

# The Canadian Field-Naturalist

## News and Comment

Compiled by Amanda E. Martin

### Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

#### Entomological Society of America, North Central Branch Meeting

The annual North Central Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America to be held as an online meeting 21–23 June 2021. Registration for this

event is free for members. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/northcentral/branch-meeting>.

#### World Conference on Ecological Restoration

The 9th World Conference on Ecological Restoration to be held as an online meeting 21–24 June 2021. The theme of the conference is: ‘A New Global Trajectory: Catalyzing Change Through the UN Decade

on Ecosystem Restoration’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.ser2021.org/>.

#### Entomological Society of America, Southwestern Branch Meeting

The annual Southwestern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America to be held as an online meeting 28–29 June 2021. Registration for this

event is free for members. More information is available at <https://www.entsoc.org/southwestern/branch-meeting>.

#### BL2021

The Québec B(ryophytes) and L(ichens) conference—or BL2021—of the Canadian Botanical Association/L’association botanique du Canada, International Association of Bryologists, American Bryological and Lichenological Society, and the Société québécoise

de bryologie to be held as an online meeting 6–9 July 2021. The theme of the meeting is: ‘Bryophytes, Lichens and Northern Ecosystems in a Changing World’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://bl2021.org/>.

#### Botany 2021

Botany 2021 to be held as an online meeting 18–23 July 2021. Registration is currently open. More infor-

mation is available at <http://2021.botanyconference.org/>.

#### Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America to be held as an online meeting 2–6 August 2021. The theme of the conference is: ‘Vital

Connections in Ecology’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.esa.org/longbeach/>.

#### Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society

The 58th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society to be held as an online meeting 3–6 August 2021. Registration is currently open. More information

is available at <https://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/2021/index.php>.

## Joint meeting of the American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists - Société des ornithologistes du Canada

The joint meeting of the American Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists - Société des ornithologistes du Canada to be held as an online meeting 9–14 August 2021. The theme of the

conference is: ‘Birds of Many Feathers Flock Together’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://meeting.americanornithology.org/>.

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

The 19th Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles to be held as an online meeting 10–31 August

2021. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://turtlesurvival.org/2021-symposium/>

## James Fletcher Award for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* Volume 134

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 fifth 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 134 of CFN, and came up with a list of the top four papers. From these top four, the committee selected the top paper. The award for Volume 134 of CFN goes to:

**Daniel F. Brunton, Margaret A. Krichbaum, Randall S. Krichbaum, and Paul C. Sokoloff.** Distribution and status of Howell’s Quillwort (*Isoetes howellii*, Isoetaceae) in Canada and its relation to Bolander’s Quillwort (*Isoetes bolanderi*). *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 134(3): 252–264. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v134i3.2509>

- A study of rare and at-risk quillworts in British Columbia using a combination of field surveys and morphological examination, including scanning electron microscope images of spores.
- Important results for the conservation of this rare species.

Congratulations to Dan Brunton and co-authors for their excellent paper.

### Honourable Mentions

**Pamela H. Sinclair, Marty D. Mossop, and Shannon A. Stotyn.** Nesting ecology and reuse of nest burrows by Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) in southern Yukon. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 134(4): 329–341. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v134i4.2427>

- Quite an extensive study of nesting ecology of a Threatened bird species in a region where it has

been relatively understudied (boreal).

- Results have implications for recovery of this listed species.

**Véronique Lesage, Stéphane Lair, Samuel Turgeon, and Pierre Béland.** Diet of St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) in a changing ecosystem. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 134(1): 21–35. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v134i1.2421>

- A comparative study of St. Lawrence Beluga diet from carcass examination over the past 30 years with that of a previous diet study from a hunting site over 80 years ago.
- A change in diet reflects a change in the marine ecosystem.

**Stephanie K. Archer, Glen Dennison, Lora Tryon, Sheila Byers, and Anya Dunham.** Invertebrate settlement and diversity on a glass sponge reef. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 134(1): 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v134i1.2297>

- The assessment of invertebrate diversity on a glass sponge reef in Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park, British Columbia, using settlement plates.
- This study provides further evidence that glass sponge reefs are an important component of the marine ecosystem.

Congratulations to these finalists. We would also like to voice our appreciation to all authors who chose to share their interesting and valuable field-based studies with the readers of Volume 134 of CFN.

WILLIAM HALLIDAY, AMANDA E. MARTIN,  
and DWAYNE LEPITZKI

OFNC Publication Committee

## Writing for Conservation: an Online Resource for Science Communication

Fisher, M. 2019. *Writing for Conservation*. Fauna & Flora International, Cambridge, United Kingdom. Accessed 30 May 2021. <https://www.oryxthejournal.org/writing-for-conservation-guide>.

In 2019 Fauna & Flora International, with the support of The Rufford Foundation and the John Spedan Lewis Foundation, published a free online guide to *Writing for Conservation*, with the goal to provide guidance to those wanting to report research findings and results of conservation actions in ways that are informative and interesting to the audience. Fisher suggests that *Writing for Conservation* will be useful no matter the writing venue, from blogs to reports to articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals. In my opinion, however, the advice given in *Writing for Conservation* will be much more useful in more formal situations (e.g., writing for a peer-reviewed journal) than in informal ones (e.g., writing a blog post).

This online resource is formatted in the same manner as a traditional book, with chapters further subdivided into sections. These chapters and sections are easily accessible via a drop-down menu located at the top right of each webpage. After a brief Preface and Introduction, the next two chapters—Structure your Writing and Present your Data—focus on an overview of the elements a writer needs to consider when preparing a manuscript, with advice on writing each of the typical sections found in a scientific article (Title, Abstract, Introduction, etc.) and preparing figures and tables. This is followed by a series of chapters focussed on providing more specific guidance on (1) how to ensure a complete and accurate bibliography or reference section; (2) how to write clearly and concisely; and (3) how to produce visually appealing maps and figures that convey a clear message to readers. In addition to providing design tips and illustrative examples of maps and figures, Fisher provides recommendations for free software packages that writ-

ers could use, with examples and links to video tutorials. The guide also includes a chapter with advice on how to promote your writing through things like blog posts and social media.

Overall, I found this to be a well-organized resource, peppered with useful pieces of advice. Things that I “had to learn the hard way”. For example, Fisher recommends that if you plan to publish in a peer-reviewed journal you should choose the target journal before you start writing. I whole-heartedly agree. Different journals have different formatting requirements and different limits on the lengths of article sections and/or the full article. You can save a lot of time if you write to satisfy these requirements, rather than revising your manuscript to satisfy them after a full draft is completed. Another time-saver is the recommendation to use a reference manager (e.g., Mendeley or Zotero) to insert citations into the manuscript and produce the references section. I manually inserted citations and wrote and formatted references sections for years before I finally tried a reference manager and realized how much time it could save me! Note that some peer-reviewed journals do not allow submission of manuscripts with the linked fields inserted by the reference manager; in these cases, the links must be converted to regular text before submission.

Individuals with experience writing and publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals may or may not find something new in this guide. However, I think those who are just starting out will find *Writing for Conservation* to be a valuable resource.

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## Correction: Carolyn Callaghan—stop stepping down!

In the News & Comments piece “Carolyn Callaghan—stop stepping down!” (134: 404 <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v134i4.2753>), Carolyn’s position as Senior

Conservation Biologist was misprinted; Carolyn works for the Canadian Wildlife Federation, not the Canadian Nature Federation.

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