Wildlife Photography in Ottawa and Gatineau

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My Background

- Interested in nature from youth
- Initially photographed sports and filmed for research
- Retired and engaged in wildlife photography
- Joined FWG, then OFNC, and ODC
- Started giving wildlife tours and talks — added videography to enhance presentations
My Camera

- Hand held, rarely use tripod
- Natural lighting, occasionally use a flash
- Canon Powershot SX50 HS
  - wide-angle to 50x optical zoom (24–1200 mm)
  - close focussing to 0 cm (macro)
  - viewfinder (poor visually) and large LCD display with articulating screen (vari-angle)
  - HD video to 30 fps
OFNC’s birding code of conduct. Applies to other wildlife.

- Always consider your impact on birds.
- Keep a good distance away and do not linger.
- If you note any signs of agitation from the bird, move away immediately.
- Do not announce the location of RARE breeding birds.
- Avoid flushing birds.
- Stay on established trails.
- Stay away from active nests.
- Do NOT collect specimens.
Some local wildlife locations

- Shirleys Bay Crown Game Preserve (open to OFNC and ODC members)
- Gatineau Park
- Petrie Island Park
- Britannia Conservation Area (Mud Lake)
- Central Experimental Farm & Fletcher Wildlife Garden
- Mer Bleue Conservation Area
Central Experimental Farm and vicinity

- Central Experimental Farm
- Agricultural Museum
- Vincent Massey Park
- Hog's Back Park and falls
- Dominion Arboretum
- Dow's Lake
- Fletcher Wildlife Garden
Arboretum (tree park)
Pine Grosbeak, male, eating seeds from crabapples
Fletcher Wildlife Garden off Prince of Wales opposite Agriculture Museum
Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Breeding birds
Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Migrating birds

Bohemian Waxwings, stop by to feed during winter migration. Look for them around the fruit trees like crabapples.
Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Nest building or insect hunting

Note, call and drum are from a different Pileated Woodpecker. Downy and Hairy are always present.
Grey and Red Squirrels present all year, check feeders and forests. Chipmunks and Groundhogs hibernate.
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were a hit in summer, feeding on flowers such as Butterflybush, Phlox, and Dame’s Rocket
Petrie Island Park

Includes 6 trails, 2 beaches for swimming, picnic tables. Excellent for mammals, turtles, birds, insects and wildflowers.
Petrie Island Park – Turtles

Northern Map Turtles

Painted Turtles
Great Blue Heron – eating a fish
What is this? A beaver?
Britannia Conservation Area, Park and Beach (Mud Lake)

- Ridge
- Water treatment plant
- Park and beach
- Mud Lake
Mud Lake – Snapping Turtles
Runner-up Prize at OFNC Awards Night 2019
Mud Lake – fauna

- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Muskrat
- Painted & Blanding’s Turtles
- Wood Duck
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Cottontail Rabbit
Mer Bleue Conservation Area, part of the Greenbelt – NCC

Prescott-Russell Recreation Trail – walking, biking, horse riding

Dolman-Ridge Road – walking, skiing, snowshoeing

Dewberry Trail – walking, skiing

P50/P51 – walking and ski trails

Bog Trail/P53 – walking, skiing, picnicking
Mer Bleue Conservation Area – Bog Trail
Mer Bleue Conservation Area – Bog Trail – carnivorous plants

Three types of carnivorous plants.

- Round-leaved Sundew
- Purple Pitcherplant
- Common Bladderwort
Mer Bleue Conservation Area – Dewberry Trail

Three types of trilliums on this trail. Used by skiers in winter.

Great White Trillium

Red Trillium

Painted Trillium
Gatineau Park

- Gatineau Park
- Champlain Lookout
- Mackenzie King Estate
- Lac Phillipe beach
- Meech Lake beach
- Visitor Centre
- Pink Lake and trail (no dogs)
Gatineau Park – Champlain Lookout
Gatineau Park –
Cross-country trails and chalets

Barred Owl (Hoot Owl)
Gatineau Park – Pink Lake has rare three-spined stickleback fish
Gatineau Park – Beaver, in winter
Gatineau Park – butterflies

Great Spangled Fritillary

White Admiral

Compton Tortoiseshell

Red Admiral
Shirleys Bay Crown Game Preserve

- Lac Deschênes IBA
- South March Highlands Conservation Forest
- The “causeway”
- Innis Point Bird Observatory (bird banding)
- Hilda Road bird feeders (winter)
- Boat launch and picnic shelter
- Eagle’s nest

Causeway restricted to OFNC members. Ottawa Duck Club members may access whole area.
Shirleys Bay – way to causeway
Shirleys Bay – flora and fauna

Showy Lady’s-slipper, Wood Lily, Leopard Frog, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Great Blue Heron & Great Egret
Concerns – Ticks & Lyme disease
Concerns – Poison Ivy
Winter Sites – Adàwe Crossing over Rideau River

- Barrow’s Goldeneye, male
- Common Goldeneye, females
- Common Goldeneye, males
Winter Sites – Adàwe Crossing over Rideau River
Winter Sites – Billings Bridge (1000 Mallards plus)
Winter Sites – Hilda Road feeders, Shirley’s Bay
Winter Sites –
Fletcher Wildlife Garden
Winter Sites – Dewberry Trail feeder, Mer Bleue
Clubs and Organizations

- Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club (>150 years old!)
  ofnc.ca
- Ottawa Duck Club (not a hunting club)
  ottawaduckclub.com
- Friends of the Central Experimental Farm – flowers, trees
- Friends of Petrie Island
- Friends of Gatineau Park
- eBird – citizen science, birds
- iNaturalist – citizen science, all life
Questions?

Great Horned Owl at Fletcher Wildlife Garden