Nicholas A. Cairns BSc 2008 Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, *A comparison of habitat usage and seasonality of the smooth green snake (Liochlorophis vernalis) and the northern*

red-bellied snake (Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata) (Supervisor: Pamela Rutherford); Kel P. Cullis BSc 2008 Lakehead University, *A comparison of herpetofaunal monitoring methods for use in the Thunder Bay, Ontario, District* (Supervisor: Stephen Hecnar); Christopher B. Edge MSc 2008 Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, *Multiple scale habitat selection by Blanding’s Turtles (Emydoidea blandingii)* (Supervisor: Jacqueline Litzgus); Felix Eigenbrod PhD 2008 Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, *Measuring the effects of forest extent and road traffic on anuran populations* (Co-supervisors: Stephen Hecnar and Lenore Fahrig); Karen Elgee BSc 2008 University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, *Sexual size dimorphism in garter snakes (Thamnophis sirtalis), water snakes (Nerodia sipedon) and black ratsnakes (Elaphe obsoleta)* (Supervisor: Gabriel Blouin-Demers); Dale M. Jefferson MSc 2008 Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, *Stable isotope characterization of community trophic structures in assemblages of aquatic and terrestrial herpetofauna* (Supervisor: Ronald Russell); Megan K. Johnson MSc 2008 University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, *Relationships between setal field and natural substratum microtopography in the genus Rhothropus (Gekkota: Gekkonidae) in Namibia, Southern Africa* (Supervisor: Anthony Russell); Kristen L. Keyes BSc 2007 Lakehead University, *Effects of envi-*

ronmental variables on calling in Ontario anurans (Supervisor: Stephen Hecnar); Lucy Paterson BSc 2007 University of Ottawa, *The effect of constant vs. fluctuating incubation temperatures on the phenotype and fitness of the black rat snake (Elaphe obsoleta) hatchlings* (Supervisor: Gabriel Blouin-Demers); Gabriel Picard BSc 2008 University of Ottawa, *Does thermal quality of the environment affect habitat selection by musk turtles (Sternotherus odoratus)?* (Supervisor: Gabriel Blouin-Demers); Candra Schank

MSc 2008 University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, *Assessing the effects of trout stocking on native amphibian communities in small boreal foothills lakes of Alberta* (Supervisor: Cindy Paszkowski) — RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN CANADIAN HERPETOLOGY — NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — MEMBERSHIP FORM.

The CAH-ACH Bulletin is edited by Jacqueline D. Litzgus, Department of Biology, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 2C6, jlitzgus@Laurentian.ca.