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PICOIDES

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William Rowan examines the nest of a Burrowing Owl. June 1953.

photo courtesy University of Alberta Archives.

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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 tenuous, 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 scholarly 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 honorary 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.

