

# OFO Annual General Meeting 2022

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September 24, 2022



Welcome



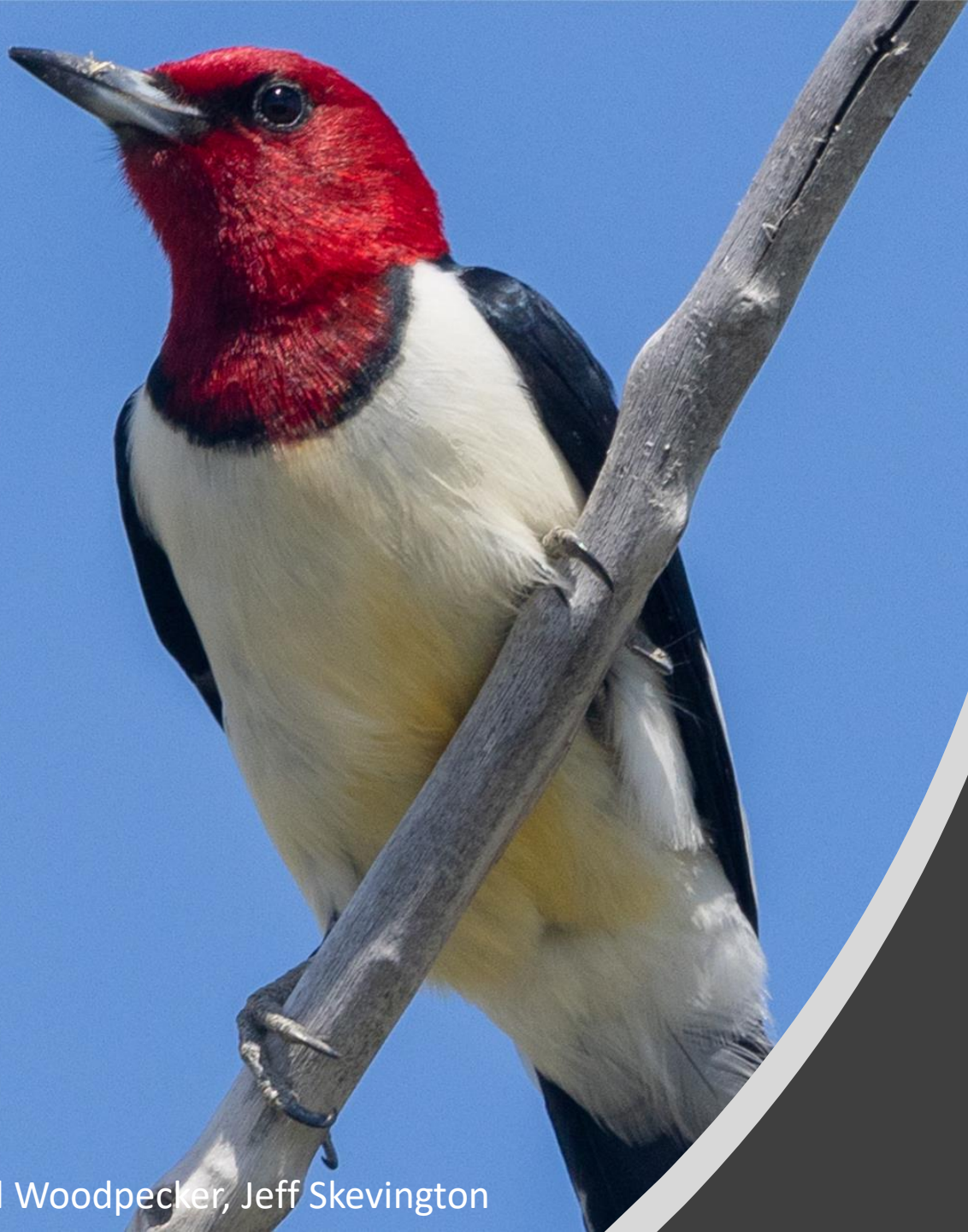


# Tonight's Agenda

- Annual General Meeting
- Certificates of Appreciation
- Distinguished Ornithologist presentation
- Keynote presentation







OFO's 2022  
Annual  
General  
Meeting

Red-headed Woodpecker, Jeff Skevington



# AGM Checklist

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1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM
3. The Year in Review
4. Financial Report
5. Board and Committee Reports
6. Board of Directors Election
7. Priorities for Next Year – Member's Discussion
8. AGM Adjournment



Marbled Godwit, Jeff Skevington



# Call to Order

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Let's get this meeting started!





# Minutes of the 2021 AGM (29 September)

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- Motion to accept the 2021 AGM Minutes – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Gis Segler
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Richard Skevington



# The Year in Review

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- 10% Growth in membership (1,893 members as of Aug.)
  - 66 of the 174 new memberships were free, part of a new program from our Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee
- Webinars, FB and Instagram bird quizzes; YouTube streams – thanks Sarah Rupert, Dave Milsom, Monika Croydon and Lynne Freeman
- Ontbirds (3859 members), Birdnews (3406 members), OFO Discord (520 members) – thanks to Mike Burrell and our Discord moderators





# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

- Committee formed in fall 2020 with the mission to make OFO an equitable and inclusive organization.
- A related group called “Enabled Birding” includes members of OFO, Toronto Ornithological Club and Birds Canada
- Both groups work in an advisory capacity, making recommendations to OFO’s Board
- New in 2022: Free membership program, welcoming committee, land acknowledgement, new trip leader guidelines, new field trips that accommodate people with disabilities, Pride month programming
- Questions? Email Jack Alvo at [diversity@ofoc.ca](mailto:diversity@ofoc.ca)





## The Year in Review

- OFO News (published Feb., June and Oct.)
  - Jean Iron and Geoff Carpentier have retired from their roles as editorial consultants for OFO News and Michelle Martin and Mark Field have joined
  - Bruce Kirkland, Angie Williams and Michael Olsen continue to edit and coordinate the newsletter





# The Year in Review

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- Ontario Birds
  - 25 authors contributed to the last 3 issues (Dec., April and Aug.)
  - Chris Risley (10 years) and John Black (1 year) are retiring, and Becky Stewart, Brandon Edwards and Jackson Kusack are stepping in as editors; Chip Weseloh continues
- Fundraising – We welcome **Pelee Wings** as a major sponsor for the 2022 OFO Convention, and want to thank **Vortex Canada** for their continuing support of OFO News and Ontario Birds







# The Year in Review

- Field trips
  - A full schedule this year!
  - Numbers have been limited so fully subscribed
- Young Birders
  - Canada Jay weekend (Thanks Lynne)
  - Birdathon (Thanks Max and Gis Segler)
  - OFO Camp





# The Year in Review

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- Ambassador Program
  - Kirtland's Warbler (thanks Mike Burrell)
  - Marsh Sandpiper (thanks James Holdsworth, Bill Weber, Annie Goulden)
  - Looking for more ambassadors
- OBRC
  - The 2021 Ontario Bird Records Committee reviewed 176 records of which 87% were accepted.
  - Anthony Kaduck new secretary (thanks Brett Fried and Mike Burrell)
  - Nicole Richardson new chair (thanks Mark Read)
  - Amanda Guercio and Michelle Martin new voting members



Kirtland's Warbler, Matt Parsons



A European Starling bird is perched on a branch of a tree, surrounded by numerous small, round, red berries. The bird has a black head and neck with a white stripe through its eye, and its body is covered in iridescent, shimmering feathers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a wall or sky.

## Financial Report for 2021 – Brian Gibbon, Treasurer

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- Ended the year with a profit (\$18,810)
- Membership dues up by \$7543
- Donations down \$2133
- Journal costs have dropped by \$5186 and newsletter costs by \$3003
  - This is due to many members electing to receive these electronically
  - Costs of printing continue to spiral upwards



# Financial Report Motion

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- Motion to accept the Financial Report for 2021 – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Jack Alvo
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





# Board and Committee Reports

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- Motion to accept the Sept. 2022 Board and Committee Reports – Jeff Skevington
- Secunder – Gis Segler
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain







Board of Directors 2022-2023



# Major change to the Board

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- In April, 2022, Lynne Freeman stepped down as President and Jeff Skevington assumed that role
  - Lynne served as President for 7-1/2 years and remains on the Board as a Director-at large





# Lynne

- Started the young birders programme and camp
- Instigated our EDI journey
- Recruited a terrific Board
- Is full of amazing ideas, and equally good at execution
- Participated in many meetings to help move things forward (e.g. OFO News, finance committee, one-on-one meetings with Board members and others)
- Documented a lot of procedures so OFO is not entirely reliant on her
- Updated guidance for OFO trip leaders and for trip descriptions (e.g. accessibility, information on washrooms, ease of trails, benches, etc.)
- Developed a broad swath of contacts in the birding community outside OFO
- Represented OFO on the Atlas project
- Personally responded to many emails to OFO, including enquiries from the press
- Increased the OFO presence in Northern Ontario resulting in the Sault-St. Marie Birding Festival in 2020, more northern Ontario birding trips and increased participation from Northern Ontario birders







# Leaving the Board

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- In March, 2022, Bob Cermak retired from the Board after eight years of dedicated service in a variety of roles (VP, convention organizer, mailing of OFO news and Ontario Birds)
  - Bob continues to play a role but has more time for himself
  - **Thank you for your time, commitment, and everything you have done for OFO!**





# Elected to the Board in 2022

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- Colleen Reilly (March 2022)
- Marcie Jacklin (June 2022)



# Standing for re-election in 2022

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- Jack Alvo
  - Jack has served on the OFO Board since 2019 as Secretary. Since fall, 2020, he has also played a lead role in OFO's efforts on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Dave Milsom
  - Dave has served the board since 1999 and organizes our field trips (including this weekends and the Gull weekend).
- Sarah Rupert
  - Sarah has served on the OFO Board since 2016 and is currently responsible for publicity and communications.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher,  
Richard Skevington





## Nomination to the Board of Directors

- No nominations have been received from the membership



# Re-Election Motion – Jack Alvo

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



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Jeff Skevington



# Re-Election Motion – Dave Milsom

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- Motion to accept the re-election of Dave Milsom – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Jack Alvo
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





# Re-Election Motion – Sarah Rupert

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- Motion to accept the re-election of Sarah Rupert – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder – Susan Nagy
- Discussion
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Jeff Skevington





# Impending changes to the board

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- **Brian Gibbon**
  - Brian has served on the board since 2009 as our Treasurer. He has also handled the finances around the convention most years. This is a tough job, and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his service.
  - Brian plans to continue for about 3 months in this position as we find a replacement and he trains them.





## Priorities for Next Year - Discussion

- Continue EDI efforts to increase accessibility and inclusion
- Continue the Young Birders program – next camp possibly at Hilliardton Marsh
- Increase volunteer ranks – call for volunteers!
- Strengthen Ambassador program and Birding Buddies
- Education and events, in particular for new members
- Redesign website
- Endowment program?



# Motion to adjourn the 2022 AGM

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- Motion to adjourn the 2022 AGM – Jeff Skevington
- Seconder –
- Vote by Members
  - In favour
  - Opposed
  - Abstain





# Certificates of Appreciation





# About OFO Certificates of Appreciation

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Each year, OFO recognizes individuals and organizations for their contribution to the birds and birding community of Ontario.

Nominations, with supporting justification, can be submitted at anytime. Nominations are voted on by the board.

We are grateful to this year's recipients for their contributions and achievements.



Prothonotary Warbler, Jeff Skevington



## Meet Dan Chronowic, Certificates of Appreciation Coordinator

Dan Chronowic is an elementary school teacher with a passion for ornithology. He completed his Master of Science (M.Sc.) in 2019, which examined Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) detectability and occurrence.





# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Mike Cadman**, *nominated*  
*by Lynne Freeman* – For the  
successful stewardship of  
the first three Ontario  
Breeding Bird Atlases.





# Certificates of Appreciation

**John Challis**, *nominated by Dave Milsom* – For allowing birders to freely access his Washago, Ontario yard in winter of 2022 to view a long-staying Townsend's Solitaire.





## Certificates of Appreciation

**Anthony Glenesk,**  
*nominated by Ken  
MacDonald* – For finding  
and sharing rare birds at  
his favourite patch,  
Lawson Line, in Simcoe  
County (White-winged  
Dove, Nelson's Sparrows,  
etc.).





# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Tim Haan**, *nominated by Mike Burrell* – For creating a web-based tool that showed the weekly and cumulative summaries of the Winter Birding Challenge.



# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Georg Hentsch**, *nominated by Susan Nagy* – For his hospitality in allowing birders to access his yard to view a Golden-crowned Sparrow in Waterloo, Ontario.



Golden-crowned Sparrow, Georg Hentsch



# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Karl Konze**, *nominated by Jack Alvo* – For discovering, identifying and facilitating viewing of a first winter Golden-crowned Sparrow at the allotment gardens next to Rosetta McClain Gardens in Toronto, Ontario.





# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Noam Markus and Clyde E. Robinson**, *nominated by Gis Siegler* – For facilitating the removal of the frisbee golf course at West Woodbine Beach in Toronto, Ontario to protect a seasonally flooded dune and meadow habitat.





# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Sonya Richmond and Sean Morton**, *nominated by Angie Williams* – For their leadership and dedication to promote bird conservation and ornithological research through their #Hike4Birds across the Trans Canada Trail.





# Certificates of Appreciation

**Dan Strickland,**  
*nominated by Jim  
Richards* – For the  
research and determined  
work that led to the  
name change of Gray Jay  
back to Canada Jay.





# Certificates of Appreciation

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**Mayor of Lambton Shores, Bill Weber, and his staff, *nominated by Jeff Skevington*** – For allowing birders to access Thedford Lagoons to view the Marsh Sandpiper in Lambton County.



*Marsh Sandpiper  
Thedford, Ontario  
May 1, 2022*



# Award of Special Merit

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*Nominated by Lynne Freeman*, this award is being presented to **Barry Kent MacKay**, for the dedication and tireless amount of work he performs devoted to the welfare of birds and other wildlife. This award also recognizes Barry's continuous support of OFO through the generous donation of striking and original artwork for the covers of Ontario Birds and other deeds.

## ONTARIO BIRDS

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 2  
AUGUST 2019





Thanks to our  
members for  
keeping our  
society  
strong!



Least Bittern, Richard Skevington