



**61st ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC
SOCIETY OF FISH & WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS**

AND THE

**2024 ANNUAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE OF THE
MERSEY TOBEATIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE**



Digby Pines Resort, 103 Shore Road, Digby, Nova Scotia B0V 1A0

Draft agenda (presenter's name is in **bold**, student presentations are indicated by an *****)

Monday, October 28, 2024 - Grand Lounge and Veranda	
5-8 PM	<i>Arrival, Registration, and Informal Icebreaker (Cash bar)</i>
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 - Digby Hall, main floor, unless otherwise noted	
8:00 AM	<i>Registration</i>
8:30 AM	Conference opening, welcome (President, ASWB; Chair, MTRI Board) and plenary address
9:45 AM	Oral Presentation Session 1
	Shawn R. Craik: <i>Conspecific brood parasitism in Red-breasted Mergansers: parasite behaviour, fitness costs, and host response</i>
	*Alina Rutherford, Michael D. Robertson, Dave Shutler: <i>Changing vertical substrate colour to reduce seabird collisions caused by artificial light</i>
	Kira Nixon, Fen Boates-Bishop, *Emily M. Dawe, Maeve Bishop: <i>Water Quality and Riparian Restoration in the Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed</i>
10:30 AM	<i>Health break</i>
10:45 AM	Oral Presentation Session 2
	*Kiirsti C. Owen, Nic R. McLellan, Mark L. Mallory, and Joseph J. Nocera: <i>Wetland bird use of coastal impoundments and response to experimental manipulation of water-levels in Southeastern New Brunswick</i>
	*Meghan C.M. Oliver and Joseph J. Nocera: <i>Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>) site selection is a multiscale process in highly fragmented</i>
	*Madeline A.E. Parlee, Joseph J. Nocera: <i>Effects of spruce budworm insecticides on the fitness of specialist North American wood-warblers</i>
	Heather Polowyk, Allison MacKay: <i>Adapting living shorelines to protect Bank Swallow nesting habitat</i>
12:00 noon	<i>Lunch (buffet, included with registration)</i>
1:00 PM	Oral Presentation Session 3
	Grace R. Bowen-MacLean: <i>Fish habitat restoration and enhancement in the Fales River sub-watershed</i>
	*Félix E. Sauriol, Brandon R. Nilsen, Trevor S. Avery: <i>Seasonal migration and habitat use of Chain Pickerel in George Lake, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site</i>

	*Keeler J. Colton , Samuel N. Andrews, Levi Cliche, Micheal J.W. Stokesbury, Trevor S. Avery: <i>Seasonal residency and overwintering behaviour of Striped Bass (<i>Morone saxatilis</i>) in the Annapolis River, Nova Scotia</i>
	*Eleanor Glahn , Laura Bourque, Mark Fast: <i>Assessing the status of Cotton-Wool Disease (<i>Oomycosis</i>) in Brook and Rainbow Trout in PEI Rivers</i>
2:00 PM	ASFWB Annual General Meeting
3:00 PM	<i>Health break</i>
3:30 PM	Oral Presentation Session 4
	Malcolm Fenech , Jessica Poirier, Seth Doucette, Erica Anderson: <i>Current Mikjij/Wood Turtle (<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>) monitoring and conservation strategies in Unama'ki</i>
	Jessica Ferguson , Lori Phinney: <i>Utilizing eDNA technology to identify presence of Eastern Ribbonsnake (<i>Thamnophis saurita septentrionalis</i>) in Nova Scotia</i>
	Lisa I Doucette , Doug Hynes, Karel Allard: <i>Use of environmental DNA to detect invasive terrestrial mammals on coastal islands</i>
	Ashlea Viola , Nina Newington, Jonathan Riley, Steven Selva, Lisa Proulx: <i>Bursting the stubble bubble: citizen scientists measure ecological continuity near Goldsmith Lake, Nova Scotia using calicioid lichens and fungi</i>
4:30 PM	Poster Session - Salon B/C, lower level, Digby Hall (<i>Cash bar</i>) Poster presenters are listed at the end of the agenda
7:00 PM	Banquet, Silent Auction, and Live Music - Digby Hall, main floor (<i>Cash bar</i>)
Wednesday, October 30, 2024 - Digby Hall, main floor	
9:00 AM	Oral Presentation Session 5
	Kevin S. Keys : <i>Ecological forestry research on small private woodlots in Nova Scotia</i>
	Julie-Lynn Zahavich : <i>The PEI forested landscape priority place for species at risk initiative</i>
	Cindy Staicer , Emilie McBeath, Abby Lewis: <i>Insights into natural cavity use by Chimney Swifts in a working forest in Kespukwitk</i>
	John F. Kearney , The Listening Together Project: <i>A baseline study of breeding bird populations in Eastern Hemlock stands at the onset of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation in Nova Scotia</i>
10:30 AM	<i>Health break</i>
10:45 AM	Oral Presentation Session 6
	Carter Feltham : <i>A preliminary look at Monarch preferences for milkweed in Nova Scotia</i>
	Jason I. Airst , Tricia B. Fleming: <i>Spatial predictors of human-black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>) interactions in Nova Scotia, Canada</i>
	Jason Airst and Jenna M. Priest : <i>Cape Breton moose (<i>Alces alces andersoni</i>) aerial survey results 2020 to 2024</i>
	Nick Hill , Brad Toms, Olivia G.K. Burchell, Crystal L. Doggett: <i>Protecting lake shorelines in Kespukwitk, Southwest Nova Scotia, through ecological services, education, best management practices and promotion of restoration</i>
11:45 AM	Student Awards and Closing Remarks

List of poster presentations

Erica Anderson , Malcolm Fenech, Brea Sampson-MacDonald, Peter Burchill: <i>Nova Scotia Biodiversity Connection</i>
Laura F.J. Carter : <i>Woodlands for wildlife: incentivizing species at risk conservation on private woodlands in Kespukwitk</i>
Cody N. Chapman , Dr. N. Kirk Hillier, Dr. Matthew Smith: <i>Arthropods in mature eastern hemlock forests: assessing the non-target effects of basal bark imidacloprid application for control of hemlock woolly adelgid on forest floor and canopy arthropod fauna in southwestern Nova Scotia</i>
M.J. Levi Cliche , Grace R. Bowen-MacLean, and Rachel M. Walsh: <i>Monitoring the Annapolis River estuary's salt wedge dynamics</i>
*Jacob M. Comeau-Ouellette , Mark Mallory, Lee Millett, Glen Parsons, Jason Airst: <i>Cost-effectiveness and accuracy of two methods for fisher (<i>Pekania pennanti</i>) aging</i>
*Geneviève Gauthier , Emily Burt, Rodger Titman, Natalie Thimot, Kyle Wellband, Kyle Elliott, and Shawn Craik: <i>Nest clustering is linked to timing of breeding but is not associated with female genetic relatedness in red-breasted mergansers (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)</i>
Colin B Gray , Jenn Chivers: <i>Setting barn swallows up for success</i>
*Katie King , Gavin Kernaghan, Allison K. Walker: <i>Getting to the root of the problem with terrestrial orchid conservation: identifying the fungal symbionts of ram's-head lady slipper (<i>Cypripedium arietinum</i>) in Nova Scotia</i>
*Madeleine Kurtz , *Siobhan Herold: <i>Spatial ecology of the Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>) and insect prey abundance in the Halifax Backlands</i>
Emilie McBeath , Caleb Gibbons, Cindy Staicer: <i>Foraging behaviour explains characteristics of Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>) breeding habitat in Nova Scotia</i>
Shaeralee McCutcheon , Jessica Ferguson, Jessie Pearson: <i>Identifying strategies to improve biodiversity stewardship in agro-ecosystems within the Kespukwitk Priority Place</i>
Jeffie A. McNeil , Thomas B. Herman, Carter Feltham, Trevor Avery, Norman W. Green, and Matthew J. Smith: <i>Hatching success and variability across three Blanding's Turtle sub-populations in 2024</i>
Lori Phinney , Megan Gallant, Carter Feltham, Jeffie McNeil, Dr. Julia Riley: <i>Improving mark-recapture techniques for Eastern Ribbonsnake (<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>): a pilot study using pit tags in Atlantic Canada</i>
Lori Phinney , Brad Toms, Ershiya Bagheri, Cori Olson, and Karen Vanderwolf: <i>Late summer use of patio umbrellas and other non-traditional roosts of bats in Canada through community science</i>
*Alexis Saulnier , Sophie Landry, Daphnée Ouellet, Luc Bilodeau, Macy d'Eon, Alix d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Mark Mallory, Julie McKnight, Pam Mills, Shawn Craik: <i>Diet and foraging routes of Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns in Lobster Bay, Nova Scotia</i>
Chad Simmons , Jeffie McNeil, Crystal Doggett, and Abby Lewis: <i>Evaluating the impact of nearby forestry harvesting and conservation buffers on forested wetlands in Nova Scotia</i>
*Delbert T. Swinemar , Linda Campbell, Darrin Reid: <i>The shifting trophodynamics in four southern nova scotia lakes after the introduction of chain pickerel (<i>Esox niger</i>)</i>
Brad Toms : <i>A decadal study of threats to Pink Coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>) and Plymouth Gentian (<i>Sabbatia kennedyana</i>) on lakes in Kespukwitk, Nova Scotia</i>
Brad Toms : <i>The current status of Boreal Felt Lichen (<i>Erioderma pedicellatum</i>) and other lichens of conservation concern</i>
*Dani Warren , Christopher Edge, Joesph Nocera: <i>Influence of forest structure on terrestrial microhabitat use and movement patterns of Eastern Gray Treefrogs</i>

Note about Meals: The lunch on Oct 29 and Health breaks are covered by registration fees. Tickets to the dinner banquet must be purchased on the ASFWB website by Oct 20. Participants are responsible for their own dinner on Oct 28, their own breakfasts (a Breakfast Buffet is available at Churchill's Restaurant 7-10 AM each day) and their own lunch after the meeting concludes on Oct 30.