



ONTARIO BIRDS

JOURNAL OF THE ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

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CELEBRATING OUR
100TH
Issue

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Red Knot. Photo: Yves Aubry
Cover: Blue-winged Teal
by Barry Kent MacKay

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President's message

Through articles in *Ontario Birds*, our understanding and appreciation of Ontario's bird life has been enhanced immeasurably.

Welcome to the 100th issue of *Ontario Birds*. This tremendous milestone celebrates over 33 years of continuous publication — an enormous accomplishment.

The Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) was founded in November 1982 as an organization dedicated to the study of bird life in Ontario. In the journal's first issue, then editors Chip and Linda Weseloh (yes, the same Chip who is an editor today) explained that the OFO executive envisaged a journal similar to the Saskatchewan Natural History Society's *Blue Jay* but devoted entirely to birds and directed solely at field ornithologists. *Ontario Birds* provided a unique outlet for original research and observations by both professional and amateur field ornithologists/birders (i.e., those who didn't earn a living from birding/field ornithology).

Since 1983, *Ontario Birds* has ably fulfilled its mandate. The quality of the reporting of the observations and research is so high that it has been cited in academic journals and was recently included in SORA, the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive database (<https://sora.unm.edu/>), which provides open access to ornithological research. Through articles in *Ontario Birds*, our understanding and appreciation of Ontario's bird life has been enhanced immeasurably.

I applaud the editors, past and present, who have devoted countless hours of their time to ensure that the content of *Ontario Birds* is relevant, accurate and meets the highest standards. My hope is that *Ontario Birds* will inspire more of Ontario's birders to conduct their own observations and research and share them with others in the years to come.

Lynne Freeman
OFO President

Celebrating 100 Issues of *Ontario Birds*

In its first year (1983), *Ontario Birds* had two issues published in black and white containing 20 articles in 76 pages. It now has three issues per year published in colour containing fewer articles but more pages. *Ontario Birds* maintains its practice of publishing unique and interesting observations from Ontario birders and ornithologists, but it has also developed a greater focus on in-depth inquiry from Ontario-based research on individual species and populations. To celebrate this growth, we thought it would be exciting to review some of the ornithological happenings in Ontario over the last 33 years.

In the following 100-plus pages of this, our 100th issue, we present several invited papers that examine birding and ornithology in Ontario since 1983. These include reviews of how our knowledge of Ontario's birds has changed, how the study of ornithology has advanced, how the practice of birding has changed and how birders themselves have become subjects of study. We include reviews of the status of selected bird species and groups, a review of the growth of the Ontario bird checklist as well as some reminiscences of a few of the birds "new-to-Ontario" since 1983. In addition to these special features of the 100th issue, we also include our normal August content (the report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee) and more of the kind of contributed papers that have been the backbone of *Ontario Birds* over the years.

One of the main purposes of *Ontario Birds* is to document the occurrences of new species of birds in Ontario. Mike and Ken Burrell accepted the challenge of reviewing those 79 species that have been added to the Ontario checklist since the inception of *Ontario Birds* and produced an analysis of their possible origin and the timing of their arrival in Ontario.



1983.
Ross James



1986. Ian Jones



1994. Peter Burke



2001. Christine Kerrigan



2010. Barry Kent MacKay

We thought it would be interesting to reminisce and re-examine (through previously unpublished colour images) some of these new species. Mark Peck identified and located several of these and has produced an interesting collection and brief narrative.

Another goal of *Ontario Birds* is to report on the status of bird populations in Ontario: to identify which species are increasing, decreasing or holding steady. We asked Mike Cadman, Don Sutherland, Andrew Couturier and Jon McCracken to coordinate this aspect of our 100th issue and they have done so admirably by recruiting several of Ontario's leading bird specialists to report on these trends.

We felt it would be of interest to our readers, and fitting for this issue of *Ontario Birds*, to review how the scientific study of birds has changed over the course of our 100 issues. To achieve that end, we contacted several Ontario ornithologists and asked them to elaborate on some of the new research methods of the last 33 years.

We can all appreciate how our own experiences with birding have changed over our lifetimes, but we thought it would be interesting to get different perspectives on how birding has changed in Ontario since the 1980s. We asked Bob Curry and Jody Allair to address birding in the “good ‘ole days” and compare it to birding in the electronic age; they have produced two interesting essays. The growth of birding as an activity over the three decades is no surprise to any of our readers, but it may come as a surprise that birders themselves have become the subject of study. Gavan Watson, who examined this topic for his Ph.D., has provided us with an essay that explores perspectives on birders that we think you will find novel and interesting.

Finally, we would be hugely remiss if we did not pay tribute to the dozens of volunteers and professionals who have put in hours and hours of time to produce our 100 high quality issues of *Ontario Birds* — and that is after the notes and manuscripts have been written and received. So, from the very first issues of *Ontario Birds*, when Chip and Linda sat down with Carol (Fox) Sabean and her design assistants Helen Pillonen, John Cormier and John Sabean to cut and past text onto “boards” to go to the printers, to today's high-tech electronic production and publishing, we would like to acknowledge and thank the individuals listed below.

We have not included all the authors — there are hundreds of them — but they are acknowledged on the OFO website in the indices and the back issues posted there; nor, unfortunately, are we able to include the many reviewers of articles as we simply did not record all of them, but to both groups we offer a huge “Thank you”. Special recognition should go to Bill Crins, Ron Pittaway and Ron Tozer, who served as editors for 16 years, from 1990 to 2006 (an editorial reign which may never be equaled), and brought about much advancement in the content and appearance of *Ontario Birds*. They basically took the journal from a black and white entity to a full colour and glossy entity; thank you Bill, Ron and Ron! Special recognition should also go to Barry Kent MacKay who has produced 40 of the 100 cover illustrations to date and all of them since 2007; thanks Barry!

Last but not least, we thank Judie Shore and Jean Iron for noting, several months ago, that the August issue would be *Ontario Birds* 100th issue, in time for us to put together this special issue.

Even after all these years, *Ontario Birds* remains committed to publishing articles by amateur and professional ornithologists alike. We support them when they send in contributions and seek out others who may have contributions to make but need encouragement. We see it as our role as editors to provide advice on how to turn an observation into a note or an article by helping potential authors find the relevant literature, undertake statistical analysis where appropriate and write in the style needed in scientific journals. No matter if it's just an interesting behavior you saw or a report you prepared that might be suitable for publication and needs review, we editors are here to support you.

The Editors

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2010 – 2015: Glenn Coady, Chris Risley, Chip Weseloh

2015 – 2016: Ken Abraham, Chris Risley, Chip Weseloh



2015. Barry Kent MacKay

Thank you from *Ontario Birds*

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