PICOIDES

Bulletin of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists **Picoides, March 2008**
Bulletin de la Société des Ornithologistes du Canada **Volume 21, Number 1**

Northern Saw whet Owl. Photo by Larry Halverson

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Tufted Puffins. Photo by Alan Burger.

Editor's Message

Happy Spring and welcome to the first issue of *Picoides* of 2008! I hope Santa was good to you all last Christmas!

Please find notices about the call for Jamie Smith and Doris H. Speirs award nominations and SCO-SOC councillors and Vice President nominations. Please put forward some nominations! Also inside this issue are a student award report, several research reports, thesis abstracts and some poems. Also please check out the many other ornithological articles and notices in this issue.

Our letter to the Prime Minister highlighting our concerns about Canadian Wildlife Service last year is still very timely as shown by the scathing editorial in the 21 February 2008 issue of Nature criticizing the federal government's hostile approach to science as a whole. We must continue to work together with others to educate senior politicians and policy makers about the importance of science and monitoring and how they can fit with their environmental agenda. These vitally important environmental and conservation activities require adequate and timely infrastructure, fiscal and human resources. Without good information, sound environmental policy cannot be made. We should also stress to them the fact they have excellent and committed staff in Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada, Natural Resources Canada and other federal department and agencies doing very important and significant work.

I hope all SCO-SOC members consider taking a day in May to go birding for fun and raise money for ornithological research and your local bird observatory through the Baillie Birdathon!

Please take note of photo submission guidelines on page 10. On a final note, I need all members to continue to submit material and I welcome your feedback to improve *Picoides*. After all, it is your publication. I look forward to hearing from you. Have a safe, wonderful and fun spring!

Cheers,

Rob Warnock
Picoides
Editor

Male Pine Grosbeak. Photo by Kevin Kerr.

PLEASE NOTE THE PICOIDES DEADLINES! Deadlines are now February 15, May 15 and October 15.

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring
Le prix commémoratif Jamie Smith de tutorat en ornithologie
APPEL DE CANDIDATURES 2008 - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS in 2008

In recognition of Jamie Smith's contribution to fostering ornithological research, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists has created The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring in Ornithology.

This award honours established ornithologists - either in academia, industry, non-government or government agencies - nominated by student, colleagues and/or peers to have displayed excellence in mentoring a new generation of professional or amateur biologists. The award will be presented to the recipient at the Society's annual meeting.

Nomination: Details concerning nominations can be found online at http://www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/mentoring_award.htm.

A cover letter {max 1000 words) outlining why the nominee should receive the distinction should accompany the nomination and should be supported by three nominators.

Deadline for submission of nominations is 15 April 2008.

En reconnaissance des efforts de Jamie Smith qui a toujours encouragé la recherche en ornithologie, la Société des ornithologistes du Canada a créé le prix Jamie Smith de tutorat en ornithologie.

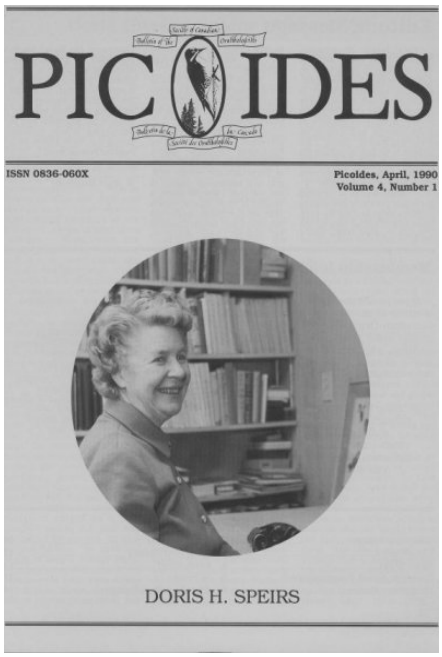
Ce prix honorera des ornithologues reconnu(e)s – qui ont œuvré dans l'enseignement, dans l'industrie, dans des organisations non-gouvernementales ou des agences gouvernementales – mis en nomination par des étudiants, par des collègues ou par leurs pairs pour avoir fait preuve d'excellence dans le tutorat auprès d'une nouvelle génération de biologistes amateurs ou professionnels. Le prix sera remis au cours de la réunion annuelle de la Société.

Nominations : la façon de procéder est décrite à www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/mentoring_award.htm

Une lettre de présentation (1000 mots maximum) justifiant le fait que la personne candidate devrait recevoir ce prix devra accompagner la mise en nomination; celle-ci devra être appuyée par trois personnes. **La date limite pour soumettre une candidature est 15 avril 2008.**

Nominations should be sent to: Les mises en nomination doivent être envoyées à :

Ken Otter
Chair· Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award Committee
Ecosystem Science & Management Program
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way. Prince George. BC. V2N 4Z9 e-mail; otterK@unbc.ca



CALL for NOMINATIONS: D.H. SPEIRS AWARD

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. Previous winners include both professional and amateur ornithologists. Nominations for the 2008 award may be sent to the Chair of the award committee:

Dr. Marty Leonard
Department of Biology
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J1
Phone: (902) 494-2158; Fax: (902) 494-3736
E-mail: mleonard@dal.ca

Nominations will be accepted until 1 June 2008.

For more information on the award go to: http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs_award.htm

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SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS AND VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Would you like to serve your organization? Would you like to nominate someone to serve your organization? The SCO is seeking nominations for positions of Vice President/President-Elect and up to five Councillors. Please send me nominations, preferably by e-mail, and do not be shy to nominate yourself. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THE PERSON YOU NOMINATE IS WILLING TO SERVE AND INCLUDE THEIR EMAIL IN YOUR EMAIL TO ME (david.bird@mcgill.ca). The deadline is Monday, April 14, 2008.

RECHERCHE DE CANDIDAT(E)S AUX POSTES DE CONSEILLERS(ÈRES) ET DE VICE-PRÉSIDENT(E)/PRÉSIDENT(E)-ÉLU(E)

Voulez-vous être impliqué dans la SOC et rendre service ? Voulez-vous mettre en nomination quelqu'un d'autre ? La SOC sollicite actuellement les mises en nomination pour les postes de vice-président(e)/président(e)-élu(e) et de (jusqu'à cinq) conseillers(ères). J'apprécierais si vous pouviez m'envoyer les nominations, de préférence par courriel, et soyez tout à fait à l'aise si vous souhaitez vous mettre vous-même en nomination. S'IL-VOUS-PLAÎT ME CONFIRMER QUE LA PERSONNE MISE EN NOMINATION EST CONSENTANTE ET INCLURE SON ARESSE COURRIEL DANS LE MESSAGE QUE VOUS M'ENVERREZ (david.bird@mcgill.ca). La date limite est le lundi 14 avril 2008.

David M. Bird, Ph.D.
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www.ascc.mcgill.ca

2007 Fred Cooke Award Recipient- Nicole Barker

My research interests include the behavioural ecology, conservation biology, and evolution of songbirds, with specific interest in how species are adapted to their particular environments. One interesting way to investigate the link between a bird species and its environment is to examine how its communication may be adapted to certain habitats over others, and this is the focus of my MSc research, using the Rufous-and-white Wren as a model.

Research

For my MSc research, I am asking several questions: 1) Do Rufous-and-white Wrens living in various habitats sing different songs? 2) How do different Rufous-and-white Wren songs propagate through the environment under various conditions? 3) Can Rufous-and-white Wrens implement behavioural tactics to help their songs carry further? This past summer, I collected several hours of recordings and behavioural observations from Rufous-and-white Wrens in Santa Rosa National Park, in Costa Rica. I also conducted a series of transmission experiments where I broadcasted Rufous-and-white Wren songs from speakers at various heights to microphones at matching heights. I will answer question 1 by comparing the repertoires and fine structure of songs collected in various habitats. For question 2, I will compare the propagation of songs over different distances in various habitats to assess whether Rufous-and-white Wren song is adapted to specific habitats. Question 3 will be answered by assessing whether songs propagate better from certain perch heights, and comparing these results to my behavioural observations; do Rufous-and-white Wrens sing from heights that maximize the transmission of their songs?

Nicole Barker stetting up microphone. Photo courtesy of Nicole Barker.

Annual Meeting sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des ornithologistes du Canada.

Key Dates
Registration
Early: until 15 April 2008
Regular: until 15 May 2008
Late: after 15 May 2008

Abstract Submission
15 April 2008

Call for Symposia and Workshops
Deadline for submission: 1 December 2007

Silent Auction
AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!! We need donated items for a silent auction. Proceeds will fund student travel to future meetings.

125th Anniversary of AOU
Founded in 1883, the American Ornithologists' Union is the oldest and largest organization in the New World devoted to the scientific study of birds. The 2008 meeting in Portland will mark the 125th anniversary of the AOU's founding.

How Green is Our Meeting
The conference organizers have carefully considered the effects of meeting on our environment and selected the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower because it is a certified green property as well as selecting guidelines to minimize the environmental footprint of our meeting For more information, please see the "How Green is Our Meeting" section in the news and notes area of the web site.

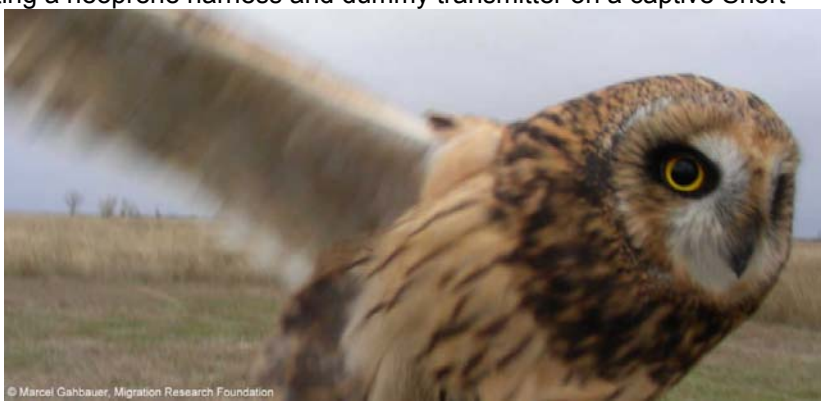
For More Information
For more information, please contact the conference management office by e-mail at pdxbirds08@sgmeet.com or by phone at 1-254-776-3550 or check out the website at: http://www.pdxbirds08.org/.

The Migration Research Foundation tracks Short-eared Owl from Saskatchewan

By Marcel Gahbauer

The Short-eared Owl is listed by COSEWIC as a species of special concern, largely on the basis of significant population declines through much of its range over the past several decades. The causes of the decline are not well understood, though habitat loss is suspected to be a factor, as for many other grassland and wetland species. Part of the problem is that the Short-eared Owl has long been considered nomadic, but there have been very few band recoveries or other data from which to assess their migration and dispersal. It therefore remains difficult to distinguish actual population trends from irregular population movements.

Satellite telemetry has been successfully used to study the movements of various birds, but until recently, Short-eared Owls were too small to safely carry satellite transmitters. Anticipating the development of more lightweight units, the Migration Research Foundation partnered with the Owl Foundation in 2006 to begin testing a neoprene harness and dummy transmitter on a captive Short-eared Owl undergoing rehabilitation. By observing behavioural responses, we refined the design to improve the fit and minimize disturbance. In spring 2007 we acquired a 12-gram transmitter and placed it on a releasable female named "Skor" and monitored her during her flight-training period. Skor had been injured in Saskatchewan, and so was flown back there once ready for release in October. We released her in suitable habitat near Last Mountain Lake, an area in central Saskatchewan known to be frequented by Short-eared Owls.



Skor takes flight at her release site near Last Mountain Lake, SK, October 17, 2007. Photo by Marcel Gahbauer.

A very long 13 days of silence followed until the transmitter finally sent us data – probably a matter of a series of dark and gloomy days keeping the battery from charging. But it was worth the wait, as the data showed that Skor had flown over 1000 km southeast in under two weeks – an especially impressive movement considering that she had spent the previous 18 months undergoing rehabilitation. For two weeks she lingered around southwest Minnesota, then continued another 450 km to southeast Iowa. This time we received several records from the same vicinity over the course of two weeks, leading us to believe she had settled into a winter territory.

Unfortunately, no data have been received since the end of November. Whether this reflects the death of the owl or failure of the transmitter is not clear. To our knowledge, only four Short-eared Owls have previously been tracked by satellite telemetry in North America, by the Canadian Wildlife Service in Alberta, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. All of those have generated limited data, and gaps of weeks or even months between transmissions have been reported, suggesting that the transmitters aren't consistently getting enough access to solar power. We hope that as day length increases in spring we will hear from Skor again and be able to follow her spring movements.

Despite the challenges experienced to date, interest in studying Short-eared Owls via satellite telemetry is growing. The Migration Research Foundation, Canadian Wildlife Service, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation all plan to deploy additional transmitters in 2008

and/or 2009, while Bird Studies Canada and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation will be joining the effort in 2008. We look forward to this collective effort yielding important insights into the movements of Short-eared Owls.

Marcel Gahbauer is Executive Director of the Migration Research Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to studying animal movements in relation to conservation issues. For more details on Skor's movements and future studies, visit the Short-eared Owl section of the MRF website: www.migrationresearch.org/research/shortear.html

Attention Photographers- Submission Guidelines!

To assist the Picoides editor with managing photo submissions, please do following

- Use tiff or jpeg file format
- Minimize file size while maintaining photo quality. This helps keep overall file size down and speed up downloads
- Use descriptive file names. Generic file names from photo software are not very helpful.
- Supply captions for all photos. Good captions include common names of species, names of people, locations, activities, behaviours and dates and very importantly photo credit.

Your submissions are greatly appreciated and always welcome.

Rob Warnock
Editor of Picoides

Rubber Ducky

By Larry Halverson

This is not your regular rubber ducky in the tub. It is a female Bufflehead, the smallest diving duck in North America (see photo to right). But how did it land up in the bathtub? Well Jim McGilvery, was driving into Invermere, BC, when this chunky ball of feathers dropped out of the sky and tumbled onto the payment in front of Jim's vehicle. Jim quickly stopped traffic to prevent the duck from getting run over. Then he picked up the little duck, which couldn't fly, drove home and put it in his bathtub.

Photo courtesy of Larry Halverson.

Buffleheads are agile swimmers and divers but awkward on land because their legs are set well back on their bodies. This leg placement also hinders their ability to get airborne. Instead of springing straight out of the water into flight, as puddle ducks do, diving ducks must run across the water to build up speed before taking off. This explains why the duck couldn't get airborne from the road.

After spending the night at Jim's the Bufflehead was taken back to open water on the Columbia River where it pattered along the water and flew to its "friends" downstream.

It is not known why the duck landed on the road - possibly it hit an overhead power line or may even have mistaken the wet road for water. In any case thanks to Jim the story had a happy ending.

Terrestrial Bird Monitoring in the Mountain National Parks

By Larry Halverson

Park Warden, Harold Abbott setting up the recording instruments in the Floe Lake alpine in Kootenay National Park. Note the UV effects on the lonely, innocent technician. Photo by Harold Abbott.

A new monitoring method for terrestrial birds was implemented last spring in the 7 mountain national parks. It uses bio-acoustics to get an understanding of bird species diversity, abundance and change over time.

Approach:

- transects were established along trails in montane, sub-alpine and alpine ecoregions throughout each park
- each transect consisted of 10 sample sites
- a 10-minute sound recording was made at each sample site
- recordings will be analyzed to identify bird species and numbers

Achievements:

- through a dedicated effort from several Parks Canada staff particularly Harold Abbott, Karen Lassen and Rhonda Owchar for doing the before daybreak field work. - a total of 20 transects and 188 individual sample sites were located, marked and sampled in Yoho and Kootenay National Parks. An additional 150 sites were sampled in Banff National Park .
- the recordings will be analyzed during this winter with results available next spring.

Larry Halverson testing the recording quality for identifying bird species. Photo by Ross McDonald

For a copy of the Monitoring Protocol - Terrestrial Birds reply to Larry Halverson at: larry.halverson@pc.gc.ca.

Alisa Guérette Montminy. Photo supplied by Marcel Darveau

À la mémoire d'Alisa

La Société des ornithologistes du Canada a appris avec beaucoup de regrets le décès d'Alisa Guérette Montminy (1984-2008), membre de la SOC et étudiante à la maîtrise au Centre d'étude de la forêt. Le décès est survenu le mercredi 9 janvier dernier. Elle poursuivait sa recherche de maîtrise sur la *Modélisation de l'utilisation de l'habitat par la sauvagine dans la forêt boréale de l'est de l'Amérique du Nord* sous la direction de Steve Cumming, de l'Université Laval, et de Marcel Darveau, de Canards Illimités Canada. La SCO tient à offrir ses condoléances à la famille et aux proches d'Alisa, ainsi qu'à tous ses collègues et amis.

17 Janvier 2008

Alisa - In memoriam

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists learned with great sorrow the death of Alisa Guérette Montminy (1984-2008), member of SCO and a graduate student at the Centre d'étude de la forêt. She died on Wednesday January 9th, 2008. She was conducting her research for her master degree on the *Modélisation de l'utilisation de l'habitat par la sauvagine dans la forêt boréale de l'est de l'Amérique du Nord* under Steve Cumming, Laval University, and Marcel Darveau, Ducks Unlimited Canada. SCO wishes to offer its condolences to her family, colleagues and friends.

17 January 2008

Woodpeckers are Reliable Indicators of Forest Bird Richness

By Mark Drever and Kathy Martin, University of British Columbia

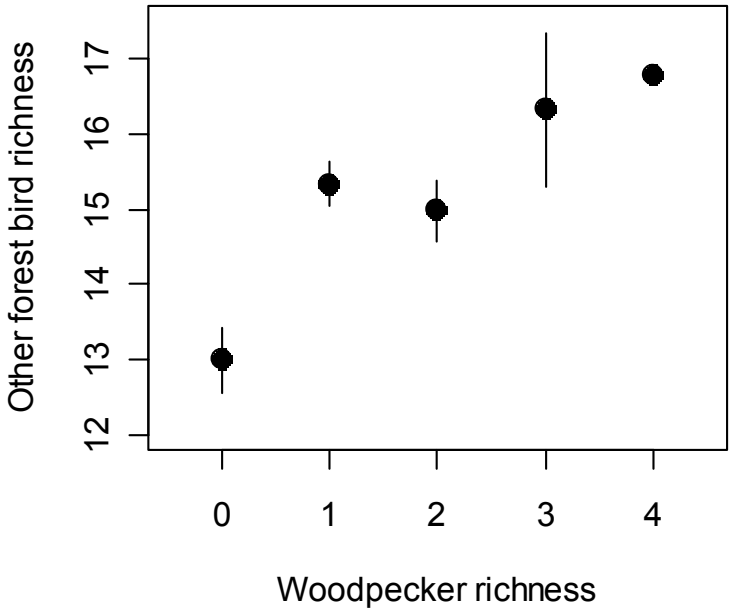
Conservation agencies charged with protecting avian biodiversity often turn to indicator species whose status are meant to represent the condition of the entire ecosystem, as monitoring and making habitat plans for the hundreds of bird species that are out there would be dizzyingly complex and logistically daunting. Some recent work from our lab suggests managers for forest birds may have one more tool in their kit for monitoring and conservation planning (Drever et al. in press). Using point count data from a long-term study on forest birds in British Columbia, we found that the number of woodpecker species ('woodpecker richness') was correlated with overall number of bird species at individual forest stands ('forest bird richness'). We were alerted to this possibility of this correlation by European studies that documented it at the landscape-level, and because we knew that woodpeckers have a keystone role as excavators of nesting sites for other bird species. We found that this correlation comes about largely because some habitats with high tree diversity are good for both woodpeckers and for forest bird richness. Woodpecker and forest bird richness also respond in the same way to forest harvest, which is a very good trait for an indicator. Interestingly, using subsets of species to represent the full suite of species is an idea that applies to a large variety of taxa, including plants, insects, birds, and small mammals (Vellend et al. 2008). This means that we could find the same relationship for other birds (e.g., warblers) with overall forest bird richness that we found for woodpeckers. But that, well, that's a different research question.

Literature Cited

Drever, M.C., K.E.H. Aitken, A.R. Norris, and K. Martin. 2008. Woodpeckers as reliable indicators of bird richness, forest health and harvest. *Biological Conservation*. In press. doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2007.12.

Vellend, M., P. Lilley, and B.M. Starzomski. 2008. Using subsets of species in biodiversity surveys *Journal of Applied Ecology* 45: 161–169.

Figure 1: Correlation between woodpecker richness and other forest bird richness at all sites 1997 to 2006 (Mean and SE).



Downy Woodpecker. Photo by Mark Drever.

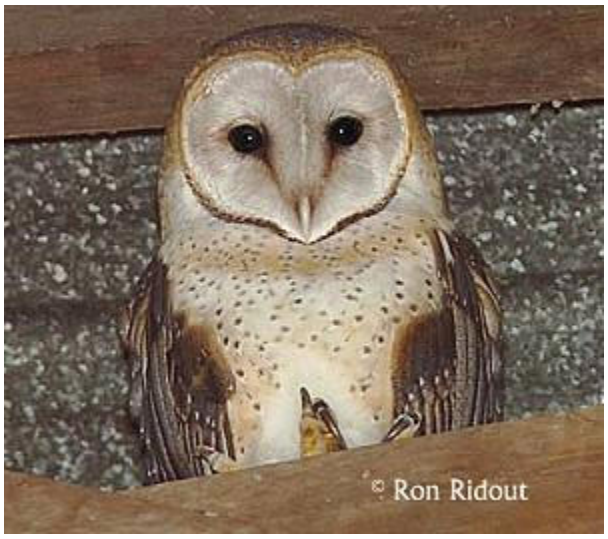
Northern Saw-wet Owl roosting at Radium Hot Springs, BC January 17, 2007

Northern Saw-wet Owls are one of our smallest owls. They are almost entirely nocturnal, spending the day roosting quietly in dense foliage - relying on branches and their plumage for camouflage. When threatened, it will make itself even more difficult to see by elongating its body to look like a tree branch. So these owls are heard more often than seen. Their call sounds like a saw being sharpened which is how the owl got its name.

Northern Saw-wet Owl was the most common owl heard on the BC- Yukon Nocturnal Owl Survey http://www.bsc-eoc.org/download/BCowlnews2007.pdf

Northern Saw whet Owl. Photo by Larry Halverson

Confirmed Breeding of Barn Owl in Southern Ontario in 2007



Barn Owl. Photo by Ron Rideout

Reprinted from Bird Studies Canada e-newsletter February 2008

15 February 2008 – Finally some exciting news on the Barn Owl front in Ontario: in the fall of 2007, a breeding pair was discovered in Haldimand County. They fledged two young successfully. This was a great discovery, as there have been only three confirmed breeding pairs in southern Ontario over the past 20 years. Despite dramatic declines in their native grassland habitat, there are still scattered reports of Barn Owls in the region. Barn Owls are ghostly white underneath, and have beautiful golden-beige flecked upperparts. They have a wonderfully buoyant, moth-like flight as they hunt over rough grassland looking for voles and other small mammals. Your sightings are very important for Barn Owl conservation. Please contact the Barn Owl Recovery Team (barnowl@bsc-eoc.org) if you see a Barn Owl in Ontario, including any road killed birds.

Phainopepla nitens

By Lisa "Cali" Crampton

Phainopeplas (*Phainopepla nitens*) are showy and attractive birds found only in the American Southwest and Mexico. They are the only silky flycatchers (Fam. Ptilogonatidae) that occur outside Mexico and Central/South America. They are similar in size to waxwings, their closest relatives in the USA and Canada, and likewise sport a small crest. Males are glossy black with strongly contrasting white wing patches, and females are shiny steel grey with buffy wing patches. Both sexes have red eyes. Their habitat of perching on top of shrubs and trees and engaging in elaborate flight patterns makes them one of the easiest birds to spot in riparian habitats, as anyone who has birded the mesquite bosques near Tucson, AZ in winter can attest.

Within their range, phainopeplas occupy two very distinct habitats at different times of year. In summer (May/June-Sept/Oct), phainopeplas most commonly inhabit semi-arid montane or coastal woodlands in Mexico, Arizona and California. In fall, phainopeplas move to the Sonoran, Mojave and Colorado deserts. Unusually, these shifts in distribution and habitat coincide with two distinct breeding periods; breeding phainopeplas occur both in spring in the desert *and* summer in the semi-arid woodlands.

Phainopeplas are highly specialized frugivores. Adults eat small fruits almost exclusively, catching insects only during the nesting season. Nestlings eat both insects and small fruits. In their desert habitat, phainopeplas principally eat desert mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*), which parasitizes leguminous trees, such as mesquite, palo verde, and catclaw acacia. From October to May, when nothing else is fruiting, phainopeplas subsist almost entirely on mistletoe berries. They also frequently nest in or under mistletoe clumps, which protect and hide their nests. Thus, in the desert, phainopeplas are found almost exclusively in mistletoe-infected woodlands.

In Arizona and Nevada, these woodlands are disappearing and phainopeplas are declining in numbers. Therefore, in the early years of this decade, I conducted several studies to better document the ecology of this species with a view to informing regional conservation and management strategies. The accompanying poem on the next page was written by one of my friends and field assistants, who also happened to be a local journalist.

Adult male Phainopepla perched on mesquite, Las Vegas NV. Copyright SpotX Images, 2000.

Mojave May
(In the field with Cali Crampton)

Take away the desert varnish.

Send the tortoise's dark eye,
the shadows under his shell and feet,
underground.

Close off the underground
and shutter the half-moon doorways.

Place mirrors underfoot and around,
wall in the valley with reflection.

Tell the pinyon and juniper to retreat
beyond Spirit Mountain.

Flick gleam onto the catclaw's tiny leaves.

Upturn rocks to release more light
hoarded by the earth.

Eddy the current
of painted ladies heading north
and fold the swallowtails.

Let the lizards come forth.

Tell the sand and cracked once-mud
to breathe in the ants,
breathe out their quartz-grain breath.

Let the rabbits without black tails come forth.

Tell the jacks to come back later.

Push the dark birds far back into the sky:
purple ravens, silky phainopepla men.

Make the pale ones --
sparrows, females, hatchyears --
gather more light in their beaks,
excrete pale ruby halos around the branches.

Let the tiny white eggs with lavender spots lie.

Command the horizon into shimmer,
pale and blurry.

Invite in all dry lakes.

Coax the alkali up through rock, root, soil
to feather the ground.

Lower the sky.

Shush the invisible birds.

And calm the bunch grass.

There. Now we have noon.
Time of bleached-bone silence
and life on hold.

Hold

Hold

Hold

click-click-click-click

Ah, nervous grasshopper. Little black eyes.
Open:
Two ravens approaching, pulling slow night
and dark companions in their wake.

Proceed into dusk.

By Heidi Walters

Canadian Thesis Abstracts in Ornithology

Aitken, Kathryn E.H. 2007. Resource Availability and Limitation for a Cavity-Nesting Community in Mature Conifer Forests and Aspen Groves in Interior British Columbia. PhD Dissertation. Centre for Applied Conservation Research, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC.

Nest-site availability limits cavity-nesting populations in harvested forests, and woodpeckers are often considered keystone species because they influence the abundance of other cavity-nesters in the community. However, little is known about the relative importance of excavated versus non-excavated holes for cavity-nesters, and the extent of nest-site limitation in mature forests. I analyzed data from 1371 holes used by 29 bird and mammal species between 1995-2006. Excavated cavities were more abundant than non-excavated and were smaller and higher above ground, but were used in proportion to their availability. To test the hypothesis that nest-site availability limited cavity-nester abundance in mature forests, I conducted two multi-year, replicated before-after/control-impact (BACI) experiments in which I altered nest-site availability. In coniferous forests, which had low cavity densities (1.9/ha) and low occupation rates (9%) prior to treatment, I added nest boxes within the size ranges of the most common excavators (northern flicker *Colaptes auratus* and red-naped sapsucker *Sphyrapicus nuchalis*). Densities of mountain chickadees (*Poecile gambeli*), red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), and northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) increased following box addition and returned to pre-treatment levels following box removal. In aspen groves, which had high cavity densities (16/ha) and relatively high occupancy rates (44%) prior to my experiment, I blocked the entrances of high quality cavities (those with a high probability of occupancy). Total nest abundance declined by 49% on treatment sites following cavity blocking and returned to pre-treatment levels once cavities were reopened. Nest abundance of European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), a dominant secondary cavity-nester, declined by 89% and failed to recover post-treatment. Conversely, nest abundance of mountain bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*; a subordinate secondary cavity-nester) increased following cavity blocking and remained high following reopening. While woodpeckers provide an abundant supply of cavities in some mature forests, non-excavated holes may release secondary cavity-nesters from the constraints of excavator nest-site preferences. Additionally, while nest-sites may appear to be abundant and potentially non-limiting at the community level, individual species preferences, as well as interspecific interactions, may influence true nest-site availability, particularly for mountain chickadees, starlings, and small mammals.

Northern Flicker. Photo by Jean-Sebastien Guénette

Flockhart, D.T. Tyler. 2007. Dynamics of the Northern Flicker Hybrid Zone: A Test of the Bounded-Hybrid Superiority Hypothesis. M.Sc. Thesis. Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK.

The bounded-hybrid superiority hypothesis (BHSH) predicts stable hybrid zones are characterized by hybrids having the highest fitness within the zone. The dynamic-equilibrium hypothesis (DEH) predicts hybrids to have the lowest fitness and mating should be strongly assortative in the hybrid zone. I used phenotypic-based hybrid indices (HI) to assess mating patterns, reproductive success, and survival of hybridizing northern flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) within the hybrid zone at Riske Creek, British Columbia.

Contrary to the BHSH, flickers showed significant assortative pairing (P = 0.038) which may result via passive mate choice if yellow and red flickers migrate from allopatric winter ranges. North American band recoveries show red-shafted and yellow-shafted flickers winter on different sides of the Rocky Mountains while red-orange hybrids from Riske Creek winter in the range of red-shafted flickers. Arrival dates of

phenotypes did not support the idea that mating patterns are caused passively via different arrival schedules. However, assortative mating patterns did correlate with regional weather patterns along flicker migration routes as well as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), a continental weather pattern that has been shown to influence various aspects of the annual cycle in other birds. If variable weather patterns result in different mating patterns by affecting migration, the geographic location of the northern portion of the zone may be variable due to the migratory behaviour of individuals.

There were no differences among yellow, orange and red flickers to win more agonistic contests or have earlier nest initiation dates, larger clutch sizes, greater hatching success, or produce more fledglings. No colour group had a higher likelihood of having a successful compared to a depredated nesting attempt. Aggression was similar between red (N = 21) and yellow flickers (N = 20) during taxidermy model presentations of pure red-shafted and yellow-shafted flickers.

Using Akaike's information criterion (AIC) in Program MARK, I determined survival was best modeled as either constant between males and females or varying annually according to weather. Models incorporating HI had less support but suggested that survival is best modeled as a linear relationship where red-shafted flickers have the highest survival. Survival modeled in quadratic relationships found hybrid flickers to have the highest apparent survival estimates in support of the BHSH. Overall there was no support for reduced hybrid fitness, but survival appears to be influenced more by annual variation rather than strictly by an individual's HI.

Overall, I failed to find reduced hybrid fitness in support of the DEH but also failed to find increased hybrid fitness as predicted by the BHSH. Annual changes in selection pressure could prevent introgression of hybrid genes throughout the zone if selection favours red-shafted genes in some years and yellow-shafted genes in other years

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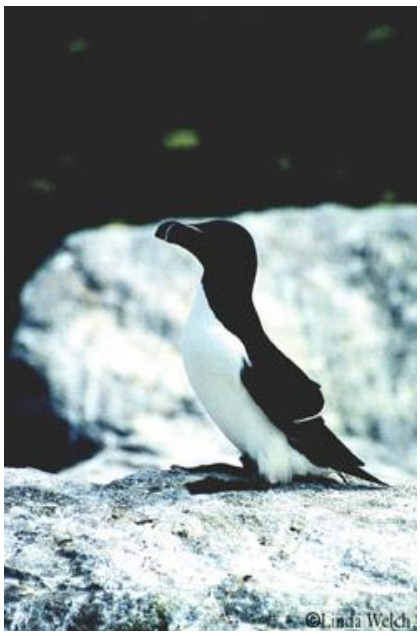
Lavers, Jennifer. L. 2007. Cumulative Mortality and Population Parameters for a Vulnerable Seabird, the Razorbill *Alca Torda* in Atlantic Canada. Ph.D. Dissertation. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NF.

This thesis was developed within the framework of a conservation project to examine the demographics of a long-lived seabird, the Razorbill *Alca torda*, across its North American breeding range. Research was designed to (a) take advantage of two relatively long-term Razorbill capture-mark-recapture and productivity data sets available for two representative breeding islands in different oceanic regimes and (b) fill in research gaps to predict Razorbill population trends under various scenarios. I quantified the impacts of intraspecific kleptoparasitism, dispersal, fox predation, and hunting bycatch on the population parameters of the Razorbill at the Gannet Islands, Labrador and Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick. The level of intraspecific kleptoparasitism on the Gannet Islands is the highest reported for any seabird species (attack rate = 0.69, success rate = 0.18-0.22) and is implicated in the low productivity rates observed. Productivity at the Gannet Islands during 2004-2006 was the lowest reported since monitoring began in the 1980s, with only 39% of pairs successfully producing a chick. Long-distance breeding dispersal was more frequent than previously thought; distances moved by 40 birds ranged from 60 km to more 3,210 km. My estimates of adult and pre-breeder survival during 1995-2006 (Gannet Islands: 0.890 and 0.482 respectively; Machias Seal Island: 0.967 and 0.778 respectively) contrasted sharply with other studies. Specifically, adult survival at the Gannet Islands was the lowest ever reported for the species, and at Machias Seal Island it was the highest ever



Razorbill. Photo by Linda Welch, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

reported. The projected growth rate (G) for the Gannet Islands Razorbill population predicted by models was 0.9475 for the Gannet Islands and 1.0613 for Machias Seal Island. Modeling also suggested that hunting mortality reduced the Gannet Islands projected population growth rate by 0.0603, while fox predation reduced population growth by 0.0126. Together these sources reduced the projected population growth rate by 0.0729. Although the Razorbill population on Machias Seal Island appears to be growing, without substantial immigration, the Gannet Islands population is expected to decline. The Gannet Islands Razorbill population is the largest in North America and therefore represents a significant conservation concern. Recommendations for the continued monitoring of both populations and development of specific management plans to control foxes on the Gannet Islands and investigate hunting bycatch are discussed.

Pérot, Aurore. 2007. Pertinence relative de la densité et de la productivité à titre d'indicateurs de la qualité de l'habitat chez la Paruline couronnée. Thèse, Université de Moncton, Mocton, NB.

Les pièges écologiques et de nombreux types de sélection de l'habitat non idéale entraînent des doutes quant à la pertinence d'utiliser la densité en tant qu'indicateur de la qualité de l'habitat. Cependant, la prévalence de ces phénomènes reste peu documentée dans la littérature. Dans cette étude, nous avons examiné si la densité était en mesure de refléter la qualité de l'habitat d'une population de Paruline couronnée (Seiurus aurocapilla) localisée dans un paysage forestier fortement aménagé du Nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick au Canada. Tous les sites d'études étaient localisés dans des peuplements matures de feuillu. Sept sites avaient été traités 1 à 7 ans avant l'étude (coupe sélective, par trouée ou par bande) alors que 16 sites n'avaient pas été traités. La qualité de l'habitat était estimée par un suivi intensif de la productivité (soit le nombre de jeunes produits par unité de surface) et tous les territoires ont été suivis pour détecter les nids ou les jeunes à l'envol. La densité était la variable qui expliquait le plus la variabilité de la productivité (R2 = 0.73). Il n'y avait pas de signes apparents de découplage entre la densité et la productivité dans les sites récemment traités suggérant que la densité est un indicateur robuste de la qualité de l'habitat dans ce système. La densité et la productivité étaient significativement plus élevées dans les sites non traités que dans les sites traités. Cependant, un éventuel effet indépendant du traitement sur la productivité n'a pu être testé étant donné le fort effet du traitement sur la densité. Il n'y avait pas de relation entre la densité et la proportion de territoires produisant plus d'un jeune à l'envol sur toute la saison de reproduction. Par conséquent, nos résultats suggèrent que la densité devrait être utilisée avec des paramètres de l'aptitude phénotypique pour évaluer la qualité de l'habitat, comme il l'a été proposé par Van Horne (1983). À notre connaissance, c'est étude est l'une des rares à avoir testé la densité en tant qu'indicateur de la qualité de l'habitat avec si grand nombre de sites de taille conséquente. Cependant, des études similaires devraient être conduites sur d'autres espèces pour évaluer la généralité de nos conclusions.

Ovenbird. Photo by US Fish and Wildlife Service.

English translation of Abstract: Ecological traps and other cases of non-ideal habitat selection cast doubt on the relevance of density as an indicator of habitat quality. However, the prevalence of these phenomena in nature remains poorly-known. In this study, we examined whether density can be a robust indicator of habitat quality using data on an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) population from a managed forest landscape. All study sites (n=23; 25 ha each) were located in mature northern hardwood stands. Seven sites had been treated 1 to 7 years prior to the survey (selection harvesting, patch or strip cutting) whereas 16 were untreated. Habitat quality was estimated through intensive monitoring of productivity (number of fledglings produced per unit area) and all territories were monitored to detect nests or

fledglings. Density explained most of the variability in productivity (R2 = 0.73). There was no apparent decoupling between density and productivity in recently–treated plots, suggesting that density is a robust indicator of habitat quality in this system. Density and productivity both were significantly higher in untreated than in treated plots. However, the independent effect of harvest treatment on productivity could not be tested owing to the strong treatment effect on density. There was no significant relationship between density and the proportion of territories fledging ≥1 young over the breeding season. Thus, our results suggest that density should be used in combination with fitness parameters when assessing habitat quality, as originally proposed by Van Horne (1983). To our knowledge, this is one of the few studies testing the indicator value of density using a large number of sizeable study plots. Similar studies should be conducted on other species to assess the generality of our findings.

Wiancko, Erin. 2007. The Effects of Resort Development and Forest Type on Habitat Use by Neotropical Migrant and Resident Landbirds Wintering on Cayo Coco, Cuba. MSc. Thesis. Department of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

American Redstart. Photo courtesy of McGill Bird Observatory.

Habitat losses in the Caribbean may have important conservation implications for bird communities. I examined the impacts of coastal resort developments on overwintering migrant and resident bird communities by comparing forests near resorts to undisturbed forests. Birds were sampled in three habitat types using mistnets. Results indicated that forests adjacent to resorts often supported higher densities of migrant and resident landbirds than undisturbed forests. Migrants were most abundant in mangroves in the early winter, but habitat use in the late winter was more even across the habitats. The resident guild showed generalized habitat use in all sampling periods. Habitat segregation by age or sex was not found for any migrant species. There was some suggestion of regional female sex-biases for American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*), and male sex-biases for Cape May Warblers (*Dendroica tigrina*). Overwinter migrant site persistence was higher for adults than for juveniles. Annual return rates were low for both age groups relative to other Caribbean studies.

Rough-legged Hawk chicks. Photo by Amber Ashenhurst.

Book Review

The Birds of Costa Rica: A Field Guide. Richard Garrigues and Robert Dean. 2007. Zona Tropical Publications, from Comstock Publishing Associates, a division of Cornell University Press, New York. xxvi + 387 pp. Hardback - $44.60 USD. (Paperback - $19.77USD). ISBN: 0801445876

This guide is a much-needed field-friendly companion to Stiles and Skutch (1989)'s hefty *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica.* Garrigues and Dean (2007) aim to complement (not replace) Stiles and Skutch (1989), although the updated bird names and larger, more detailed drawings may compel some to leave Stiles and Skutch (1989) on the shelf. The goal of this guide is field identification of Costa Rican birds, thus detailed information on behaviour, nests and global range is absent. This guide does not include pelagic birds or those found only on Cocos Island; however a full species list for Costa Rica (claimed to be the most up-to-date) is found in an appendix. The guide includes a short illustrated section on external anatomical features used to identify birds, as well as a short but informative introduction to the goals and layout of the guide. Each bird family is given a brief introduction preceding the accounts for the species within that family. Colour plates show 4-6 species, with a short written account of each and small range map on the facing page. There are common name and scientific name indexes, as well as a list of recently changed common bird names ('Taxonomic Notes'), which will be helpful to those familiar with the now out-of-date names in Stiles and Skutch (1989). Lastly, a comparison of adult vultures and raptors in flight is found at the very end of the book.

Initially, I was quite impressed by the book; however, upon further inspection I have found a few inconsistencies and inaccuracies. I was quite confused to find a reference in the introduction to a map of Costa Rica on the inside cover (also referred to in the first line of the Table of Contents). In my copy of this book (hardback), the inside cover is blank. I checked another copy of this guide (also hardback) at a local library and found no sign of this map. It is disappointing to note such a large omission, especially relating to the first item in the Table of Contents.

The species accounts are informative, despite being brief; a good attempt is made to describe identifying calls or characteristic behaviour where appropriate. The range maps allow a quick elimination of species that may be difficult to distinguish visually from allopatric species. This adds to the general 'field-friendliness' of this guide relative to Stiles and Skutch (1989), which relies on written range descriptions.

Black-headed Nightingale Thrush, Nicaragua
Photo by Kevin Fraser.

The images on the colour plates are more detailed and larger than those in Stiles and Skutch (1989), which is an improvement. As in many field guides, there are some inaccuracies with the colours of several species. A few are more colourful than they should be. For example, the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) and the Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) are both shown with bright green backs. Others seem much less colourful than appropriate. For example, the Black-headed Nightingale Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*) is shown with a thin, pale orange eye-ring and pale orange bill and legs, which does not do this striking bird justice. In a few species, such as the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), the colour is the wrong shade (a dark, royal blue). However, the illustrator has done an excellent job on the hummingbirds, which often appear dull or cartoon-like in other field guides. The hummingbirds are also shown in several different positions, which is handy for field identification.

The illustrations in Garrigues and Dean (2007) have improved on many of the drawings in Stiles and Skutch (1989). For example, the Banded-backed Wren (*Campylorhynchus zonatus*) is shown in Stiles and

Skutch (1989) with a black iris. When I mistnetted this species, I was confused by the distinctive reddish iris on the live bird in my hand. Although the written account in Stiles and Skutch (1989) does describe the iris as reddish-brown, the illustration in Garrigues and Dean (2007) is more accurate, as the bird is shown with an unmistakable reddish iris. Also, the colour, shape and posture of the Thrushlike Schiffornis (*Turdinus schiffornis*, a.k.a. Thrushlike Manakin in Stiles and Skutch 1989) are more accurately portrayed in Garrigues and Dean (2007). I found this a particularly difficult species to identify, even 'in-the-hand', and the illustration in Garrigues and Dean (2007) is helpful.

The Costa Rican bird list and the two indexes (scientific and common names) are very useful. The 'Taxonomic Notes' section is also handy, since many bird names have changed since Stiles and Skutch (1989). However, it is difficult to find species in this section since they are not listed in alphabetical order but taxonomic order. The page on 'Adult Raptors and Vultures' in flight allows for quick field comparisons. There are not as many raptors illustrated as there are in Stiles and Skutch (1989), but their grouping together on one page is practical.

One of the most obvious benefits to Garrigues and Dean (2007) is the size. The paperback edition weighs in at 1.3lbs, with dimensions of 7.7 x 5 x 0.9 inches, while Stiles and Skutch (1989) weighs 2lbs and has dimensions of 9 x 6 x 1.5 inches. This may not seem like a huge difference; however those who have carried backpacks of banding equipment, food, water, and reference books through a humid rainforest will know that even a small decrease in weight helps. Even the hardback edition of Garrigues and Dean (2007) is compact (1.5lbs, 7.7 x 5.3 x 1.3 inches), and both editions are likely to fit in a large cargo vest or pants pocket. Many birders have resorted to removing the coloured plates from the centre of Stiles and Skutch (1989) to have a more portable field guide. Hopefully, Garrigues and Dean (2007) will provide an alternative to this practice.

In conclusion, I would recommend this book to birders and researchers working in Costa Rica or Nicaragua. Despite a few inconsistencies, Garrigues and Dean (2007) is a field-friendly and well-illustrated addition to Stiles and Skutch (1989). Those interested in details on habits, range and nests of Costa Rican birds should have Stiles and Skutch (1989) handy back at 'base camp' as a reference. As a Canadian birder mistnetting birds in Nicaragua, I've found that it is often helpful to have more than one illustration of a bird for reference, thus I use both Stiles and Skutch (1989) and Howell and Webb's *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* (1995). Garrigues and Dean (2007) is an up-to-date, well-illustrated, and lightweight addition to the arsenal. For those working or birding in Nicaragua, there is a field guide to Nicaraguan birds in the works. Until then the above three guides are excellent resources for birders and researchers in Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Literature Cited:

Howell, Steve N.G., and Sophie Webb. 1995. *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America.* Oxford University Press.

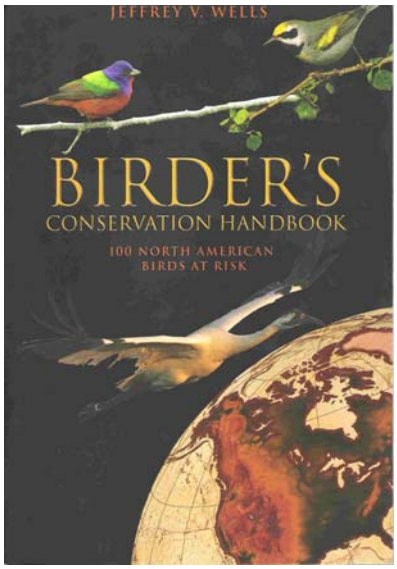
Stiles, F. Gary, and Alexander F. Skutch. 1989. *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*. Illustrated by Dana Gardner. Cornell University Press.

Reviewed by Emily A. McKinnon, Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, University of New Brunswick, 28 Dineen Drive, Fredericton, NB E3B 2C6.

Book Review

Birder's Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk

Jeffrey V. Wells. 2007. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. xii+452 pages. Soft cover. 17.8 cm by 25 cm. 100 black and white drawings and 100 range maps. $35.00 US. ISBN: 978-0-691-12323-3.



This book is the first attempt to summarize information about the ecology, threats and opportunities for conservation for North American birds with a focus on the 100 most at risk species in Canada, United States and northern Mexico in a single volume.

These 100 bird species have very small and/or rapidly declining populations and many of these species have small and retreating ranges. Thirty of these species at risk breed or migrate through the Prairie Provinces and they are: Trumpeter Swan, American Black Duck, Greater Sage Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk, Yellow Rail, Whooping Crane, American Golden Plover, Snowy Plover, Piping Plover, Mountain Plover, Eskimo Curlew, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Red Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, American Woodcock, Wilson's Phalarope, Rufous Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Sprague's Pipit, Golden-winged Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Canada Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird The other 70 bird species do occur irregularly or not at all in the Prairie Provinces.

The first 46 pages has sections titled: Scope and Purpose, Birds as Indicators, The State of North American Bird Populations, Major Conservation Issues Affecting North America's Birds, The State of Bird Conservation in North America and Beyond and What You Can Do. The author provides a readable although data heavy description of the status of bird populations and habitats for all major habitat types in North America. One can easily get lost in the depressing numbers. It is no surprise that grasslands have the highest proportion of endangered birds of total avifauna of any terrestrial habitat. One of the strengths of the book is the introductory chapter on major conservation issues affecting North American birds. Although brief, it provides more than sufficient detail to be highly useful to the expert as a review and as an understandable introduction of these issues to the average citizen or beginner birder.

Some interesting items found in the introductory section are a list of key national and international bird monitoring programs and their contact information, a section about extinction and threats to endangered native Hawaiian birds, and a manageable list of practical suggestions to help birds and the environment in general such as recycling, energy conservation and volunteering in bird monitoring programs.

The bulk of the book, 338 pages, consists of the 100 species accounts. Each account contains information on status and distribution, ecology, threats, conservation action and conservation needs, and references, and is accompanied by a small drawing of the species and a current and accurate grayscale range map. Colour was used only for the front and back book cover to minimize printing costs, thus this book is not a book of bird photographs. The status and distribution section describes historical and current distribution, status and population trends with available data. The sections on threats and conservation needs are a particular strength of the book.

The book has three appendices and a useful index. The first appendix summarizes the status of all North American birds on the various national species at risk lists including our Species at Risk Act (SARA) registry. The second appendix summarizes the status of native Hawaiian birds and the final appendix is the official Mexican species at risk list for birds.

One of the main drawbacks of the book is its focus on the United States. For instance, conservation

actions described in the species accounts pertain primarily to the United States, and the status of bird conservation in North America is primarily a review of developments, milestones and trends in bird conservation in the United States and to a lesser extent Mexico. The review of American and Mexican bird conservation is focused at the national level. There are short sections describing bird conservation in Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean but they are too brief to be really helpful or informative. I was left hungry for more information about bird conservation outside the United States and looking for links and references for finding more information.

In my view, another shortcoming is that Canadian conservation actions are lacking for a number for non-boreal species such as Ferruginous Hawk and Piping Plover or very limited for Whooping Crane and Greater Sage Grouse. Canadian examples of conservation actions are described in more detail for boreal species such as Canada Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler probably due to author's personal experience with boreal birds.

In spite of the inadequacy of Canadian examples and some information, I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in bird and habitat conservation. This book would also make a strong foundation and framework for a North American bird species at risk website that could be regularly updated and made widely available on the Internet.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, 3603 White Bay, Regina, SK S4S 7C9, Email: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

My Only Friend

The wind, my only friend.

Always by my side, day and night.

The whistling and howling, a constant reminder that I'm really not alone.

Though I curse it some, who am I to judge?

For with the wind comes change; snow, rain and on occasion the sun.

The geese know...you're better off facing into its strength with head tucked under wing.

Ride-it-out, eventually the calm returns...then a shift, soft at first from the south or southwest gently bending last year's *Juncus* stems.

Warmth, life, and growth; a precious cycle and an unlikely hero.

By Jeffrey S. Gleason

Trumpeter Swans. Photo by Jeffrey Gleason

Big Green Big Year

By Richard Gregson, Baie d'Urfé, Québec

There is a long-term ethical worry amongst quite a number of birders about the miles traveled and the greenhouse gases emitted in the generation of good bird lists – particularly so for those people attempting a Big Year where getting to the sighting fast is of paramount importance when a rarity is announced. Perhaps because of this, the theme for the 2008 Baillie Birdathon sponsored by BSC will be making green birding a feature and more and more individual birders are restricting the bulk of their outings to local sites.

A small group of birders in Montréal floated the concept of doing a Big Green Big Year just before Christmas and, from the acronym BGBY, the handy term "Bigby" evolved. To do a Bigby, your big year listing must be done only in those places that you can reach by walking, cycling, canoe or ski etc from your home – no carbon dioxide emitting vehicles permitted.

Somewhat to our surprise, the concept took off, word spread and at the time of writing there are well in excess of 200 birders doing a Bigby this year – mostly in Canada and the US but also people in the UK, France, Germany, Australia, Portugal and Taiwan. There is an active online forum.

All the information about this is to be seen at www.sparroworks.ca/bigby.html

Any promotion of this endeavour would be most welcome and hopefully many of them will be encouraged to become Bigbyists too.

Wildlife Afield

Wildlife Afield is a peer-reviewed journal of Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies in British Columbia.

Journal Objectives

- publish results of original field research, noteworthy field observations, and review or insight articles relevant to conservation and management of wildlife in British Columbia
- produce species' profiles with updated information on status, distribution, occurrence, breeding biology, habitat requirements, and conservation and management concerns
- present personal stories, news of meetings and events, book reviews, and other issues relevant to wildlife in British Columbia

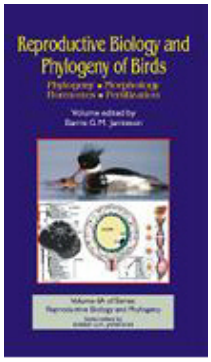
For more information go to http://www.wildlifebc.org/index.php?pageid=67.

Blue Grouse, Vancouver Island.
Photo by John Cooper.

Book Review

Reproductive Biology and Phylogeny of Birds.

Jamieson, B.G.M. 2007.2 volumes: 6A and 6B of the Series (edited by B.G.M. Jamieson) Reproductive Biology and Phylogeny. *609 pages (6A), 532 pages (6B), many colour and black-and-white figures, also tables, in both volumes. Enfield, NH: Science Publishers,. Hardback, $133.80, £66.90 (6A) and $117.60, £58.80 (6B), ISBN 978-1-57808-502-6 (Set), 978-1-57808-386-2 (6A), 978-1-57808-444-9 (6B).*



These two substantial volumes, 6A concerned with phylogeny, morphology, hormones and fertilization, 6B with sexual selection, behaviour, conservation, embryology, and genetics, represent a major contribution to the reproductive biology of birds. Barrie Jamieson conceived the series in 2001 and has not only overseen the production of a succession of other volumes on vertebrate reproduction, but has done so at an impressive pace. The rationale for the series is that phylogeny provides the 'necessary framework for an understanding of reproductive biology'. This viewpoint stems from Jamieson's own detailed studies of the ultrastructure of spermatozoa, which he has used as a phylogenetic tool – a topic epitomized by his own monumental chapter (162 pages) entitled 'Avian spermatozoa, structure and phylogeny' in Volume 6A.

The topics addressed here are diverse and include the following: classification, the testis, copulatory structures, the female tract, endocrinology of reproduction, follicle development, spermatogenesis, spermatozoa, testis size, sperm size and sperm competition, fertilization, ultraviolet coloration, carotenoids, odours and signalling, signal selection and the handicap principle, sexual dimorphism, courtship and copulation, sexual conflict, paternity, parental care, brood parasitism, conservation, embryogenesis, and sex determination.

So comprehensive is the range of topics covered that any avian biologist interested in reproduction will find these reviews extremely useful. Of particular value is the fact that rather than focusing solely on the adaptive significance of traits as a behavioural ecologist might have done, or solely on mechanisms as a physiologist could have done, the chapters here encompass a wide range of approaches, spanning phylogeny, development, anatomy, causal mechanisms and adaptive explanations. For the avian behavioural ecologist interested, for example, in spermatozoa, Tom Aire's chapters on the anatomy of the testis (Volume 6A, Chapter 2) and on testicular cycles (Volume 6A, Chapter 7) provide excellent overviews of the mechanistic aspects. Jamieson's chapter (Volume 6A, Chapter 8) considers in great detail the phylogenetic aspects of sperm design (in particular, sperm ultrastructure). Briskie and Montgomerie (Volume 6A, Chapter 9), on the other hand, consider sperm design in terms of sperm competition, that is, from an adaptive, evolutionary perspective, and Stepinska and Bakst (Volume 6A, Chapter 10) present a detailed overview of the process of fertilization.

The first volume focuses predominantly on reproduction, whereas the second ranges more widely, with several chapters on signalling (via plumage and odours), sexual selection, sexual conflict, extra-pair paternity, parental care, cooperative breeding, and brood parasitism. The chapters on signalling include a useful overview of courtship and copulation by Montgomerie and Doucet (Volume 6B, Chapter 6), a topic that at first sight seems slightly oldfashioned in the sense that few ornithologists currently bother to conduct research in this area. As the authors point out, there has been no overview of avian courtship since Edward Armstrong's *Bird Display and Behaviour* (1947) and no overview at all of this topic from the perspective of individual selection. Montgomerie and Doucet present hypotheses for why birds engage in courtship, including (1) no function, (2) to synchronize physiologies, (3) maintaining the pair-bond, (4) to assess mate quality, (5) species recognition, (6) sex recognition, and so on, pointing out that few of these hypotheses have been convincingly tested, and even where they have, they have been tested individually rather than simultaneously evaluating them as alternatives. This is followed by a discussion of the variation in the form and frequency (seasonal, diurnal) of copulation behaviour, and the various hypotheses that have been proposed to account for this variation – a rich source of ideas for budding ornithologists. In fact, taken together, the chapters that make up these volumes contain a wealth of suggestions and opportunities for further research.

Areas of scientific endeavour sometimes go out of fashion because researchers run out of ideas, or because of technical limitations, or because researchers feel that all the important questions have been answered. However, 'old' topics are often worth revisiting, especially when the intervening period has seen the development of new questions and new technologies. Simply by thinking about courtship in terms of testable hypotheses invites immediate re-evaluation of this topic, with the potential greatly to enhance our understanding of bird behaviour.

The two volumes are well produced and well illustrated on glossy paper. References follow each chapter (rather than being placed together as a single bibliography) and each volume has its own index.

Edited books sometimes fail to attract the attention they deserve, possibly because their chapters are less smoothly coordinated than those in authored books, but **these two volumes should be on every ornithologist's bookshelves.** At first sight, the chapters here do not appear especially well coordinated, but the diversity of topics and the interconnections between them is what makes these volumes a significant event in ornithological publishing.

- Reviewed by T.R. Birkhead**,** Recent ornithological publications 205 –– ***IBIS,*** *Vol. 150, No. 1/2008 (January)*

Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory Needs Volunteers

"The voice for birds on the Bruce" http://www.bpbo.ca

Are you or anyone you know interested in bird migration and contributing to science by observing and banding migrating birds? If so, please consider applying to volunteer at the Cabot Head Research Station on the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario, Canada. The Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (BPBO) is seeking volunteers to assist the Station Scientist in spring (April 15 - June 12) and in fall (August 15 - October 31). Experience in field ornithology or banding is preferred.

Housed on site in a well-furnished cottage (internet available), volunteers participate in all aspects of the Observatory's activities. The days start early – mist nets are opened 30 minutes before sunrise. During 6 hours, the 15 mist nets are checked every 30 minutes and captured birds are extracted and brought back to the laboratory where they are banded, processed, and released. Observations of birds on-site takes place between net checks and during a formal census. After the monitoring period each day, data are compiled.

Most of the day's work is over by early afternoon, meaning you have time to explore the spectacular Bruce Peninsula (National Park, Georgian Bay, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Dark Sky Community). Volunteers who stay at least 3 weeks may receive $8/day toward their food. Accommodation is provided for all volunteers free of charge, in shared bedrooms.

For more information, visit our website at http://www.bpbo.ca/volunteer.html and apply for a volunteer position, or contact Dr. Stéphane Menu, the Station Scientist at stefmenu@gmail.com or Ted Cheskey, BPBO's President, at echeskey@sympatico.ca.

Over the years, we've had volunteers from many different countries - who knows what new friends you will make! Positions are filling up fast for this unique opportunity!

Dr. Stéphane Menu, Field Ornithologist/Bander-in-charge

Venez participer à la capture et au baguage de passereaux, ainsi qu'à l'observation de la migration des oiseaux à la Cabot Head Research Station sur la Péninsule de Bruce, en Ontario. Le Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (www.bpbo.ca) est à la recherche de bénévoles, expérimentés ou non, pour assister le bagueur, Stéphane Menu, au printemps (du 15 avril au 12 juin) et à l'automne (du 15 août au 31 octobre).

Logés sur place dans un grand chalet tout équipé (internet disponible), les bénévoles participent pleinement aux activités de l'observatoire. Chaque jour, le baguage commence une demi-heure avant le lever du soleil et consiste, pendant 6 heures, en des tournées régulières, aux demi-heures, à 15 filets japonais, pour récolter les oiseaux capturés, les rapporter au labo de baguage puis procéder au baguage. Les observations prennent place pendant la même période et sont prolongées d'une heure après la fin du baguage. La compilation des données se fait immédiatement après la fin des observations.

Les après-midis sont libres, ce qui laisse tout loisir pour explorer la Péninsule de Bruce (Parc National, lac Huron, Baie Géorgienne…).

Une allocation pour la nourriture de 8$ par jour sera versée à ceux et celles qui donneront 3 semaines ou plus de leur temps.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, vous pouvez visiter notre site internet (www.bpbo.ca) et vous enregistrer comme bénévole ou me contacter à stefmenu@gmail.com ou Ted Cheskey (président de BPBO) à echeskey@sympatico.ca.
Stéphane Menu, Field Ornithologist/Bander in Charge

Photos Needed for *Being a bird in North America*
From Robert Alvo, preparing the book *Being a bird in North America:*

Thank you to those who have already contacted me regarding supplying photos for this book. For those people, and anyone else interested in contributing, please note my new coordinates: robalvo1@gmail.com, tel. 613-236-0660, 219-140 Mann Ave. Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 1E5.

I will pay Can$15 for any photos used. Photo credit (your name) will be given next to the photo in the book, and you can include a 100-200 word biography for publication in the book. The highest priority species for which we need photos are:

Hooded Merganser	Black Storm-Petrel	White-tailed Hawk
Masked Duck	Brandt's Cormorant	Black Rail
Gunnison Sage-Grouse	Hook-billed Kite	King Rail
Pacific Loon	Snail Kite	Common Ringed Plover
Horned Grebe	Mississippi Kite	Eurasian Dotterel
Manx Shearwater	White-tailed Eagle	Northern Jacana
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Broad-winged Hawk	Hudsonian Godwit
Ashy Storm-Petrel	Short-tailed Hawk	Red-necked Stint

There are many other species for which we want photos. I will send you a complete list (Excel spreadsheet) if you ask.

Thank you,
Robert Alvo

Birds of Saskatchewan Project Underway – Photos needed

Stuart Houston and Alan Smith are hard at work on the text for *Birds of Saskatchewan,* but to complete the project, we need your help. We're looking for black and white sketches and colour photographs to illustrate this two-volume, definitive record of Saskatchewan's birds.

We expect to publish the first volume in the spring of 2010, but to do that, we have to start our search now. We're looking for clear, sharp colour photographs, either slides or digital that show any bird found in this province. Photo credits will be given.

We will also welcome photos of habitat and birders in the field. If you are an artist, we'd welcome black and white sketches as well.

The book will be comprehensive, with historical background, information on bird banding, distribution and accounts of each species found in the province. The project began many years ago when Manley Callin left much of his estate to Nature Saskatchewan for the eventual publication of *Birds of Saskatchewan*. Allan Smith produced the *Atlas of Saskatchewan Birds* in 1996 and has been keeping the information current. Stuart Houston has written or been involved with many of our regional bird books, and has compiled many historical and banding records. Both of them are now devoting much of their free time to this project.

Gary Seib is co-coordinating the collection of illustrative material. You can reach him by e-mail at gseib@sasktel.net or by regular mail at 2924 McCallum Avenue, Regina, Sask. S4S 0R2. Please let him know if you wish to be involved in this project, and what type of material you could supply. He will be circulating lists of the species we're looking for to all who express interest in being part of this project.

Birds can tell us important things about our environment. Their presence and abundance provide an early warning of the state of ecosystems.

Over 300 species of birds breed each year in British Columbia - more than any other province in Canada. Sixty-five species breed nowhere else in Canada and for several other species, British Columbia holds the majority of the world population. For these reasons, British Columbia plays a pivotal role in Canada's bird conservation efforts.

The British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas web site www.birdatlas.bc.ca was recently launched and birders are now able to register. Anyone can participate in the Atlas. All you need is a pair of binoculars and some bird watching experience or the desire to learn about birds. You need to be able to identify birds correctly but you do not need to be expert - all records are welcome. All data are entered on-line and the results will appear on the atlas web site.

The Atlas Coordination Office hopes that thousands of birders will join over the course of the seven-year project. Start to plan your summer in BC by joining in the fun!

Photo by Birgit Freybe Bateman

I have had a life long interest in birds. They have brought joy to an increasing number of people around the world but especially in Canada. In recent years I have noticed an alarming decline in many species I once considered a common part of my world. Bird populations are of course the proverbial canary in the coal mine. The health of their populations relates to the health of humans. The Breeding Bird Atlas puts scientific muscle behind vague impressions. It also stimulates public awareness and even that sense of joy I had in my youth. — ***Robert Bateman**, Patron of the Atlas*

ST. LAWRENCE RENDEZVOUS

Nature Canada Conference hosted by Bird Protection Quebec - Montreal 12 – 15 June 2008

Naturalists from across the country will converge on Montreal in the middle of June, to participate in Nature Canada's 38th Annual Conference and General Meeting.

Bird Protection Quebec is organizing and hosting the event. It's is a unique occasion to meet naturalists and nature-lovers from different places. The 2009 conference will be held in Regina.

The conference will be held at McGill's New Residence Hall, on Park Ave., at the corner of Prince Arthur – comfortable meeting rooms, good food, excellent guest rooms. The Friday 'Speakers' Day' programme (eight first-class presentations, two plenary, others concurrent) will be held in the Ballroom, and the Field Trips will leave from there.

All details, menus, speakers names and topics, field trip destinations, registration, costs, etc. are available on the website. Check it out at: www.pqspb.org/Ncconf_2008/nc08_home.htm or go to BPQ's website and click on the conference logo on the home page.

25th International Ornithological Congress 2010
22-28 August 2010
Campos do Jordão, Brazil

Call for symposia proposals

The 25th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Campos do Jordão, Brazil, 22-28 August 2010. The Scientific Program Committee has been formed and a web page is in place (http://www.i-o-c.org or http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc). We hope that you will circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) invites you to submit symposium proposals for the next IOC. Symposia are aimed at the general ornithologist and provide up-to-date coverage of current ornithological research. Similar to the last IOC meeting, each symposium will include two keynote addresses that should summarize the global progress of ornithological science in the field over the last four years and address priorities for future research. Other speakers will be chosen by the conveners, with guidance from the SPC, and will include persons who have submitted abstracts identifying the particular symposium they would like to join. This is intended to increase global participation and allow new researchers to contribute to symposia. The call for contributed papers (which will come in early 2009) will include a box that contributors can check if they wish to be considered for specific symposia.

Each symposium should have 2 co-organizers. Since this is an international congress, the SPC will give preference in choosing symposium topics to symposia with co-conveners from different continents, and, failing this, from different countries. If it is not possible to meet these criteria, a brief explanation should be given under 'Justification of symposium' on the application form. Conveners may choose themselves as keynote speakers. Conveners can organize only one symposium. Also note that symposium speakers cannot give another oral presentation during the congress, but can apply to organize a round table discussion or present a poster.

Proposals for symposia must be received on or before 1 June 2008. Please provide the information listed below and send it as an email attachment to the chair of the SPC, Carol M. Vleck, at ioc2010@iastate.edu.

If you cannot submit your proposal by email, please mail it directly to the program chair:
Carol M. Vleck, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011, USA.

Please provide a title of the symposium, names, institution or affiliation, addresses, phone, fax, email addresses of both organizer, first and second keynote speakers, and describe (400 words maximum) goals, objectives, importance of the symposium and outline briefly what each keynote speaker will cover, giving a preliminary title if possible. Justify (250 words maximum) why this symposium is important and timely and why it will be of interest to IOC congress participants. If you cannot find a co-convener from another continent or country, explain why. The justification will not appear in the program or on the web site.

All proposals will be reviewed by the SPC in August 2008 and symposium organizers will be notified as to whether their proposal has been accepted shortly thereafter. The committee may recommend combining two symposia or substituting speakers.

The IOC is not able to provide any financial assistance to symposium organizers or participants. Organizers must make this clear to participants.

We ask that symposium organizers have a firm commitment from keynote speakers to attend the meeting before listing them in their proposal. Once a proposal has been accepted and the speakers finalized, we will request abstracts for each of the keynote talks. Summaries of accepted symposia will be posted on the IOC website. We also ask that symposium conveners inform speakers that the conference proceedings will be published, so that speakers must be willing to submit a paper on their presentation.

If you need more information, please consult the 25th IOC web site http://www.i-o-c.org or http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc or contact the Secretary General for the Congress by e-mail at ioc2010@ib.usp.br or by mail at: Cristina Miyaki/IOC 2010, Departamento de Genética e Biologia Evolutiva, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão 277, São Paulo, SP, 05508-090, Brazil.

Carol Vleck
2010 IOC Scientific Program Committee Chair
http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc
Dept of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology
253 Bessey Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011 USA

Wings Over the Rockies 11th Annual Bird Festival May 5 to May 11 2008 Invermere, BC

Join us for a Festival that will celebrate birders in the making and the mentors who inspired them. Wings is proud to feature Bill Lishman and his daughter Carmen. Bill is a mentor to many, including his daughter, and a founder of Operation Migration. His work, as a person who is interested in restoring endangered birds to their native habitat, can be seen in the film, Fly Away Home. Bill is an accomplished artist, designer, filmmaker and pilot. Come and be inspired by the story of what one person can do to make a difference.

Choose from over 80 high-quality, educational events to enjoy with your family. Discover the world of birds through guided nature walks, Columbia River floats, voyageur canoe trips, nature from the saddle, art exhibits, evening presentations, live music, workshops, Wings gala banquet, birdathon and much more!

For More Information

Wings Over the Rockies
Pynelogs Cultural Centre,
Box 2633, Invermere, BC, V0A 1K0 or 1720 4th Avenue, Invermere BC
Toll free: 1- (888) 342-9464 (WING), fax: (250) 347-9221
Larry Halverson (250) 347 2207, email: wingsovertherockies@gmail.com
homepage: www.AdventureValley.com/wings

3RD NORTH AMERICAN SEA DUCK CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 10-14 2008 • QUÉBEC CITY

Third North American Sea Duck Conference will be held in Québec City, Canada, on **10-14 November 2008**. New information on the conference is now available on the web site: http://www.seaduckconference2008.org

All relevant information regarding the conference should normally be available at the proper time through the above web site. For additional information, please use the following contacts:

Michel Robert (Chair of the Organizing committee)
michel.robert@ec.gc.ca Phone: 418-649-8071

Jean-Pierre L. Savard (Chair of the Scientific committee)
jean-pierre.savard@ec.gc.ca Phone: 418-648-3500

Le congrès *Third North American Sea Duck Conference* se tiendra du 10 au 14 novembre 2008 à Québec. De nouvelles informations sont disponibles sur le site de la conférence http://www.seaduckconference2008.org. L'information sera mise à jour en temps et lieu sur ce site. Pour tout renseignement additionnel, veuillez contacter : Michel Robert (Président du comité organisateur) michel.robert@ec.gc.ca Tél.: 418-649-8071 Jean-Pierre L. Savard (Président du comité scientifique) jean-pierre.savard@ec.gc.ca Tél.: 418-648-3500

Delta Marsh Birding Festival – 2008

Want an enjoyable outing this spring? Come to the Delta Marsh Birding Festival on May 24th and 25th at the University of Manitoba Field Station. Located on the south shore of Lake Manitoba, one of Canada's larger lakes, and within the Delta Marsh Wildlife Management area, the birding is exceptionally good. This year the festival is scheduled at the height of the warbler migration. In the nine years that the festival has been held over 191 different bird species have been spotted.

Some of the activities scheduled include an early morning visit to the courtship grounds of the Sharp-tailed Grouse, a trip to St. Ambroise Provincial Park with Cal Cuthbert or some quality time watching the banding operation at the Delta Marsh Bird Observatory.

A tour of the pristine East Beach area of the Delta Marsh will be a high light on the 24th. And you may also wish to visit the Garrioch Creek trail and Crescent Lake in Portage la Prairie to observe waterfowl and warblers in migration. Manitoba has some unique and wonderful birding opportunities and we know you would enjoy your birding experience at the festival.

The banquet has been scheduled for the evening of the 24th followed by a talk by Ian Thorleifson who has been leading ecotours to Churchill to study and photograph birds and bears and other nature study features. He has been involved in the farming of large mammals in Manitoba and other areas in Canada.

To learn more about the Delta Marsh Birding Festival, our web page can be found at www.dmbo.org/festival and to register contact hdenhaan@cc.umanitoba.ca.

The 32nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WATERBIRD SOCIETY will be held 5-8 November 2008 on South Padre Island, Texas.

This is the first time that the meeting has been held in the continental U.S. or Canada in the last three years and we are expecting a large turnout of long-time members and students. Three full days of scientific sessions are planned. Three symposia have been confirmed: "Shorebirds" led by Erica Nol (enol@trentu.ca), "The Texas-Mexican Ornithological Connection" led by Clay Green (claygreen@txstate.edu) and "Ecology and Conservation of the Reddish Egret" led by Stefani Melvin (Stefani_Melvin@fws.gov). We are requesting additional suggestions (and leaders) for other Symposia at this time. Please send suggestions to the Chair of the Scientific Program (Chip.Weseloh@ec.gc.ca). We are also considering special sessions for both poster and oral presentations by students. Other suggestions for making our meeting especially attractive for students are welcome. An array of exciting field trips is planned as South Texas is a Mecca for bird watching. Padre Island National Seashore, an 80 mile barrier beach, and Laguna Madre, its protected hypersaline lagoon, are immediately available and abound with wintering shorebirds, waterfowl, gulls, terns, herons and southern residents, such as Reddish Egret and Black-bellied Whistling Duck. Also, immediately to the west is the Rio Grande River and Valley. The nearby Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana Wildlife Refuges are the only subtropical refuges in the United States and have such specialties as Green Jay, Plain Chachalaca, Great Kisskadee and others. There will be both pre- and post- meeting field trip opportunities to these areas, so plan on a couple extra days in the area.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

RENEWAL / APPLICATION FORM

This form is provided for you to use when renewing, and to post or forward to others who might be interested in joining. Please feel free to renew or join for more than one year if desired: this will cut down on administration and the need to send you reminders every year. Donations are also gratefully accepted (the SCO is a registered non–profit society and issues tax receipts). For more on the SCO, please visit our website http://www.sco-soc.ca/.

Renewal? _____ New member? _____

Name _____

Address_____Postal code _____

Tel.:_____Fax:_____E-mail _____

Affiliation_____

Membership Category (in Canadian Dollars)

Student:	_____ years @ $10.00 per year	Total= _____
Regular:	_____ years @ $25.00 per year	Total= _____
Sustaining:	_____ years @ $50.00 per year	Total= _____
Outside Canada:	_____ years @ $35.00 per year	Total= _____
Life member:	once @ $500.00	Total= _____

Donation :
- Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology _____
- Doris Huestis Speirs Award _____
- Student Research Awards:
  - Taverner Awards _____
  - Fred Cooke Award _____

All donors of $10.00 or more will receive a receipt for tax purposes; sustaining members will receive a $25.00 receipt for tax purposes for each year of sustaining membership, and life members will receive a $250.00 receipt. The SCO is a registered non–profit society and issues tax receipts.

Please make cheques payable to **The Society of Canadian Ornithologists.**

Mail to:

Thérèse Beaudet
SCO Membership Secretary
128, Chemin des Lièges
St-Jean de l'Île d'Orléans (QC)
Canada G0A 3W0

beaudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
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RENOUVELLEMENT / ADHÉSION

Ce formulaire peut être utilisé lors d'un renouvellement ou pour adhérer à la SOC. N'hésitez pas à le transmettre à d'autres ou à l'afficher pour assurer une plus grande diffusion et de nouvelles adhésions. Les renouvellements et les adhésions pour plus d'une année sont privilégiés; cela réduit les frais d'administration et l'envoi de rappels annuels. Les dons sont acceptés (la SOC a le statut d'organisation à but non lucratif et peut émettre des reçus pour fins d'impôt). Pour en savoir plus sur la SOC, vous pouvez visiter le site http://www.sco-soc.ca/.

Nom_____

Renouvellement? _____ Nouveau membre? _____

Adresse_____Code postal _____

Tel.:_____Fax:_____Courriel _____

Affiliation :_____

Catégorie de membres (en dollars canadiens)

Etudiant:	_____ ans @ $10.00 par an	Total= _____
Régulier:	_____ ans @ $25.00 par an	Total= _____
De soutien:	_____ ans @ $50.00 par an	Total= _____
À l'extérieur du Canada:	_____ ans @ $35.00 par an	Total= _____
Membre à vie:	un paiement de $500.00	Total= _____

Dons : Prix commémoratif Jamie Smith de tutorat en ornithologie _____
Prix Doris Huestis Speirs _____
Bourses pour étudiants :
- Bourses Taverner _____
- Bourse Fred Cooke _____

Toutes les personnes qui font un don de $10.00 et plus recevront un reçu pour fins d'impôt; les membres de soutien en recevront un de $25.00 par année de participation, et les membres à vie recevront un seul reçu de $250.00. La SOC a le statut d'organisation à but non lucratif et émet des reçus pour fins d'impôt.

S.V.P. Faire les chèques au nom de la ***Société des Ornithologistes du Canada****.*

Faire parvenir à :

Thérèse Beaudet
Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC
128, Chemin des Lièges
St-Jean de l'Île d'Orléans (QC)
Canada G0A 3W0

beaudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

Officers for 2007/2008:

President: Dr. Susan Hannon, Voice: 780-492-7544; Fax: 780-492-9234; Email: sue.hannon@ualberta.ca

Vice-President/President-elect: Dr. David Bird, Voice: 514-398-7760; Fax: 514-398-7990; Email: david.bird@mcgill.ca

Membership Secretary: Thérèse Beaudet, Voice: 418-829-0379; Fax: 418-829-0584; Email: beaudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca

Recording Secretary: Dr. Andrea Pomeroy, Voice: 604-436 3014; Cell: 778-229 3643; Email: apomeroy@jacqueswhitford.com

Treasurer: Pierre Lamothe, Voice: 418-829-0379; Fax: 418-829-0584; Email: beaudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca

Editor of Picoides: Rob Warnock, Voice: 306-586-2492; Email: warnockr@accesscomm.ca TO ADVERTISE IN PICOIDES PLEASE SEND OR WRITE TO EDITOR.

(Voting) Members of Council: *second term

*Dr. Ken Otter, Email: otterk@unbc.ca

*Dr. Ian Warkentin, Email: iwarkent@swgc.mun.ca

*Dr. Jean-François Giroux, Courriel: giroux.jean-françois@ugam.ca

*Dr. Lesley Evans Ogden, Email: lesleyje@interchange.ubc.ca

*Dr. Jean-Michel DeVink, Email: jean.michel.devink@jacqueswhitford.com

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Dr. Ryan Norris, Voice: 519-824-4120 ext. 56300, Fax: 519-767-1656. E-mail: rnorris@uguelph.ca

Dr. John Chardine, Voice: 506-364-5046, Fax: 506-364-5062, E-mail: john.chardine@ec.gc.ca

Dr. Joe Nocera, Voice: 705-755-5220, E-mail: joe.nocera@ontario.ca

Dr. Nicola Koper, Voice: 204-474-8768/261-0038, E-mail: koper@cc.umanitoba.ca

Dr. Charles Francis, Past President (05-06), Voice: 613-998-0332; Fax: 613-998-0458; Email: charles.francis@ec.gc.ca

(Non-voting) Past Presidents:
Ross Lein (1983-1986), Spencer Sealy (1986-1988), Erica Dunn (1988-1990), Jon Barlow (1990-1992)
Bruce Falls (1992-1994), Henri Ouellet (1994-1996), David Nettleship (1996-1998), Tony Diamond (1998-2000)
Kathy Martin (2000-2002), Jean-Pierre Savard (2002-2004), Charles Francis (2004-2006)

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/
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Standing Committees and Work Groups

See Page 37 for contact information for those with # beside name.

Doris Huestis Speirs Award Committee (annual award for excellence in Canadian Ornithology): Marty Leonard, chair, E-mail: mleonard@dal.ca, Bob Clark , E-mail: bob.clark@ec.gc.ca, Mark Brigham E-mail: mark.brigham@uregina.ca, Greg Robertson, E-mail: greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca

Research Awards Committee (mandate: annual selection of research candidates, fall call for applications, selection and announcement by April of following year, members appointed and rotated) Five awards: James L. Baillie ($1,000), Taverner (2 awards $1,000 each) Fred Cooke Travel Award. Junco Technologies Award ($1,000), Russ Dawson (chair), E-mail: dawsonr@unbc.ca, Liana Zanette Email: lzanette@uwo.ca, Ian Warkentin, #, Joel Béty, E-mail: jbety@birdlover.com

Meetings Committee: Charles Francis #, Sue Hannon #

Picoides Committee: Rob Warnock (chair) #, Joe Nocera (Website) #, Jean-Pierre Savard, E-mail: pierre.savard@ec.gc.ca; Dorothy Diamond, 247 English Settlement Road, Stanley, NB E6B 2E9, Voice: 506-367-3181, E-mail: doroth@nbnet.nb.ca; Andrea Pomeroy, #

Journal Committee: Charles Francis, chair, #, Jean-Pierre Savard, E-mail: pierre.savard@ec.gc.ca, Erica Nol, Email: enol@trentu.ca

Editors of ACE-ECO: Tom Nudds and Marc-André Villard Voice: 506-858-4334 (direct: 4292); Fax: 506-858-4541; Courriel: villarm@umoncton.ca

Finance and Investment Committee: Pierre Lamothe #

Bird Studies Canada Representatives: Richard Elliot, Email: richard.elliot@ec.gc.ca, Jon McCracken, Email: jmccracken@bsc-eoc.org, James Duncan, Email: james.duncan@gov.mb.ca

Ornithological Council Representatives Lesley Evans Ogden, #, Liana Zanette Email: lzanette@uwo.ca

North American Banding Council Representative Wendy Easton, Voice: 604-940-4673; Fax: 604-946-7022; Email: wendy.easton@ec.gc.ca

Findings on the SCO/SOC website

WEBSITE: www.sco-soc.ca/index.html
Membership Application form
Notes about Annual Meetings
SCO/SOC Award information
Officers of SCO/SOC
Picoides Submission Guidelines
For Jobs and to post job openings see our link to the Ornithological Newsletter:
www.ornith.comell.edu/OSNA/ornjobs.htm