

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Annual Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club Committee Reports for 2024

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee manages the annual process to recognize and thank those Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club (OFNC) members and other qualified persons who, by virtue of their efforts and talents, are deserving of special recognition. In late 2023, nominations were received and evaluated (see awards criteria at ofnc.ca/about-ofnc/awards), and potential recipients were recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. The awards were announced in January 2024 on the website. Biographies were written for the award recipients for inclusion in the Club's publications and posting on the website. Certificates were presented to award recipients on 13 April 2024 at the annual awards appreciation event held at City View United Church. The recipients' names, type of award, and short rationale for recognition follow below.

- Bob Bergquist—Member of the Year Award, for developing an electronic tax receipt system for donations to the Club.
- Elizabeth Moore—George McGee Service Award, in recognition of years of dedicated service in several areas of OFNC activity.
- Turtles of Old Ottawa East and South—Conservation Award for a Non-member, for community conservation efforts to protect turtle nests and monitor hatchlings.
- Patty McLaughlin—Mary Stuart Education Award, for wild bird education programs in the Ottawa area.
- Don McAlpine—Honorary Member, for lifetime achievements in Canadian natural history and long-time service with *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) journal.

During 2024, long-time Awards Committee member, Irwin Brodo, stepped down from the committee. Ernie joined the committee in 2001, serving as chair for eight years then continuing as a committee member. We are immensely thankful for Ernie's years of service on the committee.

ELEANOR ZURBRIGG, Chair

Birds Committee

The committee saw a loss of many members this year with the roster being reduced to the following:

- five standing members of the committee (with a change in chair in the November 2024);
- 10 members of the Bird Records Subcommittee;
- Lorraine Elworthy doing double duty as the committee recording secretary as well as the chair for the Bird Feeders Subcommittee.

Winter Bird Feeding program

- This usually runs from November to end of April.
- This year our application for permission to maintain the feeders on National Capital Commission (NCC) property was denied in November, so although we had time to set up the feeders, we had to take them down.
- We will continue to maintain the feeder on Pink Road, at the Museum of Nature's Natural Heritage Campus.
- We would like to thank Nancy Shurtleff and Louis L'Arrivée for their years of filling the feeders and Lynda Noel who is continuing to fill the museum feeders.
- As Lorraine is the Chair of the Bird Feeders Subcommittee, she knows the most about the program. This year, she dug further into the program's history and composed an article on the subject which was published in the October–December 2024 issue of *Trail & Landscape* (T&L). The program has been running for 50 years straight.

Birding presentations and walks

- Janet McCullough presented and led a walk for the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (in May). She also presented to the Kanata Seniors Council on Bird Watching as an active hobby (during their Health Fair in October).
- Sheila Craig and Lorraine Elworthy led birding walks on the Western Ottawa Pathway in May.

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

- Together with Club des ornithologues de l'Ontario organized the Ottawa–Gatineau CBC in December and January.
- Bernie Ladouceur organized teams on the Ottawa side, compiled the data and also provided input to an article in the *Ottawa Citizen* with a summary of the count.

- Bernie also gave two interviews with CBC radio pre and post the CBC activities.

Other activities

- Derek Dunnet provided the Weekly Regional Birding Report, which is posted on Facebook and on our Club website and he also fielded around 25 to 40 different queries: bird identification, general birding, questions on injured birds, etc.
- Maintained the Birds section of the OFNC Website.
- Reviewed Terms of Reference for the Club to update them to current activities.
- Laid the groundwork for the Kirtland Warbler project led by Peter Burke to be run by the Events Committee and passed that on to them (Tony Beck).
- Pursued a few other activities though we need to make further progress this year:
 - Contacted the city to discuss setting up more shorebird habitat when storm ponds are established. It turns out that it is up to the developers not the city.
 - Pursued helping Birds Canada with the Ottawa Lac Deschenes Key Biodiversity Area bird survey. This was not successful but it's something we should support in the future.
 - Initiated discussions on re-gaining access to the Shirleys Bay Causeway—it's difficult to figure out who is really the organization we should talk with: the City, NCC, or Department of National Defence.
- Re-posted/re-shared Gregory Zbitnew's *How to find 250 bird species in the OFNC study area* each quarter, to encourage new members to explore birding.

EMILIA MICHAUD, Chair

Conservation Committee

We spent our year engaging in our usual activities: bioinventories of numerous locations in and near Ottawa, public talks and site tours focussed on conservation, and targetted searches for significant biodiversity. More than 80 events such as interpretive hikes and lectures were led by our members, some simply for public education, and some with significant community involvement such as reviewing the accuracy of environmental assessments at properties threatened by development.

This year was unusually productive, and may be a sign of persistence paying off in terms of targetted species searches, longer-term projects involving specific habitats, and unexpected serendipitous discoveries resulting from sheer volume of trips and photographs.

Highlights include:

- Woolly Beach Heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*)

was rediscovered at Constance Bay, where it was assumed to be extirpated for decades. This story has already been noted in T&L.

- A new wild-growing non-native plant for the region was discovered: David's Spurge (*Euphorbia davidii*), which will be featured in T&L in 2025.
- A new wild-growing apparently native tree species for the province of Ontario was discovered: Smooth Alder (*Alnus serrulata*). It was found to be growing along a stretch of ~15 km of the St. Lawrence River east of Cornwall. This will be featured in an article in 2025.
- Northern Two-lined Salamander (*Eurycea bislineata*) was found persisting in a small woodland stream near Aberdeen, Ontario, an area from which it was presumed extirpated.
- The invasive insect Elm Zigzag Sawfly (*Apronoceros leucopoda*) was tracked to be expanding rapidly northwest to Deep River, and its local impact increased with the first full defoliation of American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) observed in the city of Ottawa (near the Nepean Sportsplex).
- Larvae of the Variable Narrow-wing Moth (*Magusa divaricata*) were observed to be defoliating the major invasive shrub Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) for the first time in Canada (two locations: Robert Graham Trail Conservation Area and Larose Forest).
- A new Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) population was discovered in North Frontenac County.
- Two new districts of eastern Ontario were confirmed to have wild-growing Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) populations: near Calabogie and adjacent to Williamsburg Forest Conservation Area.
- A number of significant new records from 2023 became apparent over Christmas break 2024, with further analysis of recorded data, notably:
 - Fool's Parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*) was observed growing wild in Ottawa (New Edinburgh).
 - A rare regionally-endangered wasp (Two-speckled Cuckoo Spider Wasp, *Ceropales bipunctata*) not seen near Ottawa since before 1960 and formerly considered extirpated in the province, was observed as part of our 2023 joint OFNC–Ontario Power Generation project.
 - The only known wild-origin forest-grown mature Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) in Prescott-Russell County was documented near Rockdale; this discovery comes shortly after the species was documented in eastern Ontario between Chesterville and Brinston in 2022.

New projects will begin with numerous similar projects ongoing and continuing next year under the leadership of new Conservation Committee Chair Jakob Mueller.

OWEN CLARKIN, Chair

Education and Publicity Committee

The Committee have had several members resign this year: Lloyd Mayeda has retired to spend more time with his grandchildren and Hannah Delion has moved away but will continue to help with stories. We thank them for their many contributions. For a time, we had over a dozen members but our numbers have been reduced. We will need new recruits.

The Ottawa–Carleton District School Board’s Science Fair was again held live this year. Judges from the Science Fair selected four projects, which were each awarded \$100. Thanks to Lloyd and Diane Lepage who helped as judges.

Bug Day was held this year at the Neatby Building. It was a great success with 18 members helping out at our booth. Fenja Brodo provided insect slides while Deb Doherty setup the booth and Eleanor took it down and returned our microscopes to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG). The club donated \$1500 to help finance the event.

Dean Beeby has discontinued our Twitter/X account as there was very little activity from the community. Jakob Mueller continues to host a YouTube page for the OFNC—look for it at: youtube.com/channel/UChryjAyoDoz7qnanrVaTJ_w. Sandy Garland keeps our Friends of the FWG Facebook page up-to-date (facebook.com/groups/48901132335/). Thanks to Nina Stavlund for our OFNC Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/379992938552/).

Gord Robertson with some help from Hannah Delion continues to update our Instagram page for the FWG at: www.instagram.com/fletcher.wildlife.garden. Hannah and Gord are adding posts and reels (videos) regularly. The page has over 400 followers, double last year’s total, with 250 posts as of December 2024.

Our iNaturalist page continues to grow, having exceeded 932 species, over 3500 observations, and 208 contributors. It is found at: inaturalist.org/projects/fletcher-wildlife-garden.

Gord presented to seniors at the Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Home in April and September on “Birds in Spring” and “Shorebirds of Ottawa/Gatineau”.

Joan Harrison initiated a project to find Anishnabemowin/Algonquin names for various native trees from elders at Kitigan Zibi. These names were added to our Flora and Fauna webpages on trees and shrubs.

Our stories at the FWG were changed four times

for each season. Several new stories were added. One post that rotted out was replaced by a new post and erected near the Indigenous garden.

We hosted one school tour, three scout/embers tours, two Jane’s Walks tours, and one tour for young women at the FWG. Over 70 persons attended the tours in addition to their leaders. Bird Friendly Ottawa assisted with publicity, by distributing our literature related to “birding in your backyard”. Bird Friendly Ottawa actively promotes membership in the OFNC at events such as Jane’s walks, World Migratory Bird Day, and Pollinator Appreciation Day.

GORDON ROBERTSON, Ph.D., Chair

Events Committee

The past year saw continued growth in monthly meeting attendance, both in-person and online. Many members have expressed appreciation for the flexibility of the hybrid format, allowing both types of attendance. The March meeting had combined attendance of 116, nearly reaching the all-time (pre-pandemic) record of 120. The committee continues to work towards incremental improvements in the quality of the online meeting experience and is committed to sustaining the overall high quality of the presentations we have been fortunate to receive.

Field trips are trending towards more general interest tours rather than focusses on specific groups of taxa, although interest and specialty in botany have been keeping pace. Conversely, the ongoing Bird Breeding Atlas effort may be impacting the availability of leaders for birding-focussed trips.

From October 2023 through September 2024, the committee coordinated 65 events, including field trips, workshops, presentations for monthly meetings, and digital events. This overall number of events is up slightly over the year prior. General interest and overall biodiversity (16) tied botany (16) as the most common focus, with birding in third (11). Other focusses were entomology (seven), conservation (six), geography (four), mycology (two), herpetology (two), and astronomy (one).

As always, the committee extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals who led, presented, or assisted with events.

JAKOB MUELLER, Chair

Finance Committee

The chair of the Finance Committee changed 15 April 2024 when Ken Young stepped down to become Treasurer, replacing Ann MacKenzie. At the same time Ann assumed the Chair of the Finance Committee, replacing Ken. Consequently, there were two chairs of the committee over the fiscal year.

The December 2023 meeting of the committee,

chaired by Ken Young, reviewed the draft financial statements. It was noted that the Club had a small deficit in the general fund and a slight surplus in the FWG. The committee observed that there were several unique factors in the 2022–2023 fiscal year resulting in a favourable overall position that will not likely be repeated in future years.

Last year, a major concern of the committee was updating the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws under ONCA (*Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*). The proposed changes were presented to members at the January 2024 Annual Business Meeting. The new articles and by-laws differ from the existing ones in that the articles are minimal. Our by-laws are trimmed down, with the intent that some of the current content will become policies and procedures. New policies and procedures will be developed as the need arise.

The August meeting of the committee was chaired by Ann MacKenzie. The primary purpose of this meeting was to draft a budget for presentation to the Board in September. The deficit projected in this budget is \$110K before interest income and \$72K after interest. After discussion at the Board meeting in September the deficit approved in October was \$81 085 before interest and \$36 085 after interest. Overall, the Committee noted that there is a tendency to underestimate revenues and overestimate expenses. The result is a projection of a much larger deficit than actually materializes at year end. It was also decided to present the budget without interest and then add it on at the end. It was felt that this gives a clearer picture of our possible cash shortfall.

ANN MACKENZIE, Chair

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Committee

This year we had many visitors to the FWG, both local and out of town. The FWG attracts birders, photographers, dog walkers, joggers, and those who enjoy a peaceful walk along our many pathways. Several online tourist sites recommend the FWG as a place to visit when in Ottawa.

Visitors express their gratitude for the work done by our volunteers to maintain a biodiverse “oasis in the city”. Volunteer work teams are on site Monday mornings, Tuesday mornings and evenings, Thursday morning (a new group), and Friday mornings (two groups). Because of the large number of visitors, part of the Back Yard Garden had to be roped off each week to allow work to progress.

The plant sale team had its most successful sale ever. They were able to offer a wider variety of plants and were surprised how quickly they sold out. Money raised by the plant sale was the highest ever. The FWG has become a source of information on plants,

pollinators, and invasive species. This year the pond team added an aquatic plant to the list of invasive plants to join Dog Strangling Vine, Buckthorn, Purple Comfrey, and Burdock. It has become evident at several sites on the property that our efforts to replace Dog Strangling Vine by other native plants are showing success.

Once again, the FWG hosted a Jane’s Walk in May, and in early June held a celebration of the city’s Pollinator Appreciation Day along with other groups and organizations connected with pollinators. In the fall, Butterfly Meadow volunteers organized a seed collection workshop and education event in collaboration with the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library. The FWG also acted as a source of information on pollinators for a Carleton University community engagement course that teamed students with Ottawa community associations.

The pond bridge had deteriorated over the years to the point that there was concern about visitor safety. Major repairs were made to the bridge and linseed oil was applied to the wood to help resistance to the elements.

The lease between the OFNC and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that covers the FWG property was extended for five years. Working with the new manager responsible for Tenant and Land Portfolio, new shingles were put on the Resource Centre (Building 138).

As the City of Ottawa continues to grow and expand, more and more people appreciate the FWG as shown by the number of photos and comments on our Facebook page.

EDWARD (TED) FARNWORTH,
Representative to the Board

Macoun Field Club Committee

Macoun Field Club activities all took place on Saturdays during the school year, with one- or two-hour indoor meetings alternating with four- or five-hour-long field trips. Several committee meetings in spring-time helped orient new volunteers and facilitated a transition from paper forms to online registration. We began sending out weekly e-mail announcements of events, shifting the initiative from the families to the committee.

Committee members led 17 field trips to places long familiar to leaders and members, and conducted 16 indoor meetings, mainly at the FWG’s Resource Centre. At 25 participating young people, membership remains on the low side, especially among high-school students. We resumed bringing in outside speakers after the COVID years. An account of events was posted on the Macoun Club’s home page.

Parents are told that they are “always welcome to

tag along on field trips and sit in on meetings”, and especially since the COVID-19 pandemic period, so many adults have been participating that the Macoun Club sometimes feels more like a family-oriented than a youth-oriented club.

On 21 October, the Macoun Club held its 75th anniversary celebration with tremendous cooperation between the Club’s former sponsor, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the OFNC. This was driven by former Macoun Club leader (1966–1974) Ernie Brodo, who like John Macoun represents both initial sponsors, the OFNC (as a past president), and the Museum (as a scientist). The Museum hosted the event at the Victoria Memorial Museum Building, long-time home of the Macoun Club (1948–2006). It was necessary to strike a balance between the desire to invite everyone, and the necessity of limiting numbers because COVID-19 was still active in the community. We made contact with one of the founding members (1948), and 75 former members and leaders, from every decade from the 1960s onward, attended.

At the end of the Macoun Club year, Issue No. 76 of *The Little Bear* was produced, and for the first time it was in colour.

ROBERT E. LEE, Chair

Membership Committee

This report describes Club membership as of 30 September 2024 (Table 1). Club participation is divided into two groups. “Members” consists of those who pay club fees, are ‘Honorary’ members, or participate in Macoun Club. This group could be considered people who might participate in events. The other group, “Associates”, consists of those who receive T&L only: “T&L Subscribers” and an aggregate called “Other” which represents individuals and

TABLE 1. Summary of Membership Count, displayed by membership type.

		2024	2023
Canadian Members	Individual	401	408
	Family	327	333
	Student	17	13
	Life	34	37
	Honorary	23	23
	Macoun Club	23	17
Total Canadian Members		825	831
US	(All 6 types)	8	11
International	(All 6 types)	3	1
Total Members		836	843
	T&L Subscriber	3	1
	Other	24	25
Total Associates		27	26

organizations who receive complimentary copies of T&L.

Membership numbers have been very stable between 2023 and 2024. Members within 50 km of Ottawa comprised 731 (89%) of the Canadian membership of 825.

Membership distribution

The club currently has members in all provinces and territories except for Nunavut and Newfoundland (Table 2). The vast majority are in Ontario and within 50 km of Ottawa, but quite a few are outside that range in Ontario.

Within the Club’s 50 km local area of interest, membership is mostly distributed as expected based on population density (Figure 1). There are some hotspots around Old Ottawa South and Westboro—in Old Ottawa South especially, membership is higher than would be expected based on population size alone (Figure 2). Gatineau membership is not shown in the maps, but is mostly spread evenly through Aylmer and urban Gatineau west of the Gatineau River.

LISA CHAMNEY, Chair

TABLE 2. Summary of Member Count, displayed by location.

Location	2024
Ontario (<50 km)	704
Quebec (<50 km)	27
Alberta	8
British Columbia	11
Manitoba	1
New Brunswick	2
Newfoundland	0
North West Territories	1
Nova Scotia	3
Nunavut	0
Ontario (>50 km)	56
Prince Edward Island	1
Quebec (>50 km)	8
Saskatchewan	1
Yukon	2
United States	8
Other Countries	3
Total	836

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee manages publication of CFN, T&L, and Special Publications. We published four issues of T&L (57(4) and 58(1–3)) and three issues of CFN: 137(1–2) [published on 15 January 2024] and 137(3) [31 May 2024].

Issue 137(1–2) was a special issue honouring Donald F. McAlpine and his contributions to the

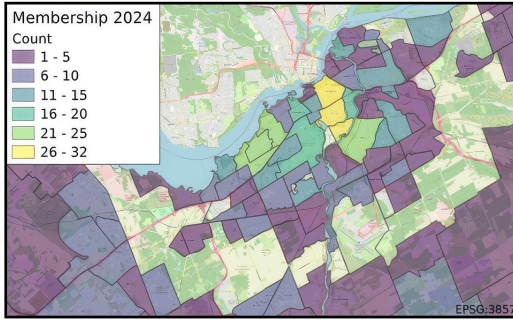


FIGURE 1. 2024 Membership in the Ottawa area, grouped by Ottawa Neighbourhood Study (ONS) neighbourhoods. Source: ONS polygons (2021): <https://open.ottawa.ca/data-sets/ottawa::ottawa-neighbourhood-study-ons-neighbourhood-boundaries-gen-2-historical/about>.

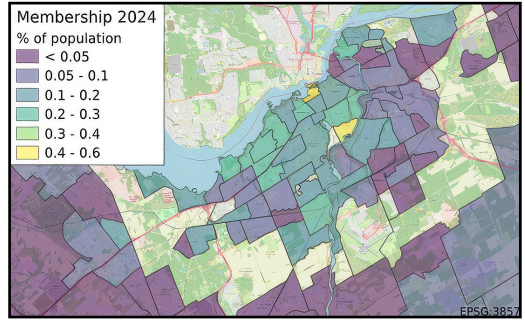


FIGURE 2. 2024 Membership as a percentage of population. Membership count divided by Ottawa Neighbourhood Study neighbourhood population as of 2021 (the latest easily available population estimate) * 100.

natural history of the Canadian Maritimes. Stephen R. Clayden and Graham J. Forbes were guest editors for the double issue, supported by the CFN editorial team.

Addressing the financial sustainability of CFN was a major focus of the committee this year.

JEFFERY M. SAARELA, Chair

Safe Wings Ottawa

For Safe Wings Ottawa (SWO), 2023–2024 has been a good year with some changes in our operations as well as some very positive changes in Ottawa for bird-friendly buildings.

Patrolling and Rehabilitation

At the time of reporting, our volunteers have documented just over 1700 window collisions and we expect this number will be over 2000 when all data entry is completed and confirmed for the calendar year 2024. This includes recording our first American Bittern window collision victim. Another first, that includes a first sighting in Ottawa, is a Western Tanager spotted in the McCarthy Woods in December 2023. The bird, nicknamed “Sunny”, drew admirers to Ottawa from as far away as Quebec and the USA with 418 sightings recorded in eBird and 235 photos. Sadly, the bird ultimately died due to a window collision in March, with Safe Wings being in contact with the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) and media regarding the situation. The OFO, who worked to help the bird, gave the remains to Toronto’s Royal Ontario Museum.

Species at risk recorded by SWO to date in 2024 include:

- Barn Swallow 1 specimen
- Canada Warbler 2 specimens
- Eastern Whip-poor-will 1 specimen
- Eastern Wood-pewee 1 specimen

- Rusty Blackbird 2 specimens
- Wood Thrush 7 specimens

The highest glass collision species in 2024 are (numbers to be confirmed for January reporting as required for permits):

- Black-capped Chickadee 164 specimens
- Dark-eyed Junco 117 specimens
- White-throated Sparrow 102 specimens
- Brown Creeper 81 specimens
- Golden-crowned Kinglet 66 specimens

Our rehabilitation centre was busy again this year, admitting 352 birds representing 71 different species. Of these, 196 window collision victims were admitted with the top five (ish) species being:

1. Brown Creeper 31 birds
2. Tennessee Warbler 15 birds
3. Dark-eyed Junco 13 birds
4. White-throated Sparrow 10 birds
5. Northern Parula 10 birds
6. Black-capped Chickadee 10 birds

Safe Wings also successfully rehabilitated our first Long-eared Owl!



This year also marked a milestone for SWO, as we overwintered a migrating species for the first time. In January, a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, injured in a window collision, was brought in for rehabilitation. Significantly underweight and suffering from a concussion, it was decided he would remain in care until the spring migration. Only in Ottawa could a Facebook post about a sapsucker lead to immediate offers of frozen sap to help keep him well fed until the spring! After 76 days in care, he was successfully released near the location where he was found.

Our window collision recovery rates continue to surpass reported averages, and we remain committed to refining our protocols through ongoing collaboration with rehabilitation facilities across North America. While we hope that one day specialized rehab centres like SWO will no longer be needed, we take pride in knowing we are making a real difference for the birds affected by window collisions!

Rescue

For the third year in a row, SWO stepped in to help orphaned ducklings in the Ottawa region. While the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (OVWBCC) took in Wood and other ducklings this year, we were again tasked with taking in and raising in the range of 50 to 60 orphaned Mallard ducklings. This year we were fortunate to partner with an incredible foster who provided the ideal environment for these young birds throughout their stay with us. While we look forward to the OVWBCC potentially taking on Mallards in the future, we will continue to fill this vital gap as long as our resources allow.

In August, Safe Wings had to make a change to our support offerings. Due to volunteer availability and other issues, we decided to no longer proactively offer rides for any sick or injured birds. This change relieved some pressure on our volunteer team and allowed us to refocus on window collision victims. We still share on our Facebook page when someone is looking for a ride but encourage the public to drive

or connect with their friends, family, and social media contacts to get assistance for a ride.

Outreach

Safe Wings' annual public display in 2024 was a great success! We were again fortunate to be hosted at the Museum of Nature on the Thursday of spring-break week in March to take advantage of free evening access to the museum. In addition to our regular display, this year we included tables around the perimeter providing a focus on individual species, creating more opportunities to connect with the public.

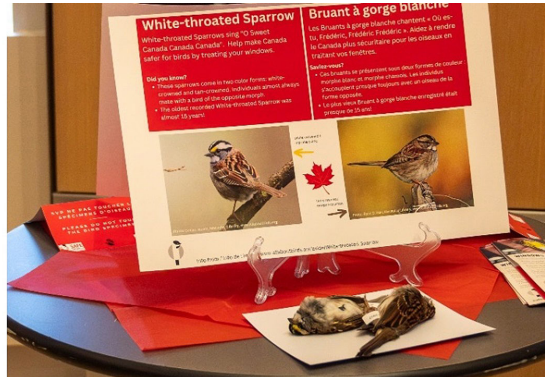
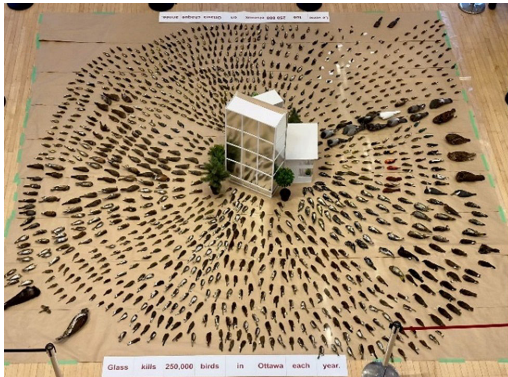
Our volunteers participated in 13 public engagements this year including:

- six community events, including a Jane's Walk, community fairs, a farmer's market, and a government department open house;
- two evenings spent with Embers, Sparks, and Scouts;
- a pre-recorded presentation at The Wildlife Society's annual conference in Baltimore;
- a consultation with the Ottawa Humane Society and joining their Roaming Cats & Community Roundtable;
- presentations to the Freshwater Stewardship and Rothwell Heights Property Owners Association.

Safe Wings was the contact for multiple media interviews with the *Ottawa Citizen*, CTV, CFRA, and Carleton University journalism students. Topics included our annual display, orphaned ducklings, dehydrated goslings, the Adisōke Public Library, the Western Tanager, and a gosling killed in Kanata. As well, our volunteer Janette Niwa acted as the representative for the OFNC on CTV Morning Live to discuss birding activities and opportunities in Ottawa on behalf of the club.

Advocacy

The Advocacy Subcommittee continued its work pushing for new buildings to be bird friendly and existing buildings to be retrofitted. Safe Wings worked



together with similar organizations in other areas to provide data on collisions to ensure that buildings are meeting the requirements of the Migratory Bird Regulations. Unfortunately, the City of Ottawa has still not adopted the proposed High Performance Development Standards, which would include mandatory bird friendly design. We will continue to advocate for support, despite council's delayed vote. A summary of the advocacy committee's efforts was presented virtually at a meeting of The Wildlife Society, as part of a symposium on incidental take, among other presentations given to different groups throughout the year.

We are pleased to see that our efforts are paying off, with major developments such as the new Ādisōke Library and Archives building being built bird-friendly with stylized strawberry markers on the glass exterior. As well, the new Civic Hospital indicates it will include bird friendly features, which Safe Wings will monitor. More and more often we are seeing development applications with at least some reference to bird friendly design, although there is still a long way to go.

We have also seen progress with existing buildings. We are thrilled that 200 Kent Street has started bird friendly retrofits—this building has had thousands of collisions documented by Safe Wings volunteers since 2014. L'École secondaire catholique de l'Innovation and Collège La Cité treated the glass of their connecting walkway after meeting with Safe Wings. Additionally, our volunteers have been contacted a number of times to conduct building assessments and provide bird friendly recommendations.

Additionally, Safe Wings has continued our partnership with Professor Rachel Buxton of Carleton University in the form of data and research on collisions in Ottawa with her and university students. This includes support on data collation and mapping, as well as studies on collisions at select buildings along with a carcass persistence study in 2024.

JANETTE NIWA, Chair

Treasurer's Report 2023–2024

Financial Status

The Club ended the 2023–2024 fiscal year (1 October 2023 through 30 September 2024) in a good position. Our Fund Balance (net assets) rose by \$12 482. Our net revenue this year was \$12 841.

The major sources of revenue for the Club are membership fees (\$28 269 in FY2023–2024), donations and bequests (\$21 470), and subscription charges and authors' charges for CFN (\$53 581).

Our major types of expense are publications (\$77 165), the FWG (\$12 886), SWO (\$11 431), and operating expenses (\$29 888).

Some points to note about this year's results:

- The General Fund had significantly reduced revenues and expenses simply because the trip to Point Pelee was not conducted in 2024.
- Normally, four issues of CFN are produced each year. This year, and last year, only three issues were published. Since each issue of CFN costs the Club a net \$6000 or so, this helped our bottom line. Note also that the statements only show that portion of CFN subscription revenue that relates to the issues produced.
- The Club has a grant program for research in natural history, but it was suspended during the year. So that also reduced our expenses.
- In addition to our ongoing support for buses to the McSkimming Outdoor Education Centre, we made an additional \$10 000 donation to the Ontario Federation of Nature to support a land purchase.
- A major fundraising program—the native plant sale—is run by the volunteers of the FWG. Once again the plant sale revenue increased, by almost \$5000 to \$15 932. This year a one-time purchase of new grow lights was made.
- Membership revenue is down this year, but this is due to an accounting “glitch” affecting the previous year's membership revenue.
- Interest revenue increased reflecting the higher interest rates in the market.

Looking ahead, I expect that expenses will increase more than revenue. The Club's Board of Directors is actively engaged in efforts to control expenses.

The budget for the Club is attached to the minutes of the October meeting of the Board of Directors, available on the OFNC website at ofnc.ca/about-ofnc/minutes-of-the-board.

Financial Statements

The members of the Club are provided with the financial statements of the Club prior to the meeting, and a motion to approve them is made at the Annual Business Meeting. The financial statements have been prepared by our accounting firm, Welch LLP. They have conducted an engagement review of our financial records.

The Club financial statements are prepared using the fund method of accounting. The first table (Statement of Financial Position, on page 2) presents the assets and liabilities of the Club as a whole.

The remaining tables in the financial statements present the statement of operations of the general fund (page 3), the internally restricted funds (page 4), and our one endowment fund (page 5). There is also a cash flow presentation (page 6). The Notes to the financial statements explain the Club's financial policies and include some additional details about our long-term investments.

On a related note, our investments are made according to a policy established by the Board of Directors, and implemented by our Investment Manager, Catherine Hessian, and our Investment Advisor, Sue Anderson of BMO Nesbitt Burns.

As in the past, we have received excellent service from our accounting firm, Welch LLP, our reviewer, Morgan Dekker, and our bookkeeper, Katryna Coltes of Plus Advisors.

This is my first year as Treasurer. I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance that I have received from Ann MacKenzie, the past Treasurer.

KEN YOUNG, Treasurer

Approved financial statements available online at: <https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/view/3669/3445>.