

News and Comment

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

Plant Canada 2019

Plant Canada 2019 to be held 7–10 July 2019 at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. The theme of the conference is: ‘Communicating innovation in plant

science’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/PlantCanada2019/index.shtml>.

Mothapalooza

Mothapalooza to be held 12–14 July 2019 at the Shawnee Lodge & Conference Center, West Portsmouth, Ohio. The 2019 Conference Moth is the Sooty-winged

Chalcoela (*Chalcoela iphitalis*). More information is available at <http://www.mothapalooza.org/>.

Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Annual Meeting

The Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC) Annual Meeting to be held 17–19 July 2019 at Stockton University, Galloway, New Jersey. The theme of the conference is: ‘20 Years of

NEPARC – Back to New Jersey’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://northeastparc.org/next-meeting-info/>.

Behavior 2019

The joint meeting of the 56th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society and the 36th International Ethological Conference to be held 23–27 July 2019 at

the University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/2019/>.

Botany 2019

Botany 2019 to be held 27–31 July 2019 at Starr Pass, Tucson, Arizona. Registration is currently open. More

information is available at <https://2019.botanyconference.org/>.

Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles

The 17th annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, co-hosted by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, to be held 4–

8 August 2019 at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson, Arizona. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://turtlesurvival.org/2019symposium/>.

2019 Mycological Society of America Meeting

The 2019 meeting of the Mycological Society of America to be held 10–14 August 2019 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme of the

conference is: ‘Diversity in All Dimensions’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://msafungi.org/2019-annual-meeting/>.

Ecological Society of America and United States Society for Ecological Economics Joint Meeting

The 104th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in partnership with the United States Society for Ecological Economics to be held 11–16 August 2019 at the Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, Kentucky. The theme of the conference is:

‘Bridging Communities & Ecosystems: Inclusion as an Ecological Imperative’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://esa.org/louisville/>.

Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution, Entomological Society of Canada, and Acadian Entomological Society Joint Meeting

The joint meeting of the Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution, Entomological Society of Canada, and Acadian Entomological Society to be held 18–21 August 2019 at the Fredericton Convention Centre, Fred-

ericton, New Brunswick. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://csee-esc2019.ca/index.html>.

2019 International Conference on Ecology & Transportation

The 10th biennial International Conference on Ecology & Transportation, hosted by the California Department of Transportation and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to be held 22–26 August 2019 at the Hyatt

Regency Hotel, Sacramento, California. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://icoet.net/>.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists – Societe des ornithologistes du Canada

The 36th meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists – Societe des ornithologistes du Canada to be held 27–30 August 2019 at the Hôtel Chateau Laurier,

Québec City, Quebec. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://sco-soc-quebec2019.org/>.

iNaturalist Canada passes the 1 000 000 observation mark

The value of citizen scientists—and their collaborations with, for want of a better term, “professional” scientists—is becoming increasingly recognized (e.g., Silvertown 2009; Dickinson *et al.* 2012). This is evident in the pages of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, including the current issue. For example, in Bowden *et al.* (2018) the combined efforts of citizen scientists, naturalists, and scientists led to an astounding increase in the list of spiders known to occur on Prince Edward Island. They were able to more than quadruple the number of known spider species, from 44 to 198 species! And Mullins *et al.* (2018) were able to leverage public engagement in the Ontario BioBlitz Program, an annual citizen science event, to collect and identify lichen and allied fungus species within the Greater Toronto Area. These data allowed them to increase the list of known lichens and allied fungi species within the region to 180 species.

I chose to highlight one citizen science endeavour—iNaturalist Canada—in this issue because, as of 19 April 2019, it has surpassed the 1 000 000 observation mark. At the time of writing (4 May 2019), this number had already grown to 1 038 803 observations, representing observations of 18 678 species (iNaturalist Canada 2019).

iNaturalist is a place where environmental non-government organizations (ENGOS), academics, government, and citizen scientists come together to work towards an increasing understanding of wildlife in Canada. It was developed by two ENGOS—the Canadian Wildlife Federation and NatureServeCanada—in collaboration with the federal government (Parks Canada) and the Royal Ontario Museum. These Canadian organizations also collaborated with iNaturalist.org (housed in the California Academy of Sciences). These agencies worked together to launch (and maintain) the website and associated app used in data collection. In

addition to these agencies, the success of iNaturalist Canada depends on the contributions of citizen and professional scientists, with (as of 4 May 2019) 25 569 observers (who collect and upload wildlife observations, e.g., photographs) and 10 912 identifiers (who aid in identification of wildlife in photographs; iNaturalist Canada 2019). The cellphone app—which is available in English and French, and downloadable through Google Play or the Apple App Store—makes it easy to contribute to data collection. And the webpage <https://inaturalist.ca/> makes it easy for anyone to benefit from this resource, even if one just wants to enjoy photographs of Canadian wildlife.

Literature Cited

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AMANDA E. MARTIN

Assistant Editor – *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*