



# OFO Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2019

## AGM Materials

### Table of Contents

President's Message .....	2
TREASURER'S REPORT .....	3
Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting .....	5
OFO Committee Reports 2018-9.....	6
Archives.....	6
2019 OFO Great Canadian Birdathon .....	6
Education and Conservation Awareness .....	7
Field trips.....	7
Marketing & Communication .....	7
Membership and Outreach.....	8
OBRC .....	8
OFO News .....	9
Ontario Birds .....	10
ONTBIRDS Listserv.....	10
Web Site.....	11
Young Birders.....	11
The2019-2020 Board of Directors.....	12



## President's Message

This year saw a continuation of OFO's strong program of field trips, publications, research and events for young birders. The Board began work on strategic initiatives to streamline administration and reduce costs by going paperless, increase our social media presence, broaden our education programs and increase our activities in Northern Ontario.

### Membership Cost Increase

We have been able to hold the annual membership fee to \$40 for the last three years. However, we have taken the decision to increase the membership fee to \$45. Several initiatives are underway to reduce costs but even with these, the membership price increase is necessary.

### Streamlining Administration and Reducing Costs

- Because of changes to the laws covering electronic payments our PayPal payment system was not operational from May to August. We have now implemented a credit card payment system supported by Wild Apricot, our membership management software.
- Online memberships, renewals and donations must be paid via credit card. However, you will still be able to pay by cheque if accompanied by a membership renewal form.

### We are Going Paperless

- OFO News will soon be available online to members! The reading experience will be like holding the magazine in your hands. This will be optional for members who would prefer to read their newsletter online. Not only will this reduce costs but will also make OFO more sustainable.

### Education and Outreach

- We are expanding our social media communications to Instagram and will be wanting your pictures from OFO trips to share with others.
- We added new workshops which were well received and will be repeated: nature journaling, bird songs and call identification and bird photography.
- We expanded our activities in Northern Ontario with the addition of field trips in Sault Ste Marie and Moonbeam near Timmins.
- We continued our Young Birder program and held the third annual Alan Wormington Memorial Camp in Algonquin Park in August.

I am proud to be part of this team of volunteers who work hard year after year to bring knowledge about birds to others and create opportunities to see birds across Ontario. The Board welcomes feedback, ideas and suggestions from OFO members and the birding community. **If you don't already, please consider volunteering your time and expertise to share the joy of birding with others. We have many areas where you can help.**

Good birding,

**Lynne Freeman**  
*OFO President*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2018 Financial Statement was published in the OFO Newsletter and is also included in your Annual Convention registration package.

Again this year we have a small deficit. Prepaid dues, HST rebates and the depletion of our reserves have helped in maintaining a positive cash flow despite the losses. These stop-gap measures can only help for so long. A review of the financial statements show that our costs keep increasing despite our best efforts and areas such as publishing, liability insurance, web site, the convention and field trips inch up every year. Board expenses have increased slightly due to more conference phone costs, the result of having a Board that covers more of the province, which is more reflective of our membership. The addition of more remote field trips also reflects this wider representation.

The Board is moving forward with offering the Newsletter in an electronic format to the membership in response to numerous requests and this will help to reduce printing costs and possibly in the future even the Journal may also be offered electronically. The various cost reduction measures that have and are being implemented can only go so far and if we wish to continue as an organization to offer the membership the variety of services that it has become used to, our only alternative is to again raise membership dues by \$5.00 for the upcoming year. In the past we have delayed implementing fee increases to our detriment. I stated when we last raised the dues that it would likely occur more frequently and most were in agreement so once again that time has come.

OFO continues to receive support from advertisers in our publications and thanks to the efforts of our advertising director revenue has increased over the past year.

I would like to close by again thanking the Board, Chairs and members of the various committees, and especially the editors for working so diligently to keep our costs in line. Their efforts have helped to make my job a successful one.

**Brian W. Gibbon**, *Treasurer*

**ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018**

<b>ASSETS</b>			<b>LIABILITIES &amp; MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Cash in Bank	\$ 38,320	\$ 39,543	Prepaid Membership Dues	\$ 20,415	\$ 28,200
Investment Certificates	-	10,000	Accounts payable	1,328	3,852
Convention Deposit	1,000	1,000	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 21,743</b>	<b>\$ 30,052</b>
Accounts Receivable	1,350	2,900	<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
Prepaid expenses	-	702	Balance beginning of Year	\$ 28,131	\$ 35,420
GST Receivable	2,495	1,527	Net Income for Year	(3,936)	(7,289)
Inventory	2,428	2,082	Less Prior year adjustment	514	-
Accrued Interest	-	60	Balance end of Year	<b>\$ 24,709</b>	<b>28,131</b>
Equipment	577	577			
Accumulated depreciation	282	-208	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,452</b>	<b>\$ 58,183</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 48,452</b>	<b>\$ 58,183</b>			

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Membership Dues	\$ 46,651	\$ 35,929	<u>Printing and Mailing</u>		
US \$ Exchange	92	141	- Journal, Ontario Birds	\$ 26,206	\$ 23,058
Donations	4,287	6,780	- Newsletter, OFO News	18,301	19,064
Baird Birdathon	-	-	<u>Administration</u>		
Advertising	5,000	2,960	Advertising	1,083	282
Sale of Merchandise	1,685	2,738	Audit	250	250
Interest	150	339	Awards	-	202
Sale of Publications	-	116	Bank charges & Exchange	151	254
Annual Convention (Net)	1,721	324	Birdathon	-	661
	<b>\$ 59,526</b>	<b>\$ 49,317</b>	Board expenses	1,588	1,365
Inventory adjustment	396	-	Checklists	1,759	1,135
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 59,862</b>	<b>\$ 49,317</b>	Depreciation	74	92
			Digitizing	200	-
			Donation	2,000	-
			Fees	350	55
			Field Trips	1,317	1,082
			Gull weekend	78	129
			Liability Insurance	1,975	1,867
			Membership expenses	140	288
			Office postage & stationery	-	351
			OBRC expense	109	-
			OFO Website and Outbirds	3,097	638
			Postal box rental	239	236
			Printing	-	-
			Purchase of Merchandise	528	1,925
			Treasurer's expense	398	379
			Young Birder's expense	4,955	3,294
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 63,788</b>	<b>\$ 56,606</b>
			<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 59,862</b>	<b>\$ 49,317</b>
			<b>NET ANNUAL INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (3,936)</b>	<b>\$ (7,289)</b>

*Phyllis Wilson*

Phyllis Wilson, RPA  
Chair, Audit Committee

*Brian W. Gibbon*

Brian W. Gibbon, Treasurer

*Lynne Freeman*

Lynne Freeman, President



## Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Sept 29, 2018, Point Pelee, Ontario

**Lynne Freeman** welcomed everyone at 7:45 pm to the 36th OFO Annual General Meeting celebrating Ontario birding and birders. Lynne reminded the attendees that OFO is their organization, and that the Board exists to represent their interests and concerns. She also reminded them that all OFO members can vote on the motions brought forward in the meeting. **Lynne moved, seconded by Claire Nelson, to accept the minutes of 2017 AGM. The motion was carried unanimously.**

Lynne reviewed the OFO mission: to promote and increase the appreciation and knowledge of Ontario's avifauna and its conservation. OFO includes all people with an interest in birds and birding, regardless of their expertise. The Board's priorities are to improve services for OFO members e.g. expanding the OFO Facebook community, expanding specialized workshops and field trips in the north, promoting birding through outreach to new groups and to become involved in certain conservation initiatives. As well, we have continued our core services: field trips, ONTBirds ListServ, OFO News and Ontario Birds, the OBRC, the Gull Workshop and Shorebird Nights, the OFO website and of course the Convention! Our membership stands at 1,203 people.

Lynne also noted the reports from all the OFO committees that were included in the 2018 AGM package. These committees, which are all run by volunteers, were as follows (in alphabetical order): Advertising – **Jeremy Hatt**, Archives – **Lynne Freeman**, Great Canadian Birdathon - **Bob Cermak**, Field Trips - **Dave Milsom**, Membership - **Mark Cranford**, OBRC – **Josh Vandermeulen**, OFO News – **Ian Shanahan and Paul Nicholson**, Ontario Birds - **Chip Weseloh, Chris Risley and Ken Abraham**, ONTBirds Listserv - **Mark Cranford**, Publicity and Communications - **Sarah Rupert**, Website - **Doug Woods** and finally Young Birders - **Lynne Freeman**. **Lynne moved, seconded by Justin Peter, to accept these committee reports. The motion was carried unanimously.**

The Treasurer's Report and Financial statement were prepared by OFO Treasurer **Brian Gibbon** and reviewed by **Phyllis J. Wilson** and her audit committee. The increased membership fee approved last year meant an increase of revenue this year of \$2447, while donations also increased this year to \$2445. Advertising revenues are dropping because of the switch to on-line advertising. This has been partially offset by the increased membership fees and donations and the Great Canadian Birdathon (which netted \$1700 this year), so the balance sheet is recovering in 2018. This is also aided by the annual HST rebate. We continue to support the young birders programs as well as our other activities – our publications, trips, and checklist publication. **Lynne moved, seconded by Sarah Rupert, to accept the Treasurer's report and Financial Statement. The motion was carried unanimously.**

This year there were two proposed bylaw revisions. The first was to document the policy for the removal of a Director between Annual General Meetings. The new wording was "The Board may remove a Board member by a majority vote if the member is not fulfilling his/her duties to the satisfaction of the Board. Such action can only be taken, by the President or designate, when the member has not significantly complied with a formal remedial action plan approved by a majority of the Board." **Lynne Freeman tabled this motion and it was seconded by Sarah Rupert. The motion was carried unanimously.**

The second proposed bylaw revision was to remove the reference to the inclusion of the immediate Past-President on the Board, in order to give the Board the flexibility to include new Board members. **Lynne Freeman tabled this motion and it was seconded by Ron Tozer. The motion was carried unanimously.**

The Bylaws of the Ontario Field Ornithologists stipulate that the Members are entitled to elect new Directors at each Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Board of Directors may also, at any time, elect a new Director should there be a vacancy on the Board. The term of these Directors is three years, and the total number of Directors required is not less than 8 and not more than 10.

This year **Josh Vandermeulen** resigned from the Board. The Board thanked him sincerely for wise guidance during his tenure. Two members were re-elected to the Board. **Sarah Rupert moved, seconded by Ron Tozer, to re-elect Lynne Freeman to the Board. The motion was carried unanimously. Lynne Freeman moved, seconded by Doug Woods to re-elect Brian Gibbon to the Board. The motion was carried unanimously.**

Finally, Lynne thanked the multitude of OFO volunteers, including the Board, the Big Sitters, trip leaders and camp counsellors, OFO News and Ontario Birds writers and editors, artists, photographers, IT and website, the list goes on! In particular she thanked the Convention Committee led by **Bob Cermak**, which included **Brian Gibbon, Jeremy Hatt, Paul Pratt** and all the trip leaders.

**Adjournment:** The AGM was adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.

**Marcie Jacklin**, standing in for **Kevin Seymour**, *Secretary*

## **OFO Committee Reports 2018-9**

### **Archives**

Last year the Board came to a decision to store the OFO Archives in the Royal Ontario Museum Library and Archives, where the material can be more easily accessed. This transfer was accomplished by **Kevin Seymour**, who thanks **Michael Press** for storing this material in a warehouse in Scarborough for many years. We had been storing a number of each back issue of both Ontario Birds and OFO News, but these were given away at last year's AGM because all back issues are now available in digital format on the OFO website, and the ROM Library and Archives has a bound set.

*Kevin Seymour, OFO Secretary to the Board*

### **2019 OFO Great Canadian Birdathon**

We are grateful to 2019 OFO Celebrity Birders **Tom Hince, Bruce Di Labio** and **Paul Pratt**. This trio has a rich and storied reputation in Big Day Birding. Some of their accomplishments include setting the all-time Big Day records for North America, USA, Canada, Texas, New Jersey, 7 Canadian provinces (including Ontario) and 2 territories! The team has also won the esteemed World Series of Birding in New Jersey, the Great Texas Classic Birding competition, and the Spacecoast Flyway birding competition in Florida.

They conducted their second annual Birdathon Big Sit (observations made from within a pre-determined 5 metre diameter circle) on the west side of the Tip of Point Pelee National Park on May 11, 2019. Some days it may be possible to see 160+ species (in the entire area) while other days 110 species may be a difficult number to find. Theoretically, May 11th is near the peak of bird migration with a nice selection of both earlier and later migrants.

Bruce Di Labio reported: "Park staff (especially Sarah Rupert) kindly allowed early access to the Tip and were very supportive. Many friends dropped by through the day offering support and even adding a bird or two to the list. Unlike last year's unsettled weather it was a beautiful sunny day, which is not the best for an exciting birding day. Kathi Cavanaugh Hince brought us hot coffee and snacks plus enough food for an army, which was greatly appreciated by the team. Jeremy Bensette made sure we didn't miss anything! Our final total was 108 species.

Last year we recorded 110 species. The top bird was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo which landed briefly in a tree beside the van."

At report time, they have raised \$1,271. Many thanks to our supporters! Donations can be made until the end of 2019. To make a donation online go to [www.birdscanada.org/birdathon](http://www.birdscanada.org/birdathon), then search for "OFO Celebrity Birders" under "Find a Team or Person".

The Great Canadian Birdathon (formerly the Baillie Birdathon) raises money to support Bird Studies Canada, Long Point Bird Observatory and other bird research stations in the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, as well as contributing to the Baillie Fund which provides important financial support to a variety of programs in bird conservation and scientific research. A portion of all donations for the OFO Team will be returned to OFO and will be specifically earmarked to the OFO Young Birders Program. Participation in the Birdathon is a fun and worthwhile way to take part in real life bird conservation efforts. We hope you will consider either supporting the OFO Celebrity Birder(s) or undertaking your own Birdathon with OFO as your sponsor organization. Either way, we thank you for your financial support!

**Bob Cermak**, *OFO Birdathon Coordinator*

## **Education and Conservation Awareness**

The Education and Conservation Awareness role is a new portfolio that we are continuing to develop. One of our goals is to give current conservation concerns and initiatives that relate to birds and birding in Ontario a presence across our social media platforms, as well as in our print and digital media. In this way, our members may have access to the information and materials needed to make informed decisions. Additionally, we seek to increase OFO's visibility as a resource for information pertaining to birdlife in Ontario, through the regular publishing and distribution of educational content across our channels, the restructuring and redesign of our website, as well as the expansion of our workshops and outreach programs.

**Amanda Guercio**, *OFO Education and Conservation Awareness Coordinator*

## **Field trips**

Fieldtrips were once again a very popular feature of OFO membership in 2019. Several new ones were added which proved to be most successful. The most popular destinations through the year appeared to be Moosonee, Rainy River, Pelee Island, Point Pelee National Park and area, Carden Alvar, Toronto area, Hamilton, Amherst Island, and Ottawa. If members have suggestions for new venues, we are always open to add these if leaders can be found. Our OFO leaders for fieldtrips once again shared their knowledge and expertise with many participants. We thank them very much for freely giving of their time and energy to lead. Hopefully in 2020 we can offer a similar array of outings to those organized for 2019.

**Dave Milsom**, *OFO Fieldtrip Coordinator*

## **Marketing & Communication**

Social media continues to be a focus for this committee. We continue to work on interesting content to engage our followers as well as promoting OFO events and reporting on field trips. We are working on ways to improve our workflow and content management, given that the members involved are all working at a distance from one another. Our engagements on social media platforms continued to increase over the last year, with goals to have even stronger growth in the coming year.

A promotional brochure for field trips was printed last year and distributed at several outreach events and key locations, such as Point Pelee National Park during the Festival of Birds, along with the annual convention brochure. The organization also received recognition in all promotional materials at the Festival of Birds for OFO's involvement in the Shorebird Celebration at Hillman Marsh, and the club was also promoted with onsite posters and signage at the event. Volunteers at the Shorebird Celebration were also provided with promotion materials to distribute to participants.

The website continues to be a priority for the coming year, with initial strides being made behind the scenes over the last few months. As always, we welcome and encourage your input.

Follow along with our social media streams throughout the coming year.

You can find us here:

[Facebook.com/OntarioFieldOrnithologists](https://www.facebook.com/OntarioFieldOrnithologists)

[Twitter.com/OFOBirds](https://twitter.com/OFOBirds)

[Instagram.com/OFOBirds](https://www.instagram.com/OFOBirds)

***Sarah Rupert, Marketing and Communication Coordinator***

## **Membership and Outreach**

As of the end of August there were 1346 active memberships (including single and family members), consisting of 797 annual, 419 multi-year, 126 Life and 4 exchange memberships. That is an increase of 53 memberships over last year at this time.

Over the past year we have experienced technical challenges that will warrant changes in how we manage membership administration. Specifically, our online payment site experienced problems and we switched to a credit card payment system. While mail-in memberships and renewals sent to OFO's postal address continue, we encourage members to join and renew memberships and make donations directly on the website.

Membership renewal forms will be mailed with the October issue of OFO News, or you can complete and send in the form included with this package. All annual memberships expire on 31 December so please renew promptly in order to ease the workload and cost of mailing. Also, please consider using the online renewal option when available; it will be quick, secure and effective immediately. OFO memberships are household memberships. The online membership process allows households to register more than one person and email per membership. Please identify all members of your family who are interested in birding so that we can identify them as OFO members. An OFO Gift membership makes a great gift. Please ensure your address and email is current on the membership site. You can always send questions to [membership@ofocanada.ca](mailto:membership@ofocanada.ca)

***Mark Cranford, Membership Coordinator***

## **OBRC**

The 2018 Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) reviewed a total of 169 records of species on the provincial Review Lists, of which 153 (91%) were accepted and two were sent for re-review by the incoming 2019 Committee. A remarkable five new species, White-crowned Pigeon (*Patagioenas leucocephala*), Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), Calliope Hummingbird (*Selasphorus calliope*), Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*), and Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) were added to the Ontario list, bringing the total to 501 species.

This was the fifth year that the OBRC has used three review zones; South, Central and Lowlands, instead of our former North/South split. The South review zone remains the same, while the former North review zone is now split along the Hudson Bay Lowlands ecoregion. No new species were added to the Lowlands Review List, leaving the total number of species recorded in this review zone at 330. Beginning in 2019, reports of Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) and White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) in the Central Review Zone are no longer requested. Reports prior to 2019 are still requested for review. No new species were added to the Central Review List, leaving the total number of species recorded in this review zone at 383. Beginning in 2019, reports of Eurasian Collared-Dove and White-winged Dove in the South Review Zone are no longer requested. Reports prior to 2019 are still requested for review. The addition of White-crowned Pigeon, Costa's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Reddish Egret, and Great Kiskadee brings the total number of species recorded in this review zone to 491. No changes were made to the subspecies review list. Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) was added to the list of species known to have bred, bringing the total number of breeding species to 292.

The members of the 2018 Committee were **Joshua Vandermeulen** (chair), **Mike Burrell** (non-voting secretary), **Kenneth Burrell** (non-voting assistant to the secretary), **Barbara Charlton** (voting member and assistant to the secretary), **Amanda Guercio**, **Blake Mann**, **Donald Sutherland**, **Paul Pratt**, and **William Lamond**. **Mark Peck** acted as the ROM liaison for the OBRC. The 3-year terms as voting OBRC members for Joshua Vandermeulen and Paul Pratt ended following the conclusion of this year's annual meeting. The OBRC has elected **Kenneth Burrell** and **Reuven Martin** to 3-year terms going forward. I was elected to the chairperson role, and the remaining voting members are Barbara Charlton, William Lamond, Blake Mann, and Donald Sutherland. Mike Burrell has stepped down from the Secretary role and was elected to the new position of Archivist (non-voting). **Daniel Riley** was elected to the role of Secretary. Barbara Charlton will continue as Assistant to the Secretary and Mark Peck will continue as the non-voting Royal Ontario Museum Liaison.

I would like to thank all current and former members of the OBRC for their service and dedication to the task of evaluating submitted records. On behalf of the entire Committee, I would also like to thank the many members of the Ontario birding community who took the time and effort to document rare bird sightings in Ontario for consideration by the OBRC. The OBRC would cease to exist without your support. The submission of rare bird reports, data requests, questions, comments, concerns, and all other contact with the Committee may all be done through the email [obrc@ofo.ca](mailto:obrc@ofo.ca).

**Amanda Guercio**, 2019 Chair, Ontario Bird Records Committee

## OFO News

OFO News is the newsletter of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Its sister publication is the scientific journal Ontario Birds. OFO News is published three times a year. Articles in OFO News explore many subjects, including: provincial and local conservation efforts, book and birding equipment reviews, events such as the OFO annual convention, reports about lesser-known provincial birding hot spots, articles with a focus on young birders, updates from the Ontario Bird Records Committee, and bird identification.

The current co-editors of OFO News took over responsibility with the February 2019 issue. A smooth transition was ensured by the departing co-editors Ian Shanahan and Paul Nicholson. The new co-editors will work with the OFO Board of Directors to produce a newsletter that meets the interests of OFO members, including making news more easily accessible. The newsletter could not be produced without submissions from dozens of contributors and input from the entire editorial team. We thank them for their contributions. Unfortunately, long-time Editorial Assistant **Ron Pittaway** and Copy Editor **Sofia Shanahan** have decided to step down from their responsibilities. Their expertise will be missed, and we thank them for all they have done to make OFO News better.

As always, ideas for possible articles, as well as submissions from OFO members, are welcome. The co-editors believe each OFO member has an article in them just waiting to migrate to the printed page. Please contact the co-editors at: ofonews@ofoc.ca

***Michael Olsen, Bruce Kirkland, and Angie Williams, Co-editors, OFO News***

## **Ontario Birds**

The last year of Ontario Birds comprised the three issues for December 2018, April 2019 and August 2019. These issues contained 176 pages in 19 articles and notes. That is six more pages and six more articles/notes than the previous three issues. A new feature in each of the last three issues was an in-depth series of articles on “How do recent changes in Lake Erie affect birds?” The three individual components focused on Phragmites, Zebra and Quagga Mussels and botulism. There was a good mix of subject material in the three issues with quite a focus on rarities (Little Egret – New to Ontario, and Grace’s Warbler – New to Canada) as well as new nesting records, (Canvasback in Cochrane District, American White Pelican in Essex County, Lake Erie, and Red-necked Grebe in Durham Regional Municipality). The Fish Crow, however, was a New to Canada nesting record. The OBRC report nicely itemized all the reportable species submitted for 2018; there were five new species added to the Ontario Checklist (White-crowned Pigeon, Costa’s and Calliope Hummingbirds, Reddish Egret and Great Kiskadee). This brings the Ontario bird checklist to 501 species, a very impressive total! Other topics covered in the last year of Ontario Birds included mortality instances of a Double-crested Cormorant and of a Purple Martin, foraging of a Greater Yellowlegs and feeding of a young Downy Woodpecker, behavioural patterns of Mute Swans and plumage variation in a Double-crested Cormorant. The diversity of articles concluded with a Letter to the Editor(s), the tribute to the Distinguished Ornithologist Award (**Alan Wormington**) and with an In Memoriam (for **Jim Rising**).

Submissions to Ontario Birds have been arriving steadily over the last year. Once a given issue is sent to the printer, we often have 2-3 papers in the works for the next issue. It has been nice to renew the “New to Ontario/Canada” series in Ontario Birds. In the next year, we will be reporting on our call last year for photos of aberrantly plumaged birds. As always, we continue to be on the lookout for potential articles and notes. Sometimes postings to “Ontbirds” result in a lead to a potential note or article, so keep those kinds of observations coming. The OFO Annual Convention is a good place for members to make suggestions and discuss possibilities for future articles with the co-editors so, don’t be afraid to approach one of us at Hamilton this year.

Excellent cover artwork (Canvasback, Bufflehead and the Fish Crow) and design of the journal continues to be provided by **Barry Kent MacKay** and **Judie Shore**, respectively, which is much appreciated. We would also like to thank the many photographers who have supplied photos during the last year; they greatly enhanced the appearance of the journal and added to the readability of the articles. We look forward to receiving future submissions for the journal.

***Chip Weseloh, Chris Risley and Ken Abraham, Co-Editors, Ontario Birds***

## **ONTBIRDS Listserv**

ONTBIRDS continues to spread the word about rare birds and remains a prime source of timely information to the currently 3623 subscribers. ONTBIRDS is the place to get the message out fast. Other resources, such as eBird, also supply opportunities for recording bird distributional patterns. However, neither replaces regular reporting to your local birding club compiler. Many clubs maintain databases and document locally rare birds. Club reporting forms the basis for seasonal reports in the quarterly magazine North American Birds read by serious bird observers across the continent.

ONTBIRDS also plays a very important role for OFO as its first point of contact with new birders and the general public. Emails with a clear subject header will help readers identify reports that interest them. So while ONTBIRDS attempts to keep a focus on provincially exceptional birds, it also allows posts of regular reports from well birded areas that illuminate changing annual patterns. In addition ONTBIRDS encourages public service announcements. We only ask that these posts be run past the list coordinator for a second opinion before posting. As coordinator, I will continue to work with posters and readers to ensure that ONTBIRDS operates smoothly. I would like to thank our service providers, EMWD, and especially the technical support supplied by **Brian Carpenter** of EMWD.com. Most important, thanks to all those who have posted messages and especially to the area reporters and those who go out of their way to keep us informed. With everyone's support ONTBIRDS will continue to serve the needs of Ontario birders

**Mark Cranford**, *ONTBIRDS Coordinator*

## **Web Site**

In addition to ongoing maintenance of the web site, there have been a number of notable changes. The process of making more and more of the website data-driven has been continued, requiring data entry only rather than programming. Specific areas included the Birdathon and Board and Committees pages for both OFO and OBRC. Code was developed to import taxonomy changes from OBRC with a minimum of manual processing, while preserving the species links from our Gallery photos. The admin screens were improved for uploading publications (OFO News and Ontario Birds). Finally, the recent eBird Sightings page was upgraded to use the latest eBird API for retrieving checklist data.

*Ivor Williams* for **Doug Woods**, *former Website Director*

## **Young Birders**

The Young Birders Program this year was focused on the 3rd Annual Alan Wormington Young Birders Memorial Camp which took place August 17 – 24 in Algonquin Park. This year's camp was led by **Jeff and Angela Skevington** and **Ian Shanahan**. The camp was attended by ten birders aged 14 to 16 from Ontario, New York and British Columbia. Campers enjoyed learning about the birds, insects and ecology of the park. **Tony and Nina Beck** gave a wildlife photography workshop. Algonquin Park naturalists also volunteered their time.

**Lynne Freeman**, *Young Birders Committee*



## Ontario Field Ornithologists Board of Directors

### The 2019-2020 Board of Directors

The Bylaws of the Ontario Field Ornithologists stipulate that you, the Members, are entitled to elect new Directors at each Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Board of Directors may also, at any time, elect a new Director should there be a vacancy on the Board. The term of these Directors is three years, and the total number of Directors required is not less than 8 and not more than 10.

This year **Jeremy Hatt**, **Doug Woods** and **Mark Cranford** stepped down as Directors, and **Kevin Seymour** is not standing for re-election. The Board thanks them sincerely for their unparalleled hard work during their time on the Board. The Board Nominations Committee - **Lynne Freeman**, **Bob Cermak**, **Brian Gibbon** and **Dave Milsom** - nominated four new people to the board during the year: **Jack Alvo**, **Charmaine Anderson**, **Amanda Guercio** and **Ian Shanahan**. The Board currently has 10 Directors.

Completing the first of their three-year terms are:

- **Lynne Freeman**, President and Young Birders Coordinator (a Director since the 2009 AGM)
- **Brian Gibbon**, Treasurer (a Director since January 2009)

Completing the third of their three-year terms are:

- **Bob Cermak**, Vice President and Convention Coordinator (a Director since January 2014)
- **Dave Milsom**, Field Trips (a Director since November 1999)
- **Sarah Rupert**, Publicity and Communications (a Director since the 2016 AGM)
- **Kevin Seymour**, Secretary and Archives (a Director since March 2016)

### **Nominations for the 2018-19 Board of Directors**

If you would like to submit a nomination for the Board, please email the President at [president@ofo.ca](mailto:president@ofo.ca). Board members serve three-year terms and must be members in good standing of OFO. Directors are required to attend at minimum 75% of Board Meetings (4-5 times / year and an annual 1-day retreat) and at least one meeting in person per year.

Being elected to the Board for the first time are:

- **Jack Alvo**, Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator (a Director since September 2019)
- **Charmaine Anderson**, Membership and Outreach (a Director since October 2018)
- **Amanda Guercio**, Education and Conservation Awareness, and OBRC Chair (a Director since December 2018)
- **Ian Shanahan**, Fundraising Director (a Director since September 2019)

Standing for re-election to the Board this year are:

- **Bob Cermak**, Vice President and Convention Coordinator (a Director since January 2014)
- **Dave Milsom**, Field Trips (a Director since November 1999)
- **Sarah Rupert**, Marketing and Communications (a Director since the 2016 AGM)