

Welcome

A New Approach for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*

The Canadian Field-Naturalist has encouraged the development of numerous careers in the natural sciences since well back into the 19th Century, and publishing it has been the most significant scientific contribution of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. We are very proud of over a century of documenting important original research concerning the natural environment of northern North America. As the current stewards of its legacy, we take our responsibility to continue the journal's vital contribution into the foreseeable future very seriously.

The current reshaping of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* is undertaken with care, optimism and determination, humbled somewhat by our historic responsibility. The production of an electronic version of the journal is a reflection of our times; it is the approach of most contemporary cutting edge natural sciences documentation. (You are encouraged to read Jay Fitzsimmons' article below on the benefits and opportunities to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* of 'going electronic'). Electronic publishing also permits us to provide valuable new research, observations and reviews in a timelier manner; an increasingly important consideration going forward. And of course, the economic considerations of the publication and distribution of original research are huge. We *must* produce the journal in a fiscally sustainable manner if we are to continue to meet our responsibilities to the natural science community.

We are well aware of our obligation to preserve these ecologically important articles in a secure and enduring way so we will continue to produce the paper copy

of the journal as well. Producing a hard copy for all subscribers and members is, however, prohibitively expensive. Those who wish to continue to receive the paper copies can do so but we are unfortunately obliged to pass on the extra cost to those readers.

Adding to the historic weight of the moment is the passing of the editorial torch from long time editor Francis Cook to Carolyn Callaghan. Carolyn, with the aid of a strong team within and beyond the OFNC, is directing this reformation of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. It is an exciting and important opportunity for all involved. Francis Cook, it must be remembered, oversaw the production of more volumes and more pages of the hard copy version of the journal than any editor in the 132 year history of OFNC. His extraordinary record of production is noteworthy in North American history.

We welcome everyone to this new beginning for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and invite you not only to enjoy its continuing and expanded features but also to participate by submitting manuscripts or reviews. We also encourage you to make the updates to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* known to like-minded associates who value the enduring contribution of the research findings presented in its pages. In portions of three centuries now, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* has been an important instrument of the field naturalist community. With the support and commitment of naturalists across Canada and beyond, we will ensure that this contribution continues into the foreseeable future.

ANN MACKENZIE,
President, Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

DANIEL BRUNTON,
Chairman, Publications Committee