

The Canadian Field-Naturalist

Editors' Report for Volume 138

Mailing dates for the four issues of volume 138 of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) were: 26 February, 28 April, 13 June, and 18 December 2025. Online posting dates for the first three issues were: 17 January, 26 March, and 29 May, respectively, approximately four weeks before the mailing dates. However, beginning with 138(4), manuscripts are posted online when they are finalized and the author order and copyright transfer forms received. The final issue of 138 was fully posted online 28 November with the first manuscripts in that issue posted on 2 October, giving an idea of how long it takes to complete and finalize an issue. The time differential between the issue being fully posted online and the mailing date 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. Beginning with 138(4) and until the complete issue is posted online, the issue is 'In Progress'. Another exciting change is that CFN went to full colour digital printing with 138(2). These updates to CFN production were outlined in 138(4): 352.

Summaries of the distribution of paid subscribers to CFN for volume 138 are shown in Table 1a, with a comparison to volume 137. 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. There was a net loss of 11 subscribers (see footnotes to Table 1a) although institutional subscriptions were steady for volume 138. The rate increase came into effect for OFNC members and individual subscribers for volume 138; it will come into effect for institutions for volume 139. Nearly 60% of the 198 subscribers ($n = 117$) received a printed copy of CFN (Table 1b), suggesting the paper copy of CFN is still very popular.

There were single declines in the number of articles ($n = 20$) and notes ($n = 20$) published in volume 138 compared to the number published in volume 137 (Table 2). Six articles on fishes were published although mammals and birds continued to be popular subjects with the same number ($n = 5$) in the 'other' category (Table 2). Manuscripts in the 'other' category

TABLE 1a. The volume 138 (137) circulation of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* compiled by Eleanor Zurbrigg from the subscription list for 138(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*	32 (40)	0 (0)	(0)	32 (40)
Subscriptions:				
Individual†	22 (25)	8 (9)	(0)	30 (34)
Institutional‡	55 (55)	69 (69)	12 (11)	136 (135)
Total	109 (120)	77 (78)	12 (11)	198 (209)

*There is considerable flux in the OFNC member category each year, with a net loss of eight for v. 138 (from v. 137: of the 40 members who purchased the print copy CFN for v. 137, 21 did not re-order the print copy for v. 138, while 13 new members did order the print copy for v. 138, for a net loss of eight). Of the 21 members who did not renew for the next volume, 19 were new members who paid for CFN print copy for one year only, while two were longer-term print subscribers who cancelled the print copy for v. 138.

†There was a net loss of four subscribers: eight individuals who did not renew their subscription after v. 137(4); four who purchased new individual subscriptions.

‡There was a net increase of one, comprised of:

- (a) one institutional cancellation; and
- (b) two changes within existing institutional subscribers:
 - (i) a dormant subscription was reactivated (it had not been renewed for v. 137, then back-paid for both v. 137 and v. 138 in 2025), and
 - (ii) a subscriber who had previously used one agency / one subscription to order two print copies of CFN, for v. 138 they split their subscription between two agencies becoming two subscriptions with one print copy ordered through each agency.

TABLE 1b. Number of subscriptions to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* for volume 138 receiving print or online copies only. The bundle includes a print + an online subscription.

	Individual	Institution	OFNC member	Total
Bundle	5	28		33
Online only	19	62		81
Print	6	46	32	84
Total	30	136	32	198

bridged the country from sea-to-sea: a new species of amoeba from Mer Bleue Bog Conservation Area in Ottawa; little evidence of toxins in Beach Pea plants causing gait abnormalities in Feral Horses on Sable Island, Nova Scotia; Pacific salmon carcasses linked to old growth Sika Spruce growth in British Columbia; prescribed fire effects on Trembling Aspen in Saskatchewan; and, everyone's favourite, dinosaurs from current-day Saskatchewan. Six more book reviews ($n = 29$) but 186 fewer new titles ($n = 315$) were published in volume 138 in comparison to volume 137 (Table 3). The total number of pages published in volume 138 decreased by 46 in comparison to volume 137 (Table 4) with fewer pages of articles (–45), notes (–12), and tributes (–6) but more pages of Book Reviews/New Titles (+12), News and Comment (+3), and reports (+17), the latter including 13 journal pages of the new OFNC bylaws. The percentage of pages of each issue devoted to Book Reviews and New Titles was 15.5%, 25.0%, 16.3%, and 20.0%, respectively. With the goal of producing four issues per calendar year and fewer manuscripts being submitted in 2024 and 2025 (Table 5), issues are now being completed once the minimum number of 80 journal pages is reached. A minimum of 80 journal pages is needed for the current glue binding of the spine. 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

TABLE 2. Number of research articles and notes published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 138 (volume 137), by major field of study.

Subject	Articles	Notes	Total
Mammals	2 (3)	3 (3)	5 (6)
Birds	3 (3)	2 (1)	5 (4)
Amphibians and Reptiles	2 (4)	0 (0)	2 (4)
Fishes	4 (1)	2 (0)	6 (1)
Plants	2 (3)	0 (3)	2 (6)
Insects	1 (0)	1 (2)	2 (2)
Non-insect Invertebrates	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Other	5 (5)	0 (0)	5 (5)
Total	20 (21)	8 (9)	28 (30)

TABLE 3. Number of book reviews and new titles published in the Book Review section of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 138 (volume 137), by topic.

	Reviews	New Titles
Zoology*	18 (10)	97 (171)
Botany	2 (3)	41 (56)
Miscellaneous†	9 (10)	177 (274)
Total	29 (23)	315 (501)

*Includes Entomology, Herpetology, Ornithology, and Zoology.
†Includes Biology, Conservation and Climate Change, Ecology, and Other.

TABLE 4. Number of pages per section published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 138 (137), by issue. Note that because issues 1 and 2 of volume 137 were combined in a double Special Issue, the number of pages is shown in the issue 2 column.

	Issue				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Special Issue introduction	0 (–)	0 (12)			0 (12)
Editorials/Editors' Report	0 (–)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4)	4 (4)
Articles	59 (–)	50 (132)	57 (56)	44 (67)	210 (255)
Notes	3 (–)	14 (5)	8 (31)	6 (7)	31 (43)
Thematic Collections	0 (–)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tributes	6 (–)	0 (0)	0 (12)	0 (0)	6 (12)
Book Reviews and New Titles	18 (–)	22 (23)	13 (17)	16 (17)	69 (57)
News and Comment*	3 (–)	1 (3)	2 (2)	4 (2)	10 (7)
Reports†	27 (–)	0 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	27 (10)
Errata	0 (–)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Blank page‡	0 (–)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	1 (1)
Index	– (–)	– (–)	– (–)	6 (6)	6 (6)
Total	116 (–)	88 (100)	80 (118)	80 (104)	364 (410)

*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 volume 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 2025 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	2024	2025
Number of submissions and enquiries	57*	67†	49	63	46	47‡	47	25	38
% submissions not declined and undergoing revision and further review§	90%	83%	85%	80%	89%	91%	85%	76%	95% I

*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.
IWhile only two of the submission in 2025 were declined, another 23 that had not been revised and/or no responses were received from the authors from 2017 to August 2025 were moved to the archives on 19 January 2026.

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.

The number of manuscripts submitted or enquiries about potential submissions reached a low in 2024 ($n = 25$; Table 5). Over the past nine years, the percent of submissions not initially declined ranged from 80 to 95% although not all manuscripts that have undergone formal peer-review and require revision are revised by the authors. A total of 23 manuscripts were moved to the archives in January 2026 because no responses or no revisions were received from the authors.

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 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 as did Robert. 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. Ken Young’s membership in the Publication Committee ended in 2025 with Bev McBride joining the committee in 2026. We are indebted to our very dedicated team.

The following AEs voluntarily managed, assessed, and reviewed the 28 manuscripts published in volume 138 (Table 2) and the six others submitted in 2023 and 2024 that were declined in 2025: R. Brooks, University of Guelph, emeritus, Weymouth NS (1 manuscript published—Ron died in December 2023 and the AE’s task was completed by W. Halliday); P.M. Catling, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, retired, Ottawa ON (1—stepped down as AE in October 2023 but the AE task was completed by J. Saarela); J. Foote, Algoma University, Sault St. Marie ON (4); G. Forbes, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton NB (2 + 1 declined, stepped down as AE July 2024); W. Halliday, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Whitehorse YT and University of Victoria, Victoria BC (2); K. Ilves, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa ON (6); T. Jung, Yukon Government, Whitehorse YT (1 declined); D. Lepitzki, Banff AB (1 + 1 declined); D. McAlpine, New Brunswick Museum, Fredericton NB (2 + 1 declined); G. Mowat, BC Government, Nelson BC (2); T. Onuferko, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa ON (2); B. Patterson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Peterborough ON (1); J.M. Saarela, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa ON (5 + 2 declined); and D. Tozer, Birds Canada, Port Rowan ON (1).

As with many other journals, AEs are at times having difficulty finding suitable and willing reviewers; seven of the 28 manuscripts published in volume 138 only received one formal peer-review although the assigned AE and the EiC also peer-reviewed each and every submission. 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 138 (number of manuscripts reviewed >1 in parentheses): John H. Acorn, University of Alberta; João Barbosa, University of Sao Paulo; Jordanna Bergmanm, Carleton University; C. Sean Blaney, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre; Terri Brunjes, State of Kentucky; Gregory Bulte, Carleton University; Benjamin Clemens, Oregon State University; Brian Coad, Canadian Museum of Nature; Shannon Digweed, MacEwan University; Margaret Docker, University of Manitoba; Matthew Dyson, Ducks Unlimited Canada; Mark Edwards, Royal Alberta Museum; Andrew Farke, Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology; Graham Forbes, University of New Brunswick; Kelly Forrester, Université de Sherbrooke; Anthony J. Gaston, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Cam Goater, University of Lethbridge; Rubén González-Miguéns, Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid, CSIC; Claire Goodwin, Huntsman Marine Science Centre; Sigmund Hågvær, Norwegian University of Life Sciences; David Hamer, Canmore AB; David J. Hawke, Ara Institute of Canterbury, New Zealand; Doug Heard, University of Northern British Columbia; Sean Johnson-Bice, University of Manitoba; Knut Kielland, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Mark Kreider, The Nature Conservancy; Clayton Lamb, University of British Columbia; Jennifer Lamoureux, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority; Ralph Lampman, Yakama Nation Fisheries; Sean J. Landsman, Carleton University; Enrique Lara, Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid, CSIC; Karl Larsen, Thompson Rivers University; Emily Lechner,

Trent University; Nicolas Lecomte, Université de Moncton; Nicholas Mandrak, University of Toronto – Scarborough; André L. Martel, Canadian Museum of Nature; Beverly McBride, Ottawa ON; Madison McConnell, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Jenny McCune, University of Lethbridge; Martha Mellish, University of Prince Edward Island; Ken Mills, State of Wyoming; Jim Mogen, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Kristin Nesbit, Utah State University; Daniel Paluh, University of Florida; Cynthia Paszkowski, University of Alberta; Brent R. Patterson, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; John D. Reynolds, Simon Fraser University; Brielle Rosa, University of Calgary; Lori Schmidt, International Wolf Center; Frederick W. Schueler, Fragile Inheritance Natural History; Corey A. Scobie, Royal Alberta Museum; Steve Sheffield, Bowie State University and Virginia Tech; Sarah E. Steele, Canadian Museum of Nature; Matthew Stimson, New Brunswick Museum; Yves Turcotte, Cégep de La Pocatière; Doug Watkinson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Brenna Wells, Royal Ontario Museum; Ellen Whiteman, Canadian Forest Service; Tharusha Wijewardena, University of Toronto Mississauga; and Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiversity Institute.

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Dwayne A.W. Lepitzki, *Editor-in-Chief*
Amanda E. Martin, *Assistant Editor*