Bulletin of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Bulletin de la Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

PICOIDES

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William Rowan examines the nest of a Burrowing Owl. June 1953. photo courtesy University of Alberta Archives.

CONTENTS:

A New Image ! 'Picoides'

This publication is clearly no longer a Newsletter. It has a name - Picoides, the genus of our logo, the Black-backed Woodpecker. While we are retaining features of a Newsletter, such as news of people, meetings, research etc, we are trying to provide a publication that is worth keeping for its articles.

The SCO has persisted thanks to the efforts of a relatively small group of people. These individuals feel a Canadian Ornithological Society should exist to provide a separate voice for ornithologists in Canada apart from the AOU. Comparisons to the CFL or free-trade may be tenous, but it seems true that many Canadians are willing to accept direction from outside our border. Arguments supporting this position are often well-reasoned and economically sound, but are they right?

'The SCO has persisted thanks to the efforts of a relatively small group of people.'

In this issue there are five opinions about the future of the SCO. There is also a questionnaire which I urge you to use to express your opinions.

Virtually everyone who was asked for a contribution to this bulletin responded positively. I would particularly like to thank Marianne Ainley, David Bird, David Boag, Ted Miller, and Henri Ouellet who took the time to provide lengthy articles for publication.

This bulletin was designed and typeset by students at Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton. Special thanks go to Kelly Young, Donna Wright, and Ward Benedict for their work in improving the appearance of our publication.

W. Bruce McGillivray
Editor

CWS Scientist Wins Doris Heustis Speirs Award for 1987

Graham Cooch was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on May 4, 1928. After a few years in Battleford, Saskatchewan he moved to Ottawa in 1932 where an early interest in the outdoors led to the pursuit of a career in animal biology.

He obtained his B.A. (Honours) from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1951. Two years later, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, he received an M.S. in 1953 and his Ph.D in Wildlife Management in 1958. Concurrent with his undergraduate and graduate training he held several positions in wildlife-oriented work with the Canadian Wildlife Service as a Surveys Biologist from 1947 to 1954, and as Arctic Ornithologist from 1954 to 1962.

Dr. Cooch then began his years of stewardship in a supervisory capacity in the Canadian Wildlife Service, first as Chief in the Toxic Chemicals Division from 1962 to 1964, then as Director of the Migratory Birds Branch from 1964-1972, and finally as Chief of Populations and Surveys Division from 1973-1979. Since 1979 he has held the position of Senior Research Scientist with the CWS.

His research has centred on goose biology and he is especially known for his pioneer work on the snow goose-blue goose problem. His scholary publications to date number nearly 150, including chapters in six books. Through critical evaluation of the needs of migratory waterfowl in North America he has played a major role in the conservation of waterfowl and their habitats. In the latter context he initiated the establishment of 12 migratory bird sanctuaries in Arctic Canada encompassing over 100,000 square kilometres.

Since the mid 1960s, through the CWS, he has obtained major sources of funding for Canadian Ornithology. As a member of the National Organizing Committee of the 19th IOC he raised funds to facilitate financing the attendance of third world delegates to the Congress - a goodwill activity of significance to Canada's reputation in promoting world-wide dialogue in avian biology.

Dr. Cooch has demonstrated highly commendable scientific integrity during his tenure with the CWS. His career is highlighted by his major influence in Canadian and international waterfowl conservation and management, studies in Arctic ecology, and the effects of insecticides on wildlife. He has previously been honoured for his scholarly endeavours by being elected Fellow of the AAAS, the AOU, the Arctic Institute of North America, and the Wildlife Society. In recognition of the considerable contributions of Graham Cooch to Canadian ornithology we present him with the Doris Heustis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology for 1987.

AOU Honors Canadian Ornithologists

The American Ornithologists' Union has two honourary classes of membership, recognizing achievements in ornithology and service to the AOU. These are Elective Members (numbering approximately 350) and Fellows (numbering approximately 125).

At the most recent AOU meeting in August, the following Canadians were given Elected Member Status: Michael Anderson, Andre Cyr, Ralph Morris, Thomas Nudds, Laurene Ratcliffe, and William Threlfall.

David Boag, Erica Dunn, Ross Lein, and J.D. Rising were elected as Fellows. Congratulations to all on their recognition by the A.O.U.!

SCO Council and Members Meeting Minutes

Council met in August 1987 at San Francisco State University.

-After receiving approval in September, it was announced that incorporation is proceeding and the SCO is now applying for charitable status.

-Membership dues generate little income. However, we anticipate only newsletter expenses this year and are in an acceptable financial position.

-The Council has invited past Presidents to attend Council meetings indefinitely following their official two year term.

-Issues to be considered during the upcoming year:

1. Adoption of a policy statement.
2. Use of mailing list by advertisers or sister organizations.
3. Use of a second gift to our endowment from Mrs. Doris Speirs.

- SCO will participate in the 1988 Baillie Birdathon in order to raise funds for the organization and to support avian research projects across Canada.

-At the members meeting, President Spencer Sealy summarized results of the previous days Council meeting, and presided over a brief discussion of SCO objectives.

-Henri Ouellet requested input to the scientific program for the International Ornithological Congress slated for New Zealand in 1990.

-President Sealy presented Dr. Graham Cooch with the 1987 Speirs Award in recognition for his contributions to Canadian Ornithology.

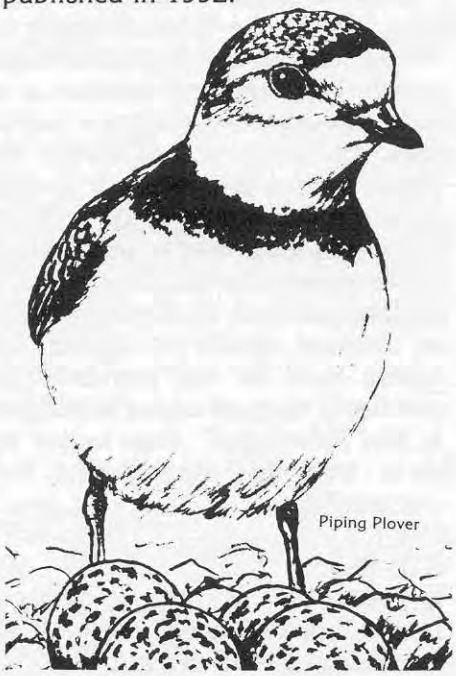
Alberta Naturalists to Prepare Bird Atlas

The Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN) is undertaking a project to prepare and publish an atlas of the birds of Alberta. This project will fill the many gaps in the current base of knowledge about the geographical distribution and abundance of birds and their habitats in which they live throughout Alberta. FAN received a strong impetus to initiate such a project from various agencies after the Endangered Species workshop held in Edmonton, January 1986;

The preparations for the Alberta Bird Atlas will be undertaken in a manner consistent with bird atlas projects in other provinces in Canada and in various states in the U.S.A.

The information necessary for the preparation of the atlas will be collected by a large number of volunteer bird atlassers based upon the already established province-wide network of bird enthusiasts. The project will find and welcome other birders not yet involved in the province-wide network, and encourage those who want to become active birders.

Field observations on evidence of breeding will be made and recorded on 10 km by 10 km squares in the U.T.M. grid system. The data will be collected during a five year period ending in 1991, and will be processed and mapped by means of a computer. The atlas will be published in 1992.



Line drawings by Terry Thormin
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A Bird Finding Guide to Canada by Cam Finlay

The value of the project in Alberta is already well recognized. The project's patron is The Honourable Dr. J.W. Grant MacEwan, former Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Further, FAN is receiving the encouragement, support and participation of Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Provincial Museum of Alberta. The Recreation Parks and Wildlife Foundation provided a grant of $42,000 for 1987.

The project will be overseen by a management committee. An executive director, a technical committee and other volunteer committees will insure the project runs smoothly and competently through its completion. A newsletter published periodically will keep the volunteers informed of progress.

Since the inception of the project early in 1987, management, administration, organization and technical systems were developed and are functioning. Project materials, including a regional coordinators' manual and an atlasser handbook were prepared; 12 regional coordinators were recruited and trained, and over 500 atlassers, casual observers and helpers have also been recruited. The first field season was completed successfully.

A 'remote area' program will be developed to ensure adequate access to remote areas of the province and to recruit atlassers from across Canada and the U.S.A. This program is targeted for 1989, 1990 and 1991, and will include an international advertising campaign to attract atlassers to help the Alberta Bird Atlas Project.

Jack Clements
Executive Director
Alberta Bird Atlas Project

FEEDBACK: Future of the SCO

'What can we as members of the SCO do for the subject we study?'

We have created a society of Canadian Ornithologists; let us make it grow and flourish. If we agree to do so, I think we must have a clearly understood raison d'etre with which each of us can identify and to which each of us has the potential to contribute.

In my opinion, the Society must embrace objectives that go beyond aiding communication among Canadian ornithologists and, untimately, the production of a Canadian Journal of Ornithology. Appropriate and meritorious as these objectives may be, I do not believe they are sufficient to sustain a Society in which our numbers are relatively few and the physical distances between us are so great.

We do, however, have the opportunity of building a Society that has a set of objectives that are outward not inward looking and thus are not shared by sister Societies on this continent and elsewhere. By this I mean that we should be asking ourselves 'what can we as members of the S.C.O., do for the subject we study?' not 'what can we get from the subject and our colleagues within this Society.'

If the science of ornithology is to flourish in this country we need to promote an ever-increasing appreciation and interest among the public at large in both avian biology and the habitat upon which birds (and other life) depend. This promotion should begin among our children in grade school and be followed through to the councils of agencies responsible for different aspects of the various habitats upon which this resource is dependent.

How many of us could become an activist, in the name of the S.C.O., at one or other of the many levels between grade school and board room? I suggest that each and every one of us could. In so doing we could also help bridge the gap between amateur and professional, encouraging the former to play a more constructive role as well.

How could such objectives be met? We have a newsletter through which we should debate these objectives throughly before arriving at a consensus. This and other statements in this issue are a beginning. Should the membership of S.C.O. decide the ideas expressed in this statement have merit, I suggest the Society begin by requesting its membership to shoulder a series of responsibilities commensurate with their ability and desire to contribute.

These responsibilities could range from providing a volunteer class in nature study at a local grade school, to offering a monthly column in a local newspaper or hosting a call-in show on radio or television, to sitting on the board of an agency such as Ducks Unlmited. Such responsibilities could be undertaken in the name of the S.C.O. and would thereby publicize it. Each member so involved should be expected to report back to the membership, preferably through a brief statement in the Newsletter. How better to serve both the Society and the resource?

D.A. Boag
Professor
Department of Zoology
University of Alberta

'I believe the SCO needs to work from the two strengths of Canadian unity...'

The SCO strikes me as a weak and floundering organization without a substantial vision of where it's going, or of what it should do to get there. Why? Canadians feel strong unity coast to coast, so the reasons don't just lie in Canada's great size, because our country is rife with interested, active naturalist and conservation organizations.

I believe the SCO needs to work from the two strengths of Canadian unity and the high values placed by Canadians on wildlife and nature. To capitalize on these, the SCO should establish medium to long range national goals which can be achieved through local initiatives.

One example is to identify national needs for basic information about bird ecology and distribution, then to meet such needs by encouraging local projects, and by helping to coordinate, direct and fund them. Another example is to review Canadian bird-banding work and recommend where more effort should be placed, with emphasis on amateur involvement, and with an eye to establishing a national network of bird-banding stations.

The SCO needs to be built from the strength and range of talent and dedication in Canada's ornithological community, applied to problems of national concern or interest, and soluble through local action.

Edward H. Miller
Assistant Director
B.C. Provincial Museum

'I suggest the SCO should undertake the preparation of a 'national plan' for ornithology in Canada...'

Our Society has been in existence for nearly five years and has accomplished much, considering its limited means. During that period its raison d'etre and much of its activities were centered around the XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus. The SCO has brought enormous support and contributed in a significant way to the success of this unique event in Canadian ornithology.

Les membres de la SOC proviennent de toutes les parties du

Canada, mais un examen de la listes des membres révèle une faible participations au Québec. Bien sûr, il y a eu une compagne d'inscription dans les premiers jours de la Société, mais l'enthousiasme initial semble avoir perdu de sa vitalité première. Par contre, l'ornithologie jouit actuellement au Canada d'une popularité sans précédent: les amateurs sont de plus en plus nombreux, de même que les professionnels bien que les postes ne le soient pas et il n'y a jamais eu autant d'étudiants engagés dans des projects de recherche ornitholgique au niveau des deuxième et troisième cycles.

A cursory evaluation of the situation of Ornithology in Canada indicates our society should have four to five times more members that it currently has. It is a young society which should be very dynamic and very imaginative. The recent decline in membership may be explained, in my opinion, by the lack of a common cause which would mobilize energy across the country. It is a challenge to the entire membership to suggest to the directors and council members ideas which could develop into a common goal for all its members

Un groupe comme la SOC ne devient viable que si tous les membres participent aux activités de ce groupe non seulement en acquittant les frais annuels d'inscription, mais aussi en formulant des idées, en contribuant des articles, en envoyant des messages, etc., afin de communiquer avec tous les collègues par l'entremise du bulletin de nouvelles, et, en tentant de recruter de nouveaux membres dans son entourage. C'est de cette façon que notre société pourra croître et occuper une place importante au sein des sociétés scientifiques canadiennes et auprès des amateurs.

There are many initiatives that the Society of Canadian Ornithologists could take in the years to come. Of course, it is important to first establish a strong base upon which to build. Besides expanding the membership and maintaining the regular publication of a good newsletter, I suggest the SCO should undertake the preparation of a 'national plan for ornithology in Canada' modelled after a similar plan prepared by the A.O.U. in the mid 1970s. Such a plan would review the ornithological resources available in the country, the major accomplishments to date, the areas of strength, the weaknesses, etc., and plan for the future. The A.O.U. plan has had important effects in the United States and the efforts of our American colleagues appear to have been rewarded when the needed support was given by the government in those areas identified in the plan. It has contributed much in establishing appropriate funding levels for research and other support required by ornithologists such as staff (research and support), laboratories, field stations, expensive equipment, etc., and in reducing duplication in research programs. It seems to me Canadian ornithology has reached a stage in its development where such a plan is essential for the future of our discipline in Canada. I am very interested in having your views on the matter.

L'éboration d'un plan national, loin de limiter l'activité individuelle contribuerait au développement de centres de recherches sur des sujets bien précis et faciliterait une concentration des ressources, des moyens et des personnes dans des centres spécialisés bien définis et bien pourvus. De cette façon, la concurrence futile et la duplication d'efforts et de moyens seraient réduites de façon à utiliser le plus efficacement possible les ressources existantes et à venir. Si vous avez des idées à ce sujet, je vous serais reconnaissant de m'en faire part.

Henri Ouellet
Curator - Department of Ornithology
National Museum of Natural Sciences

'The most contentious issue facing our society today is that of the amateur vs. the professional audience.'

I am writing to offer the following personal views on the future of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. I do not favour the publishing of a quarterly, semi-annual or even annual journal containing refereed papers with Canadian content (or otherwise). Besides prohibitive costs, there already exist dozens of refereed journals to act as outlets for publishable material from Canadian ornithologists.

I also do not support the idea of an annual meeting for Canadian ornithologists. Again there is probably an overabundance of annual conferences to attend. Moreover, the size of our country does not make travel costs very palatable for those living at either end of Canada. On the other hand, it does make sense to get Canadian ornithologists together as often as possible and I do support the idea of piggybacking our meetings on the backs of existing successful conferences such as the Canadian Society of Zoologists or the Ontario Ecology-Ethology Colluquium.

The most contentious issue facing our society today is that of the amateur vs. the professional audience. Should we simply restrict our activities to professional ornithologists much in the same way the AOU and similar organizations do? Or should we broaden ourselves to include the amateur birders as an integral part of the society? I favour the latter. Most, if not all of our membership already belong to at least one of the major North American ornithological societies, (e.g., AOU, WOS, COS, etc.) which can meet our professional needs. Since Canada's population is much smaller than that of the U.S., I do not believe we can afford to compartmentalize our resources.

A Society which caters to both the

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WILLIAM ROWAN: Canada's First Avian Biologist

Thirty years have passed since the death of the well-known Canadian scientist, teacher, conservationist and nature artist - Dr. William Rowan of the University of Alberta.

To a new generation of Canadian ornithologists he may be just a name in books on avian physiology, migration, or biological cycles. There are many others though, scientists in senior positions in biology departments across Canada and elsewhere, who have met him, studied under him, and were inspired by his knowledge and enthusiasm.

William Rowan was born in Basel, Switzerland in 1891, the fifth son of Irish railway engineer W.R. Rowan and his Danish wife Gerdine A. Jacobsen. The family was well-to-do, and the Rowan homes in Switzerland and France were surrounded by large properties, where young Billy Rowan had his first introduction to the fascinating world of nature.

Privately educated, his first languages were German and French. He did not become fluent in English until after the family moved to Bedford, England in 1901. At Bedford School, he studied languages and mathematics in preparation for a career in the Civil Service. During his school days he also took up art and nature photography and, impressed by the illustrated lectures of Ernest Thompson Seton, decided to go to Canada and become a 'cowpuncher' and naturalist.

In August of 1908, the 17 year-old Rowan arrived in Gleichen Alberta to work on a ranch in the Crawling Valley. His experiences with the Alberta countryside, and its abundant wildlife, left an indelible impression on him.

In 1911, he decided to become a zoologist and returned to England to study science. He enrolled in the honours zoology program at University College in London. The course was exclusively scientific, and in addition to zoology he also studied botany, geology, and physics. He learned basic biological principles and up-to-date laboratory techniques from the head of the Zoology department,the eminent embryologist James Peter Hill.

Rowan was influenced more by his botany professor, F.W. Oliver, whose wider interests and ecological orientation suited Rowan, and who twice a year conducted ecological field excursions for advanced students to the University's biological field station in East Anglia. Rowan joined this select group soon after graduating. There he became interested in the breeding biology of birds, conducted ecological research on the food of the rabbit, and biometrical studies on bird eggs (Rowan 1913a, 1913b, 1914a, 1914b, 1919) It was at Blakeney Point he first became intrigued by factors influencing bird migration.

Although World War One had interrupted his studies, Rowan graduated with an Honours B.Sc. in Zoology in 1917. He received his M.Sc. two years later, and a D.Sc. in 1929. While searching for a university position in Canada, he taught high school biology in England. In 1919 he was offered the post of lecturer in zoology at the University of Manitoba. The following year, he accepted an offer to build up the Department of Zoology at the University of Alberta. He remained there as Professor of Zoology and Head of Department until his retirement in 1956.

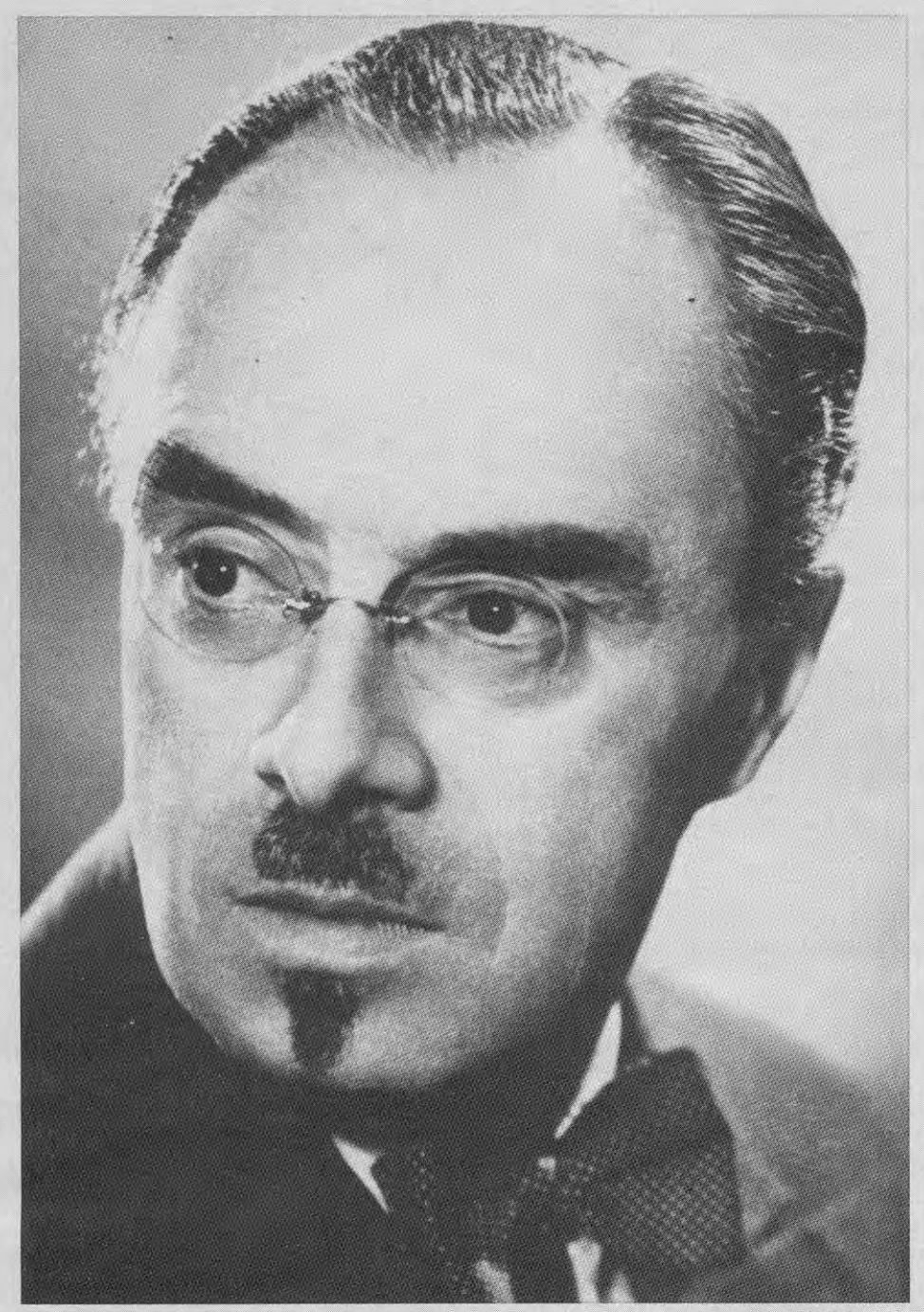
During his undergraduate years, Rowan became interested in the distribution and breeding biology of British birds. Back in Canada, he soon familiarised himself with the avifauna of the Winnipeg and Edmonton districts (Rowan, 1920, 1922). At the time he was particularly interested in shorebirds, and wrote a series of papers on them (Rowan, 1923, 1926a). As became his custom, he illustrated his articles with his own sketches and photographs.

During the 1920s Rowan was struggling to build up the Department of Zoology at the University of Alberta. Financial aid was practically non-existent, particularly because the university's president, Dr. H.M. Tory, had serious doubts about Rowan's ability as a scientist. Tory was a physical scientist who believed all scientific work should be done in the laboratory. Moreover, he favoured utilitarian projects with huge financial returns. He distrusted Rowan because he insisted on conducting field work as part of his research.

That Rowan was seeking basic biological principles which were unlikely to bring in financial returns, and proposed to conduct his research on birds, rather than frogs or invertebrates, further alienated Tory. For the President, birds were not science. But Rowan, whose training combined the tradition of British natural history, with a thorough grounding in biology, considered field work essential for his research.

By 1922 Rowan was collecting extensive data on bird migration in Alberta. Although he sent this data to the U.S. Biological Survey, and to A.C. Bent, for the Life histories of North American Birds series, he was more interested 'in the ascertaining of principles to be derived from facts.' (Rowan to Taverner, 27 December 1922, National Museum of Natural Sciences)

Rowan sought to prove experimentally that bird migration, at least in some species, was prompted by an external stimulus, an 'enviromental timing mechanism of periodic nature.' (Rowan 1946:123) His laboratory



Rowan brought scientific discipline to Canadian ornithological studies. photo courtesy University of Alberta Archives.

examinations of shorebirds, collected during spring migration showed that at the time of their arrival in the Edmonton Area, they had already well-developed gonads.

In formulating a working hypothesis, Rowan used a series of logical steps to eliminate all unpredictable factors in the birds' environment, such as temperature and barometric pressure (J.R. Hickey, pers comm.). He isolated daylength, which changes at the same rate every year, as the only consistent enviromental factor.

Prompted by the appearance of a paper by Eifrig (1924), Rowan set out to test his own hypothesis that spring migratory readiness can be experimentally induced by artificially lengthened daylight in autumn. At the same time he was determined to refute Eifrig's speculative theories on bird migration.

Rowan's pioneering experiments, conducted on dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) in aviaries erected in his own backyard (Rowan, 1925, 1926, 1929) created great excitement among American and European biologists. His work was soon emulated at various universities in the U.S., England, Holland, and France. Grants from the Royal Society of London, the U.S. National Research Council, and Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities enabled him to continue his research on a much larger scale, using the American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) (Rowan 1930, 1931, 1932).

In 1924, Rowan also embarked on another major project that occupied him for the rest of his life, which in addition to its inherent scientific interest also had important implications for conservation. This was the investigation of cyclic fluctuation of game bird and fur-bearing mammal populations in the prairie provinces.

By 1929 he had developed an interdisciplinary research program for the study of biological cycles, involving the departments of zoology, botany and physics at the University of Alberta. Because of lack of funds, this program was not implemented. Rowan had to do his research part-time, with the aid of his assistant, Robert Lister, and one or two senior students, until after World War Two. Not until the late 1940s with the help of graduate students David Stelfox, Al Oeming and Lloyd Keith, and support in the form of sizable grants (Alberta Research Council, National Research Council of Canada, and the Rockefeller Foundation) could research advance on this important topic. (Rowan 1950a, 1950b, 1952)

From the early 1930s, Rowan was also involved in waterfowl research, particularly at Delta Marsh, Manitoba. In the late 1930s, Rowan became a member of the advisory board of the new Delta Waterfowl Research Station, and was graduate advisor of H. Albert Hochbaum.

Rowan brought rigid scientific discipline to Canadian ornithological studies. In fact, he was the first ornithologist anywhere to conduct actual research on birds with hypotheses, theories, and experiments. He combined the

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expertise of a field naturalist and laboratory zoologist, and showed that these two approaches can be successfully used in 20th century ornithology. Although he wished to contribute to theories of migration, it was his experimental work which made him a pioneer of modern ornithological research. By giving the study of migration an experimental base, Rowan changed the course of ornithology.

Rowan was well respected by many outstanding biologists, including Sir Julian Huxley, F.E.A. Crew, Charles Elton, and Joseph Grinnell. While his research was well funded by American and British funding agencies, he also achieved considerable recognition in Canada. In addition to ornithologists Percy A. Taverner, Allan Brooks, and J.H. Fleming, other scientists, such as biochemist J.B. Collip (of insulin fame), marine biologist A.G. Huntsman, and physicist Leopold Infeld were among his friends.

Dr. Rowan was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1934, and in 1946 he was awarded the Society's prestigious Flavelle Medal for his experiments on bird migration.

Marianne Gosztonyi Ainley
Concordia University
Dr. Ainley is currently writing a book on the life of William Rowan.

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FEEDBACK cont'd

professional and the amateur in Canada will provide not only a strong voice for ornithology in the country, but for conservation issues involving birds as well. With more and more ornithologists using data collected by amateur birders, (e.g. Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Atlasses, etc.) the professionals can ill afford to turn their backs on the amateur component. Collaboration is the key to the pursuit of ornithology in Canada and this should be reflected in a society which caters to the concerns of both professionals and amateurs.

What can we offer that will be attractive to both professional and amateur ornithologists? Besides a semi-annual newsletter, perhaps consisting of regional reports submitted by editors who collect ornithological material from their respective regions, I suggest we offer a biannual WHO'S WHO of Canadian ornithologists, both professional and amateur. It could include names of ornithological organizations (including university departments, private ones, etc.), resources like visitors' centres and museum collections, government information (permit needs, political bodies, etc.), grants available to professionals, amateurs, and students, upcoming meetings, list of publications (including theses) by Canadians, list of useful bird books, check-list of Canadian birds, bird name changes, and the by-laws and officers of the society.

Black-backed Woodpecker
Line drawings by Terry Thormin
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A Bird Finding Guide to Canada by Cam Finlay.

In this age of desk-top publishing, the cost may not be so prohibitive. The product would be a most valuable contribution to Canadian ornithology and should appeal to both professionals and amateurs, as well as to visiting ornithologists. Sources of funding for such a project should include government organizations, birding groups, wildlife funding agencies, nature societies, and private foundations. I should add that most of the above material is already available in one format or another, but in a somewhat scattered form.

Whether the society proceeds with the above suggestion is not the critical issue. We must as a society come to grips with a clear definiton of our audience. As one member of the SCO, I strongly urge the society to cater to the interests of all bird enthusiasts. To do otherwise is to watch the SCO fade into obscurity in rather quick fashion.

David M. Bird
Assistant Professor
McGill University

FEEDBACK

'Our primary role is to encourage the study of birds...'

At the 1987 Council meeting we discussed what the central purpose of the SCO should be, and whom it should serve. We decided to prepare a policy statement, and to circulate it for comments and input. The draft statement appears below. Please comment on this and other issues by either completing the questionnaire or writing a letter to the bulletin editor. If you want to see other directions taken, you must let us know now!

The following statements (in quotes) are lifted directly from our letters patent. These could only be altered now with difficulty, but were purposely worded broadly to allow a wide range of activities.

The objectives of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists are as follows:

1. To promote public knowledge and awareness of the avian heritage of Canada.

2. To encourage and support study related to the understanding and conservation of the avian wildlife of Canada.

3. To disseminate to the public the results of such research through support of publication and education programs in the community.

Our primary role is to encourage the study of birds, as an important first step towards preservation, conservation and public appreciation. We define 'ornithologist' as anyone who is interested in the serious study of birds, regardless of age or profession, and the society is open to anyone who wishes to join. 'Canadian ornithologist' encompasses Canadian citizens who study birds as well as citizens of other countries with an interest in our birds and in the state of ornithology in Canada.

The Society's goal of encouraging bird study should be achieved through:

1. Increasing communication among those who study birds with a newsletter and meetings, paying special attention to communications among amateurs, academics, conservationists, and private sector and government biologists concerned with birds.

2. Offering financial support for individuals or groups that are studying birds, particularly for those without access to other funds.

3. Recognizing and publicizing significant contributions to Canadian ornithology in order to honour advances and to educate the public as to the value of bird study and its contributions to science, conservation, and public enjoyment.

4. Publishing a journal, if economically possible, with the results of studies on Canada's birds.

5. Increasing educational opportunities for young people who are starting out in bird study.

6. Promoting participation in cooperative bird study projects, such as Breeding Bird Atlasses large-scale censuses and surveys and other cooperative studies on bird populations and biology.

Erica Dunn
President
Society of Canadian Ornithologists

Please make your feeling on the Society's directions known by completing the following questionnaire and returning it to:

Erica Dunn
30 Davidson Road
AURORA, Ontario
L4G 2B1

Mark each question with a number ranging from 1 through 5 according to the following categories.

1. Strongly approve
2. Mildly approve
3. Don't care
4. Mildly disapprove
5. Strongly disapprove

A. The SCO should be open to anyone.——————
B. The SCO's core purpose should be the promotion of bird study.——————
C. The SCO should cater exclusively to professionals.——————
D. The SCO should cater primarily to professionals, but maintain communication with amateurs and foster communication among all types of ornithologists.——————
E. The SCO should make special efforts to include amateur ornithologists.——————
F. The SCO should continue to offers its award recognizing contributions to Canadian ornithology.——————

IN ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING ASSUME MONEY IS AVAILABLE: THE SCO SHOULD:

A. Offer competitive grants for people with presentations to make at scientific or conservation meetings.——————
B. Offer competitive grants to support bird research.——————
C. Initiate cooperative research projects on topics of national significance.——————
D. Prepare a 'national plan for ornithology' outlining strengths, weaknesses, and identifying areas where needed research is lacking——————
E. Prepare a 'Handbook of Canadian Birds' along the lines of 'Birds of the Palearctic.'——————
F. Sponsor an AOU meeting in Canada in 1991.——————
G. Identify and express opinions on bird conservation issues relevant to Canada.——————
H. Provide scientific data relevant to conservation issues and conservation groups.——————
I. Develop a home educational course on Canadian bird study.——————
J. Develop bird study units for use in Canadian schools at various levels, and review existing material.——————
K. All SCO member meetings should be held in Canada.——————

Project Grants Available

The Trustees of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation were pleased to support four projects in 1987, totalling $2300.

Grants were awarded to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory for construction of a building at Beaverhill Lake, Alberta; to Luke de Wit of Calgary, Alberta for an American Kestrel enhancement project; to the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas; and to Leo A. Smith of Brantford, Ontario for a bluebird nest-box project. In November 1986, the Trustees also awarded the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas a further $1000 to help with part time employment in the completion of the publication.

Applications are now being accepted for funding for 1988. Grants of up to $1000 are available for various projects across the country.

The aim of the Fund is to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and to support projects that increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural enviroment or contribute to their preservaton.

Priority will be given to projects that draw on the resources of volunteer naturalists in conducting research or field work, and to applicants who have little or no access to other sources of support. Thesis research does not usually meet the intent of these criteria.

Application forms, instructions, and further information can be obtained from:
The Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund,
Long Point Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 160 Port Rowan, Ontario.
N0E 1M0

Great Comorant

Line drawings by Terry Thormin
Reproduced with permission from
A Bird Finding Guide to Canada by Cam Finlay.

SCO Enters Baillie Birdathon

In May of 1988, the SCO will participate for the first time in the Baillie Birdathon, a fund-raising event run by the Long Point Bird Observatory.

Birders collect sponsors for each species they can identify in a 24-hour period, then go bird crazy on any day they choose between mid-April and late May. The Birdathon can be done anywhere, and past counts have been made in Texas, Israel and Great Britain, as well as across Canada.

Proceeds from the Birdathon are split among the Long Point Bird Observatory, participating organizations and the James L Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation.

Information in the next newsletter will tell you how you can take part, but start thinking about it now. It's a great way to make yourself feel good about seeing a Starling, and even a modest sponsorship can make a big difference to SCO's finances as we will be receiving one quarter of what we raise.

Erica Dunn will be counting on behalf of SCO on May 7th and 8th at Long Point, and will be seeking your support that weekend.

Canadian Ornithologists and their Research

ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM

E.H. Miller-Geographic variation in woodpeckers of B.C.; anatomy of the syrinx in non-passerine birds, especially Piciformes and Charadriiformes; vocalizations and vocal behavior and their use in taxonomy, esp. Picidae, Scolopacidae, and Charadriidae; population (breeding) biology of Least Sandpipers.

S. Freeman - Song structure and variation in land birds, esp. passerines, on the Queen Charlotte Islands.

J.M. Cooper - Reproductive biology and components of breeding success in female Least Sandpipers.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Peter Arcese (Ph.D. student)- Song Sparrow territoriality.

Andre Breault - Eared Grebe coloniality.

Rob Butler (On leave from CWS) - Great Blue Heron behavioral ecology.

Gayle Brown (Ph.D student) - Learning and memory in hummingbird foraging.

Alice Cassidy (Ph.D. student) - Song Sparrow interpopulation variation in song.

Horatio de la Cueva (Ph.D. student) - Biomechanics of flight.

John Eadie (Ph.D. student) - Brood parasitism in goldeneyes.

Nick Folkard (Ph.D student) - Project undecided.

Lee Gass (Professor) - Cognition and energetics in hummingbird foraging.

Wesley Hochachka (Ph.D. student) - Song Sparrow reproductive strategy.

Dick Repasky (Ph.D. student) - Granivorous bird communities of American deserts.

Dolph Schluter (University Research Fellow) - Community ecology of granivorous birds; natural selection.

Jamie Smith (Professor) - Song Sparrow population dynamics and behavioral ecology.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Gary Bortolotti (Professor) - Bald Eagle and American Kestiel behavioral ecology.

Bill Iko - Undecided.

SASKATCHEWAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Paul C. James - Population ecology of the Merlin; impact of grasshopper sprays on burrowing owls.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Dr. Susan Hannon - Population regulation in

ptarmigan and Black-capped Chickadees; the evolution of mating systems in grouse.

Dr. Kathy Martin - Population and behavioral ecology of Willow and White-tailed Ptarmigan with emphasis on the maintenance of the monogamous mating in Ptarmigan.

Peter Dunn - Monogamy in tree swallows and Black- billed Magpies.

Jim Schieck - Territory acqusition and site tenacity in Willow Ptarmigan.

Gloria Dobush - Paternity analysis and male mating tactics in Willow Ptarmigan.

Rogier Gruys - Overwinter mortality in Willow Ptarmigan.

Dr. David Boag - Studies of dispersal in grouse, ground squirrels, and gastropods.

Dr. Manjit Dhindsa - Dispersal in Black-billed Magpies.

Jon Swenson - Why the Hazel Grouse is the only monogamous forest grouse.

Mark Wayland - Impact of carbofuran on the invertebrate food base of dabbling ducks.

Marjorie Bousfield - Winter ecology of Wrangle Island Snow Geese.

Richard Chabaylo - The impact of radio transmitters, attached to incubating mallards, on their subsequent behavior and reproductive success.

Richard Cotter - The timing and impact of predation on rock ptarmigan populations: does the researcher introduce a significant artifact.

Richard Pattenden - Dispersal, dominance behavior, and body reserves in mallards during winter: mechanisms involved and implications for the individual.

Gary Gregoire - Is dominance status in families of Canada Geese related to brood size or dominance status of parents.?

Gordon Court - Toxic residues in peregrine populations: facts and implications.

PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA

W. Bruce McGillivray - evolutionary significance of subspecific variation in several Alberta birds particularly Brewers Sparrows and Warbling Vireos. Size, shape and sexual size dimorphism of North American owls.

Philip H.R. Stepney - Breeding ecology of double crested Cormorants and White Pelicans. Distribution and abundance of Eastern and Western screech owls in Alberta.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Terry D.Galloway - Fleas associated with swallows and other bird spp. where possible e.g. (gulls, cormorants).

Spencer Sealy - Breeding ecology of Passerines and Alcids.

ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LTD.

Reto Zach - Growth rates, life history strategies.

In The Press

Current and In Press Articles in Canadian Ornithology

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Arcese, P. 1987. Age, intrusion pressure and territory defence against floaters by territorial male song sparrows. Anim. Behav. 35: 773-784

Arcese, P., P.K. Stoddard, and S.M. Hiebert. The form and function of song in female song sparrows. Condor (In Press).

Arcese, P. and J.N.M. Smith. The effects of population density and supplemental food on reproduction in the song sparrow. J. Anim. Ecol. *(In Press)*

Armstrong, D.P. 1987. Economics of breeding territoriality in male Calliope Hummingbirds. Auk 104:242-253.

Armstrong, D.P. 1987. Calliope Hummingbird breeding territoriality. Nature Canada. (In Press).

Armstrong, D.P. Persistent copulation attempts by male Calliope Hummingbirds towards newly fledged conspecifics. Can. Field Nat. (In Press)

Armstrong, D.P., C.L. Gass, and G.D. Sutherland. 1987. Should foragers remember where they've been? Explorations of a simulation model based on the behavior and energetics of territorial hummingbirds. In A.C. Kamil, H.R. Pulliam, and J.R. Krebs *(eds.). Foraging Behavior. Plenum Press.* New York.

Cahoon, P. 1987. Detecting and eliminating spatial bias when tracking foraging birds in a laboratory experiment. p. 255-274. In M.L. Commons, A. Kacelnik, and S.J. Shettleworth (eds.). Quantitative analysis of behavior. Vol. 6: foraging. Lawrence Erlbaum Inc. New Jersey.

Eadie, J. McA., K.M. Cheng and C.R. Nichols. 1987. Limitations of tetracycline in tracing multiple maternity. Auk 104: 330-333.

Eadie, J. McA. and G. Gauthier. Nest predation, parasitism, and the evolution of nest site preferences in the common goldeneye. Oecologia (Berl.) (In Press).

Gass, C.L. An essay on the flexibility of behavior. In N.K. Wessells and J.L. Hopson (eds.). Biology. Random House. New York. (In Press).

Gass, C.L. Inferring evolutionary history in pollination biology. Acta. XIX Int. Congr. Ornithol. (In Press).

Gauthier, G. Brood territories in buffleheads: determinants and correlates of territory size. Can. J. Zool. (In Press).

Gauthier, G. Further evidence of long-term pair bonds in ducks of the genus *Bucephala.* Auk. (In Press).

Gauthier, G. 1987. The adaptive significance of territorial behavior in breeding buffleheads: a test of three hypotheses. Anim. Behav. 35. 348-360.

Gauthier, G. and J.N.M. Smith. 1987. Territorial behavior, nest site availability, and breeding density in buffleheads. J. Anim. Ecol. 56: 171-184

Nol. E. and J.N.M. Smith. 1987. Effects of age and breeding experience on seasonal reproductive success in the song sparrow. J. *Anim. Ecol. 56: 301-313.*

Savard, J-P. L. 1987. Causes and functions of brood amalgamation in Barrow's Goldeneye and Bufflehead. Can. J. Zool. 65: 1548-1553.

Savard, J-P. and J.N.M. Smith. Interspecific aggression by Barrow's Goldeneye: a descriptive and functional analysis. Behavior (In Press).

Schluter, D. Character displacement and the adaptive divergence of finches on islands and continents. American Naturalist: (In Press).

Schluter, D. Morphological adaptation and diet in the Galapagos ground finches. Proceedings of the XIX International Ornithological Congress (Ottawa 1986): (In Press).

Simpson, K., J.N.M. Smith and J.P. Kelsall. 1987. Correlates and consequences of coloniality in great blue herons. Can. J. Zool. 65: 572-577.

Smith J.N.M. Determinants of lifetime reproductive success in Song Sparrows. In: Reproductive Success, Ed. T.H. Clutton-Brock. University of Chicago Press. (In Press).

Smith J.N.M. and P. Arcese. Effects of supplemental food on growth and adult size in the song sparrow. Proc. Int. Ornithol. *Congr. 19: (In Press).*

Stephens, D.W., and S.R. Paton. How constant is the constant of risk-aversion? Anim. Behav. (In Press).

Tamm, S. Tracking changing environments; sampling by hummingbirds. Anim. Behav. (In Press).

ROYAL BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUM

Miller, E.H., W.W.H. Gunn, and B.N. Veprintsev. 1987. Breeding vocalizations of Baird's Sandpiper with remarks on phylogeny and adaptation.Ornis, Scand. (In Press)

Miller, E.H., W.W.H. Gunn, and S.F. MacLean, Jr. 1987. Breeding vocalizations of the Surfbird. Condor 89: 406-412.

Miller, E.H. 1987. Describing bird behavior *for comparative purposes. In R.F. Johnston* (ed.), 'Current Ornithology', vol. 5. Plenum

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Gerrard, J. and G.R. Bortolotti. The Bald Eagle. 'Haunts and Habits of a Wilderness Monarch'. Smithsonian Institution Press. (In Press).

SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

James, P.C. et al. 1987. Bill crossover ratios in Canadian crossbills. Loxia spp. Ornis Scand.

James, P.C. and A.R. Smith. 1988. Food Habits of urban-nesting Merlins in Edmonton, Alberta. Can. Field-Nat.

James, P.C. et al. 1987. Close inbreeding in the Merlin. Wilson Bull.

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Hobson, K.A., and S.G. Sealy. 1987. Foraging scavenging and other behavior of swallows on the ground. Wilson Bull. 99: 111-116.

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Chilton, G., and S.G. Sealy. 1987. Species roles in mixed-species feeding flocks of seabirds. J. Field Ornithol. 58: (In Press).

Guinan, D.M., and S.G. Sealy. 1987. Diet of House Wrens and the abundance of the invertebrate prey in the dune-ridge forest, Delta Marsh, Man. Can. J. Zool. 65: 1587-1596.

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