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Dark-eyed Junco - Garibaldi Park, B.C., August 1998
(photo by Steve Ogle)

[Our first B.C. cover picture, to accompany reports on our first B.C. Conference - see pp. 2-23]

Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

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1999 SCIENTIFIC AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING "THE SCIENCE OF SAVING BIRD SPECIES" MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

The S.C.O. is delighted to announce that the 1999 meeting will be held at McGill University, Montréal, 4-6 August. The symposium focus of endangered species is expected to attract many excellent speakers and to provide the core of an S.C.O. publication. Organizers can provide opportunities for meetings of special interest groups before the S.C.O. meeting but need to be informed early.

Further details will be provided in the spring *Picoides* and *Ornithological Newsletter*. Meanwhile, mark these dates in your calendar and plan to be there.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of you who were unable to make the Vancouver Meeting missed a fine series of talks, and also some excellent field trips and remarkable weather. I was lucky enough to find a place on the Gulf Islands trip that explored the seas around Mandarte Island and spent several hours ashore on Sidney Island, field site for the work described in Rob Butler's fine book *The Great Blue Heron*. This was a priceless opportunity to visit some field sites famous in Canadian ornithology as well as to see some remarkable birds that we easterners only read of. To see a tight pack of 50+ Rhinoceros Auklets diving almost in unison, and many scattered pairs of Marbled Murrelets, in the same day was a truly memorable experience. The two days of talks were rounded off by a fine banquet in an incredible setting overlooking Vancouver; the presentation of awards culminated in the revelation that Jamie Smith's trademark Scottish accent is really an affectation - he does know how to speak in a proper English accent!

The fun component of any meeting is important, but we also made some changes to the Society that move us forward. We agreed to join the Ornithological Council, which will host a Web site for us, and are looking for volunteers to set up that Web site. To help us launch a journal in the near future we increased membership fees, but took care to establish a student

rate that will ensure there is no financial barrier to younger ornithologists joining the Society. We also have been very fortunate to secure the enthusiastic agreement of members in Québec, notably Gilles Seutin and Jean-Pierre Savard, to host next year's meeting in Montréal. We hope that the theme of Endangered Species, and the location, will attract not only sponsors and a high quality of papers, but an increased attendance by members.

In view of the increased importance of the Annual Meeting to the Society, your Council has established a Meetings Committee which will be chaired by the President and will include the organizers of the previous meeting and the next, to maintain continuity and ensure that hard lessons of meeting organization learnt by one set of organizers do not have to be re-learned by the next.

I repeat my challenge to you all to recruit at least two new members by the end of the year. We all know active ornithologists who are not S.C.O. members but have a lot to contribute to the Society. To build on our increasing commitment to annual meetings, publications, and membership in the wider North American ornithological community, we MUST increase our membership and the revenues it brings - so please get out there and recruit!

