

**Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday February 16, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom  
Minutes**

Chair: Owen Clarkin

Present: Jessica Sims, Annie Belair, Elizabeth Moore, Janette Niwa, Bev McBride, Ann MacKenzie, Gord Robertson, Emilia Michaud, Ted Farnworth, Bob Bergquist, Jakob Mueller, Katriina Ilves

Absent: Ken Young, Susan Lehmann, Lisa Chamney

1. Approval of the Agenda – the agenda was approved as circulated with the addition of:
  - 3 a) NCC Southern Corridor rezoning proposal
  - 6 f) Committee Rosters
  - 6 g) Inquiry about donation for naming a room at the Wild Bird Care Centre
  - 6 h) Approval of updated Terms of Reference
2. Acceptance of Minutes from January 19, 2026 Board of Directors meeting  
**Moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Janette Niwa, that the Minutes of the January 19, 2026 Board of Directors meeting be approved. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
  - a) NCC South Corridor rezoning proposal – the City had accepted Councillor Riley Brockington's amendment such that the Southern Corridor lands between the Rideau River and Sawmill Creek, including McCarthy Woods, will not be re-zoned for potential development as the NCC had requested.
4. Communications

Lisa reported that a Larry Chamney was looking for any information or screenshots related to a Google Form survey of members he did some years ago. She directed him to Henry Steger. Emilia had received an email from Roy John who is interested in finding new people for the Monday birding group.

Katriina had connected the individual who had expressed an interest in small mammals with some of her colleagues.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ken had circulated the following report by email:

**“Current Financial Processing**

No issues. I will be out of town until March 12 or so. Ann MacKenzie will be acting as treasurer while I'm away. As always, you can use the email address [treasurer@ofnc.ca](mailto:treasurer@ofnc.ca) to get messages to the right person.

**Year-End Financial Processing**

The returns that we make each year to the Canada Revenue Agency are being prepared by our accountants. The deadline for submission is March 31.

**T4A Forms**

The OFNC issues T4A statements to certain individuals, covering payments made to them during the tax (calendar) year. T4A statements are prepared for individuals (not companies) who receive OFNC research grants and payments for contract services.

For these people, we are required by the Canada Revenue Agency to prepare T4A forms that show the total payment that the OFNC paid to such people during the calendar year. Copies go to CRA and to the individuals concerned.

This year they were sent on February 2; the deadline is the end of February.”

## 6. Issues for Discussion

- a) Obituaries: the Club had received news of the deaths of Joyce Reddoch (member since 1967 and Honorary Member) and Rick Bobbette (member since 1974).

Owen expressed concern that he does not know many of the Club's older members and that the Club may be losing the history associated with them. Strategies for bridging this gap were discussed. Annie suggested inviting older members, e.g. previous award winners, to monthly meetings. She also said that Dan Brunton has already noted that T&L is publishing its 60<sup>th</sup> volume and is interested in doing something to collect Club knowledge e.g. interviews. Bev pointed out that this would require interviewers being found. Jess suggested a “human library”. Owen also felt that we should take care not to throw out old documents but curate them and store those considered important.

- b) City View Rental Lease (proposed cost increase \$150/month re: storage) - Owen reported that Greg Lutick was approached at the last monthly meeting by a member of the City View staff and advised that we will no longer be able to store stuff in the room by the door and was offered a cupboard that he understood would cost \$150 per month. **Owen will contact City View.**

- c) FWG Lease Renewal (+ library)

Ted noted that the FWG lease with AAFC is coming due for renewal. Certain informal agreements have worked well in the past but AAFC's new property manager, based out of Guelph, wants more formal lines of agreement, including:

- i) AAFC will no longer provide FWG with water for the tanks used for watering plants.
- ii) AAFC will dictate where deliveries of wood chips and stone chips etc. are to be put.
- iii) AAFC permission will be required for any changes such as creating or removing pathways, cutting or planting trees and creating ponds.
- iv) AAFC must be informed of any events planned and provisions for parking and security.
- v) AAFC is no longer prepared to store the RC storm windows and screens.

AAFC will write up the updated terms and FWG will review.

Library – a group including Eleanor and Diane have done a clear out of the FWG library.

Owen reiterated his concern about losing important historical documents. It was noted that the library has been less used in recent years as committees meet on-line and the RC is no longer opened to the public one afternoon a week during the summer.

- d) T&L for members requesting electronic copies over print – Annie had received two requests from members who want to save the paper and receive T&L digital-only. T&L is posted online (with access to everyone) three months after the publication date in order to provide members the benefit of getting the publication first. There is, however, currently no method of giving members digital-only access at the same time as the print publication goes out. The Publications Committee suggested the option of a shared folder on the Cloud that could be sent to members. The Board felt that a shared folder would be complicated and a pdf would be too large. The two members had indicated that they are prepared to wait the three months and it was decided not to pursue a paperless option at the present time. Jakob noted that the paper for T&L is sourced responsibly and feels that the physical copy is of great value.
- e) Newsletter Update - Jess noted that the person who was doing the emailing has moved on so Lisa is doing it currently. Jess has looked at the possibility of doing something e.g. with a platform such as Mailchimp but doesn't think these platforms are right for us as they are largely marketing focused and would be costly and time consuming. She is still looking but will probably just add a few extra email sections during the month for the time being. Bev asked that events descriptions be in the email itself and not in links as she feels this is a disincentive to considering participating in events.
- f) Committee Rosters – Annie needs the Committee Rosters before March 8 for publication. The need to check membership status was noted. **Owen will follow up with Lisa**
- g) Possible donation for naming a space at the Wild Bird Care Centre – Deb Doherty had asked WBCC about opportunities for naming a space. There is a list of options but they are costly, starting at \$30,000 for “a small outdoor aquatic aviary”. Ann felt that we should be supporting WBCC but should give the idea careful consideration given the sums involved. Jakob suggested that we need to see a formal proposal. Ann wondered whether we should invite someone from WBCC to talk at a monthly meeting but concern was expressed that this would raise expectations. Further discussion was deferred until next month.

h) Terms of Reference

It was **moved** by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Bob Bergquist, that the revised Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee be adopted. **CARRIED**

It was **moved** by Emilia Michaud, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that the revised Terms of Reference for the Birds Committee and the Birds Records Sub-committee be adopted. **CARRIED**

7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards Bev had circulated the following report by email:

“The awards committee continues to prepare the awards from 2025 to be given out at the 2026 Awards Night. We have just begun to review the committee’s Terms of Reference, last

updated 2015, and will propose an updated version for the March or April meeting. We are also reviewing our budget, given year-to-year changes in costs and what a maximum case scenario would look like.”

- b) Birds – Emilia reported that Janet McCullough is working on a bird song identification course with Ken Allison. There will be six weekly sessions. A Girl Guide group in Orleans have asked for a talk on birds and conservation. They will be giving a talk on winter birding at Manotick Public Library. Shrike database entry continues with students. They are talking about organising a few additional events. Swift watch discussions continue. Possible events include a warbler walk and an American woodcock walk. Owen noted that Janet is still working on the issue of Shirleys Bay access.
- c) Conservation – Jakob - nil to report
- d) Education and Publicity - Gord had reported the following by email:
  - “Changes to webpage. Education and Flora & Fauna are combined.
  - Updates to Spiders and Butterflies pages.
  - Agreed to help out at Junior Explorers Day at Billings Estate. Should we accept an honorarium again?
  - Also agreed to help out at World Migratory Bird Day, 9 May, and Pollinator Appreciation Day, June 20. Agreed to sponsor 4 prizes at next Science Fair.
  - Work continues on new trifold for our display tables and two banners one for OFNC and one for Bird Friendly Ottawa.
  - Working on a flyer to handout at events along with of a bookmark.
  - Updated Trail Map English flyer and circulated to FWG committee. Flyer is in colour now. Question about who will pay, FWG or Ed&Pub. \$60 for 500 B&W; \$240 for colour.”
- e) Events – Owen reported that they are planning various events. He thanked Jakob in particular for working on the Pelee trip and agreeing to be a leader and Birds Committee for organising the six-part birdsong identification series.
- f) Finance – Ann: nil to report
- g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – (see 6 c) above) Ted: nil to add
- h) Macoun Club – no report
- i) Membership – no report

j) Ontario Nature – Jakob reported that the Federal Government has proposed a limited open season on sandhill cranes. In the absence of any time to organize a joint letter ON had sent a letter objecting to this proposal.

k) Publications – Jess had circulated the following report by email:

“CFN

- Issue 139(1) is currently in progress; the first articles were published Jan. 28 online: <https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn>
- A reminder that Volume 139 will now have the publication date of 2026.
- See Dwayne’s report for a full CFN update (attached)

-Special Mention by Canadian Geographic! A recent special issue of the nationally circulated magazine referenced the buzzy study in CFN looking at the most distinctive vertebrates in Canada (this study also received a lot of media attention last year)

CFN Subscription Update (from Eleanor)

- We’re still waiting for about 25 renewals through EBSCO for volume 139, however it’s not unusual for the agencies/libraries to renew late. It means that fewer print copies will be mailed for the first issue of volume 139. But if subscriptions come later, those print copies will be mailed separately after payment is received.

T&L - see Item 6d) above.

Book Club Update

- Currently reading: The Birds That Audubon Missed
- Next meeting is Tuesday, March 24 on Zoom
- Mailing list continues to grow steadily; currently at 125 members
- Continuing with format of book discussion only, no speakers. I checked in with attendees last time, and in general people seem to enjoy having more time to talk about the books.
- Hope to post blog this week about the current book.”

**Dwayne had circulated the following report by email**

**“138(4) October-December 2024**

- Gilmore concluded the problem with top & bottom margins was at their end and would not happen again

**139(1) January-March 2026**

- currently sitting at 81 journal pages with draft docx of News and Comments (N&C) received so have enough for this issue to be published
- N&C will include an explanation of what happened to publication year 2025 and in memoriam notes for honorary OFNC members Frank Pope and Joyce Reddoch; N&C probably will be two journal pages long
- online posting of manuscript galleys began on 28 January; four (of seven) have so far been posted along with the front cover of a salamander
- will most likely be a media release, including the front cover, about the following article: Christiansen, J.J.A., G.A. Christie, K.E. Moore, I.M. Acker, M.J. Williams, D.F. McAlpine, G.F.M. Jongsma, and J.L. Riley. 2026. Discovery of novel Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) occurrences in New Brunswick, Canada. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 139(1): 14-17.  
<https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v139i1.3403>

- Mount Allison University "likes to do Media Releases of recently published articles and accomplishments by faculty and students" (Christiansen pers. comm. 29 January 2026)
- one galley is nearly ready for posting (will be open access), another is at author (AU) review; a third is being revised by layout person Robert after editing by Assistant Editor Amanda and Dwayne
- in addition to the seven manuscripts, there is a tribute by D. McAlpine and T. Herman for John Gilhen, a prolific contributor to CFN
- with the exception of the N&C and covers, galleys have been produced on the full content of the issue, including documents from the 2025 ABM (minutes, Committee Annual Reports, and Club Awards for 2024) and are being reviewed by Amanda, Dwayne, and revised by Robert

### **139(2) April-June 2026**

- documents from the 2026 ABM (minutes, Committee Annual Reports) and hopefully the Club Awards for 2025 (after the award's ceremony in April) are expected to be published in 139(2)
- one manuscript has returned from formal copyediting and another is being copyedited by Sandy Garland
- the AU agreed to Dwayne's minor tweaks on a third manuscript so that one is ready for formal copyediting
- N&C will include the Fletcher Award for the best manuscript published in CFN volume 138

### **Other manuscripts in the process** (from farthest along in the process to just beginning)

- two AU revisions have been reviewed and Dwayne sent back them back for further Associate Editor (AE) opinions; AE opinion received on a third
- 10 AU revisions have been received
- 20 being revised by AUs (since EiC decision January 2024) some of which will probably not be revised)
- AE recommendations from initial peer review have been received on two manuscripts, including one yesterday and are awaiting Dwayne's initial decision on next step (revise, resubmit, accept as submitted, decline)
- eight manuscripts under initial peer review
- AEs have been assigned to two manuscripts but AEs have not yet contacted potential reviewers
- one manuscript awaiting assignment to an AE; Dwayne will be AE on another and has already asked two potential reviewers on questions of specimen identification
- nine submissions or queries about potential submission received so far received
- by the same time last year only three had been received so submissions seem to be increasing
- thematic collection by Amanda and Dwayne of ms in CFN and T&L that were referenced in COSEWIC status reports posted on SARA registry up to January 2025 is in progress; another example of close ties between COSEWIC and CFN

### **Other tidbits:**

- *Canadian Geographic's* special issue and companion publication *Biinaagami* (available at <https://shop.canadiangeographic.ca/products/biinaagami-special-issue-2025-english>) contains a short piece (pdf attached) referencing a recent CFN published article: Kominek, E., O. Cornies, H. McCurdy-Adams, and A.Ø. Mooers. 2023. Evolutionary isolation of Canadian terrestrial vertebrate species. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 137(4): 367-380. <https://doi.org/10.22621/cfn.v137i4.2673>

l) Safe Wings Ottawa – Janette had circulated the following report by email:

“**Committee:** lost 2 members (they are still volunteering, though) and gained 3 new members

**Annual Display:** preparation for March 19th, 2026 ongoing, invites & social media posts are ready, insurance certificate provided to the Museum of Nature; Bird Friendly Gatineau, London & Ottawa and FLAP are invited; 2026 focus will be on building & homes’ impact

**Website:** looking to post more content and now have a 3<sup>rd</sup> volunteer support; will update 2026 collision report

**Carleton Research project:** committee approved - involves aging and sexing of the 2025 birds in the freezer at NWRC

**Grants:**

Considering a grant for a larger rehab aviary TBD

Mentioned Nature Canada grant for community window treatment projects to share as appropriate

**Volunteers:**

Bird rescue list > exists, but communicating with volunteers can be a challenge.

Updated online training guide reading for testing on Better Impact.

**Advocacy:**

Compiling new/updated data for reported buildings

Option to push for stronger bird-friendly language in the city's policies ahead of the October election.? Heard about pushback regarding FF causing migraines – to discuss with Carleton researcher

Carleton research paper on building retrofits is nearing publication

**Rehab:** intake of 9 birds in January and the renewal of federal and provincial permits; volunteer tours of rehab facility available once spring migration begins.”

8. Adjournment – there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 16, 2026

May 18, 2026

April 20, 2026

June 15, 2026 – in person