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Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des ornithologistes du Canada

NEWSLETTER / NOUVELLES

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With this first issue of the SCO Newsletter begins what many of us hope will be an era of improved communication and closer cooperation among Canadian ornithologists. The SCO Newsletter is a direct outgrowth of the formation of a Society of Canadian Ornithologists. Many of us have felt the need for such an organization for some years. The impetus provided by the International Ornithological Congress has been a major force in stimulating the formation of a society at this time. Let us hope that when the IOC in Canada is over we will still have a strong and active SCO. If we are all willing to show a little interest and effort, I am sure that the entire venture will be a success. - ed.

FORMATION OF THE SCO - As many of you will recall, as long ago as 1978, letters were circulated by Glen Fox and Erica Dunn suggesting the formation of a Canadian ornithological group. Various proposals and suggestions were put forth and discussed, but no formal organization was established despite considerable interest in the idea. At the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) at Berlin in 1978, interest was expressed in holding the 1986 meetings in Canada, and Canadian delegates were asked whether there was an ornithological group in Canada which could undertake the organization of these meetings. Henri Ouellet of the National Museums of Canada then undertook another initiative to form a Canadian group and convened a meeting of the Canadian Members present at the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado, in August 1980. This meeting reviewed various aspects of the proposed 1986 IOC meetings. All were in agreement that we should host these meetings and that we should proceed with the formation of a formal Canadian society. An ad hoc committee was appointed, and Alan Keast as chairman circulated a letter in the autumn of 1980 soliciting comments on his ideas about the formation of the group. Previously Henri Ouellet had explored the availability of funding and the degree of government support, and began to compile a directory of Canadian Ornithologists.

Responses to Alan Keast's letter of inquiry were presented to a meeting of about 50 Canadian members of the AOU present in Edmonton in

August 1981. As a result of discussions held at this meeting, it was moved by Bill Gunn that a society be formed. The motion passed with unanimous agreement. A constitution committee was elected to draw up a formal constitution and a number of editors were selected to gather material for a newsletter. The name of the group was to be the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. Hopefully, from these initiatives we will develop a permanent Canadian society to represent the ornithologists of this country.

In forming a Society of Canadian Ornithologists, there is no intention to replace or offer an alternative to the AOU, but rather to provide a means of communication among Canadian Ornithologists and a National society to represent Canadian interests in Ornithology.

THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - Members appointed to draw up a formal constitution for the SCO include:

Ross Lein, Chairman, U. of Calgary, Calgary T2N 1N4
Erica Dunn, Long Point Bird Observatory, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0
Glen Fox, Toxic Chemical Section, CWS, Ottawa K1H 0E7
Alan Keast, Queen's University, Kingston K7L 3N6
Diane Secoy, U. of Regina, Regina
Phil Stepney, Alberta Provincial Museum, Edmonton T5N 0M6

The chairman was chosen from those elected, by the group itself. Anyone wishing to make recommendations about the constitution of the SCO should contact one of the above.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE - The following people have agreed to act as regional editors to compile items for the newsletter from various provincial areas.

Alta. - Ross Lein, Biology Dept. University of Calgary T2N 1N4
B.C. - Jamie Smith, Zoology Dept. U.B.C., Vancouver V6T 2A9
Man. - Spencer Sealy, Zoology Dept., U. of Man., Winnipeg R3T 2N2
N.B. - Tony Erskine, CWS, Sackville E0A 3C0
Nfld. - ~~Dave Smith, P.O. Box 2187, St. John's A1C 6E6~~
N.S. - (not confirmed yet - any volunteers?)
Ont. - Ralph Morris, Biol. Sci. Dept., Brock U., St. Catharines L2S 3A1
- John Ryder, Biology Dept., Lakehead U., Thunder Bay P7B 5E1
P.E.I. - Cathy Martin, Biology Dept., Queen's U., Kingston, Ont. K7L 3N6
Que. - Dave Bird, MacDonald Campus of McGill U., Ste. Anne de Bellevue
H9X 1C0
- Jean Burton, Centre de recherches écologiques de Montréal,
C.P. 6128, Succursale "A", Montréal H3C 3J7
Sask. - Phil Taylor, CWS, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon S7N 0X4
Yukon - Dave Mossop, Renewable Resources, Box 2703, Whitehorse Y1A 2C6

As virtually all researchers working in the Northwest Territories live in one of the other provincial areas, we will not have a regional editor for NWT. Anyone working in NWT may send information to the editor in the province in which they reside. However, Stu MacDonald of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa K1A 0M8, has agreed to keep track of various events of interest pertaining to NWT in case these are not forwarded to one of the other regional editors.

Any items for the newsletter should be sent to one of the above or to Ross James, (Ornithology Dept., Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6) who was elected editor of the newsletter.

Some of the above committee met in Edmonton to discuss the type of items to be included in the newsletter. The regional editors are contacting many people provincially to solicit information, but anyone with items of the following type should contact a regional editor with the details. We are looking for:

- 1) brief comments on new research findings;
- 2) announcements of forthcoming meetings;
- 3) news about people - promotions, moves, deaths etc. and appointments to any international organizations;
- 4) requests for assistance with research;
- 5) brief comments on people or events from outside Canada when of interest to Canadians;
- 6) announcements of forthcoming or recently published books (chapters) by members;
- 7) government or organization decisions and actions of interest to ornithologists.

Items of national interest will take precedence. Any helpful comments on the style or content of the newsletter would be welcomed.

THE 1986 IOC - The IOC advisory body, known as the Committee of One-Hundred, has five Canadian members. W.W.H. Gunn has represented Canada for about 15 years, while Tony Erskine, Bruce Falls, Alan Keast and John Richardson were added at the Berlin meeting in 1978 in anticipation of a Canadian invitation for the 1986 meeting. Many prominent ornithologists present at the Berlin IOC expressed an interest in holding the meeting in Canada. Several Canadian ornithologists wrote to Cabinet ministers to convey this information. As a response to these letters, the Secretary of State instructed the Director of the National Museum of Natural Sciences to proceed with the organization of the meeting. After extensive consultation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, it was agreed that the National Museum of Natural Sciences would seek funding and host the meeting on behalf of Canada.

Henri Ouellet was appointed by the National Museum of Natural Sciences as Secretary General Designate for the 19th International Ornithological Congress planned in Canada for 1986. The Canadian Government is now in the process of making funding available. An official invitation will soon be sent to the executive committee of the IOC by the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the decision to hold the 1986 meeting in Canada will be made at the 1982 meeting in Moscow. If Canada is chosen, much work and cooperation will be needed from all Canadian ornithologists, particularly with the organization of field trips, fund raising and general participation.

CIRCULATION - At present the newsletter is being mailed to all those whose names appear in the Directory of Canadian Ornithologists (1981). Once a formal constitution has been drawn up, a modest fee schedule will be set to cover the costs of printing and to obtain and maintain an up to date list of those wishing to receive the newsletter. For the present, please bring this edition to the attention of anyone who may not have been included in the 1981 directory. Additional names should be sent to H. Ouellet of the National Museums of Canada. Membership is open to anyone interested in the science of Ornithology. Present plans are for two newsletters a year, in autumn and spring. Copies of the Directory are available also from H. Ouellet upon request.

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES ORNITHOLOGISTES DU CANADA - Ces premières nouvelles de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada devraient marquer le début d'une ère de meilleure communication et de coopération grandissante chez les ornithologistes canadiens. La formation d'une telle société était souhaitée depuis longtemps, mais le désir de tenir le Congrès ornithologique international au Canada à favorisé sa création immédiate. Il est à espérer que, par delà ce congrès, nous maintiendrons une société forte et active. Le seul ingrédient nécessaire au succès est votre désir d'utiliser au maximum ce médium qu'est la S.O.C.

Après plusieurs années de gestation, la création officielle de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada a eu lieu lors de la réunion de l'A.O.U. à Edmonton en août 1981. Deux comités sont présentement à l'oeuvre, l'un est chargé de la rédaction d'une charte; toute recommandation à cet effet peut être adressée à Ross Lein (University of Calgary, T2N 1N4) ou tout autre membre du comité (voir p. 2). Le second comité se charge du présent bulletin. Tout item pour publication peut être adressé à l'un des rédacteurs régionaux dont le nom figure à la page 2. Les sujets qui nous intéressent sont:

- Brefs résultats de recherches récentes.
- Annonces de réunions prochaines.
- Nouvelles ayant trait aux membres (promotions, changements d'institution, décès, etc.).
- Demandes d'aide sur des recherches en cours.
- Avis de publications par des membres.
- Toute nouvelle d'intérêt pour les ornithologistes canadiens.

Le présent bulletin est distribué à tous ceux dont le nom apparaît dans le Répertoire des ornithologistes du Canada (1981). Dès que les règlements de la S.O.C. seront approuvés, une modeste contribution sera exigée pour défrayer les coûts de publication et d'expédition. Tous ceux qui sont intéressés à l'ornithologie pourront devenir membres de la S.O.C. Pour l'instant, on peut recevoir ce bulletin ou le répertoire simplement en s'adressant à Henri Ouellet au Musée national des sciences naturelles.

LE CONGRÈS ORNITHOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONAL DE 1986 - Plusieurs ornithologistes ont exprimé le désir, lors du congrès ornithologique international de Berlin en 1978, de tenir le congrès de 1986 au Canada. Divers ornithologistes canadiens ayant fait part de cette possibilité au Conseil des ministres, le directeur du Musée national des sciences naturelles a reçu du Secrétaire d'Etat le mandat de préparer la venue éventuelle du congrès au Canada. Après consultations avec le Service canadien de la faune, il fut décidé que le Musée national des sciences naturelles se chargerait de l'organisation de ce congrès, et Henri Ouellet fut désigné comme Secrétaire-général. Le gouvernement canadien devrait allouer des crédits sous peu et une invitation officielle sera transmise au conseil exécutif du Congrès ornithologique international, lequel rendra sa décision lors du congrès de 1982 à Moscou. Si le Canada est choisi, beaucoup d'efforts et de coopération seront nécessaires de la part des ornithologistes canadiens afin d'assurer le succès de cet important congrès.