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Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) chicks in nest. Photo credit: Alice Pintaric.

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Editors' Message

Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho

Welcome to the second issue of *Picoides* in 2018. We hope everyone had a good spring and is looking forward to summer.

In this issue, Ken Otter discusses in the President's message some exciting SCO-SOC events at the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) events such as the Canada Evening and Early Career Researcher workshop and the amazing financial support for Travel Grants for 50 Canadian students and post-docs to attend the IOC in Vancouver this August. Ken also thanks all the sponsors for SCO-SOC events at IOC. He also mentions the good news that the Nomenclatural and Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) has approved the official change to the common name for the Gray Jay back to Canada Jay. In this issue, we have the SCO-SOC press release on this historic name change of this iconic Canadian bird on page 19. We thank Dan Strickland for getting this started and everyone who supported this effort. Now, we need to get the federal government to officially designate the Canada Jay as our nation bird!

We congratulate the 2018 Student Research Award winners: Alex Sutton (University of Guelph, Bailie Award), Andrew Beauchamp (University of Western Ontario, Taverner Award), Sonya Pastran (Simon Fraser University, Taverner Award), and Samantha Krause (University of Lethbridge, Fred Cooke Award). The summaries of their award-winning research are on pages 6-7.

We also congratulate Dr. Kathy Martin in becoming the President of American Ornithological Society. Kathy is a member and former president of SCO-SOC. Check out the article from AOS on page 15.

Chris De Ruyck submitted a fascinating article on his Ph.D. field work in Grenada. Check it out on page 12. Also in this issue, a progress report from Leanne Grieves, the 2017 Fred Cooke Award winner, and a single thesis abstract. In addition we have an update on the North American Banding Council from Stuart Mackenzie on page 16.

Erin Bayne's lab at the University of Alberta has piloted new one-page research summaries for funders and Erin suggested that we try one for *Picoides* on boreal forest owls and industrial noise (see page 11). Thank you to Julia Shonfield for sending it in! We think these research summaries could make great additions to *Picoides*. We hope we will get more of these research summaries from a variety of bird labs across Canada on an ongoing basis.

Finally, please check out the notices for the IOC, the Canada Evening and Early Researcher workshop at the IOC this August in Vancouver. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next SCO-SOC conference on 27-30 August 2019 in Quebec City.

The next *Picoides* deadline is October 15, 2018. We look forward to your next submission. Without submissions, there is no *Picoides*. We also welcome your feedback as it your publication and we wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer.

FRANÇAIS— Message des éditeurs–Rob Warnock et Barbara Bleho

Bienvenue à la deuxième question de *Picoides* en 2018. Nous espérons que tout le monde avait un bon printemps et se réjouit de l'été.

Dans ce numéro, Ken Otter discute dans le message du Président de certains événements passionnants de SCO-SOC lors des événements Congrès ornithologique International (COI) tels que l'atelier soirée Canada et chercheur au début de carrière et le soutien financier étonnant pour un voyage Subventions pour 50 étudiants et post-doctorants à assister le CIO à Vancouver ce mois d'août. Ken remercie également tous les sponsors pour des événements de SCO-SOC chez IOC. Il mentionne également les bonnes nouvelles que la Commission Nomenclatural et Classification de l'American Ornithological Society (AOS) a approuvé le changement officiel du nom usuel pour le Mésangeai du Canada vers le Geai du Canada. Dans ce numéro, nous avons le communiqué de presse de SCO-SOC sur ce changement de nom historique de cet oiseau emblématique canadien page 19. Nous remercions Dan Strickland pour obtenir cela a commencé et tout le monde qui ont soutenu cet effort. Maintenant, nous avons besoin d'obtenir du gouvernement fédéral pour désigner officiellement le Geai du Canada comme notre oiseau de nation !

Nous tenons à féliciter les gagnants de bourse de recherche de 2018: Alex Sutton (Université de Guelph, Bailie Award), Andrew Beauchamp (Université de Western Ontario, Taverner Award), Sonya Pastran (Université de Simon Fraser, Taverner Award), et Samantha Krause, (L'Université de Lethbridge, Fred Cooke Award). Les résumés de leurs recherches primées sont sur les pages 6-7.

Nous félicitons également Dr. Kathy Martin en devenir le Président d'American Ornithological Society. Kathy est membre et ancien président de SCO-SOC. Consultez l'article de l'AOS à la page 15.

Chris De Ruyck soumis un article fascinant sur son PhD. travail sur le terrain à la Grenade. Check it out sur la page 12. Également dans ce numéro, un rapport d'avancement de Leanne Grieves, le gagnant de prix Cooke Fred 2017 et un résumé de la thèse unique. En outre, nous avons une mise à jour sur le North American Banding Council de Stuart Mackenzie à la page 16**.**

Laboratoire de Erin Bayne à l'Université de l'Alberta a piloté des nouveaux résumés de recherche une page pour les bailleurs de fonds et Erin a suggéré que nous essayons un pour *Picoides* sur les hiboux de la forêt boréale et le bruit industriel (voir page 11). Merci à Julia Shonfield pour l'envoi il! Nous pensons que ces résumés de recherche pourraient faire *Picoides* excellents ajouts. Nous espérons que nous obtiendrons plus de ces résumés de recherches de divers laboratoires d'oiseaux partout au Canada sur une base continue.

Enfin, s'il vous plaît consultez les avis de l'atelier de CIO, le soir du Canada et chercheur au début au CIO ce mois d'août à Vancouver. N'oubliez pas de marquer vos calendriers de la prochaine Conférence de SCO-SOC sur 27-30 août 2019 à Québec.

La prochaine échéance de *Picoides* est 15 octobre 2018. Nous nous réjouissons de votre prochaine présentation. Sans prétentions, il n'y a aucun *Picoides*. Nous nous félicitons également vos commentaires comme il votre publication et nous souhaite à tous un été sécuritaire et merveilleux.

Follow SCO on Twitter! Follow us @SCO_SOC for news, exciting research, updates from members, and more!
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Message du président

Ken Otter

Nous sommes à quelques mois seulement de ce qui devrait être le plus grand congrès ornithologique à avoir eu lieu au Canada et, si la tendance se maintient, au plus grand congrès tenu à ce jour, quel que soit l'endroit. J'espère que la plupart d'entre vous pourrez vous joinder à nous à Vancouver, alors que la SCO-SOC sera co-hôtesse du congrès international d'ornithologie 2018. En particular, j'espère que vous pourrez participer à la Soirée du Canada que nous avons organisée avec l'aide d'Études d'oiseaux Canada. Suite à un dur travail, largement attributable à Gregor Beck, d'ÉOC, nous avons obtenu des dons de 29 000$ afin de tenir un gala Durant lequel aura lieu la présentation des prix de la SCO-SOC/BSC-EOC's, de même qu'une conference de Margaret Atwood et Graeme Gibson. Durant l'événement social qui suivra les présentations, les Artistes pour la conservation présenteront des oeuvres, incluant des esquisses faites sur place. Il s'agira, nous l'espérons, d'un événement mémorable. À la fin de ce message, j'aimerais souligner les contributions généreuses qui ont rendu possible cet événement.

Notre soutien financier aux participants étudiants à ce congrès historique est rendu possible grâce à la généreuse contribution des membres de la SCO-SOC. En réponse à notre appel de contributions aux bourses de voyage, les membres de la SCO-SOC ont fourni 4400$ de contributions – un montant pour le moins sensationnel pour une Société de cette taille. Pour cela, je suis redevable à chacun de vous. Le Conseil a approuvé l'ajout du montant total prévu de $5000, une contribution égale à celle d'Études d'oiseaux Canada, ce qui nous a permis d'offrir des bourses à plus de 50 étudiants et chercheurs postdoctoraux afin qu'ils puissant participer au congrès de Vancouver. Merci à vous tous; je suis fier d'appartenir à une Société aussi généreuse!

Dans ce numéro de Picoides, vous verrez l'annonce d'un atelier pré-congrès destine aux étudiants et chercheurs en début de carrière. Cet événement incluera une conférence plénière du ou de la récipiendaire de la bourse de début de carrière 2018, ainsi que des

conferences-éclairs de d'autres chercheurs et une séance de questions-réponses avec des invites spéciaux qui ont fait carrière dans les universités, au gouvernement, dans l'industrie ou dans les ONG. Ces invités vous donneront des conseils afin de faire carrière dans votre domaine de prédilection. Vous pouvez vous inscrire pour participer à partir de la fin-juin. Surveillez vos courriels pour plus d'information au sujet de cet événement.

J'ai aussi l'honneur de vus informer qu'au moment d'écrire ces lignes, une nouvelle toute récente confirme qu'un groupe dirigé par Dan Strickland a convaincu le Comité de la nomenclature et de la classification de l'American Ornithological Society de redonner son nom au Geai du Canada, en s'appuyant sur une recherché détaillée entreprise par Strickland afin de documenter l'histoire de la nomenclature de cette espèces publiée l'an dernier dans Ontario Birds. Cette application a été appuyée par plusieurs groupes incluant une lettre transmise au nom de la SCO-SOC. Les efforts du groupe furent convaincants, puisqu'on a confirmé cette semaine que le changement de nom a été approuvé par un vote de 9/10 du Comité. Celui-ci sera annoncé dans le numéro de juillet de *Auk*. Bien que ce ne soit pas officiellement notre oiseau-emblême national, il est agréable de "rapatrier" cette espèce qui symbolize si bien une part importante de l'histoire du Canada.

Un merci aux généreux commanditaires de Canada Evening à l'IOCongress 2018 :

Sponsor Platine (10,000$) – Nature Conservancy Canada

Sponsors Argent (2500$) – University of Northern British Columbia, Thompson Rivers University, EBB Environmental Consulting Inc., Ducks Unlimited Canada. Wildlife Habitat Canada, World Wildlife Fund – Canada

Sponsors Bronze (1000$) – Vancouver International Bird Festival, LGL Consulting BC, FortisBC Energy Inc, Canadian Wildlife Federation

Copains (500$) – Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI), Birds & Beans Coffee.

ENGLISH—President's Message – Ken Otter

We are now only a couple of months away from what will likely be the largest ornithology meeting ever held in Canada (and if projections continue, possibly the largest ever held anywhere). I hope that most of you will be able to join us in Vancouver as SCO-SOC co-hosts the IOCongress 2018, and in particular join us for the Canada Evening that we have been organizing with Bird Studies Canada. Through a lot of hard work, largely on the part of Gregor Beck from BSC, we have secured $29,000 in sponsorship to host this gala event, which will feature presentation of SCO-SOC/BSC-EOC's awards and presentation by Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson. In the social event to follow the formal presentations, Artists for Conservation will be providing an art display, including live bird sketching. This will hopefully be an event to remember. At the end of this message, I would like to acknowledge the generous contributions that are making this event a possibility.

Part of our ability to help our students attend this historic meeting has been due to the incredible generosity of SCO-SOC members. In response to our call to contribute to the Travel Grants, SCO-SOC members donated $4,400 – an astonishing amount for a society of our size, and for this I am grateful to all of you. Council approved topping this to the full $5,000 to match an equal contribution from Bird Studies Canada, and the result is that we will be able to help support over 50 students/postdocs to attend the meeting in Vancouver. I thank all of you; it humbles me to be part of such a generous society.

You will also see the advertisement in this issue of Picoides for the pre-congress workshop, aimed at students and early-career researchers. The event will include a plenary talk from this year's Early-career Research Award recipient, lightning talks from others who want to highlight their work, as well as a Q&A period with invited guests who have found careers in academia, government, industry and NGO organizations for advice on lining up careers in your chosen fields. You can sign up to participate by the end of June, and look for more email updates about this event to come.

I am also excited as I sit down to write this message of news released this week – in the late fall, a group led by Dan Strickland made a case to the Nomenclatural and Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society to re-instate the "Canada Jay" as the common name for this species, citing a detailed investigation Strickland undertook on the naming history of this jay in an Ontario Birds article last year. The application was supported by several agencies including a letter provided on behalf of the SCO-SOC. The team's efforts were convincing, as it was revealed this week that the name change was approved by a vote of 9/10 on the committee, and will be announced in the July issue of *Auk* that the Gray Jay will be resuming its former name of Canada Jay. While this may not officially be our national bird, it is great to see the reclaiming of this species that is so much a part of Canada's history.

A thank you to generous sponsors of Canada Evening at IOCongress 2018:

Platinum Sponsor ($10,000) – Nature Conservancy Canada

Silver Sponsors ($2,500) – University of Northern British Columbia, Thompson Rivers University, EBB Environmental Consulting Inc., Ducks Unlimited Canada. Wildlife Habitat Canada, World Wildlife Fund – Canada

Bronze Sponsors ($1,000) – Vancouver International Bird Festival, LGL Consulting BC, FortisBC Energy Inc., Canadian Wildlife Federation

Friends ($500) – Environnemental Dynamics Inc. (EDI), Birds & Beans Coffee.

2017 Fred Cooke Award Report

Chemical Signaling and Variation in Major Histocompatibility Complex Genotype, Preen Oil Chemical Composition, and Preen Gland Microbial Communities in Song Sparrows, **Melospiza melodia.**

Leanne Grieves, Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario

Introduction

The major histocompatibility complex (MHC) is an essential component of the vertebrate immune system. Because high MHC allelic diversity can increase disease resistance and thus offspring fitness, sexual selection theory predicts that animals should prefer mates with MHC genes different from their own. Indeed, the MHC has been implicated in mate choice in several vertebrate taxa, including birds (Milinski 2006). Whereas some taxa assess MHC via chemical cues (Milinski 2006), olfaction as a mechanism for signaling MHC remains largely unexplored in birds (Caro et al. 2015, but see Leclaire et al. 2017).

Most bird species have a uropygial (preen) gland, and preen oil secretions from this gland contain odorous chemicals. These chemicals meet the basic requirements for reproductive chemosignals in that they can vary by species, sex, individual, and reproductive condition (Caro et al. 2015). Recent work has also established that, in song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), preen oil secretions are correlated with MHC genotype (Slade et al. 2016). Olfactory communication via preen oil thus presents a potential mechanism for MHC-mediated mate choice in birds (Whittaker et al. 2011, Leclaire et al. 2014, 2017, Slade et al. 2016). MHC molecules comprise two main classes (I and II): class II molecules respond primarily to extracellular microorganisms such as bacteria. Thus, preen gland bacterial communities and preen oil compounds may be influenced by MHC class II genotype.

Song sparrows are an abundant and widespread passerine species, found across most of North America. While not currently a species of conservation concern, it is estimated that between 1966 and 2014, song sparrow populations declined by more than 30% (North American Birds Conservation Initiative 2014).

My PhD research will explore mate choice and chemical communication in song sparrows. I hypothesize that variation at MHC underlies variation in preen gland bacterial communities and that this contributes to variation in preen oil composition, thus providing a potential mechanism for olfactory assessment of MHC genotype. I will assess population-level variation in major histocompatibility complex (MHC) genotypes, preen oil chemical composition, and preen gland bacterial communities in two song sparrow populations in Ontario, ultimately evaluating the influence of these factors on mate choice. I will use a common two-choice Y-maze design to experimentally test song sparrow preferences for preen oil from MHC-dissimilar versus MHC-similar birds of the opposite sex.

Song Sparrow in the hand.
Photo credit: Leanne Grieves.

Research Questions

1) Do MHC genotypes, preen gland bacterial communities, and preen oil chemical profiles differ among populations? Predictions: Populations differ in MHC genotype, bacterial communities, and preen oil composition. Preen gland bacterial communities are correlated with MHC class II genotype.

2) Are mate choice decisions correlated with MHC genotype and influenced by preen oil odour? Prediction: Birds in breeding condition will prefer MHC-dissimilar individuals, and test subjects will spend more time near preen oil from MHC-dissimilar compared to MHC-similar conspecifics of the opposite sex during Y-maze trials.

Significance

My research on geographic variation at MHC, preen oil, and associated bacteria will advance our understanding of how selection maintains adaptive variation in populations. By providing experimental evidence of olfactory-communication in songbirds, my research on preen oil as a mechanism for MHC-based mate choice could provide some of the first evidence for odour-based mate choice in birds, and could ultimately change our perspective on sexual selection and communication in birds.

Fred Cooke Award

The SCO-SOC-BSC Fred Cooke Award has helped me advance my research project by providing funds that covered some of the laboratory costs of performing DNA extractions for my work on song sparrow MHC and bacteria genotyping (ongoing), and allowed me to construct a Y-maze for the behavioural tests I recently completed. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to both the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and Bird Studies Canada for supporting my doctoral research.

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2018 Student Awards Recipients

On behalf of the SCO-SOC and Bird Studies Canada, the SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee wishes to congratulate the four 2018 SCO-SOC Student Award winners. We received many outstanding applications from across Canada. We would like to thank all those who applied and encourage those not selected this year to try again in 2019.

2018 Baillie Award

Alex Sutton, Ph.D. University of Guelph
Climate and demographic drivers of population growth of a boreal passerine

Alex Sutton. Photo credit: Koley Freeman.

Understanding population declines requires knowledge of demographic vital rates that influence population growth and how climatic conditions throughout the annual cycle influence these vital rates. Currently, research is biased to a single portion of the annual cycle, the breeding season, and how climate change influences fecundity, rather than other vital rates. I propose to use 45 years of demographic data tracking Gray Jays (*Perisoreus canadensis*) throughout the annual cycle to address two research questions: (Q1) What is the relative contribution of the four vital rates to an observed population decline? (Q2) What are the direct and indirect effects of climatic variables throughout the annual cycle on population vital rates? Identifying the demographic drivers of population decline and how these are affected by climatic conditions is critical to predicting future responses to climate change and informing conservation initiatives.

2018 Taverner Award

Andrew Beauchamp, M.Sc. Western University
Behavioural mechanisms of differential migration in the White-throated Sparrow

Differential migration is commonly observed in songbirds; however, the underlying behavioural mechanisms are still uncertain for most, if not all, species. The objective of my research is to evaluate multiple types of differential migration and the underlying behavioural mechanisms in White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) during spring migration.

Banding data, plasma metabolite analysis, radio telemetry, and stable isotope analysis will be used to examine how traits like sex, age, body condition, and behaviour affect migration speed, wintering latitude, and migration initiation date. Using multiple advanced techniques, my research aims to increase our understanding of the ecology of migratory songbirds by provide a robust examination of the behavioural mechanisms underlying differential migration. Understanding migration will be increasingly important if we are to predict how migratory birds will responded to changing environmental conditions.

Andrew Beauchamp. Photo credit: Chloe Carter.

2018 Taverner Award

Sonya Pastran, M.Sc. Simon Fraser University
Marbled murrelet marine habitat utilization in Haida Gwaii, BC

Sonya Pastan. Photo credit: Sonya Pastran.

Declining numbers of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) are largely attributed to deforestation, focusing the majority of habitat association studies on terrestrial variables, thereby limiting our understanding of their complete habitat needs. To date, no studies of marine utilization have been conducted in Haida Gwaii, BC. Using existing at-sea transect data collected by the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society (1990-2017) and additional Murrelet data (2018-2019), we propose to (1) map the Murrelets annual and interannual local abundance and distribution, defining hot- and coldspots and annual variability; (2) use static and dynamic variables from existing online environmental data to examine their relationships with Murrelet to sea usage; and (3) analyze fine-scale distributional relationships using additional marine and Murrelet data collected in2018 and 2019 along the at-sea survey transects. This study will aid Murrelet conservation planning in Haida Gwaii as well as potentially along the BC mainland central coast.

2018 Fred Cooke Award

Samantha Krause. Photo credit: Andrew Sedeksy.

Samantha Krause, M.Sc. University of Lethbridge
Female assessment of male sexual signals in a non-migratory song bird

I study the coevolution of female mate assessment strategies and male signals. Female songbirds assess male songs when choosing social mates and extra-pair partners. Male Adelaide's warblers (*Setophaga adelaidae*) sing at high rates before dawn, and reciprocally countersing with their neighbours later on, sometimes "matching" a neighbour's previous song type. I hypothesize that females assess males when males exhibit these singing behaviours. I will combine radio-tracking with interactive playback experiments to determine whether females preferentially assess singing males during the dawn chorus, countersinging bouts, and when type matching. Turning to the signallers' perspective, I will describe how males adjust their singing behaviour in response to their mate's presence. This study promises to shed light on the adaptive significance of female assessment strategies, and their influence on the evolution of male sexual signalling.

Student contributions wanted for *Picoides*!

SCO-SOC encourages students to submit material for *Picoides*. In particular, we would like each issue to feature abstracts of at least one or two recently published theses. They must be from students at a Canadian university, but need not necessarily focus on Canadian birds. Abstracts should be 250-400 words long, preferably accompanied by one or two relevant photos.

We also welcome articles describing aspects of student research in greater detail; these should focus on a subject relevant to Canadian ornithology, require references, and may be up to 1,000 words long, again preferably accompanied by one or two photos. See page 23 for submission details.

Recent Canadian Ornithology Theses

Torrenta, Rémi. 2018. Responses of breeding birds to forest cover loss and fragmentation in eastern Ontario. Ph.D. Thesis. Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB.

Les populations de nombreux oiseaux forestiers migrateurs néotropicaux sont en déclin et les causes sous-jacentes de ces tendances sont encore mal comprises. La perte d'habitat et la fragmentation d'habitat *per se* (i.e., indépendante de la perte) sont des moteurs notables des changements de répartition des oiseaux à l'échelle du paysage dans leur aire de nidification, exacerbant les effets d'autres pressions environnementales ressenties sur l'ensemble du cycle de vie annuel. La littérature récente conteste la possibilité que la fragmentation puisse avoir un effet négatif sur la richesse spécifique ou l'abondance des organismes. Pourtant, même chez des taxa mobiles comme les oiseaux, la fragmentation peut intensifier les effets de lisière, diminuer la connectivité fonctionnelle et, donc, la probabilité de "sauvetage" des populations locales.

Dans les forêts fragmentées de l'Est de l'Ontario, j'ai analysé les effets de changements de la structure du paysage à travers la perte et fragmentation du couvert forestier, et la création de types de matrice variés, sur la réponse des oiseaux forestiers (répartition, occupation de l'habitat, dynamique spatiotemporelle) à plusieurs niveaux de complexité et échelles spatiales.

J'ai testé des prédictions découlant de l'hypothèse de la quantité d'habitat de L. Fahrig, déclarant que la quantité d'habitat dans le "paysage local" autour d'un site d'échantillonnage est suffisante pour prédire la richesse spécifique de ce site, quelle que soit la configuration de l'habitat. Dans mes paysages, la quantité d'habitat n'était pas un prédicteur suffisant de la richesse spécifique des assemblages d'oiseaux forestiers à lui seul, ce qui suggère que la configuration de l'habitat influence la répartition des oiseaux et ses processus sous-jacents

J'ai aussi rapporté un effet de la fragmentation de forêt mature sur l'occupation de l'habitat à l'échelle du territoire : l'amplitude de la niche d'espèces focales diminuait avec le degré de fragmentation, probablement en raison de plus faibles abondances régionales. Dans les paysages fortement fragmentés, des modifications au niveau de la sélection du territoire pourraient entraîner des déclins de populations, à moins que les individus ne puissent saturer l'habitat optimal. D'autre part, dans les paysages moins fragmentés, les individus semblent "déborder" dans de l'habitat suboptimal, ce qui pourrait contribuer à réguler les tailles de population à l'échelle régionale.

Enfin, j'ai analysé les changements dans la répartition de la Grive des bois (*Hylocichla mustelina*), une espèce menacée qui est relativement sensible à la structure du paysage, à la limite nord de son aire de nidification, sur une période de 20-30 ans. Bien que remarquablement stable dans les forêts fragmentées des Basses-Terres du Saint-Laurent, sa répartition a montré une contraction en bordure de l'aire, en Ontario, au Québec et dans les provinces Maritimes. Les signatures biogéochimiques des plumes récoltées suggèrent que les déclins présumés des populations des forêts fragmentées de l'Est de l'Ontario pourraient être masqués par l'immigration d'individus depuis des populations sources par dispersion natale. En revanche, les populations périphériques pourraient être plus vulnérables à court terme, en raison de plus faibles taux d'immigration qui ne compenseraient pas les déclins occasionnés par les facteurs agissant principalement en dehors de la saison de reproduction.

Cette thèse fournit des résultats qui suggèrent que la configuration des forêts matures influence la répartition d'espèces d'oiseaux forestiers et que l'intensité de ces effets dépend du contexte spatial des populations (i.e., de leur position par rapport aux populations sources dans l'aire de repartition). Je conclus que la réduction de la fragmentation *per se* devrait rester une stratégie de conservation des oiseaux forestiers aux échelles du paysage et régionale.

ENGLISH—The populations of many neotropical migratory forest birds are declining and the causes underlying these trends are still poorly understood. Habitat loss and habitat fragmentation *per se* (i.e., independent from habitat loss) are important drivers of bird distribution changes at the landscape scale in their breeding range, exacerbating other environmental pressures experienced over the annual cycle. Recent literature challenges whether habitat fragmentation has a negative effect on the species richness or abundance of

organisms. Yet, even in vagile taxa such as birds, habitat fragmentation is thought to intensify edge effects, to decrease functional connectivity and, therefore, to reduce the probability of rescue effects for local populations.

In fragmented forest landscapes of eastern Ontario, I analyzed the effects of changes in landscape structure through loss and fragmentation of forest cover and the creation of various matrix types on the response of forest birds (distribution, habitat occupancy, spatiotemporal dynamics) at multiple hierarchical levels and spatial scales.

I tested predictions from Fahrig's habitat amount hypothesis, stating that habitat amount in the "local landscape" surrounding a sample site is sufficient to predict species richness in that site, irrespective of habitat configuration. In my landscapes, habitat amount was not a sufficient predictor of the species richness of forest bird assemblages on its own, suggesting that habitat configuration actually influences bird distribution and its underlying processes.

I also reported an effect of fragmentation of mature forest on habitat occupancy at the territory scale: habitat niche breadth of focal species decreased with fragmentation, probably as a result of lower regional abundance. In highly fragmented landscapes, shifts in habitat selection may result in population declines unless individuals can saturate optimal habitat. On the other hand, there seems to be a spillover into suboptimal habitat in less fragmented landscapes, which may contribute to regulate regional population size.

Finally, I analyzed changes in the distribution of the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), a declining species that is relatively sensitive to landscape structure, at the northeastern edge of its range over a 20-30 year period. Though remarkably stable in fragmented forests of the St. Lawrence Lowlands, its distribution exhibited a contraction at the edge of its range, in Ontario, Québec, and the Maritime Provinces. Biogeochemical profiles of feathers suggested that presumed population declines in fragmented forests of eastern Ontario may be masked by immigration of individuals from source populations through natal dispersal. In contrast, peripheral populations may be more at risk over the short term, owing to lower immigration rates that do not compensate for declines attributable to events occurring mainly during the nonbreeding period.

This thesis provides evidence suggesting that the configuration of mature forest remnants influences distribution of forest bird species and that the magnitude of these effects varies with the spatial context of populations (i.e., their position relative to source populations within the distribution range). I conclude that reducing habitat fragmentation *per se* should remain a conservation strategy for forest birds at the landscape and regional scales.

Left: Female Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*). Right: Adelaide's Warbler (*Setophaga adelaidae*) pair. Photo credit: Samantha Krause.

BIRD STUDIES CANADA
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Photo – David Bradley

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bioacoustic unit

How Does Industrial Noise Affect Owls in Northeastern Alberta?

Julia Shonfield, PhD Candidate

Energy development creates several types of disturbance that can impact wildlife, including the physical footprint of the infrastructure and the chronic noise from facilities.

Chronic noise sources can pose problems for animals that communicate vocally because the noise can mask important signals[1,2]. Owls, for example, use vocalizations to attract mates and defend territories, and hunt by listening to sounds made by prey. Chronic noise has been shown to negatively affect owl hunting success and ability to detect prey[3,4].

Barred Owls are listed as 'Sensitive' in Alberta, other owls are not listed but are important as top predators.

Research Question:

Do owls avoid industrial areas with chronic noise?

I used autonomous recordings units to survey owls at three types of sites:

1. Chronic noise sites – with a compressor station
2. Intermittent noise sites – with a road bisecting the site
3. No noise sites – with no traffic noise or industrial noise

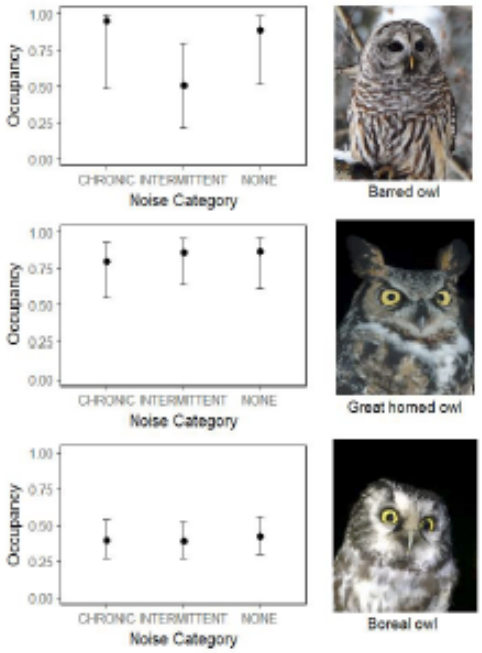

Fig. 1 – Occupancy model predictions for all three owl species for the three noise categories of sites surveyed (72 sites). Error bars are 95% confidence intervals.

I processed the recordings using recognizers to detect the calls of Barred owls, Great Horned owls and Boreal owls.
I found that the occupancy of all three owl species were not different between the three noise categories (Fig. 1).

Take-home message:

My results suggest the effect of industrial noise on owls is minimal, and unlikely to result in a population change.

Project funding by: National Science and Engineering Research Council, the Northern Scientific Training Program, the University of Alberta North program, the Alberta Conservation Association, the Environmental Monitoring Committee of the Lower Athabasca, Nexen Energy, and the Oil Sands Monitoring program operated jointly by Alberta Environment and Parks and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

[1]Brumm & Slabbekoorn. 2005. *Adv. Study Behav.* **35**: 151–209.
[2]Barber *et al.* 2010. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* **25**: 180–189.
[3]Mason *et al.* 2016. *Biol. Conserv.* **199**: 29–32.
[4]Senzaki *et al.* 2016. *Sci. Rep.* **6**: 30602.

For more details, see the full article at the link below:

Shonfield & Bayne. 2017. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 12(2):13. https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-01042-120213

Feature Article

I CAN'T QUIT BANANAQUITS!

Chris De Ruyck, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

Email: umderuy2@myumanitoba.ca

I have never been a very career minded biologist (shh, please don't tell any grant application reviewers), and I have always favoured interesting or mildly adventurous fieldwork, rather than focussing on career progression in any particular organization or field. This was one of the factors that led to my beginning PhD research, at age 40, on the Caribbean island of Grenada, under the supervision of Dr. Nicola Koper at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba. Who could turn down the opportunity to study a unique avian community on an exotic, tropical island, or the added (though highly unlikely) possibility of finding some hitherto unknown wintering population of neotropical migrant or similar such discovery? Even disregarding the lure of ecological "fame," in my mind tropical islands abound with biological wonders and mysteries that neither I nor my partner, both raised in temperate, industrial agriculture strongholds, could resist the opportunity to see and explore firsthand.

Notwithstanding wonders and mysteries, oceanic islands have been integral to the development of theories of evolution and speciation, most famously perhaps with Darwin and the Galapagos. However, it's a truism that scientific research produces more questions than answers. For example, despite almost 159 years of theoretical development since the publication of *The Origin of Species*, we still cannot entirely agree about what a species is, nor can we predict with certainty the interplay of biotic and abiotic components necessary to produce speciation and co-existence. Nevertheless, every island has something to tell us through its unique combination of geologic, climatic, topographic, and biotic features, which can be examined to illuminate the evolutionary processes that have shaped the ecological communities found therein. Thus, islands continue to play a significant role in expanding the range of evolutionary questions that we can ask and attempt to answer.

Grenada Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nugator*). Photo credit: Alice E. Davey.

So, with tropical diversity and theories of evolution in mind, my partner and I set off for Grenada, at the southern tip of the West Indies, about 165 km north of Trinidad and Tobago, to carry out three months of mist-netting and bird-banding. We were continuing the work that the Koper lab first started in 2015 to expand our knowledge of the basic life history features of Grenada's land birds. However, working in the tropics during the wet season (also known as hurricane season) is not all fun and games, and even though Grenada was fortunate not to be hit by any of 2017's devastating hurricanes (Grenada is below the hurricane belt), there were still plenty of steamy, humid, sandfly, and mosquito filled days (and evenings) to adapt to living and working in. There were also many ornithological puzzles concerning breeding timing, moult pattern, and cycle-based aging criteria to contend with. Most notably, even after only spending a few days on the island, we realized that Grenada's bird diversity was surprisingly low considering its mix of lush tropical vegetation, sheltered valleys, and unassailably high volcanic slopes, as well as its proximity to species-rich Tobago.

To begin to understand why this is, we must first consider the island's past as Grenada's landscape, flora, and fauna reflect its geologic, climatic, and human history. Grenada and the Grenadines are remnants of a large volcanic oceanic island formed concurrently with parts of the Andes in the Late Miocene, about 11.63 to 5.33 million years ago (Groom 1970). All Grenadian flora and fauna arrived by air or sea, and have developed into a relatively depauperate ecological community due mainly to the young age of the islands, their small size and remoteness, and latterly, human settlement. Early colonizing bird species would have experienced various forms of ecological release, wherein they were freed from constraints such as interspecific competition and many pathogenic diseases. Release from these constraints would then have enabled rapid niche expansion (Van Valan 1965), likely favouring adaptive features such as morphological and behavioural changes suited to generalist foraging strategies (e.g., Scott et al. 2003), with

some species differentiating from their source populations faster than others depending on the selective pressures and competition dynamics at play (Bolnick et al. 2003, 2007).

Then came humans and eventual largescale ecosystem change. It is thought that the first wave of human settlers arrived on Grenada from South America beginning A.D. 165, followed by the Arawaks (A.D. 700), and then the Kalinago (Caribs) shortly before discovery by Columbus in 1498 (Steele 1974; Martin 2013). Not a lot is known about these early settlers, but we do know that they brought fruit and vegetable varieties with them from the South American mainland (Martin 2013), many of which are still present today. A European presence was established relatively late on Grenada compared to the rest of the Caribbean. However, a permanent French settlement in 1650, followed shortly by a massacre of the resident Amerindians in 1651, began a rapid establishment of slave-plantation agriculture, whereupon the island traded hands between the English and the French via treaty several times through the 17-1800s (Quintanilla 2003). During this time a massive ecological change was wrought with plantation agriculture and the importation of tens of thousands of slaves from West Africa (later indentured servants from India; Steele 1974) , resulting in the clearing of primary forests for sugarcane, nutmeg, cocoa, coffee, indigo, etc. (estimated 74% of the island converted; Government of Grenada 2014), as well as the introduction of many other food crops that the people brought with them from South and West Africa, South America, and India such as plantain, yam, black-eye pea, pigeon pea, rice, millet, tamarind, mango, watermelon, hibiscus, ackee, okra, Guinea squash, Guinea pepper, along with citrus, spices, trees and flowers (Carney and Rosomoff 2009). Latterly, the Giant Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*) and the Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) were introduced to decimate agricultural pests, rats, and the population of the poisonous Fer de lance snake (*Bothrops caribbaeus*), but presumably have had similar impacts on other wildlife including ground-nesting birds.

Green-throated Carib (*Eulampis holosericeus*). Photo credit: Alice E. Davey.

It was this unique combination of island biogeography, human disturbance, and species introductions that gave rise to the densely populated but relatively depauperate avifaunal community (35 resident terrestrial bird species), the majority of which are generalists, and are now found ubiquitously throughout most of the island's habitats (e.g., Lack and Lack 1973; Wunderle, 1985). Yet, despite the low diversity of terrestrial resident birds, endemism is relatively high. Seven of these species are unique to the Lesser Antilles Endemic Bird Area (EBA), including the Grenada Flycatcher (*Myiarchus nugatory*) and Lesser Antillean Tanager (*Tangara cucullata*), both of which are restricted to Grenada and St. Vincent, and the Grenada Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus mirus*), which is endemic to Grenada. There is also the critically endangered Grenada Dove (*Leptotila wellsi*), endemic to Grenada (Rusk 2009) and one of the most threatened bird species in the world with an estimated 136 adults (Rusk 2009). The current conservation status of the remaining EBA species is generally undocumented (Rusk 2009; Koper and Grieef 2016), and it is also unclear whether some species such as the Grenadian House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon grenadensis*) are phylogenetically distinct from either South American or West Indian populations, which has further implications for their regional conservation status.

It is obvious that there is much to learn about Grenada's birds both from conservation and evolutionary perspectives. Today, Grenada contains a patchwork landscape of commercial cropping, subsistence farming, agroforestry, and secondary (semi-natural) forests, which residents largely depend on for clean water, subsistence, flood protection and livelihoods such as tourism, agriculture, and fishing. The species of plants and animals found on Grenada presently have managed to weather the previous three centuries of change, which can perhaps be usefully thought of as a second period of ecological release. This second adaptive period is ongoing as novel ecological relationships become established and new communities are formed amongst the plantation-era arrivals; the impacts of the modern human landscape on Grenadian birds is not yet clear. The largely frugivorous bird communities found here appear heavily dependent on the mix of secondary forests, agroforestry (now mainly nutmeg and cocoa), and fruiting crops such as plantain, mango, citrus, and West Indian plum. However, land degradation and habitat loss due to urban and resort development, agricultural intensification, and climate driven changes such as altered wet/dry cycles, pest outbreaks and increased hurricane frequency pose threats to Grenada's natural forest environments (Caribsave2012; Government of Grenada 2014). Therefore, focussed conservation efforts are required to address these threats, which require knowledge of biodiversity and ecological functions (Non-state Actors' Panel 2013).

Some novel research that we are planning this year will hopefully help answer some questions related to conservation and evolution at the same time. We plan to use DNA barcoding techniques to analyze fecal samples collected from birds during mist-netting operations to determine diet items of insectivorous and frugivorous birds, and we will trial a method of swabbing pollen from the beaks, faces, and heads of nectarivorous birds to identify nectar sources. Diet information enables the determination of a species' trophic relationships and habitat use, which is integral to the development of effective conservation programs, and it also opens windows on niche breadth and variability to examine drivers of inter and intraspecific competition and specialization.

The diet analysis will help support the ongoing ornithological conservation research and outreach program that is developing in Grenada through partnerships among the Natural Resources Institute (NRI, University of Manitoba), St. George's University (SGU, Grenada), the Belmont Estate (Grenada), and Gaea (a Grenada non-profit). There are now a number of graduate students from SGU and the University of Manitoba conducting work on Grenadian bird ecology. Student studies include islands-wide bird surveys to map species' distributions and habitat use; re-survey work assessing population declines in Hook-billed Kite populations; mist-netting and banding work to examine morphometric divergence, breeding and moult phenology, etc.; and song analysis of endemic species and subspecies. The NRI is also offering field courses in Grenada based on themes of sustainable tourism and nature interpretation, and the beginnings of a local educational program are developing to bolster local capacity, cultivate an awareness of biodiversity conservation issues, and improve the perceived value of biodiversity conservation within local agro-forestry and eco-tourism industries.

Overall, Grenada offers many opportunities to study aspects of tropical ecology, evolution, and biodiversity conservation, and share a passion and love of nature with school children, local farmers, and international tourists. Our first trip left many lasting impressions: the lush forests teeming with life, flocks of orange-shouldered parrots on the hilltops, fearless anoles catching mosquitoes off of our bare feet, the enigmatic lives of hermit crabs (they have a very active night life!), watching the nest building and nest dismantling antics of Bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*), becoming familiar with some of the individual fish on our local reef, and our first time finding an Antillean Crested Hummingbird (*Orthorhyncus cristatus*) nest (the day after it fledged), and the list goes on. Accompanying the memories, are countless questions regarding the ecology of the species that we saw, as well as a desire to help support Grenadians in achieving their conservation aims and inspiring a love of birds to enjoin with people's sense of pride in their island's natural heritage.

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Canadian Ornithological News

The American Ornithological Society Elects Dr. Kathy Martin as President 2018-2020

Martin Brings Excellence and International Leadership to the Society

Kathy Martin, incoming AOS president 2018-2020, receives the gavel from Steven Beissinger, immediate past-president of the Society. Photo credit: Jordan Rutter.

At the close of the 136th stated meeting of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) last month in Tucson, Arizona, the AOS welcomed Kathy Martin as the Society's new president to lead the organization over the next two years. Dr. Martin was elected by AOS members to serve from 2018 to 2020 as the second president of the new AOS, formed in 2016 following the merger of the American Ornithologists' Union and the Cooper Ornithological Society. Dr. Martin is recognized for her significant contributions to ornithology in mountain and temperate forest ecosystems, for her global perspectives and successful international collaborations, and for her many years of service to the Society. She also served as President of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists in 2000-2001.

Dr. Martin, who served as president-elect of the AOS since 2016, brings a wealth of leadership experience to the largest scientific society serving ornithology with an international membership of 2,800 that is on the rise. Dr. Martin is well positioned to lead the AOS as it undertakes new initiatives to prepare future generations of scientists and conservation leaders, and to address the needs of students and professionals in advancing our scientific knowledge of birds across the globe.

The primary duties of the AOS president are to provide strategic leadership to the organization's governing Council and forward priority objectives of the Society. The AOS produces scientific publications of the highest quality, hosts intellectually engaging and professionally vital meetings, serves ornithologists at every career stage, and informs public policy on all issues important to ornithology and ornithological collections. The Society's executive and publication offices are managed by executive director Melinda Pruett-Jones, and a staff of five. AOS assets exceed $14 million in support of ornithology, and the Society invests over $1 million annually in conservation, research and education programs to advance its mission.

In her statement to the members assembled at the annual meeting, Dr. Martin said, "The AOS is distinguished by its tremendous collective expertise, conservation legacy, eminent scientists, early career innovators, and students. Looking to the future, the scientific community and the public need us more than ever. The Society will remain steadfast in advancing its mission (see below) and serving its members, and we will prioritize attracting diversity and promoting equity in our profession. AOS will expand its multi-dimensional approach that promotes and integrates peer-reviewed science, professional development, and public policy. We will continue to use our influence to partner with other ornithological and scientific communities to seek opportunities to collaborate with local, state and provincial, federal and international government entities to advance our mission of understanding and conserving birds."

Dr. Martin is a Fellow of the AOS, Professor in the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences at the University of British Columbia, and Senior Research Scientist, Science and Technology Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

About the American Ornithological Society

The American Ornithological Society (AOS) is the largest international society devoted to advancing the scientific understanding of birds, enriching ornithology as a profession, and promoting a rigorous scientific basis for the conservation of birds. AOS publishes two international journals—The Auk: Ornithological Advances, and The Condor: Ornithological Applications—which have a history of the

highest scientific impact rankings among ornithological journals worldwide, and the book series, Studies in Avian Biology. The Society's Checklists serve as the accepted authority for scientific nomenclature and English names of birds in North, Middle, and South America. The AOS is also a partner in the online publication of The Birds of North America with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. For more information, see www.americanornithology.org .

Update from the North American Banding Council

Stuart Mackenzie

Promoting sound and ethical banding principles and techniques across the Americas.

The North American Banding Council (NABC) is a non-profit group encompassing bird research organizations whose members use bird banding as a tool in ornithological research, conservation, and management. The Society of Canadian Ornithologists is one of 12 participating ornithological organizations that support NABC mission and have voting representatives on the NABC Board of Directors. The following is a brief summary of some of the recent initiatives being undertaken by NABC that may be of interest to SCO-SOC. For more information visit www.nabanding.net.

Reorganization around Taxa working groups:

Traditionally, NABC's committee structure has been organized around its different activities - certification, training, publications, etc. Over the past couple of years we have been actively re-organizing to be focused around Taxa and have working groups to ensure that we best serve all taxa. We currently have active working groups with manuals, training and cortication processes under way for Landbirds (Passerines), Raptors, Shorebirds, and Waterfowl. A Hummingbird working group is currently being established. *We do not have an active working group for Waterbirds and Seabirds. If you're interested in contributing to either of these groups, please contact us.*

Taxa Working Groups are responsible for the development and maintenance of resources, training and certification opportunities.

Latin American Training in partnership with the American Field Ornithologists (AFO):

NABC has a long history of facilitating training and certification of Latin Americans. In 2016, with support from AFO, NABC began providing small grants to support organizations in Latin America providing training and certification workshops. To date, $10,000 USD has been distributed.

NABC Manuals:

NABC revised both the Shorebird and Waterfowl manuals this year. The Hummingbird manual underwent substantial review, and the final revisions are nearing completion. The Loggerhead Shrike working group has also produced a Loggerhead Shrike manual in collaboration with NABC. The Hummingbird and Shrike manuals should be published to the NABC website very soon.

The Landbird (Passerine) Manual and the Raptor Manual are just beginning the revision process. Other manuals under development are an Avian First Aid Manual, and a Guide on the use of Auxiliary Markers, which we hope will be accompanied by publicly available videos, and workshops at major ornithological meetings.

NABC does not have manuals for Waterbirds and Seabirds and is looking for contributors to help develop resources for researchers working with these taxa.

Training and Certification:

- At least 20 classes and workshops were hosted by NABC-certified trainers in 2017, reaching more than 150 students.
- Approximately 85 individuals were certified at either the assistant, bander or trainer level across three taxa (passerines, waterfowl, and shorebirds) in 2017

- In 2017, NABC conducted a banding workshop at the annual meeting of WOS in March and at the AFO in August and presented on ethical photography at the International Bird Observatory Conference in October. NABC also arranged educational tables and displays at the 2017 meetings of the Eastern and Western Bird Banding Association Meetings. A shorebird training and certification workshop was held in conjunction with the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting in Peru. Waterfowl training and certification workshops were held in Ontario and New York State.

NABC needs support for the following activities:

- Translation of all resources, primarily manuals, into French, Spanish and Portuguese.
- Development of new training manuals for Waterbirds and Seabirds, Avian First Aid & a Guide to the use of Auxiliary Markers.
- Upgrades to our website and database management systems.
- Coordination, support and development of workshops and training opportunities.

Announcements

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS
VANCOUVER, CANADA · AUGUST 19 - 26, 2018

From the Organizers of the 27th International Ornithological Congress

The IOCongress2018 Organizing Society and Co-Hosts (Bird Studies Canada and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists) together with partners from government, academia, arts, conservation and business have been planning for the 27th International Ornithological Congress (IOCongress2018) in Vancouver, British Columbia, since 2013. MCI Canada, our Professional Conference Organizer, is turning the vision into reality through their international team of professionals to make IOCongress2018 a truly world-class and once-in-a-lifetime event.

The unique essence is that the prestige of hosting IOCongress2018 has been fused with the universal concept of "Birds as a Gateway to Nature" to create the first Vancouver Bird Festival (http://www.vanbirdfest.com). In this exciting pioneering model, not only will delegates mix with other preeminent ornithologists in sharing cutting-edge international science but also join tens of thousands of the public in the Vancouver International Bird Festival - exploring and celebrating the connections of all Our Lives with those of the World's Birds. Festival events at the Vancouver Convention Centre and around the city will showcase of the best of avian science, art, film, poetry, music, innovation, conservation, food, travel, photography and optical equipment, to name a few. Programming features renowned speakers such as Margaret Atwood, Purnima Barman, Jennifer Ackerman and the "Birds for Peace" team. Daily signature events include Aboriginal and First Nations performance, Artists for Conservation's deafeningly dramatic "Silent Skies" mural, the launch of a new series of Birds of Canada stamps (with the IOCongress2018 logo!), a magnificent Opening Parade with 200 youth in bird costumes on stilts, the Bird Expo, bird art and photographic exhibitions and competitions. Finally, of course you will see birds (!): in addition to pre- and post-IOCongress2018 birding tours around British Columbia and the Americas, delegates and the public have the opportunity to join one of dozens of mid-IOCongress2108 tours highlighting local bird richness on Friday 24 August.

There is still time to register for IOCongress2018, submit a late-breaking abstract, arrange accommodation at very competitive rates and book your bird tours at www.iocongress2018.com

Bob Elner, Convener, rwelner@sfu.ca

Des organisateurs du 27ème Congrès ornithologique international

L'IOCongress Co-Hosts 2018 l'Organisation de la société et (études d'Oiseaux Canada et la Société des ornithologistes du Canada) en collaboration avec des partenaires du gouvernement, du milieu universitaire, des arts, de la conservation et de l'entreprise ont été la planification pour le 27e Congrès ornithologique international (IOCongress 2018) à Vancouver, en Colombie-Britannique, depuis 2013. MCI Canada, notre organisateur, est en train de transformer la vision en réalité par l'intermédiaire de leur équipe internationale de professionnels pour faire IOCongress 2018 un véritable monde-classe et une fois dans une vie.

L'essence unique est que le prestige de l'accueil d'IOCongress 2018 a été fusionné avec le concept universel de "Birds comme porte d'accès à la nature" pour créer le premier Festival des oiseaux (http://www.vanbirdfest.com). Vancouver Dans ce passionnant modèle pionnier, non seulement les délégués se mélanger avec d'autres ornithologues prééminente dans l'échange international d'avant-garde de la science, mais aussi rejoindre des dizaines de milliers du public dans le Vancouver International Festival des oiseaux - explorer et célébrer les connexions de tous nos vies avec ceux des oiseaux. Événements du Festival au centre des congrès de Vancouver et autour de la ville mettra en valeur des meilleurs de la science, l'art, du cinéma, de la poésie, de la musique, de l'innovation, de la conservation, de l'alimentation, les voyages, la photographie et d'optique, pour n'en nommer que quelques-uns. Fonctions de programmation conférenciers de renommée mondiale tels que Margaret Atwood, Purnima Barman, Jennifer Ackerman et les oiseaux "pour la paix" l'équipe. Tous les jours des activités de signature : les Autochtones et les Premières Nations, les artistes de performance pour la conservation de l'assourdissant silence dramatique "Skies" murale, le lancement d'une nouvelle série d'oiseaux du Canada timbres (avec le logo 2018 IOCongress !), une magnifique Parade d'ouverture avec 200 jeunes en costumes d'oiseaux sur des échasses, l'Expo d'oiseaux, d'oiseaux l'art et des expositions de photos et des concours. Enfin, bien sûr, vous pourrez voir des oiseaux (!) : en plus d'effectuer une pré- et post-IOCongress 2018 birding tours autour de la Colombie-Britannique et dans les Amériques, les délégués et le public ont la possibilité de rejoindre l'un des dizaines de mi-IOCongress2108 tours mettant en valeur les richesses d'oiseaux le vendredi 24 août.

Il est encore temps de vous inscrire pour IOCongress 2018, soumettre un abrégé de dernière minute, une solution d'hébergement à des tarifs très compétitifs et réservez votre oiseau tours à www.iocongress2018.com

Bob Elner, animateur, rwelner@sfu.ca

Council Election 2018 Results

Elections for Council occurred in April 2018. Thank you to everyone who let their name stand. For those not elected this time, we hope you will run again in the future. The following people will become either Officers or Voting Members of Council in August 2018, after our Annual General Meeting at the IOC in Vancouver, BC. Congratulations!

Les élections du Conseil ont eu lieu en avril 2018. Merci à tous ceux qui ont participé. Pour ceux qui n'ont pas été élus cette fois, nous espérons que vous serez de nouveau candidat à l'avenir. Ce sont les personnes qui deviendront des dirigeants ou des membres votants du Conseil en août 2018, après notre assemblée générale annuelle au IOC à Vancouver, en Colombie-Britannique. Toutes nos félicitations!

Dr. Nicola Koper, Vice-President/President-elect, Vice-président/Président élu

Dr. Theresa Burg, Member of Council, Membre du Conseil

Dr. Kevin Fraser, Member of Council, Membre du Conseil

Dr. Colin Garroway, Member of Council, Membre du Conseil

Dr. Jill Jankowski, Member of Council, Membre du Conseil

Dr. Oliver Love, Member of Council, Membre du Conseil

Jon McCracken, Member of Council, Membre du Conseil

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

(Re)Introducing the Canada Jay


Photo: Darroch Whitaker

This week, the Nomenclature and Classification Committee (NACC) of the American Ornithological Society released their decision on an application regarding the common name of *Perisoreus canadensis*. The application, led by Dan Strickland, asked the committee to review a decision by the AOU in 1957 that changed the common name of this species from the Canada Jay to the Gray Jay, as it has now been known (at least in English) for over 60 years.

This application to review was based on an exhaustive analysis of the history behind this name change by Strickland (2017) published last year in Ontario Birds, which found evidence that the AOUs renaming appeared to violate some of the naming conventions the committee had established - including the retention of historic names.

Council of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO-SOC) reviewed and supported the evidence in Strickland's analysis and provided a letter of support for the appeal this winter. We were therefore delighted to hear the decision of the NACC this week was to re-establish the common English name of this species to the Canada Jay, which is to be published in the July issue of the Auk.

Reinstating the Canada Jay's name not only reinforces this bird's influence as an icon of Canada's boreal parks and forests, but also re-aligns the English Common name with its French counterpart - le mésangeai du Canada. The SCO-SOC Council supports this decision, and looks forward to first seeing this name appear in our Field Guides!

Reference:

Strickland, D. 2017. How the Canada Jay lost its name and why it matters. Ontario Birds, April issue: pp 2-16.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

(Re)Présentation du Canada Jay


Photo: Darroch Whitaker

Cette semaine, le Comité de nomenclature et de classification (NACC) de l'American Ornithological Society a rendu sa décision sur une demande concernant le nom commun en anglais de Perisoreus canadensis. La demande, dirigée par Dan Strickland, a demandé au comité de revoir une décision de l'AOU en 1957 qui a changé le nom commun anglophone de cette espèce du « Canada Jay » au « Gray Jay », comme on le sait maintenant (au moins en anglais) pour plus de 60 ans.

Strickland (2017) a publié l'an dernier dans la revue « Ontario Birds », une analyse exhaustive de l'historique de ce changement de nom, laquelle a révélé que le changement de nom semblait violer certaines des conventions d'appellation que le comité avait établies - y compris la conservation des noms historiques.

Le conseil de la société des ornithologistes du Canada (SCO-SOC) a examiné et appuyé les éléments de preuve dans l'analyse de Strickland et a fourni une lettre de soutien à l'appel cet hiver dernier. Nous avons donc été ravis d'apprendre que la décision du NACC cette semaine était de rétablir le nom anglais commun de cette espèce à « Canada Jay », ce qui sera publié dans le volume de juillet de la revue « Auk ».

Le rétablissement du nom de « Canada Jay » renforce non seulement l'influence de cet oiseau en tant qu'icône des parcs et des forêts boréales du Canada, mais redéfinit également le nom anglais commun avec son homologue français - le mésangeai du Canada. Le Conseil de la SCO-SOC soutient cette décision et attend avec impatience de voir ce nom apparaître dans nos guides de terrain!

Référence:

Strickland, D. 2017. How the Canada Jay lost its name and why it matters. Ontario Birds, April issue: pp 2-16.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS
VANCOUVER, CANADA · AUGUST 19 - 26, 2018

Early Career Workshop at Vancouver Convention Center
August 20, 2018 (13:00-16:30)

Are you an early career researcher? Would you like to share what you've been up to and what you plan to do?

We'd like to hear from you! Register for a Lightning Talk (5 min) at the SCO/SOC Early Career Workshop (10 slots available). Present a sneak preview of your IOC contributed talk or poster, present something completely different, or use the opportunity to get feedback on new projects in the works!

We are also looking for volunteers representing different career paths (Academia, Government, NGOs, Industry, Publishing) and journal editors / associate editors for a Question & Answer period.

If you would like to volunteer, attend or apply to present, please e-mail Kyle Elliott (kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca) by Friday **June 29, 2018.** To apply for a Lightning Talk, please include a title, authors and affiliations, and 100-word abstract. Lightning talks can be in French with English slide headers (or vice versa).

We look forward to seeing everyone at IOC 2018 in Vancouver!

Atelier pour les nouveaux chercheurs Centre des congrès de Vancouver
Le 20 août 2018 (13h – 16h30)

Êtes-vous un nouveau chercheur ou une nouvelle chercheuse? Voulez-vous partager votre recherche ou ce que vous planifiez de rechercher?

Nous aimerions entendre parler de vous! Inscrivez-vous pour une présentation éclair (5 min) à l'atelier pour les nouveaux chercheurs du SCO/SOC (10 créneaux disponibles). Présentez un aperçu de votre présentation ou affiche pour l'IOC, présentez quelque chose de complètement différent, ou prenez l'occasion de recevoir du feedback sur un projet en préparation!

Nous cherchons aussi des bénévoles représentants différents parcours professionnels (académie, gouvernement, ONGs, industrie, publication) et des rédacteurs de revues scientifiques pour une période de questions et réponses.

Si vous voulez vous porter bénévole, participer, ou appliquer pour une présentation éclair, SVP envoyer un courriel à Kyle Elliott (kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca) ou plus tard **vendredi le 29 juin 2018**. Pour appliquer pour une présentation éclair, SVP incluez un titre, une liste d'auteurs et leur affiliation et un résumé de 100 mots. Les présentations éclairs peuvent être en français avec des titres anglais (ou vice versa).

Nous vous attendons à l'IOC 2018 à Vancouver!

SCO – SOC Information

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www.sco-soc.ca/membership.html

SCO-SOC membership forms can be found at the link above. Current membership rates are as follows:

Student	$10.00/year
Regular	$25.00/year ($35.00/year international)
Sustaining	$50.00/year
Life	$500.00

SCO-SOC Website

www.sco-soc.ca/index.html

The SCO-SOC website includes sections on membership, meetings, news, publications, awards, information for students, an overview of SCO-SOC, and links of interest to members and other visitors.

To suggest any additions or edits for the website, contact Jennifer Foote at jennifer.foote@algomau.ca.

Submissions to *Picoides*:

Articles and photos relevant to Canadian ornithology are welcomed by the editors. If submitting photos, please save them in tiff or jpeg format with descriptive file names, and supply captions including common names of species, location, date, photographer, and any other notes of interest. Deadlines for submission are February 15, May 15, and October 15; issues are typically published 4-6 weeks later. Please send all submissions to Rob Warnock at warnockr@myaccess.ca.

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