

# OFO Annual General Meeting 2024

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September 28, 2024



# Welcome

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Semipalmated Sandpiper, Griffin LePage



# Tonight's Agenda

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- Annual General Meeting
- Distinguished Ornithologist presentation
- Keynote presentation







# OFO 2024 Annual General Meeting

Common Raven, Griffin LePage



# AGM Checklist

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
3. The Year in Review
4. Financial Report
5. By-law Changes
6. Board and Committee Reports
7. Board of Directors Election
8. Priorities for Next Year –  
Member's Discussion
9. AGM Adjournment



Marbled Godwit, Jeff Skevington



# Call to Order

Let's get this meeting started!



# Minutes of the 2023 AGM (23 September)

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- Motion to accept the 2023 AGM Minutes – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Colleen Reilly
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Bald Eagle, Jeff Skevington



# The Year in Review

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- Webinars, FB and Instagram bird quizzes; YouTube streams; thanks Sarah Rupert, Monica Croydon, Colleen Reilly and Dave Milsom – over 34,000 views on YouTube this year
- Ontbirds membership stable (3886 subscribers), Birdnews is down slightly (3108 members), OFO Discord use up 40% (>1400 members); What's App community added (530 members) – thanks to Mike Burrell and our Discord moderators



Baltimore Oriole, Jeff Skevington



# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

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- Committee formed in fall 2020 with the mission to make OFO an equitable and inclusive organization
- Work in an advisory capacity, making recommendations to OFO's Board
- Free first year membership program continues to reduce economic barriers, two outings for Disability Pride month; Birding with Pride at Pelee and in Toronto, virtual meetings for birders who identify as New Canadians, Immigrants, and Migrants as well as Women, Trans People, and Feminine Presenting People
- OFO News continues to publish articles that represent the experiences of marginalized communities, including Queer and Trans birders and those with disabilities
- Questions? Email [diversity@ofoc.ca](mailto:diversity@ofoc.ca)



Baird's Sandpiper, Jeff Skevington



# The Year in Review

- OFO News (published Feb., June and Oct.)
  - Bruce Kirkland retired from his job as lead Editor
  - Paul Nicholson helped with the transition
  - Our new co-editors are Emily Burton, Ted Down, and Edward Millar



Bonaparte's Gull, Jeff Skevington



# The Year in Review

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- Ontario Birds
  - 12 articles and notes (172 pages) contributed by 35 authors in the last 3 issues (Dec., April and Aug.)
  - Cover artwork continues to be donated by Barry Kent MacKay
  - Layout and design of this and the newsletter done by Judie Shore
  - Drs Brandon Edwards and Jackson Kusack are retiring as editors; Drs Edward Millar and David Welch are the new co-editors
- Fundraising – We thank **Pelee Wings** for being a major sponsor for the OFO Convention again this year and want to thank **Vortex Canada** for their continuing support of OFO News and Ontario Birds



LeConte's Sparrow, Jeff Skevington



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# The Year in Review

- Field trips
  - 100 hikes this year!
  - Most fully subscribed
  - Thanks for helping to end the problem of people not showing up after registering
  - Devised some new field trips catering to all (including people with disabilities)
  - Thanks to Dave Milsom and Colleen Reilly for coordinating the trips
- Young Birders
  - Big Day at Tommy Thompson Park
  - Birdathon (Thanks to Sam Cameron, Leo Wieskittel, Jackson Ceedub, Rasberry Yow-Fairs and Elias Joshi)
  - OFO Camp in Algonquin
  - OFO Young Birders Optics Program – drop off sites: High Park Nature Centre – Toronto; Birds Canada HQ - Long Point; and Point Pelee Visitor Centre - Essex





# The Year in Review

- Ambassador Program

- Bullock's Oriole (Amanda Guercio), Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Jacques Bouvier), Fieldfare (Mike Burrell), Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (Jeff Skevington), Harris's Sparrow (Brett Fried), Short-eared Owl (Pete Read), Western Tanager (Aaron Hywarren)

- OBRC

- The 2023 Ontario Bird Records Committee reviewed 133 records of which 80% were accepted
- Three new birds bring our list to 511! (Limpkin, Western Flycatcher and Short-billed Gull)
- Terms for Alvan Buckley, Dan MacNeal and Nicole Richardson have ended
- Cameron Chevalier, Jon Ruddy and Gerard Philips begin 3-year terms starting in 2024

Harris's Sparrow, Marcus Legzdins



Fieldfare, Amanda Guercio



Western Tanager, Brian Morin



Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Paul Lagasi



# Financial Report for 2023 – Sue Suess, Treasurer

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- Ended the year with a profit (\$10,373)
- Membership dues up by \$2,390
- Donations were up significantly to \$9,076 – Thank you!!!
- Advertising revenue down \$310 to \$3,240
- Journal costs close to constant (\$36,110) but a significant cost increase is anticipated in 2024
- Baillie Birdathon raised \$7,120 but will not continue in future years
- Peterborough convention lost \$8,322
- New Finance Committee to review books regularly (Sue Suess, Bob Cumming, Jack Alvo, Jeff Skevington and Gis Segler)



Short-billed Gull, Jeff Skevington



# Financial Report Motion

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- Motion to accept the Financial Report for 2023 – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Jack Alvo
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Common Nighthawk, Jeff Skevington





# Publication costs

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- In a continuing effort to encourage members to read OFO publications online, starting in 2025, members will be charged \$10/year if they opt to receive OFO News in paper format, and \$10/year for Ontario Birds
- This move was prompted by rising printing and paper costs, recognition that publication costs are OFO's largest expense, and the loss of revenue from Birdathons
- We also want to have the flexibility to support conservation efforts and projects that we need money for



# By-law Change

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- Motion to approve the proposed new By-law No. 1 of Ontario Field Ornithologists, which was sent to Members on August 21, 2024 and which will replace the existing By-laws. – Moved by Jeff Skevington, seconded by Jack Alvo
- Board has approved and is recommending that Members approve the new By-law.
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



# By-law Change: Articles of Amendment

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- Required under new legislation
- Simply moving the Letters Patent of 1986 to Articles of Amendment
- No changes to name or objectives of OFO
- Moved by Jeff Skevington and seconded by Jack Alvo to approve the 2024 Articles of Amendment for the Ontario Field Ornithologists
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain







## Board and Committee Reports

- Motion to accept the Sept. 2023 Board and Committee Reports – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Kiah Jasper
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Red Crossbills, Jeff Skevington



Board of Directors 2023-2024



# Major changes to the Board

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- Susan Nagy and Lynne Freeman retiring from the board
  - Susan led fundraising and volunteer coordination for 3 years and has helped to steer the financial committee through the many changes implemented this year
  - Lynne has been a fundamental part of the board for 15 years (!!), half of those years as president. She has worked on most committees and has kindly stayed on some and will continue to attend board meetings as a non-voting member for the foreseeable future





# Standing for re-election in 2024

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- Kiah Jasper
  - Director-at-large
  - Works mainly on Young Birder initiatives, the Rare Bird Ambassador Program and the OFO Bird of the Year
- Gis Segler
  - Director-at-large
  - Active on OFO's Finance Committee
  - Co-leader of OFO Young birders camp
- Angie Williams
  - Membership Director
  - Advocate for birding in the north
  - Organizes northern wing of convention
- Jeff Skevington
  - President
  - Co-leader of OFO Young birders camp





# Re-Election Motion – Kiah Jasper

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- Motion to accept the re-election of Kiah Jasper to the Board of Directors – Jeff Skevington
- Secunder – Dave Milsom
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





# Re-Election Motion – Gis Segler

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- Motion to accept the re-election of Gis Segler to the Board of Directors – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Sarah Rupert
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Jeff Skevington



Black-throated Green Warbler, Jeff Skevington



## Re-Election Motion – Angie Williams

- Motion to accept the re-election of Angie Williams to the Board of Directors – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Mike Burrell
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



# Re-Election Motion – Jeff Skevington

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- Motion to accept the re-election of Jeff Skevington to the Board of Directors – Jack Alvo
- Secunder – Marcie Jacklin
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Magnolia Warbler, Jeff Skevington





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## Nomination to the Board of Directors

- **Andrea Kingsley**
  - over 35 years of experience in biology, natural history interpretation and guiding
  - Artist featured in several publications, including the Field Guide to The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and the Surrounding Area
- **Mark Peck**
  - Collections Specialist in Ornithology at the Royal Ontario Museum
  - Author and photographer: recent book is Bird Eggs - A Young Naturalist Guide



# Election Motion – Andrea Kingsley

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- Motion to accept the election of Andrea Kingsley to the Board of Directors – Jeff Skevington
- Secunder – Gis Segler
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





# Election Motion – Mark Peck

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- Motion to accept the election of Mark Peck to the Board of Directors – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Jack Alvo
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





# Priorities for Next Year - Discussion

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- Continue to grow our conservation agenda; includes giving conservation programs a chance to introduce themselves with a short article in OFO News
- Increase the number and exposure of Pride and Disability events
- Expand the Young Birders program
- Roll out the optics program for young birders
- Redesign website??





# Motion to adjourn the 2024 AGM

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- Motion to adjourn the 2024 AGM  
– Jeff Skevington
- Seconder –
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





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Thanks to our members for keeping  
our society strong!

