

**Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Monday, May 18, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**  
**Minutes**

Chair: Owen Clarkin

Present: Jessica Sims, Elizabeth Moore, Bob Bergquist, Bev McBride, Ann MacKenzie, Jakob Mueller, Ken Young, Janette Niwa, Susan Lehmann, Ted Farnworth, Katriina Ilves (until 7.45p.m.), Lisa Chamney, Annie Bélair

Absent: Gord Robertson, Emilia Michaud

1. Approval of the Agenda – the Agenda was approved as circulated with the following additions:
  - 3b) FWG – additional funding requests
  - 6a) Pelee Trip
  - 6d) Email system update
  - 6e) Awards Night
  - 6f) Volunteer co-ordination
2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 20, 2026 BOD meeting  
**Moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Janette, that the Minutes of the April 20, 2026 Meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
  - a) Storage Locker [arising from April item 6c)] – Ann reported that the two new shelving units are now in place in the locker and, together with the existing two shelving units, they add a lot more usable space. Contact Ann for access to the locker.
  - b) FWG [arising from April Item 6e)] - at the April meeting Ted had moved two requests for additional funding outside the FWG budget to be voted on at this meeting.  
**Moved** by Ted Farnworth, seconded by Ken Young, that the Board approve the sum of \$1,080 to support Pollinator Appreciation Day. **CARRIED**  
**Moved** by Ted Farnworth, seconded by Annie Bélair, that the Board approve the sum of \$800 to update the FWG trail map. **CARRIED**  
Jakob inquired whether Ted had contacted ON who offer this service at a good price. Ted advised that he had done so. Susan reiterated her position that OFNC should consider using local students and recent graduates when paying for services in the face of the current employment situation.
4. Communications – Ken - nil
5. Treasurer's Report – Ken had circulated the following report by email:

**Current Financial Processing**  
No issues

### **Pelee Trip**

There are still some outstanding financial items, but the net revenue for the trip will be between \$10,000–\$11,000. I extend my thanks to the organizer, Martha Farcas, for handling the purchase of goods and services, and dealing with financial issues involving participants as they arose.

### **Website**

The website has been moved to a new host, Funio.

Two different email services were tested, the Safe Wings implementation of Google Workspace and WebMail. The former is the preferred service.

## 6. Issues for Discussion

6a) Pelee Trip – Owen noted that Martha had, once again, organised an excellent trip. He thanked Jakob for his contributions as a leader. Jakob felt that overall the trip had gone very well. Most feedback had been very positive. Jakob felt some expectations of participants should be made clearer in future, e.g. staying with the group (some participants complained of being left behind while others wandered ahead) and being expected to walk significant distances. Groups should be organised according to expertise. Beginner birders should be welcome. Jakob wondered whether it would be of interest to cover some other biodiversity.

6b) Canada Jay as Canada's National Bird – Bev had circulated an email advising that Dr. David Bird, wildlife biology professor *emeritus* at McGill U., had been trying to contact the OFNC to join other organizations in endorsing a request to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to put forward a private member's bill to make Canada Jay the official national bird of Canada.

**Moved** by Bev McBride, seconded by Ann MacKenzie that the OFNC support Team Canada Jay's request to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to put forward a private member's bill to adopt the Canada Jay as Canada's official bird. This support will be in the form of a brief letter to the Committee under the club President's name.

**CARRIED**

6c) Ottawa becomes a bird-friendly city - Janette had circulated the following news by email: "I wanted to share with the Board the good news: **Ottawa is now a certified Bird Friendly City!**

The OFNC is listed as one of the special advisors/partner organizations on the application and representatives from various committees (Education, FWG, Finance & Safe Wings) are part of the team.

Thanks to all who supported & contributed, especially Deb & Ted, who are the co-chairs who pushed this along."

6d) Email system update (see also Item 5 above) – it was agreed that a list of required emails should be put together by the June meeting to send to Sandra Garland. Each committee should review their email address requirements.

6e) Awards Night – Jess reported that she had held a useful discussion about structuring awards night planning. It was felt that it was probably not necessary to have a sub-committee but that there should be a key contact on the Board. Jess volunteered to be the contact. Ann offered to go through Judie Garbo and Shawna Lucey's notes and put together a checklist.

**Jess will send out a summary.**

6f) Volunteer co-ordination – the difficulties of volunteer co-ordination were discussed. Linking people who express an interest in volunteering with something that they might be interested in is not easy. The Club incorporates a large number of different areas of interest. Owen

suggested that people should be encouraged to attend events and see what they might be interested in. Advertising through social media was suggested. Jess suggested having a volunteer fair or inviting a couple of committees to attend monthly meetings.

## 7. Committee Updates

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

“This is our quiet season. We continue to take care of some housekeeping. There is nothing new to report since the previous board meeting.”

- b) Birds – Emilia had circulated the following report by email:

“I hosted two Warbler Walks on Saturday May 9 and Sunday May 10. The May 9th event filled up a few hours after being published on the OFNC calendar, so I contacted people who did not make it to the first event, and offered them directly a walk on Sunday. We had 16 people on Saturday, and 12 people on Sunday. The walk was a great success and everyone was very happy with what we saw.

Lorraine has organized a tour of the Innis Point Bird Observatory. They no longer do spring banding due to funding issues, but they offer some tours of the facility and examples of banding. This is scheduled for May 23.

We are joining Nature Canada, Birds Canada and Bird Friendly Ottawa for a SwiftWatch event on May 25 at 96 Empress downtown Ottawa. We will learn how to count swifts, and what the national dates are for that count. There is also a specific protocol for doing this so we will learn how to do that.

We are planning a face to face meeting of the Birds Committee the weekend of June 6/7, where we will go birding together. We did this last year and it was a great success.

We have a new member of the Birds Committee. I know I need to put that forth at the BOD meeting, but I may not be able to. Sanam Goudarzi is going to join the committee and she might take over the secretary role from Lorraine in the future. Can I put forth a motion via email that she is a new member of the BC?

Sanam attended a special screening of "Bird Names" at the Canadian Geographic location on Sussex drive. This is a short documentary about the history of bird names and how they have not aged well.

The Birding portion of the website is continuing to be updated. Amy just sent Lorraine and me the link to the updated pages (which are not live yet) so we can review them.

We have reviewed the many different email addresses which seem to be associated with the Birds Committee and we have decided we need only the following:

- [birds@ofnc.ca](mailto:birds@ofnc.ca) - this should come to me and I can distribute it to the BC team as needed.
- [sightings@ofnc.ca](mailto:sightings@ofnc.ca) - this goes to Al Caughey who puts the weekly sightings email together. Anyone who has sightings they want to share should use this email. We can also ask people who have seen a rare bird to use this email address for help or for sharing.

We don't believe we need any other Birds related email addresses.”

- c) Conservation – Jakob reported that the committee has been discussing initiatives and priorities for the current season. They are considering collaborating with the South Nation Conservation Authority to look at Leitrim Fen and another property near Metcalfe that they are doing some rehab for. They are also hoping to revisit a number of different sites that the committee has identified as of interest or priority. Owen remarked upon the increasing number of clear cuts observed during some collaborative work with Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society. He also noted a number of occurrences of poaching of wild leeks. They will reach out to the county forest authorities. They have also become aware of the Howard S. Mitchell Forest, a property in North Glengarry with significant biodiversity. They will promote this property to the Eastern Ontario Land Trust which is looking for guidance with respect to high priority places to preserve.
  
- d) Education & Publicity – Deborah Doherty had circulated the following email:
  - 1. The volunteers list has been very helpful in accessing assist at events Earth Day, Trefoil Guild and Bio Blitz. This list is updated as people check " I'd like to volunteer "on their membership form. If there are other committees looking for volunteer assistance, please let me know and I will forward the list.
  
  - 2. Spring requests for FWG tours are slowly being met. The Trefoil Guild will be at FWG on May 20th. Next big events will be Pollinator Appreciation Day and an event for new Canadians in June.
  
  - 3. Display is ready for printing and we will hope to have a new OFNC table banner and display printed for Pollinator Appreciation Day.
  
  - 5. New brochures for FWG with colour maps are being printed.
  
  - 6. Nui and Sandy have provided us with a group solution email address for [Education@ofnc.ca](mailto:Education@ofnc.ca). We will be discussing this with her at our next committee meeting.
  
- e) Events – Owen reported that they have been very busy with lots of events, especially the Pelee trip.
  
- f) Finance – Ann advised that the Finance committee will be meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> to consider the Policy on Remuneration to Directors. This is the only policy not updated in 2025. The policy will require the written signatures of all directors on one of the documents. Since the June Board meeting is in person, that will be an ideal time to obtain signatures. Please let Ann know if you will not be attending and other arrangements will be made. The package of documents for this complex policy will be circulated well in advance of the meeting.
  
- g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted reported that, of the 30 people who expressed an interest in volunteering, 10 have now committed. Three corporate groups have already volunteered to do half days - two insurance companies and the CBC. Two weekends ago FWG hosted a number of Jane's walks. About 30 people registered, half of whom had never been to FWG before and were impressed. The Mexican Ambassador to Canada has expressed an interest in celebrating birds migrating from Mexican to Canada and a bus has been arranged to FWG

from the Embassy. Ted noted that the plants in the RC are growing a little slower this year and the Plant Sale may start a bit later than usual.

h) Macoun Club – Susan reported that the Club is getting close to the end of its season and the end of year picnic will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in June. She thanked Katriina for putting on a phenomenal fish ID event at the Museum of Nature, together with a tour of the museum. They are planning a second event in the field. They had participated in a bioblitz at the Macoun Marsh with Mike Léveillé which was also very popular.

i) Membership – Lisa had circulated the following report by email:

**Membership update:** At the productive discussion led by Jess following Awards Night, Membership committee offered to help with making volunteer information more widely available. Members have the opportunity to mention volunteer interests in their renewal form. I have started work on creating a Google Sheet which would make this information available to other committees. Currently it is sent to the volunteer coordinator who forwards to possibly relevant committees. This Sheet would provide a central location committees can refer to as needed. I will send it around to the board once completed.

**About the events email:** Susan, the Events Calendar Coordinator, would like to re-direct the [events@ofnc.ca](mailto:events@ofnc.ca) address to a central [OFNC.Events@gmail.com](mailto:OFNC.Events@gmail.com) address which multiple Events committee people can access (shared password). Currently it goes to a personal email account. She just needs the go-ahead from the Events chair and then we can ask Sandy to switch it. This is the method we use at Membership Committee and we find it works well, for receiving communications from a large number of OFNC members (or in this case, event leaders).

j) Ontario Nature – (I have asked Jakob for some clarification here)

k) Publications – Jess reported that CFN 139(2) has started to appear online: <https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn>

Dwayne had circulated the following report by email:

### **139(2) April–June 2026**

- 6 galley's completed: 3 finalized and already posted, 1 ready to be posted, one at author (AU) review, another undergoing revision after review by Assistant Editor Amanda and Dwayne so waiting to be sent for AU review
- continuous online publication also means that Ken is sending the invoices to the AU once the manuscript (ms) is posted
- 56 journal pages so far, with first mss posted on 8 May
- mss on mussel community in Mississagi River (flows into Lake Huron); Purple-striped Jellyfish off the Pacific coast (new species to Canada); introduced alien terrestrial flatworm in New Brunswick; flying squirrel pilfering of red squirrel middens in BC; arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in saltmarsh cordgrasses in Nova Scotia; amphibians in the experimental lakes area of Ontario;
- Dwayne will be asking AU of the amphibian ms if they have any suitable photos for the cover

- ms on plant diversity at a proposed Important Plant Area in the Roseberry Lake Biosphere in Saskatchewan is at formal copyediting
- four Book Reviews has been finalized by Jess after being reviewed/edited by Amanda and Dwayne
- additions to New Titles still to be reviewed/edited by Amanda and Dwayne
- Dwayne has 2/3 documents from the 2026 ABM (Committee Annual Reports, Club Awards for 2025 **but not the draft minutes**) expected to be published in 139(2) as is the notice for the Fletcher Award—“best” paper published in volume 138
- also still **needs the introductory blurb for the Club Awards**
- may be sufficient ( $n = 7$  ms, same number as in 139-1) for the minimum 80 journal pages
- Editors’ Report for volume 138 also needs to be written; maybe ready for 139(2)

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

- one ms ready for formal copyediting (Coyotes in NW Arctic)
- two AU revisions have been reviewed and Dwayne sent them back for further Associate Editor (AE) opinions
- 15 AU revisions have been received, 3 of which the assigned AE concludes are ready to be accepted for publication and are awaiting Dwayne’s review and final decision
- 22 being revised by AUs (since EiC decision January 2024) some of which will probably not be revised)
- AE recommendation from initial peer review has been received on 1 ms and Dwayne is editing in anticipation of the initial decision; it needed to be extensively re-organized and the AE was too busy to immediately take on the task
- 11 manuscripts under initial peer review
- AE has been assigned to 1 ms (a resubmission) but the AE has not yet contacted potential reviewers / re-reviewers
- AE needs to be assigned to one ms (was submitted last Thursday)
- 17 submissions received so far in 2026, including two that were just initial inquiries as to their suitability for CFN
- by the same time last year only 10 had been received so submissions seem to be increasing

#### **Additional Tidbits**

- thematic collection by Amanda and Dwayne still in progress: Dwayne searching for and adding DOIs or URLs for CFN & T&L articles referenced in COSEWIC status reports posted on SARA registry up to January 2025 in either the CFN online archives, or for CFN publications before 117(2) 2003 and all those in T&L, in BHL (Biodiversity Heritage Library)
- there are >1700 lines in the spreadsheet but not all are specific references to CFN or T&L articles
- Dwayne received an email to editor@cfn last week from a European Ph.D. student looking for assistance in collecting the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* for genomic and evolutionary studies; query forwarded to 2 current COSEWIC co-chairs and 1 former COSEWIC member as well as Annie and Bev

Annie is working on the next issue of T&L.

The Book Club will meet on May 21 to discuss Lyndsie Bourgon’s “Tree Thieves – Crime and Survival in North America’s Woods”. This will be the last meeting before the summer break.

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

**Volunteer/Rehab**

- With WBCC no longer providing Safe Wings with monthly or year-end updates on our birds, looking a option for an online report / update collision reports and collect from the public
- Volunteer self-orientation module was fully translated and being reviewed before rollout.
- Patrolling started – slow with cool temperatures & low tree buds > supplying volunteers with equipment
- Ongoing efforts to distribute 2024 and 2025 bird specimens to various organizations including McGill and Trent University

**Communication**

- Collision Report System Updated
- Making web site more mobile-friendly and fixing French pages

**Advocacy**

- Some progress on bird-friendly building initiatives, including renovations at 80 Elgin and treatment of Bayview Station by OC Transpo - challenges with implementing bird-friendly design guidelines for low-rise buildings due to provincial regulations limiting exterior modifications.
- Ongoing advocacy efforts targeting specific buildings, including KRP buildings in Kanata and a Westboro office building undergoing renovation.
- Some buildings have installed bird-friendly features that lack high enough contrast to be effective -interest in pursuing advocacy against ineffective implementations but indicated that capacity constraints are currently limiting ability to launch a sustained social media campaign
- Plan to discuss with FLAP & Feather Friendly the newer UV products, which show improvement over early versions but still less effective than visible alternatives like black dots and need more testing
- With advocacy, data on bird deaths use with Environment and Climate Change Canada, who are now investigating violations of the Migratory Bird Convention Act.
- Duckling season – WBCC still not taking mallards & goslings, so SF has continued to step up
- Continue working with NCC to install rafts in Rideau Canal locks to prevent duckling and gosling drownings – will be monitoring locks.

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

Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

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**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

June 15, 2026 – in person at FWG

September 21, 2026 (TBC – Elizabeth away)

October 19, 2026

November 16, 2026

December 21, 2026 (TBC – Christmas week)

