

# The Canadian Field-Naturalist

## Editors' Report for Volume 137 (2023)

Issues 1 and 2 of volume 137 for the year 2023 were combined as a Special Issue honouring Donald F. McAlpine's contributions to the natural history of the Canadian Maritimes. As such, there are only three mailing dates for volume 137 of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN): 7 February, 27 June, and 18 December 2024; online posting dates are approximately four weeks before the mailing dates: 9 January, 31 May, and 23 October 2024, respectively. The time differential is because the print proofs need to be produced and then couriered from and back to the printer after they are checked by the *Editor-in-Chief* (EiC) before printing and then shipped to the mailer. The Canada Post strike from mid-November to mid-December 2024 resulted in a longer than typical difference between the online and mailing dates for 137(4). In comparison, the mailing and online posting dates of the four issues in volume 136 ranged from 8 September 2022 to 17 July 2023 and 5 August 2022 to 22 June 2023, respectively.

Summaries of the distribution of paid subscribers to CFN for volume 137 are shown in Table 1, and are compared to volume 136. This list does not include free copies distributed to Honorary Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) members or online access, which is included in OFNC membership dues and those provided to *Associate Editors* (AE). Institutional subscribers potentially represent many thousands of users. The overall decline in subscribers continued with a net loss of seven for volume 137 compared to volume 136. The decline in institutional subscribers continued (-8) and individual subscribers fell (-4), while there was a small increase in OFNC members who paid for the print copy of CFN (+5).

There was no change in the number of articles published in volume 137 ( $n = 21$ ) compared to the number published in volume 136 while the number of notes decreased by eight, resulting in eight fewer manuscripts published in volume 137 ( $n = 30$ ) in comparison to volume 136 (Table 2). Mammals and plants were the most popular subjects followed by 'others', birds, and amphibians and reptiles (Table 2). Three of the five manuscripts in the 'other' category were in the double Special Issue and on organisms that fit poorly in our typical subject categories: fungi, lichens, and slime moulds. A couple more book reviews ( $n = 23$ ) and nearly 140 additional new titles ( $n = 501$ ) were published in volume 137 in comparison to volume 136 (Table 3) under the more-thanable editorial eye of *Book Review Editor* Jessica Sims. The total number of pages published in volume 137 decreased by five in comparison to volume 136 (Table 4) with more pages of articles (+58) and Book Reviews/New Titles (+7) but fewer pages of notes (-37), tributes (-18), and News and Comment (-9) published. Once again, there were no thematic collections (editor-selected compilations of previously published contributions in both CFN and the regional OFNC publication, *Trail & Landscape*, on a central theme with internet links to each article) nor additional articles on *Greatest Canadian Field Naturalists*, the latter of which were included in News and Comment in volume 131 (for 2017). *Guest Editors* Graham Forbes and Stephen Clayden provided a 12 page Foreword and Notes on the natural history of Don McAlpine for the special double issue.

The number of manuscripts submitted or enquiries about potential submissions was the same in

**TABLE 1.** The volume 137 (136) circulation of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Compiled by Eleanor Zurbrigg from the subscription list for 137(4). This list does not include copies distributed to Honorary Members or online access which is included in OFNC membership dues.

Subscriber type	Canada	USA	Other	Total
OFNC Members	40 (35)	0 (0)	0 (0)	40 (35)
Subscriptions:				
Individual	25 (26)	9 (12)	0 (0)	34 (38)
Institutional	55 (57)	69 (74)	11 (12)	135 (143)
Total	120 (118)	78 (86)	11 (12)	209 (216)

**TABLE 2.** Number of research articles and notes published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 137 (volume 136), by major field of study, not including the two Special Issue introductions.

Subject	Articles	Notes	Total
Mammals	3 (7)	3 (5)	6 (12)
Birds	3 (5)	1 (4)	4 (9)
Amphibians and Reptiles	4 (5)	0 (2)	4 (7)
Fishes	1 (0)	0 (2)	1 (2)
Plants	3 (2)	3 (3)	6 (5)
Insects	0 (0)	2 (1)	2 (1)
Non-insect invertebrates	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Other	5 (1)	0 (0)	5 (1)
Total	21 (21)	9 (17)	30 (38)

**TABLE 3.** Number of reviews and new titles published in the Book Review section of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 137 (volume 136), by topic.

	Reviews	New Titles
Zoology*	10 (11)	171 (106)
Botany	3 (2)	56 (36)
Miscellaneous†	10 (8)	274 (216)
Total	23 (21)	501 (358)

\*Includes Entomology, Herpetology, Ornithology, and Zoology.

†Includes Biology, Conservation and Climate Change, Ecology, and Other.

2023 as it was in 2022 ( $n = 47$ ; Table 5). Over the past seven years, the percent of submissions not declined ranged from 80 to 91%. Four of the seven submitted manuscripts that were declined in 2023 did not have any formal peer review beyond that of the EiC and assigned AE; two of these four were declined because the authors did not have government or university research or collecting permits. See the Legal Issues, Ethical Conduct section of the CFN online Instructions to Authors at <https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/public/journals/1/CFN-author-instructions20Sept2019.pdf>. Three others were declined after formal peer-review.

Dwayne Lepitzki, EiC, initially reviewed the appropriateness of a submission and assigned an AE after William Halliday, *Online Journal Manager and Webmaster*, determined the completeness of the submission. Dwayne then reviewed the recommendation from the AE and reviewers and decided if and when the submitted and subsequently revised manuscript was accepted for publication. A *Copy Editor* (Sandra Garland or John Wilmshurst) was then assigned and once their work was reviewed by Dwayne and the authors, the manuscript was sent for layout and typesetting. *Assistant Editor* Amanda Martin edited content, proofread galleys (as did Dwayne), and sent and received author order and transfer of copyright forms; she also prepared the News and Comment. Robert Forsyth typeset galleys, provided corrections for page proofs, and created pdfs for online posting

**TABLE 4.** Number of pages per section published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 137 (136), by issue. Note that because issues 1 and 2 of volume 137 were combined, the number of pages is shown in the issue 2 column.

	Issue				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Special Issue introduction		12 (–)			12 (–)
Editorials/Editors' Report	– (0)	0 (3)	0 (0)	4 (0)	4 (3)
Articles	– (22)	132 (56)	56 (54)	67 (65)	255 (197)
Notes	– (26)	5 (21)	31 (26)	7 (7)	43 (80)
Thematic Collections	– (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tributes	– (21)	0 (0)	12 (9)	0 (0)	12 (30)
Book Reviews and New Titles	– (9)	23 (12)	17 (13)	17 (16)	57 (50)
News and Comment*	– (4)	3 (7)	2 (3)	2 (2)	7 (16)
Reports†	– (16)	10 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (16)
Errata	– (0)	0 (0)	0 (3)	0 (0)	0 (3)
Blank page‡	– (2)	0 (1)	0 (1)	1 (0)	1 (4)
Index	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	6 (6)	6 (6)
Total	– (100)	188 (100)	118 (109)	104 (96)	410 (405)

\*Includes the James Fletcher Award for best paper published in the volume.

†Includes Annual Business Meeting Minutes, Annual Committee Reports, and OFNC Awards; Financial Statements are only available online beginning with 132.

‡Necessary to begin each issue with an odd numbered page.

**TABLE 5.** Annual number of submissions and inquiries about submissions to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* from 2017 to 2023 and percent submissions accepted and/or undergoing revision or further review. Some of the enquiries result in later formal submissions. Note the year of submission does not equate with the year of publication given the time required for peer-review, revisions, and publication.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of submissions and enquiries	57*	67†	49	63	46	47‡	47
% submissions not declined and undergoing revision and further review§	90%	83%	85%	80%	89%	91%	85%

\*Includes 10 for the Special Issues 132(1) and 132(2) honouring Dr. Francis Cook.

†Includes 13 for the Special Issues 132(1) and 132(2) honouring Dr. Francis Cook.

‡Includes 11 for the Special Double Issue for 2023, volume 137(1–2).

§Not all of these submissions may be revised by the authors and resubmitted or eventually accepted and published.

and printing. Jessica Sims requested books for review, selected reviewers, edited submitted reviews, and prepared the list of new titles. Ken Young sent page charge invoices to authors and tracked the budget while Eleanor Zurbrigg managed subscriptions and mailed printed copies. William Halliday provided digital content to subscribers; posted tables of contents, abstracts, and pdfs on the CFN website; and prepared the Index. Our AEs managed manuscripts, provided reviews and recommendations, and guided authors through the revisions process. Dave Seburn, our *Map Editor*, reviewed and provided suggestions for all the maps. The Publication Committee, chaired by Jeff Saarela and consisting of Annie Bélair, Carolyn Callaghan, Paul Catling, William Halliday, Dwayne Lepitzki, Amanda Martin, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Ken Young, and Eleanor Zurbrigg effectively guided the operation of the journal. We are indebted to our very dedicated team.

The following AEs voluntarily managed, assessed, and reviewed the 30 manuscripts published in volume 137 (Table 2) or the seven others submitted in 2023 that were declined: R. Brooks, University of Guelph, emeritus, Weymouth NS (1 manuscript published—Ron died in December 2023); P.M. Catling, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, retired, Ottawa ON (3—stepped down as AE in October 2023); S. Clayden, New Brunswick Museum (1 as *Guest Editor*); J. Foote, Algoma University, Sault St. Marie ON (1 + 1 declined); G. Forbes, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton NB (9, including as *Guest Editor*); W. Halliday, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Whitehorse YT and University of Victoria, Victoria BC (3 + 1 declined); K. Ilves, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa ON (1 + 2 declined); T. Jung, Yukon Government, Whitehorse YT (1 + 1 declined); D. Lepitzki, Banff AB (1 declined); B. Patterson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Peterborough ON (1); J.M. Saarela, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa ON (5); J. Skevington, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Ottawa ON (1); and D. Tozer, Birds Canada, Port

Rowan ON (3 + 1 declined). Thomas Onuferko, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa ON, joined as an AE in 2023 with expertise in insects.

As with many other journals, AEs are at times having difficulty finding suitable reviewers; without dedicated AEs and reviewers there would be no journal. As such, a heart-felt thanks and gratitude is extended to the following who voluntarily reviewed manuscripts published in volume 137 (number of manuscripts reviewed >1 in parentheses) or submitted in 2023: Michael Akresh, Antioch University New England; Noel Alfonso, Canadian Museum of Nature (retired); Bernard Angers, University of Montreal; John Atwood, Missouri Botanical Garden; Fred Beaulieu, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Alain Belliveau, Acadia University; Kristin Bianchini, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Rudy Boonstra, University of Toronto; Sam Brinker, Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre; Daniel Brunton, Ottawa ON; Suzanne Carriere, Government of Northwest Territories (retired); Kira Cassidy, US National Park Service; Pete Cott, University of Alberta; Jennifer Doubt, Canadian Museum of Nature; Andrew Edelman, University of Georgia; Keith Egger, University of Northern British Columbia; Laura Feyrer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Scott Gillingwater, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority; Steve Grasby, Geological Survey of Canada; David Green, McGill University; Sybille Haussler, University of Northern British Columbia; Jim Harding, Michigan State University Museum; Tom Herman, Acadia University; Sascha Hooker, University of St. Andrews; Donna Hurlburt, Government of Nova Scotia; Leonard Hutchinson, Lakehead University; Morgan Jackson, McGill University; Colin Jones, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; Tom Jung, Government of Yukon; John Koprowski, University of Wyoming; Jolene Laverty, Government of Nova Scotia; James Lendemer, New York Botanical Garden; Dwayne Lepitzki, Banff AB; Etienne Leveille-Bourret, Université de Montréal; Chantel Markle, University of

Waterloo; Jeff Martin, McGill University; Jonathan Mee, Mount Royal University; Alex Mills, York University; Aimee Mitchell, Coastal Painted Turtle Project; Patrick Moldowan, University of Toronto; John C. Morris, Clemson University; Damien Mullin, University of New Brunswick (2); Joe Nocera, University of New Brunswick; Michael Oldham, Ontario Natural Heritage Information Centre; Brent Patterson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; Tim Pearce, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; Gilbert Proulx, Alpha Wildlife Research & Management; Joel Ralston, Saint Mary's College; Justina Ray, Wildlife Conservation Society (Canada); Roy Rea, University of Northern British Columbia; Thomas Reimchen, University of Victoria; Gregory J. Robertson, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Courtney Robichaud, Carleton University; Rodney Rountree, University of Victoria; Fred Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History; Marla Schwarzfeld, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; David Seburn, Canadian Wildlife Federation; Robert Serrouya, University of Alberta; John Sheard, University of Saskatchewan; Tyler Smith, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Sarah Steele, Canadian Museum

of Nature; Steven Stephenson, University of Arkansas; Dan Strickland, Chief Algonquin Provincial Park Naturalist (retired); Richard P. Thiel, Tomah WI; R. Greg Thorn, University of Western Ontario; James C. Trager, Missouri Botanical Garden; Jana Vamosi, University of Calgary; Will Van Hemessen, University of Western Ontario; Jonathan G. Way, Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research; Tyler Wheeldon, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

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DWAYNE A. W. LEPITZKI, *Editor-in-Chief*  
AMANDA E. MARTIN, *Assistant Editor*