



OFO NEWS

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New President's Message

Chris Escott

It is with a mixed sense of excitement and trepidation that I have taken over the position of President of OFO. I'm excited because this is a vibrant and growing organization that is really going places, and it is an honour for me to be selected as one of its leaders. I'm also excited because our Board of Directors is a terrific group of people and I'm looking forward to working with them. I'm a little frightened as well by the magnitude of the task before me, and I hope I can measure up to the high standard set by my predecessor Jean Iron.

Jean has been President for as long as I have served on the Board, in fact one year longer as I've been around for just eight years so far. Over that period I've seen our numbers grow to over 1,000 memberships; our finances are in great shape; *Ontario Birds* has become a journal to be proud of both in content and presentation; *OFO News* is now a vital publication and I look forward to every issue; our fabulous website and *Ontbirds* listserv have carried us into the internet age in style; our Annual Conventions have become hugely popular, as have our many field trips; and the OBRC continues to do a stellar job. Everywhere I look I see the signs of a healthy organization, and a great deal of credit for that belongs to Jean.

What do I see on the horizon for OFO? Certainly I see more of the same, because we've got a good thing going and I don't plan to change that. I also hope to continue to build on our strengths. We've kept dues low by growing the membership base, and at the same time offering top value for the membership dollar, and we will continue to strive for this in the future. It is a combination that is hard to beat.

I first joined the Board because I appreciated everything OFO had given me over the years, and I wanted to give something back. I'd love to hear from any of you that feel the same way. I hope you, the members, appreciate the efforts of everyone on the Board of Directors, our committees and our publications. These folks put in a great deal of effort for you, the members, and without their tireless devotion we would not be as strong as we are. Let us celebrate their contribution, and your support, as we move forward. Feel free to send me questions or suggestions by email. My electronic door is always open at chris@escott.ca

Solunar Birding

Ron Pittaway

I remember fishing trips as a boy with my late uncle Norm Taylor, an expert woodsman, to secret lakes in the Gatineau Hills of Quebec. My uncle always cut out the solunar tables from the Ottawa newspaper. We rarely missed our limit of trout. Solunar tables list the times each day when fish and wildlife are most active. As the name solunar suggests, times are based on sunrise, sunset, phase of the moon, moonrise, moonset, and time of year. Solunar tables are used by anglers and hunters, so why not birders?

Date	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
6 Nov	N/A	6:07	12:18	6:30
7 Nov	12:37	6:48	12:59	7:10
13 Nov	5:06	11:22	5:37	11:52
14 Nov	6:12	12:04	6:44	12:28
20 Nov	12:00	6:11	12:23	6:35
21 Nov	12:42	6:53	1:04	7:15
27 Nov	4:53	11:05	5:18	11:30
28 Nov	5:45	11:58	6:11	N/A

Major activity periods begin at the times listed and last about 2 hours. Minor periods last about 1 hour. The above solunar times are for the four weekends in November 2004, including the OFO gull trip to Niagara on Sunday 28 November. Plan to be birding or owling so that you are in prime areas during peak times. Solunar tables for each upcoming week accompany John Kerr's outdoors column every Thursday in the Toronto Sun. Let me know if using solunar times improves your birding.

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