News and Comment
Compiled by Amanda E. Martin

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

The Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology Annual Meeting
The annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology to be held 2–6 January 2024 at the Seattle Convention Center, Seattle, Washington. Registration is currently open. More information is available at https://www.xcdsystem.com/sicb/program/I1Kr23t/index.cfm.

Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference
The 84th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, hosted by South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, to be held 28–31 January 2024 at the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center & Sheraton Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The theme of the conference is: ‘Habitat: Working Today to Benefit Tomorrow’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at https://www.midwestfw.org/.

Society for Range Management Annual Meeting
The annual meeting of the Society for Range Management to be held 28 January–1 February 2024 at The Nugget, Sparks, Nevada. Registration is currently open. More information is available at https://range.org/annual-meeting-2024/.

Stewardship Network Conference
The 17th Stewardship Network Conference to be held 29–30 January 2024 at The Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing, Michigan. Registration is currently open. More information is available at https://conference.stewardshipnetwork.org/.

Wetland Science Conference
Wisconsin Wetlands Association’s 29th annual Wetland Science Conference to be held 20–22 February 2024 at the Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin. More information is available at https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org/.

Society for Canadian Aquatic Sciences Annual Meeting
The second annual meeting of the Society for Canadian Aquatic Sciences to be held 21–24 February 2024 at the Fredericton Convention Centre, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Registration is currently open. More information is available at https://www.scas-scsa.ca/CONFERENCE.

Forests Ontario Annual Conference
James Fletcher Award for The Canadian Field-Naturalist Volume 136

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 seventh year. The award committee selected the final two winners from a total of 30 final papers. The committee would like to express its appreciation to all authors who contributed to CFN Volume 136.


- Analysis of data collected from a range of sources, revealing a reversal in the dominant nesting habitat type for the Threatened Bank Swallow, from human-made to natural habitats.


- A combination of historical and current survey data, covering three intertidal habitats and 43 years, are used to increase the list of taxa observed in the Átl’ka7tsem/Howe Sound United Nations Biosphere Reserve (British Columbia, Canada) by an order of magnitude (to 99).

Congratulations to Noémie and Marjorie and co-authors for their excellent papers.

Honourable Mentions (in chronological order):


- A synthesis of information on the abundance, distribution, and habitats of Manitoba’s lycophytes, based on collections made throughout the province since 2008 in combination with more than 1000 herbarium specimens.


- Interesting observations of female eiders attending nests of other females when a predator was present.


- A novel pairing of field collection and laboratory assay to determine the importance of including plant seeds ingested by earthworms when studying the soil seed bank.


- A novel observation of Salmon Sharks scratching themselves, but with an interesting twist, because they were using human debris, which has some obvious conservation concerns regarding marine litter; the study also went a step further to compare their findings with traditional ecological knowledge.


- Combining citizen observations of Grizzly Bears and government aerial surveys expands our understanding of the close interaction between salmon and bears previously observed in coastal systems.

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 136 of The Canadian Field-Naturalist.

William Halliday, Amanda E. Martin, and Dwayne A.W. Lepitzki
OFNC Publication Committee
In Memoriam for four long-standing Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club members

The year 2023 has seen the passing of four long-standing Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club (OFNC) members.

Robert (Bob) W. Nero, 26 December 1922–23 January 2023. Bob was an OFNC member since 1961 (Keith 2023) and an Honorary Member since 1987 (OFNC 2023). A short tribute to Bob will appear in the January–March 2024 issue of Trail & Landscape (T&L), the Ottawa Valley regional publication of OFNC. Nature Manitoba’s tribute to Bob can be found at https://www.naturemanitoba.ca/news-articles/tribute-robert-w-nero.


Linda Jeays, 27 June 1944–10 September 2023. Linda was an OFNC member since 1993 and a prolific contributor of poems to T&L. She was awarded the OFNC Anne Hanes Natural History Award in 2006 (OFNC 2007). A “farewell” poem will appear in the January–March 2024 issue of T&L. Her obituary is available at https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/linda-jeays-1088851799.

Allan Reddoch, 19 January 1931–10 October 2023. Allan and his wife Joyce were OFNC members since 1967 (Keith 2023) and Honorary Members since 2000 (OFNC 2023). Their Canadian Field-Naturalist Special Issue publication on the orchids of Ottawa (Reddoch and Reddoch 2010) is available at the Biodiversity Heritage Library. His obituary is available at https://beechwoodottawa.ca/en/services/allan-harvey-reddoch.

Literature Cited

D.A.W. Lepitzki
CFN Editor-in-Chief