
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This edition will mark further changes for the Blue Jay. I have now accepted the post of Program Manager, Environmental Management Systems Registration at the Canadian General Standards Board in the National Capital Region. This means I can no longer continue as editor. I do not live in the prairies. Anna and Ted Leighton have agreed to take over as joint editors for the June issue. However this cannot happen until Anna's commitment as Editor of Birds of Saskatoon is complete. I will stay as editor then, until the December issue. Stuart Houston and Joe Schmutz have volunteered to assist me, especially with the September issue. The March issue was prepared between myself, Stephanie, with input from Stuart Houston. Wayne Harris contributed his excellent summaries of the Christmas Bird and Mammal Counts.

It is heartwarming to have talented people come forward and assume these responsibilities. It has transformed what could have been a crisis into a smooth - we hope! - transition. This is a clear sign of the health of our organization.

There will be many things I will miss when I finally resign as editor (and only one I will not miss is stripping format codes!). I have particularly enjoyed working with the authors. We have had many fine and fascinating articles in these last few years. I have had the extra pleasure of discussing these manuscripts directly with their creators. I have also shuffled some material between myself and my colleague, Dr. Francis Cook, editor of the Canadian Field Naturalist (CFN) (incidentally I have already volunteered to re-join the Publications Board of the Ottawa Field Naturalists. publishers of CFN).

Anna and Ted will, I know, be excellent editors and I hope they get as much out of their work as I did. I wish them all the best.

Blue Jay has used the term "herp(e)tile" for some time. There have been two occasions in the last two years when the spelling has been challenged. I finally decide to discuss this with Dr. Francis Cook, ex-Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the National Museum and Editor of the Canadian Field Naturalist. Francis tells me that "herp(e)tile" is not a real word. It is an unacceptable combination of Greek and Latin (hepetazoa would be better). Blue Jay does not typically use slang terms, so hence forth herpetile will be replaced by "reptiles and amphibians."

Sincerely,

Roy D. John

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