PICOIDES

November 2014
Volume 27 (3)

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

Staging Northern Pintails and Tundra Swans. Photo by Marcel Gahbauer.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Message

Rob Warnock and Barbara Bleho

Welcome to the final issue of *Picoides* of 2014. We hope everyone had a great summer and start to fall.

In this issue, there is the bilingual President's message, World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet 2014 report (page 21), two international reports on birds (page 21), a report on the first International Observatory Conference (page 22) and several recent Canadian ornithological theses (page 10). In addition, there is a review of the book, *Bird Facts for Everyone* (see page 27), which is a fascinating collection of facts about birds around the world, perfect for avian *Trivial Pursuit*!

In other ornithological news, there are guidelines for safe bird banding (page 15) and ethical bird photography (page 19), as well as information on Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centres (page 26). It is good news that Whooping Cranes had a good breeding season at Wood Buffalo (page 21). SCO-SOC members are invited to participate in citizen-science monitoring programs such as Project FeederWatch (page 23) and Yellow Rail research (page 26). We also encourage nominations for the Doris Huestis Speirs Award and the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award, and students to apply for SCO-SOC student research awards. Please see the poster on page 24. There are Baillie Fund grants available (page 23). Please consider becoming SCO-SOC's representative on the Ornithological Council (page 4).

We congratulate the new members of SCO-SOC council: Greg Robertson (President), Ken Otter (Vice-President/President-elect) and the new councillors: Kyle Elliott, Barbara Frei, David Green, Laura McKinnon, Dan Mennill, Greg Mitchell, Laura McFarlane Tranquilla, and Junior Tremblay. We have really enjoyed working with the outgoing President, Joe Nocera. Congratulations to both the 2013 and 2014 worthy recipients of the Doris Huestis Speirs Award, Tony Diamond and Rodger Titman. Their award citations are on pages 5 and 7.

Your feedback and suggestions for *Picoides* are always welcome – we receive very little input from our readers, and would love to get more. As always, we encourage submissions from SCO-SOC members, especially from students and ornithology labs. *Picoides* does not exist without your contributions of articles and photos. The next submission deadline is February 15, 2015. Until then, safely enjoy the rest of autumn and the coming winter!

Message des éditeurs

Rob Warnock et Barbara Bleho

Bienvenue dans la dernière édition de *Picoides* en 2014. Nous espérons que vous avez passé un bel été et commencement de l'automne.

Ce numéro comprend le message bilingue du Président, le rapport Planète Vivante 2014 du Fonds mondial pour la nature (WWF; page 21), deux rapports internationaux sur les oiseaux (page 21), un rapport sur la première *First International Observatory Conference* (page 22) et plusieurs thèses récentes en ornithologiques au Canada (page 10). Également, il y a une critique du livre, *Bird Facts for Everyone* (voir page 27), qui est une fascinante collection de faits sur les oiseaux du monde entier, parfait pour *Trivial Pursuit* aviaire!

Dans les autres nouvelles ornithologique, vous retrouverez des lignes directrices pour le baguage des oiseaux en toute sécurité (page 15) et la photographie éthique des oiseaux (page 19), ainsi que des informations sur le Réseau canadien de la santé de la faune (page 26). De bonnes nouvelles concernant les Grues blanches qui ont eu une bonne saison de reproduction à *Wood Buffalo* (page 21). Les membres SCO-SOC sont invités à participer à des programmes scientifiques de surveillance citoyenne tel que *Projet FeederWatch* (page 23) et la recherche sur le Râle jaune (page 26). Nous encourageons également les candidatures pour le Prix Doris Huestis Speirs et le Prix de mentorat Jamie Smith, et également les étudiants à appliquer pour une bourse de recherche étudiante SCO-SOC (voir l'affiche à la page 25). Il y a des subventions du Fonds Baillie disponibles (page 23). Vous pourriez envisager de devenir un représentant de SCO-SOC sur le Conseil ornithologique (page 4).

Nous félicitons les nouveaux membres du conseil SCO-SOC: Greg Robertson (président), Ken Otter (vice-président/président élu) et les nouveaux conseillers: Kyle Elliott, Barbara Frei, David Green, Laura McKinnon, Dan Mennill, Greg Mitchell, Laura McFarlane Tranquilla, et Junior Tremblay. Nous avons vraiment apprécié travailler avec le président sortant, Joe Nocera. Félicitations aux récipiendaires 2013 et 2014 du Prix Doris Huestis Speirs, respectivement Tony Diamond et Rodger Titman. Vous trouverez leurs biographies professionnelles aux pages 5 et 7.

Vos commentaires et suggestions pour *Picoides* sont toujours les bienvenus - nous recevons très peu de commentaires de nos lecteurs, et aimerions en obtenir davantage. Comme toujours, nous encourageons les contributions des membres de SCO-SOC, en particulier des étudiants et des laboratoires d'ornithologie. *Picoides* n'exiterait pas sans vos contributions d'articles et de photos. La prochaine date limite de soumission est le 15 Février 2015. D'ici-là, profiter de la fin de l'automne et de l'hiver!

President's Message

Joe Nocera

This is my last message as president, and I feel that the past two years have both flown and crawled by. They have flown by because the councilors, executive members, and volunteers are all truly acting in the society's best interest. My role as president has felt like one of participating as a member of a community that is robust and active. For making my two-year presidency both easy and fast, I thank all of you. I am thrilled that Greg Robertson will be taking over the presidency; he has energy and ideas, and that is a productive combination. I look forward to seeing a dynamic next two years.

We just returned from our annual meeting in Estes Park, Colorado, where we met with the AOU and the Cooper Ornithological Society. Over 900 people attended the meeting, and about 10% of those were from Canada. Our council meeting took place on the day preceding the conference, where we dealt with a number of issues ranging from increasing membership renewals (a perennial problem) to where we might host the 2017 meeting (Quebec is looking pretty promising). The conference was a great success and held at a lovely venue in the Rockies. A highlight of the meeting was in presenting the Doris Huestis Spears Award (for 2013 and 2014) to Tony Diamond (UNB) and Rodger Titman (McGill). The SCO's plenary speaker, Grant Gilchrist, gave a motivating lecture and held a raptured audience. The SCO's contribution to this meeting was very tangible.

Our next meeting will be a joint conference with the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists. It will take place in Wolfville, Nova Scotia at Acadia University and the local organizer and host is Dave Shutler. I am very much looking forward to this meeting, as it will be well attended and in a special place on Canadian soil.

While I was participating in the Colorado meeting, I noted pride in some of the things we have accomplished over the past two years. We are in excellent financial shape, and our future income looks bright. We can, and have, expanded our programs and awards as a result. We also launched into an unexpectedly large endeavor with the Ornithological Council, in trying to start streamlining the permitting processes for ornithologists both federally and provincially. The results of this will not be seen during the remainder of my presidency, nor likely during Greg's next two years. But, eventually, we will achieve streamlining; I am glad we started the process

Message du président

Joe Nocera

Ceci est mon dernier message à titre de président. Je sens que les deux dernières années ont passé à la fois rapidement et lentement. Rapidement, parce que les membres du Conseil et du Comité exécutif, ainsi que les bénévoles, ont tous et toutes agi dans les meilleurs intérêts de la Société. Mon rôle de président m'est apparu comme étant celui de membre d'une communauté active et robuste. Pour avoir rendu ma présidence aussi agréable que facile, je vous remercie tous et toutes. Je suis très heureux que Greg Robertson ait accepté d'assumer la présidence. Il a de l'énergie et des idées, ce qui est une combinaison productive. J'ai hâte d'assister à deux années dynamiques sous sa gouverne.

Nous revenons tout juste de notre réunion annuelle à Estes Park, Colorado, où nous nous sommes réunis avec les membres de l'AOU et de la Cooper Ornithological Society. Plus de 900 personnes ont participé à ce congrès, dont environ 10% de Canadiens. La réunion du Conseil a eu lieu la journée précédant le congrès. Nous avons discuté de divers sujets, dont les façons d'augmenter le taux de renouvellement des membres (problème récurrent) et le lieu de la prochaine réunion annuelle de 2017 (Québec semble rallier les appuis). Le congrès a eu beaucoup de succès et a eu lieu dans un cadre enchanteur dans les Rocheuses. Un fait saillant du congrès fut la présentation du Prix Doris Huestis Spears (pour 2013 et 2014) à Tony Diamond (UNB) et Rodger Titman (McGill). Le conférencier invité de la SOC, Grant Gilchrist, a donné une présentation stimulante devant un auditoire ravi. La contribution de la SOC au congrès fut des plus tangibles.

Notre prochain congrès aura lieu à Wolfville, Nouvelle-Écosse (Acadia University) et sera organisé conjointement avec la Wilson Ornithological Society et l'Association of Field Ornithologists. Notre hôte sera Dave Shutler. J'attends ce congrès avec impatience puisqu'il accueillera bon nombre de participants et aura lieu en sol canadien.

Pendant que je participais au congrès au Colorado, j'ai remarqué avec fierté certains de nos accomplissements des deux dernières années. Nos états financiers sont excellents et nos revenus futurs semblent prometteurs. Nous pouvons, et avons étendu nos programmes et ajusté nos récompenses en conséquence. Nous avons aussi lancé une initiative étonnement englobante avec l'Ornithological Council, dans le but d'harmoniser l'émission de permis provinciaux et fédéraux pour les ornithologues. Les résultats de cette initiative ne seront perceptibles qu'après ma présidence et, vraisemblablement, celle de Greg, mais éventuellement nous allons

now.

At times, the past two years have also crawled by. There were some low points. It recently came to my attention that our journal, *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, has been declining; over the past three years, ACE's impact factor has dropped by 33% each year (from 0.6 in 2011 to 0.2 in 2013). The journal needs reinvigoration, especially now that the new scope and focus of the *Condor* directly overlap with ACE's remit. This overshadowing by journals brings me to another set of low points, which is that the specter of the "Strengthening Ornithology" movement from two years ago did not go away completely (you may remember that this was a movement that would have "amalgamated" all North American societies). For example, the SCO recently expressed concern that the new focus of *Condor* would overlap too directly with ACE, and this fell on entirely deaf ears. Thus, our journal must now adapt and refocus substantially. This is just one of the many issues that arose from the "movement," none of which have been to our benefit. I have, often behind the scenes, spent a great deal of effort in my presidency at maintaining the SCO's identity and refusing to be subsumed by the actions of the "mega-society." I am happy we have remained intact and active. Now that the AOU has a new president, and so do we, perhaps things will change for the better and we can look for *new* and *positive* developments.

accomplir cette harmonisation; je suis heureux que nous ayons amorcé le processus.

Par moments, les deux dernières années ont aussi passé lentement. Il y a eu des moments plus difficiles. J'ai récemment été informé que notre revue, *Avian Conservation and Ecology*, a connu un déclin; au cours des trois dernières années, le facteur d'impact d'ACE a diminué de 33% chaque année (de 0.6 en 2011 à 0.2 en 2013). Notre revue a besoin d'une revitalisation, particulièrement au moment où la thématique abordée par *Condor* recoupe directement celle d'ACE. Cet état de fait m'amène à souligner d'autres déceptions: le spectre du movement de revitalisation de l'ornithologie que nous avons connu il y a deux ans n'est pas complètement disparu (vous vous souvenez peut-être du mouvement qui visait à "amalgamer" toutes les sociétés Nord-Américaines). Par exemple, la SOC a récemment exprimé son inquiétude quant au nouveau thème de *Condor*, qui recoupe trop directement celui d'ACE, et ceci est tombé dans l'oreille d'un sourd. Ainsi, notre revue doit maintenant s'adapter et adjuster son tir de façon substantielle. Ceci n'est qu'un des nombreux dossiers provenant du "mouvement," aucun ne nous étant favorable. J'ai, souvent en arrière-scène, travaillé très fort Durant ma présidence pour maintenir l'identité de la SOC et j'ai refusé qu'elle soit amalgamée par les actions de la "méga-société." Je suis heureux qu'elle soit demeurée intacte et active. Maintenant que l' AOU a un nouveau président, et nous de mêmes, peut-être que les choses évolueront pour le mieux et que nous assisterons à de *nouveaux* développements *positifs*.

Follow SCO on Twitter! Follow us @SCO_SOC for news, exciting research, updates from members, and more!
Suivez SOC sur Twitter! Suivez-nous @SCO_SOC pour les nouvelles, la recherche passionnant, mises à jour des membres, et plus encore!

SCO-SOC seeks new representative to the Ornithological Council

The SCO-SOC is a supporting and participating member in the Ornithological Council (OC). The OC serves its member societies as a conduit between science and policy. Of most recent interest to SCO-SOC members is that the OC has undertaken an initiative to streamline the ornithological permitting processes between and among Canadian provinces. Each member society has at least one seat on the OC Board. For years, ours has been ably filled by Brenda Dale, who has done a great job in this role. Unfortunately, Brenda must retire from this role and the SCO-SOC is seeking a new representative on the OC Board. This is a great opportunity for someone who passionately believes that science and policy should not be mutually exclusive. In general, the role will involve attending 1-2 conference calls per year and representing the SCO-SOC's interests. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact the SCO-SOC President, Greg Robertson at greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca.

Doris Huestis Speirs Award

2013 – Dr. Tony Diamond

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee has selected Tony Diamond, Research Professor, Atlantic Laboratory for Avian Research, University of New Brunswick, for the 2013 award.

Tony began his life's interest at a young age cycling about the English countryside with netting equipment, bamboo poles and a ringing permit. As a young man he worked on seabird colonies banding chicks before he realized that he could actually make a living at this enjoyable pastime. During his university years at Cambridge (B.A.), Aberdeen (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) and Oxford (post-doc), he was chosen to go on several expeditions to the Indian Ocean Islands where his love of work in the tropics began. As scientific administrator for two years on the Seychelles, he became skilled in running boats, educating tourists, and discouraging poaching. After this experience he took a lecturing position in Nairobi for 4 years, where he supervised students and developed some of the first courses on Kenyan animals, birds, and ecology.

In 1983 the Canadian Wildlife Service hired him to coordinate the Acid Rain Program; later he progressed to head of Migratory Bird Studies, then Chief of Ecological Research and Officer in Charge of the Prairies and Northern Wildlife. At that time he began supervising students again at the University of Saskatoon. After 10 years with the Canadian government, he moved to University of New Brunswick (UNB) to take a position as a research professor and senior chair of the Atlantic Canada Wildlife Research and Ecology Network (ACWERN) now restructured as the Atlantic Laboratory of Avian Research (ALAR).

Black-footed Albatross. Photo by Yousif Attia.

Tony's interests focus broadly on evolution and ecology of tropical and temperate seabirds and Neotropical migrants in summer and winter. Since Tony began as a research professor at UNB in 1994, he has taught over 20 undergrad courses, and mentored over 30 undergraduate honours, 35 M.Sc., 14 Ph.D. students, and 3 postdoctoral fellows. All of these students have absorbed his obvious passion for birds, conservation and vast experience; and many have decided to join the field of ornithology as a result, and several now hold important positions in government, academia, and non-profit agencies. Tony has published over 126 peer-reviewed publications and co-authored 4 books on avian ecology, as well as the commissioned work "Save the Birds." He also led the production of the SCO's very first peer-reviewed publication "Biology and Conservation of Forest Birds."

In addition to his academic career, he has helped establish some of Canada's avian conservation and research groups. He had a key role in creating the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, and was the president from 1998-2000. He is a founding and life member of Birds Studies Canada (he even suggested its name). He is an elected member and fellow of the American Ornithologist Union, a councillor for the Waterbird Society (2001-2003) and a board member of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick.

Tony's contributions to ornithology in Canada are deep and wide-ranging. He has served as a senior science manager in the Canadian government, is a founder of Canadian institutions devoted to the science and conservation of birds, is an active conservationist and is a productive researcher studying Canadian marine and forest birds. This award will serve to acknowledge these outstanding contributions Tony has made to ornithology in Canada.

FRANÇAIS—Le prix Doris Huestis Speirs est le plus prestigieux décerné par la SCO-SOC. Le prix est décerné annuellement à une personne qui a apporté une contribution de toute une vie en ornithologie au Canada. Le Comité de sélection du Prix D.H. Speirs est heureux d'annoncer que Tony Diamond, professeur à l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick (*Atlantic Laboratory for Avian Research*) est récipiendaire du prix 2013.

L'intérêt pour les oiseaux de Tony a commencé à un jeune âge alors qu'il parcourait à vélo la campagne avec de l'équipement de capture tel que des perches de bambou, filets japonais et un permis de baguage. Très tôt, il a travaillé dans des colonies d'oiseaux marins à baguer des oisillons et il a réalisé qu'il pourrait vivre de son passe-temps préféré. Au cours de ses années universitaires à Cambridge (B.A.), Aberdeen (M.Sc. et Ph.D.) et Oxford (post-doc), il a été choisi pour participer à plusieurs expéditions dans les îles de l'océan Indien où il a développé son amour pour travailler dans les tropiques. En tant qu'administrateur scientifique pendant deux ans sur les Seychelles, il a appris a mené des bateaux, guider les touristes et contrer le braconnage. Après cette expérience, il a agi à titre d'assistant professeur à Nairobi pendant 4 ans, où il a supervisé des étudiants et développé certains des premiers cours sur l'écologie, les animaux et les oiseaux du Kenya.

En 1983, il a été embauché par le Service canadien de la faune pour coordonner le programme des pluies acides, puis il a progressé à la tête des études d'oiseaux migrateurs, et ensuite chef de la recherche et officier en charge du centre de recherche et de la faune des Prairies et du Nord à Saskatoon. À cette époque, il a repris la supervision d'étudiants à l'Université de Saskatoon. Après 10 ans avec le gouvernement canadien, il a poursuivi à l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick (UNB) pour prendre un poste de professeur sur une chaire de recherche (*Atlantic Canada Wildlife Research and Ecology Network* (ACWERN), désormais *Atlantic Laboratory of Avian Research* (ALAR).

Yellow-billed Loon. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

Les intérêts de Tony portent principalement sur l'évolution et l'écologie des oiseaux marins tropicaux et tempérés et les migrants néotropicaux en été et en hiver. Depuis que Tony est professeur de recherche à l'UNB (1994), il a enseigné plus de 20 cours de premier cycle et encadré plus de 30 étudiants de premier cycle, 35 étudiants à la maîtrise, 14 doctorants et 3 stagiaires postdoctoraux. Tous ces étudiants ont pu profiter de sa passion évidente pour les oiseaux, la conservation et de sa vaste expérience. Par ailleurs, plusieurs d'entre eux ont poursuivi dans le domaine de l'ornithologie et, de ce fait, plusieurs occupent maintenant des postes importants au sein d'organismes gouvernementaux, universitaires et à but non lucratif. Tony a publié plus de 126 publications évaluées par les pairs et est co-auteur de 4 livres sur l'écologie des oiseaux, de même que le travail commandé "*Save the Birds*." Il a également dirigé la production de la toute première publication revue par les paires de la SCO-SOC "*Biology and Conservation of Forest Birds*."

En plus de sa carrière universitaire, il a aidé à établir des groupes de conservation et de recherche aviaire du Canada. Il a joué un rôle clé dans la création de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada (SCO-SOC) dont il a été le président entre 1998-2000. Il est membre fondateur d'Études d'Oiseaux Canada et il a même proposé le nom actuel. Il est un membre élu de l'*American Ornithologist Union*, un conseiller de la *Waterbird Society* (2001-2003) et membre du conseil d'administration de la Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Les contributions de Tony à l'ornithologie au Canada sont vastes et de grande envergure. Il a servi en tant que directeur scientifique principal au gouvernement canadien, est l'un des fondateurs d'institutions canadiennes importantes consacrées à la science et à la conservation des oiseaux, est un écologiste actif et est un chercheur productif sur les oiseaux marins et forestiers du Canada. Ce prix servira à reconnaître les nombreuses contributions exceptionnelles de Tony pour l'ornithologie au Canada.

Doris Huestis Speirs Award

2014 – Dr. Rodger Titman

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee is pleased to announce that Rodger D. Titman, Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University, has been chosen for the 2014 award.

Rodger is among Canada's pioneers in the field of waterfowl ecology, studying the behavior and ecology of ducks and wetland ecosystems from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia over the last 48 years. Some of Rodger's most important contributions began as a graduate student at Delta Waterfowl Station in Manitoba from 1966 to 1971, while pursuing his M.Sc. at Bishop's University and his Ph.D. at the University of New Brunswick. Rodger provided some of the first detailed information on spacing systems, pursuit flights, and effects of crowding among breeding ducks. Following his appointment at McGill University in 1973, Rodger continued to advance our understanding of avian spacing systems through detailed behavioural work on territoriality and relationships between breeding waterfowl abundances and marsh characteristics. Since 1983 Rodger focused on the breeding ecology of the Red-breasted Merganser, among the least understood of all waterfowl species in North America. Almost all of what we know about nesting and brood-rearing in this species comes from his long-term work at Kouchibouguac National Park, New Brunswick. He is world expert on the Red-breasted Merganser, authoring the accounts for the Birds of North America and Bird Families of the World.

Rodger's research achievements are not limited to the field of waterfowl ecology. He and his students have made contributions in passerine nesting ecology, avian damage to agriculture, and raptor habitat selection. Overall, Rodger's research on birds and their habitats has led to over 90 peer-reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings, and three book chapters. Rodger's major scientific accolades include being listed in American Men and Women in Science and being elected as a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Gadwall. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

Over the last 40 years, Rodger has been a key person in the identification, acquisition, and protection of important bird habitat throughout eastern Canada. These efforts have been channeled primarily through his involvement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, in which he has been a member of national and regional trustee boards. Locally, Rodger has made substantial contributions to the efforts of Bird Protection Quebec, in which he has served on the Board of Directors, and held terms as Vice-President and President. Rodger is an important scientific advisor for the McGill Bird Observatory, and was a key member of the Quebec Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Action Group. Rodger continues to serve as a consultant for environmental impact assessments, such as the Great Whale River hydroelectric complex in Quebec and more recently for potential development projects in Labrador and British Columbia.

Rodger has dedicated much time, energy, and passion into teaching countless students and outdoor enthusiasts about the behaviours and life histories of birds. He supervised 9 Ph.D. and nearly 50 M.Sc. students during his 37 years at McGill, and he continues to co-supervise students in retirement. A patient and effective teacher, Rodger always places great emphasis on hands-on learning in the field. Rodger's efforts in educating others about ornithology were not limited to the university level - he has offered week-long

introductory bird courses, led birding trips, wrote countless popular articles, and even co-owned a store that sold educational material to nature-lovers in the Montréal area.

Rodger has had a long and productive career making contributions to ornithology across Canada through research, education and conservation, and this award will serve to acknowledge the many outstanding contributions Rodger has made to ornithology in Canada.

FRANÇAIS—Le prix Doris Huestis Speirs est le plus prestigieux décerné par la SCO-SOC. Le prix est décerné annuellement à une personne qui a apporté une contribution de toute une vie en ornithologie au Canada. Le Comité de sélection du Prix D.H. Speirs est heureux d'annoncer que Rodger D. Titman, professeur agrégé de biologie de la faune, Département des sciences des ressources naturelles de l'Université McGill, a été choisi pour le prix 2014.

Rodger est parmi les pionniers du Canada dans le domaine de l'écologie de la sauvagine, étudiant le comportement et l'écologie des canards et des écosystèmes des zones humides de la Saskatchewan à la Nouvelle-Écosse au cours des 48 dernières années. Certaines des contributions les plus importantes de Rodger ont débuté lorsqu'il était un étudiant diplômé à la station de recherche sur la sauvagine de Delta au Manitoba de 1966 à 1971, période pendant laquelle il effectuant également sa maîtrise à l'Université Bishop et son doctorat à l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick. Rodger a offert parmi les premières informations sur le système d'espacement, des vols de poursuite et les effets d'entassement des canards nicheurs. Suite à sa nomination à l'Université McGill en 1973, Rodger a poursuivi ses recherches sur les systèmes d'espacement aviaire par des travaux détaillés sur le comportement de la territorialité et sur les relations entre l'abondance de la sauvagine en nidification et les caractéristiques des marais. Depuis 1983, Rodger a axé ses recherches sur l'écologie de nidification du Harle huppé, une espèce de sauvagine encore méconnue. La majorité des connaissances sur l'élevage de couvée et de nidification de cette espèce provient de son travail sur le long terme dans le parc national Kouchibouguac, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Il est expert mondial sur la Harle huppé et il a rédigé la fiche de l'espèce dans *Birds of North America* et *Bird Families of the World*.

American Wigeon. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

Les réalisations en recherche de Rodger ne se limitent pas au domaine de l'écologie de la sauvagine. Il a contribué, avec ses étudiants, aux connaissances sur l'écologie de nidification des passereaux, sur les dommages aviaires à l'agriculture et sur la sélection de l'habitat des oiseaux de proie. Dans l'ensemble, les recherches de Rodger sur les oiseaux et leurs habitats ont produit plus de 90 articles dans des revues évalués par des pairs et actes de conférences et trois chapitres de livres. Deux des grandes distinctions scientifiques de Rodger sont d'être répertorié comme *American Men and Women in Science* et comme membre élu de l'*American Ornithologists' Union*.

Au cours des 40 dernières années, Rodger a été une personne clé dans l'identification, l'acquisition et la protection des habitats importants pour les oiseaux dans l'est du Canada, principalement par sa participation à la Conservation de la nature Canada, dans lequel il a été membre régional et national des conseils d'administration. Rodger a également apporté une contribution substantielle aux efforts de Protection des oiseaux du Québec, où il a siégé au conseil d'administration et a siégé en tant que vice-président et président. Rodger est un conseiller scientifique important pour l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de McGill et a été un membre clé du groupe d'action pour le rétablissement de la Pie-grièche migratrice du Québec. Rodger demeure consultant pour les études d'impact sur l'environnement, telles que le complexe hydroélectrique Grande-Baleine au Québec et plus récemment pour des projets potentiels de développement au Labrador et en Colombie-Britannique.

Rodger a consacré beaucoup de temps, d'énergie et de passion à l'enseignement d'innombrables étudiants et amateurs de plein air au sujet des comportements et de l'histoire naturelle des oiseaux. Il a supervisé 9 étudiants au doctorat et près de 50 étudiants à la maîtrise pendant ses 37 ans à l'Université McGill et, même à la retraite, il poursuit la co-direction d'étudiants. Étant un enseignant patient et efficace, Rodger a toujours considérer l'importance de l'apprentissage pratique sur le terrain. Les efforts de Rodger à enseigner l'ornithologie ne se limitaient pas à l'université - il a offert des cours d'une semaine d'introduction à l'ornithologie, il a dirigé des excursions d'observation des oiseaux, écrit d'innombrables articles populaires et il est même co-propriétaire d'un magasin qui vend du matériel éducatif aux amoureux de la nature dans la région de Montréal.

Rodger a eu une longue et productive carrière qui a offert une contribution à l'ornithologie à dans tout le Canada grâce à la recherche, l'éducation et la conservation, et ce prix servira à reconnaître les nombreuses contributions exceptionnelles de Rodger pour l'ornithologie au Canada.

Biographies provided by Greg Robertson

Snowy Owl. Photo by Brigitte Noel.

Recent Canadian Ornithology Theses

Laure Cauchard. 2014. Interindividual variation in cognitive abilities and evolutionary consequences in a wild passerine population (*Parus major*). Ph.D. Dissertation. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montreal, Montreal, QC.

Due to anthropogenic habitat alteration and climate change, animals face a rapidly changing environment which requires quick behavioural adjustment. Cognitive abilities such as innovation and learning can allow animals to incorporate novel behaviours into their behavioural repertoire and facilitate optimal responses to environmental changes. Cognitive performances vary among and within species and although several studies have recently explored potential causes of inter-individual variation in cognitive performance, the fitness consequences of this variation remain poorly explored in natural populations. During my Ph.D., I investigated whether different selective pressures act on innovation and learning performances in a natural population of Great Tits, *Parus major*, to better understand the evolution of these traits in the wild.

Figure 1. Problem-solving task / Tâche de résolution de problème. Photo by/par Laure Cauchard.

First, I designed a novel problem-solving task to measure problem-solving and learning performances directly in the wild and presented it to breeding Great Tit pairs (Figure 1). The task consists in opening a door closing the entrance to the nest site to access chicks using a string attached below the door. Birds were considered solvers if they were able to open and enter. I subsequently monitored their reproduction and found that the performance of birds at solving this task was positively related to reproductive success as measured along the breeding cycle.

However, a positive link between problem-solving performance and reproductive success could arise either because higher problem-solving performance allows higher parental care or due to a higher motivation of parents with larger broods to enter and feed young. In order to investigate the underlying mechanism, I manipulated brood size (increased, decreased, or unchanged brood size) and assessed the subsequent problem-solving performance of the parents. Brood size manipulation did not influence performance, and solvers had higher reproductive success regardless of the brood size manipulations. Moreover, solvers provisioned their young at a higher rate than non-solvers, suggesting that solvers exploit their breeding habitat more efficiently than non-solvers (Figure 1). These results support the hypothesis that this cognitive performance drives reproductive success rather than the opposite.

Because high cognitive performance seems to give benefits in terms of increased reproductive success, I then tested whether morphological traits, especially feather coloration, may signal cognitive performance and therefore be used during mate choice. Analyses of feather coloration of the yellow breast (carotenoid-based coloration) and the black crown (melanin-based coloration) showed complex and condition-dependent links between coloration intensity, UV reflectance and problem-solving and learning performances. Further studies should examine the mechanisms linking feather coloration and cognitive performance to allow drawing clear conclusions about its role during mate choice (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Fledgling Great Tit / Poussin de Mésange charbonnière. Photo by/par Laure Cauchard.

Finally, I examined the effect of blood parasitism, here malaria (an infectious disease due to a parasite genera *Haemoproteus* and *Plasmodium*, widespread in passerine birds) on wild birds' behaviour. Although malaria load varies greatly along short geographical and temporal scales and malaria parasites cause impaired cognitive functioning in humans, the effect of this disease on birds' behaviour has never been experimentally tested yet. We injected an anti-malaria drug (Primaquine) to breeding females and examined the effect of this treatment on their behaviour when presented with the novel problem-solving task. Injections did not affect their problem-solving

and learning performances, but increased their level of activity and exploration. These results emphasize the role of malaria parasite in inter-individual and inter-population behavioural differences in the wild.

FRANÇAIS—Les animaux peuvent faire face à des changements environnementaux brutaux dus à l'activité humaine et aux changements climatiques, et doivent s'ajuster rapidement à leur nouvel environnement. Certains processus cognitifs comme l'innovation et l'apprentissage permettent aux animaux d'intégrer de nouveaux comportements à leur répertoire comportemental (flexibilité comportementale), leur donnant l'opportunité de choisir un comportement plus optimal. Les performances cognitives varient entre espèces et entre individus d'une même population et bien que des études récentes se soient intéressées aux causes des variations interindividuelles des performances cognitives, les conséquences restent peu explorées. Pendant ma thèse, je me suis intéressée aux conséquences des variations interindividuelles des performances de résolution de problème et d'apprentissage sur les traits d'histoire de vie dans une population naturelle de mésange charbonnière *Parus major*.

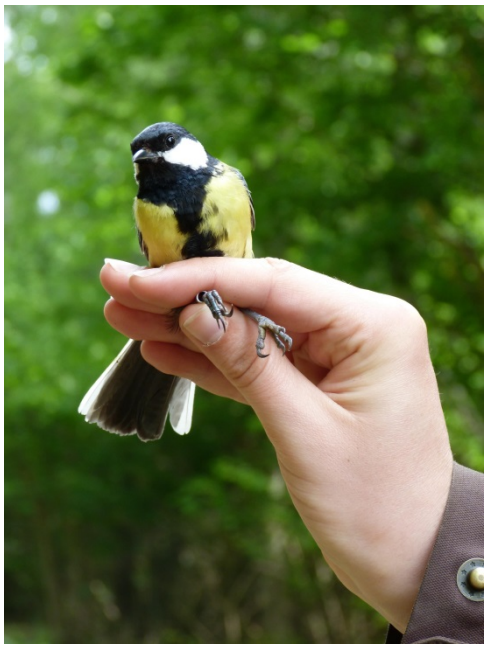


Figure 3. Male Great Tit / Un mâle de Mésange charbonnière. Photo by/par Laure Cauchard.

J'ai tout d'abord mis au point un nouveau test de résolution de problème afin de pouvoir mesurer les performances des couples reproducteurs directement en milieu naturel (Figure 1). La tâche consiste en une porte fixée sur l'entrée du nichoir, et une ficelle attachée à un levier permet de soulever la porte lorsque l'on tire dessus. La tâche est présentée plusieurs fois en un temps donné, et les individus qui parviennent à ouvrir la porte pour rentrer au nid sont considérés comme innovateurs. J'ai ensuite suivi le succès de reproduction des couples testés et montré pour la première fois chez des oiseaux en milieu naturel que les couples les plus performants à résoudre un problème surpassaient les couples les moins performants sur plusieurs mesures de succès reproducteur telles que le nombre d'œufs ou le nombre de poussins à l'envol.

Cependant, un lien positif entre la performance de résolution de problème et le succès reproducteur peut également être lié à une plus forte motivation des parents s'occuper de leur nichée lorsque celle-ci est plus grande, et donc une plus forte motivation à résoudre la tâche. Afin d'examiner plus précisément le sens de la relation et le mécanisme impliqué, j'ai ensuite manipulé (augmenté, diminué, ou laissé inchangée) la taille de nichée des couples reproducteurs puis testé leurs performances au test de résolution de problème. La manipulation n'a pas affecté la performance subséquente des parents, et les couples innovateurs démontraient toujours un meilleur succès reproducteur, quel que soit le changement de la taille de nichée subit. Ces résultats suggèrent que la performance de résolution de problème influence bien le succès de reproduction, et non l'inverse. De plus, les couples innovateurs présentaient également un taux d'approvisionnement plus important que les couples non innovateurs, suggérant que les innovateurs pourraient exploiter leur habitat de façon plus optimale (Figure 3).

Puisque la performance cognitive semble apporter un bénéfice au niveau de la reproduction, j'ai ensuite examiné s'il existait des caractéristiques morphologiques associées à la performance cognitive chez les adultes qui pourraient permettre aux individus de signaler leur performance lors du choix de partenaire. L'analyse de la coloration des plumes jaunes du ventre et noires de la calotte a montré des liens complexes (condition-dépendants) entre la couleur des plumes, les UV et les performances de résolution de problème et d'apprentissage, suggérant un potentiel signal lors du choix de partenaire dont les mécanismes restent à explorer (Figure 4).

Enfin, je me suis intéressée à l'effet d'une maladie, le paludisme, sur le comportement des oiseaux en milieu naturel. Le paludisme est une maladie infectieuse touchant largement les populations de passereaux dont la Mésange charbonnière. Bien que la prévalence de cette maladie varie sur de courtes échelles à la fois géographique et temporelle et que la parasite responsable de cette maladie (genres *Haemoproteus* et *Plasmodium*) soit responsable d'un déclin des performances cognitives chez les humains, l'effet d'une telle maladie sur le comportement des oiseaux n'a jamais été testé. J'ai injecté un médicament contre le paludisme à des femelles reproductrices et examiné l'effet de cette injection sur leur comportement. Cette injection n'a pas modifié leurs performances de résolution de problème et d'apprentissage mais a augmenté leur niveau d'activité et d'exploration du nichoir lors du test de résolution de problème. Ces

résultats soulignent l'importance de prendre en compte la prévalence du paludisme à l'échelle géographique et temporelle lorsque l'on étudie le comportement des mésanges charbonnières mais aussi des nombreux autres modèles de passereaux également touchés par cette maladie.

Dominique Chabot. 2014. The rise of unmanned aircraft in wildlife science: a review of potential contributions and their application to waterbird research. Ph.D. Dissertation. Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC.

The field of wildlife research and management tends to benefit from technological innovations such as remote sensing techniques that help to overcome the many challenges of studying and monitoring wild, free-ranging animals and their habitats. A new variety of remote sensing devices, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), has recently become available for public and commercial use, promising to offer further support to wildlife science. Although a growing variety of preliminary efforts to apply UAS in the discipline have been undertaken, the technology is yet to gain any significant traction in practice. The overall aim of this project is to help stimulate and guide the adoption of UAS in wildlife science by taking a distinctly rigorous, contextualized and integrated approach. This is accomplished by first presenting a detailed analysis of potential applications for UAS throughout the field of wildlife science based on the results of a systematic review of the current primary literature. Two case studies involving waterbirds are then presented which serve to evaluate, validate and demonstrate the use of a small UAS in genuine management-driven contexts. The first case study, involving the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), highlights the benefits of the UAS for collecting fine-scale habitat data in a wetland habitat that is challenging to navigate and assess at ground level. The second case study, involving the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), demonstrates the advantages of using a UAS for studying and monitoring species that are highly sensitive to investigator disturbance. The examples provided by these case studies, as well as the additional applications proposed in the review, suggest far-reaching potential for UAS in wildlife science.

Arctic Tern. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

FRANÇAIS—Le domaine de l'étude et la gestion de la faune tend à tirer profit des innovations technologiques telles que les techniques de télédétection qui aident à surmonter les nombreux défis reliés à l'étude et au suivi des animaux sauvages et de leurs habitats. Un nouveau type d'instruments de télédétection, les systèmes d'aéronef sans pilote (UAS), est récemment devenu disponible pour usage public et commercial, promettant d'assister davantage les sciences fauniques. Bien qu'une variété croissante de tentatives préliminaires d'application de UAS dans le domaine ont été entreprises, la technologie tarde à percer dans la pratique générale. Cette thèse a pour but d'aider à stimuler et guider l'adoption des UAS dans les sciences fauniques en employant une approche distinctement rigoureuse, contextualisée et intégrée. Cela est accompli dans un premier temps en présentant un compte rendu détaillé des applications potentielles des UAS à travers le domaine des sciences fauniques, se basant sur les résultats d'un examen systématique de la littérature primaire actuelle. Dans un second temps, deux études de cas sur des oiseaux aquatiques sont présentées, servant à évaluer, valider et démontrer l'usage d'un UAS compact dans des contextes de gestion réels. La première étude de cas, sur le petit blongios (*Ixobrychus exilis*), met en valeur les bénéfices du UAS pour la collecte de données d'habitat à fine résolution dans un milieu humide difficile à parcourir et inventorier au sol. La seconde étude, sur la sterne pierregarin (*Sterna hirundo*), met en valeur les avantages du UAS pour l'étude et le suivi d'espèces très sensibles au dérangement causé par les chercheurs. Les exemples fournis par ces études de cas ainsi que les applications additionnelles proposées dans le compte rendu suggèrent un potentiel d'envergure pour les UAS dans les sciences fauniques.

Elizabeth Gow. 2014. Parental care strategies and fledgling survival of Northern Flickers. Ph.D. Dissertation. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK.

The sexes have different life histories that can influence their parental care strategies. I studied Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*, parents and simultaneously radio-tracked mates during the nestling and post-fledging periods. I tested hypotheses about sex differences in parental care strategies by examining foraging patterns, provisioning effort and habitat use. Males and females used the same microhabitats, but avoided overlap of their foraging areas on the home range consistent with the hypothesis that mates separate the home range to reduce competition. During temporary (i.e., 24 hr) brood size manipulations, both parents decreased provisioning to reduced broods, but did not increase provisioning to enlarged broods or alter their foraging pattern on the landscape. I suggest flickers were energy limited and were incapable or unwilling to respond to increased brood demands. During the post-fledging period, males spent more time near their fledglings, and cared for their fledglings longer than females (16 days versus 12 days, respectively). Approximately 36% of females abandoned their brood in the post-fledging period and females with high levels of feather corticosterone were more likely to abandon. Older males and those with high provisioning rates in the nestling period fed their fledglings longer. Nearly 45% of fledglings died within the first week after leaving the nest, but survival was higher for fledglings with intermediate body mass and those that occupied areas of dense cover. Families moved a greater distance from the nest during the first 4 days post-fledging when there was less tree cover within 250 m of the nest site. Parents brought fledglings to areas with dense vegetation within the first week post-fledging, but subsequently shifted to open grassland habitats. My results show that parents invest in their offspring indirectly by taking them to habitats that increase survival. This research stresses the importance of studying parental care during the post-fledging period to gain a more complete understanding of the total parental investment of males versus females and how each sex may react differently to trade-offs between investing in the current brood versus self-maintenance.

Banded Northern Flicker.
Photo by Elizabeth Gow.

FRANÇAIS—Les mâles et les femelles ont des histoires naturelles qui peuvent influencer différemment leurs stratégies de soins parentaux. J'ai étudié des parents pic flamboyant, *Colaptes auratus*, et simultanément suivi par radio-télémétrie des parents pendant les périodes où les oisillons sont au nid et après l'envol. J'ai évalué des hypothèses sur les différences entre les sexes dans les stratégies de soins parentaux en examinant les habitudes alimentaires, d'effort d'approvisionnement et d'utilisation de l'habitat. Les mâles et les femelles utilisaient les mêmes micro-habitats, mais évitaient le chevauchement de leurs aires d'alimentation dans leurs domaines vitaux, ce qui est compatible avec l'hypothèse que les partenaires d'un couple présentent des domaines vitaux distincts afin de réduire la compétition. Pendant des manipulations temporaires (c.-à-24 h) de la taille de couvée, les deux parents ont diminué l'approvisionnement aux couvées réduites, mais n'ont pas augmenté l'approvisionnement aux couvées plus grandes ou ont modifié leur patron de recherche de nourriture dans le paysage. Je suggère que les pics étaient limités par l'énergie et étaient incapables, ou peu disposés, à répondre à une augmentation de la demande de couvée. Au cours de la période après l'envol, les mâles passaient plus de temps et ont pris soin des jeunes sur une plus longue période de temps que les femelles (16 jours versus 12 jours respectivement). Environ 36% des femelles ont abandonné leur couvée lors de la période après l'envol et les femelles avec des niveaux élevés de corticostérone dans leur plume étaient plus susceptibles d'abandonner. Les mâles plus âgés et ceux avec des taux de approvisionnement élevés pendant la période où les oisillons étaient au nid nourrissaient davantage les jeunes pendant la période après l'envol. Près de 45% des jeunes sont morts dans la première semaine après l'envol, mais la survie était plus élevé pour les jeunes présentant une masse corporelle intermédiaire et ceux qui occupaient les zones de végétation dense. Les familles qui présentaient un site de nidification avec moins de couvert forestier (sur un rayon de 250 m) ont effectué de plus grands déplacements lors des 4 premiers jours après l'envol. Les parents ont apporté les jeunes dans les zones de végétation dense pendant la première semaine après l'envol, mais par la suite, ont occupé des habitats ouverts de pâturage. Mes résultats montrent que les parents investissent dans leur

progéniture indirectement en sélectionnant des habitats qui augmentent la survie des jeunes. Cette recherche souligne l'importance d'étudier les soins parentaux pendant la période après l'envol afin d'acquérir une compréhension plus complète de l'investissement parental des mâles et des femelles et comprendre comment chacun des sexes peuvent réagir différemment à des compromis entre l'investissement dans la couvée et les soins personnelles.

Gregory J. Rand. 2014. Home range use, habitat selection, and stress physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (*Antrostomus vociferus*) at the northern edge of their range. M.Sc. Thesis. Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

Common Poorwill. Photo by Ilya Povalyaev.

The distribution of animals is rarely random and is affected by various environmental factors. We examined space-use patterns, habitat selection and stress responses of whip-poor-wills to mining exploration activity. To the best of our knowledge, fine scale patterns such as the habitat composition within known home ranges or territories of eastern whip-poor-wills have not been investigated. Using a population at the northern edge of the distribution in an area surrounding a mining exploration site, we tested whether variations in habitat and anthropogenic disturbances influence the stress physiology of individuals. We found no effect of increased mining activity on the stress physiology of birds, but found a significant scale-dependent effect of habitat on their baseline and stress-induced corticosterone levels, and we suggest that these are the result of variations in habitat quality. The importance of other factors associated with those habitat differences (e.g., insect availability, predator abundance, and microhabitat features) warrants further research.

FRANÇAIS—La répartition des animaux est rarement aléatoire et est influencée par divers facteurs environnementaux. Nous avons examiné les modèles utilisation de l'espace, la sélection de l'habitat et la réponse au stress de l'engoulevent bois-pourri à l'activité d'exploration minière. Au meilleur de nos connaissances, les modèles d'échelle fines telles que la composition de habitat dans les domaines vitaux connus ou territoires de l'engoulevent bois-pourri de l'Est n'ont pas été étudiés. Dans une population à la limite nord de la répartition de l'espèce dans une zone entourant un site d'exploration minière, nous avons testé si les variations dans l'habitat et les perturbations anthropiques influencent la physiologie du stress des individus. Nous n'avons trouvé aucun effet de l'activité minière accrue sur la physiologie du stress des oiseaux, mais nous avons trouvé un effet significatif dépendant de l'échelle de l'habitat sur leur taux de corticostérone induite par le stress. Nous suggérons que ces effets sont causés par les variations de la qualité de l'habitat. L'importance d'autres facteurs associés à ces différences d'habitat (par exemple, la disponibilité d'insectes, l'abondance des prédateurs et les caractéristiques du microhabitat) mérite de plus amples recherches.

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 1000 words long, again preferably accompanied by one or two photos. See page 18 for submission details.

Feature Article

Guidelines for Prioritizing Bird Safety during High Capture Events

Stuart A. Mackenzie, Long Point Bird Observatory and Bird Studies Canada
Marcel Gahbauer, McGill Bird Observatory and Migration Research Foundation

As responsible bird banders, we must anticipate, mitigate and minimize any potential danger to the birds we capture and process. The purpose of most banding operations is to sample a population, which does not necessarily include capturing every possible bird. There is always the potential to catch large numbers of birds and contingency plans should be in place to ensure that bird safety is never compromised. Certainly large numbers of birds can be caught and banded safely, but there is a fine line between a safe operation and a potentially harmful one. Ensuring bird safety requires training, constant vigilance and assessment of our actions.

The purpose of this article is to provide a synopsis of strategies and methods used to help banders manage potentially busy situations that may be outside an operation's normal comfort zone. Our most important recommendation is that banders use the information within to help prepare and develop their own strategies for handling potentially high volume events.

BE PREPARED

Know the limits of an operation and work within them – Being prepared to handle large numbers of birds can drastically improve efficiency and overall safety of birds on both the busy and not so busy days. It is important that banders know their own limits and strive to work within them. Every banding site is different, but the size and skill level of the team will always be two of the greatest limiting factors to an operation. Knowing the limits of a team is essential to maintaining a safe operation. Having lots of help is not necessarily an invitation to band more birds, as a lot of inexperienced help is far worse than few experienced assistants. Short-handed situations may require modifications to protocols, such as opening fewer nets and banding fewer birds.

The greatest Bander-In-Charge (BIC) is not measured by how fast they can band or extract a bird, but by the quality of their team and the level of explicit focus on bird safety and data quality in every aspect of the operation. Banders should never be placed in a situation that they cannot handle, and they should not be afraid to tell the BIC that this is so. BICs may wish to reassure less experienced team members that, although they are extremely busy, the situation is under control and offer advice on how to improve efficiency. Depending on the site, it may be important for protocols to address specifically preferred methods or deviations in busy situations to maintain data integrity while prioritizing bird safety.

Importance of Protocols – General practices and guidelines of bird banding on a busy day are no different from a normal day. However, the potential consequences of not following them are amplified significantly on busy days. Guidelines for banding operations are well covered in the North American Banders' Study Guide (NABC 2001), group-specific manuals provided by the North American Banding Council, and Guidelines on the Use of Wild Birds in Research (Fair et al. 2010). These topics should also be covered in most banding program and animal care protocols.

Readers may wish to review these materials and their own protocols and assess how simple day-to-day activities might be altered when busy.

Training – Adequate training of all station personnel is by far the most important method in preparing a team to handle potentially busy situations. Regardless of experience level, all trainees should be prepared to handle unexpected situations and understand the risks and consequences of ill-preparedness. The more time and care spent on training people; especially on slower days, the better prepared they will be for the busy ones. Even on the slowest days, it is important to emphasize the importance of time, efficiency, and adherence to station protocols.

Be aware of the weather – Being intimately aware of the weather at all times can help one foresee potentially busy situations before they happen. Most busy banding days are the direct result of changes in local weather conditions. The impact of weather largely depends on the location and time of year. Weather will obviously have the largest impact during the height of migration at any location, but tends to be inflated at coastal locations, particularly along the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the eastern seaboard. Cold fronts in fall, warm fronts in spring, any type of precipitation, fog, and sudden onshore breezes can all produce greater-than-average numbers of birds. It can be helpful to investigate and bookmark the best local hourly weather forecasts and radar locations on a computer or handheld device. If in a remote area without internet or phone access, look up. Paying particular attention to the weather and responding proactively to any change in conditions by decreasing time between net rounds or closing nets will always protect the well-being of the birds.

Know the study area – Know the study area and the birds within them. The number of birds seen and heard during the opening net/trapping round, or any trapping round, can provide a good indication of how busy a trapping round or day will be, but it is just as important to monitor bird activity constantly in and out of the trapping area. Net rounds, censuses and area searches provide excellent opportunities to evaluate bird activity and behaviors throughout the day. It is important to keep an eye/ ear out for species that are more prone to be captured readily, and situations that may cause concentrations of birds near the nets, such as quick changes in weather, ant swarms, feeding frenzies, roaming mixed species flocks, and distressed or particularly vocal species that tend to attract attention.

JUST KEEP EXTRACTING!

Extraction of a bird from a mist net.
Photo by Barbara Bleho.

Catching and extracting birds from nets or traps are the riskiest parts of any banding operation and deserve unequivocal respect and attention. Conducting net rounds at regular and short intervals and getting birds out of the nets should always be the priority. Clear the nets, or close them if necessary, and then focus on the backlog at the banding site. The sooner all birds are out of the nets the better. The longer the birds are in the net, the more tangled they may become, thus extending net round length. It is essential that an experienced extractor is always available. The most important thing to remember when one is faced with a busy net round is to stay calm and just keep extracting. Getting distracted, excited, or panicked during extractions will only increase the time it takes to clear the nets and the risk of injuries to the birds; just take a deep breath and keep extracting. If overwhelmed at the nets, one should never hesitate to get help or send the least experienced person for help. The use of mobile technology, such as cellular phones or walkie-talkies is a quick and easy way to recruit extra help.

Decisions made at the nets will alter the course of an entire banding operation and it is important never to put the safety of birds at risk for the "glamour" of high numbers. For example, if a large (50-100) wave of birds hits the nets within a couple of net rounds, an operation has the option to extract, transport and band them all, which will almost certainly cause a backlog and could potentially create an unnecessarily busy situation for the rest of the morning. The situation could be immediately defused by keeping a sample that can be managed easily and releasing the rest.

Net rounds are also a perfect opportunity to organize birds before they get to the banding site. This may sound like a chore, but there are often far more extractors and assistants than proficient banders. For example, separating dominant species or recaptures from the rest of the birds during a net round takes no extra time whatsoever, just a little bit of diligence. The few seconds it takes to separate species, types, or band sizes will save significantly more time for the bander.

Prioritizing species – Guidelines for prioritizing birds during busy times are no different than any other time and are largely similar during both extraction and banding. Each situation is different, but generally one may want to prioritize sensitive species (e.g., hummingbirds, kinglets, flycatchers, todies, manakins, goatsuckers), followed by more hardy insectivorous and omnivorous species (warblers, wrens, woodcreepers, thrushes, tanagers) and leave typically granivorous and frugivorous sparrow and finch-like birds to last. There are, however, many exceptions. For instance, large and/or very active birds in a net should be removed first because they tend to cause

other birds to struggle and get more tangled. Active species that do not calm down once placed in a bird bag may exhaust themselves quickly and may also be prioritized. Species at risk may also be prioritized ahead of all others during extraction and banding. Prioritization of species should be assessed by the BIC depending on the mix of species occurring at a site and time of year.

Some techniques to maximize bird safety on net/trap rounds during high volume events:

a. Make more frequent net checks.
b. Use "runners" (but do not actually run) to move birds back and forth between the nets and banding site.
c. Attempt to separate species or groups as they are being extracted.
d. Separate recaptures from new birds (for more efficient processing later).
e. Close the most distant nets or traps to reduce the length of net rounds.
f. Close nets (and/or traps) temporarily.
g. Make sure there are plenty of bird bags, net sticks, and other necessary equipment on each net round.
h. Ensure everyone is hydrated and nourished properly.

AT THE BANDING SITE

Banding – Maintaining flow and order while banding is essential to reducing the amount of time birds are held. Be quick, but do not hurry. Take the time to root out the inefficiencies in banding routines as seconds count and add up surprisingly fast. Intuitively, the best bander(s) should be banding, the best scribe should be scribing, and the best extractors, extracting. The more organized the banding process, the safer birds will be. On a busy day, an experienced bander will rarely appear to be rushing and although they are most often very skilled and knowledgeable, above all else they are exceedingly efficient.

All other distractions aside, three things tend to slow down the banding process—diversity, rarities or unusual situations, and recaptures. This is where having extractors pre-sort recaptures from new birds, priority and dominant species from others can make a huge difference in banding efficiency. In a one bander situation, it can be beneficial to deal with the diversity (which typically contains more sensitive species) first and then catch up with the dominant species afterward. If a second bander is available, one bander can process dominant species and recaptures while the other deals with the diversity, or vice versa. A bander dealing with a dominant species does not necessarily have to be an expert, as learning the intricacies of one or a few species can be relatively straightforward. Some stations also set aside strings of bands for one particular species to improve processing time.

Some techniques to maximize bird safety while banding during high volume events:

a. Clearly label the time of net rounds as birds arrive at the banding site.
b. Avoid clutter at the banding site.
c. Make sure all necessary equipment is readily accessible; e.g., extra bands, batteries, bird bags, blank forms.
d. Have a chart with every common species banded, their band sizes, and reference to page numbers in identification guides in a very visible location at the banding site.
e. Avoid unnecessary people and noise at the banding site.
f. Sort the birds and prioritize species.
g. Minimize handling and unnecessary steps; e.g., use release methods that do not require handling alter weighing.
h. Look for inefficiencies and remove them.
i. Delegate duties to the scribe or other assistants; e.g., scribe can release birds from weighing container.
j. No pictures or ogling — except for rarities or special situations that warrant documentation.

All hail the scribe! – During busy situations, the scribe is the most important person in maintaining a smooth operation at the banding site. It is critical for the scribe to maintain proper and accurate data collection and order. The scribe can help by monitoring progress and ensuring that net rounds remain on schedule and that all birds are being released within a reasonable amount of time. Making use of a kitchen timer to measure progress can be incredibly useful. The scribe and bander should never have any problems communicating

and it is the scribe's responsibility to ensure that this is so. A good bander will usually be one step ahead of the scribe, but a good scribe will always be two steps ahead of the bander!

WHEN IS IT TOO BUSY?

Birds should generally not be held for more than one hour from time of capture to release and less than 30 minutes for breeding birds (NABC 2001). It can be easy to fall behind or get caught off guard. The minute a bird hits the net, the clock is ticking. Respect the clock and live by it. If the birds captured cannot be processed safely with full data within that hour, the operation is probably catching too many birds and it is time to consider contingency plans. The easiest time to defuse potentially busy situations is at the net! Failing that, there are a number of actions one can take during the banding process to speed things up.

Take fewer measurements – The old ring-and-fling approach tends to be viewed poorly, but aside from letting birds go un-banded, it is a quick and safe way to get through a backlog of birds. The only data required by the Bird Banding Laboratory/office is band number, species, age, sex, location and date.

Collecting minimal data is least disruptive to data quality when the majority of birds being banded comprise only a few species. If conditions and resources permit, a lot of time can be saved by banding birds, particularly bulk species, at the net, recording essential information, then letting them go, eliminating the entire net round process. Again, collecting full data is extremely important, especially for less frequently captured species, and if there is not enough time to collect full data, it is a clear sign that there are probably too many birds.

Brown Creeper being banded. Photo by Barbara Bleho.

If all else fails, let birds go – The majority of busy days are largely comprised of one or more dominant species. Variability within a species tends to be very low so all that is necessary for most basic analyses is a sample of 30-50 birds per sampling period. Once a threshold is reached for that day, many birds can be released un-banded (and documented within unbanded or effort data), or with minimal data collected. For constant-effort stations, changing effort to accommodate busy days may affect the consistency of data quality over time. This can be accounted for if effort is documented carefully, including a precise record of net hours and capture rate for each net or trap. Stations may also wish to have a busy day protocol for reducing effort in a consistent fashion each time.

There are times when an operation simply catches more birds than it can band safely. In this situation letting birds go un-banded is the best approach. If birds are to be let go it is in their best interest to be released at the net. This requires a good sense of the operation's limitations, and good communication among team members. Birds can also be released, especially the dominant species, from the banding site if the operation is falling behind. Depending on the protocol, it may be very important to keep track of data, such as numbers released, time captured, or net number so that statistics, such as the number of birds captured/ 100 net hours or daily estimated totals are not skewed.

Debrief – Clear and regular communication among all members of a banding team is essential during any banding day, but particularly important on busy ones. It can be very useful to have a discussion with the team following a big day to find out what did and did not work; were birds at risk, was everyone comfortable, were people working within or outside their limits, and discuss and act on ways to improve plans or protocols.

CONCLUSION

No matter how many birds one has banded or extracted, it is important not to let confidence overshadow natural and ethical limitations. Remember that there is no reward for banding large numbers of birds. It never was or ever will be a competition. Maintaining proper ethical boundaries becomes even more critical when large numbers of birds are involved and minor decisions can have a substantial impact. With the adrenalin pumping, it is easy to get caught up in the birds, the excitement and the rhythm. The

trick is to remain calm, organized, efficient and proactive, and train everyone else the same. Above all else, remember bird safety first — at the end of the day nothing else matters.

We hope that this article is useful to novice and experienced banders alike, and encourages banders to think about how they would handle potentially busy situations before they occur. What would you do?

Admittedly this article is limited in scope to landbirds, but there are undoubtedly parallels to other groups. We encourage banders of other groups of birds, particularly shorebirds, colonial or gregarious species, to publish similar guidelines or strategies.

We acknowledge the North American Banding Council, their Code of Ethics, and the following individuals and Council members for providing useful comments that greatly improved this manuscript: Betsy Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Jay Carlisle (Idaho Bird Observatory), Manuel Grosselet (Tierra de Aves, Mexico), Lesley-Anne Howes (Canadian Bird Banding Office), Bruce Peterjohn (US Bird Banding Laboratory), C.J. Ralph (US Forest Service, Redwood Science Lab), Josee Rousseau (Klamath Bird Observatory), Mark Shieldcastle (Black Swamp Bird Observatory) and Jared Wolfe (Bluebonnet Bird Monitoring Project, Louisiana Bird Observatory). A special thanks to Walter Sakai, Peter Lowther and Bob Pantle for their editorial prowess.

LITERATURE CITED

North American Banding Council. 2001. The North American banders' study guide. 66pp. Available from: http://wWw.nabanding.net/other-publications/

Fair, J., E. Paul and J. Jones, Eds. 2010. Guidelines to the use of wild birds in research. Ornithological Council, Washington, D.C.

Reprinted with permission from North American Bird Bander 39(2): 62-65. 2014.

Photographic Guidelines for Ornithologists

Andrea Patterson, Anthony Hill and Lesley Howes
A contribution of the North American Banding Council

Through the use of blogs, photo galleries, social networking sites, and scientific presentations, banders daily promote bird monitoring and research to a wide audience. In so doing, banders should meet, display and promote high ethical and scientific standards. The Banders' Code of Ethics reminds banders that they are "primarily responsible for the safety and welfare of the birds they study so that stress and risks of injury or death are minimized", and that they are to "handle each bird carefully, gently, quietly, with respect, and in minimum time." Inappropriate photography during banding may compromise this ethical duty.

The North American Banding Council (NABC) recommends that banders be aware of best practices and how to minimize stress to birds within the context of photography and videography. Banders or stations may wish to develop specific policies around the taking and use of images of birds and the banding process. We offer the following guidelines for consideration.

A. Recording Images: Photographic Best Practices

- The primary uses of photography of birds in the hand are for documentation and education. Standardized documentary poses clearly demonstrate key features that identify species, age and sex, and they should be used to document rarities; individual markers; specific rare conditions such as indicators of disease, malformations, or injury; and molt.
- Photographers should be systematic in the collection of ancillary data such as date, location, band number, species, age and sex. Archiving photographs in a useful format provides an excellent reference library. Banders are encouraged to manage their own photographic collections in a way that adds to the scientific and educational value of the images. Banders are also encouraged to contribute to Piranga, an educational website that provides photographic guidelines and a forum for banders to upload, share, discuss and peruse photographs of birds in the hand.

- Photographs for personal purposes including images of people holding birds and images for "adoptions" or other fund-raising should be considered low priority and taken only when the bird shows no signs of stress and when time and safety allows.
- To minimize time in the hand, photographers should arrange their shots before the bird is posed. As a maximum, birds should be held no more than one minute for photographic purposes. This can also be known as the ONE MINUTE PHOTO LIMIT.
- Birds should be held by an experienced bander in a grip that is appropriate to the species and that considers bird and handler safety. For example, passerines with powerful pectoral muscles should not be held in a photographer's grip without additionally securing the wings, nor should species with weak legs such as shorebirds, hummingbirds, and goatsuckers be held by the legs. For guidance, consult the NABC's taxon-specific banding manuals or the NABC recommendations for bird grips.
- Avoid flash photography. If flash must be used, make certain the bird's eyes have time to adjust before it is released.
- Banding stations may wish to develop and post in plain view a policy concerning visitor photography.

Consider the following points and decide what is appropriate for your situation:

a. Permission to take photographs must be obtained from the bander-in-charge.
b. Visitor photography must not interfere with the normal banding process and should only be all owed when banding volume permits.
c. Photography of birds in mist nets should be discouraged.
d. Photographs of visitors holding birds should be discouraged, but consider allowing photographs of visitors helping to release birds.
e. Some stations have policies explicitly stating that images taken at their stations are the property of the banding organization. As such, those images cannot be posted in public without the prior expressed consent of the host organization.

American Kestrel following banding.
Photo by Barbara Bleho.

B. Publishing Images

All photographs published in print or online, or used in presentations, should demonstrate best practices including:

a. Bird and handler safety and standardized photographic poses that demonstrate the scientific purpose of banding.
b. Birds in grips that are safe and appropriate to the species.

- Consider carefully what images are appropriate to take, and to share. If you are uncertain about the appropriateness of a particular photograph, it is best not to use it.
- While any photograph can potentially be misinterpreted, misinterpretation can be minimized by thoughtful commentary. Information associated with posted images and videos should be factual and professional, and provide context that enables viewers to appreciate the value of banding.
- Cameras often log date and location of photographs. While this can be important for scientific documentation, consider removing these data from photographs before posted online, especially for species at risk. Video cameras record both images and sound. Ensure that all commentary is appropriate.

These guidelines are also available at www.nabanding.net, and will soon be available in French and Spanish.

Reprinted with permission from the Summer 2014 Ontario Bird Banding Association Newsletter

Canadian Ornithological News

Good News for Whooping Cranes

Officials from Wood Buffalo National Park reported 32 Whooping Crane fledged young were observed during this year's Whooping Crane Fledging Survey, conducted August 9-12, 2014. See details of the survey at http://friendsofthewildwhoopers.org/number-whooping-cranes-fledged-wood-buffalo-canada/.

Also positive news for Whooping Cranes – the state of Texas recently purchased over 17,000 acres (6,880 ha) of undisturbed coastal prairie that skirts the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where Whooping Cranes overwinter, and could serve as prime habitat for the species. For more details on the purchase, see http://www.texastribune.org/2014/08/21/texas-announces-land-conservation-purchase-bp-doll/.

Recent Reports on the Status of North American Birds

The State of the Birds 2014 report was released in September. The report indicates that North American bird populations are declining in several key habitats, but bird populations are recovering in areas where a strong conservation investment has been made. In addition to assessing population trends, the authors created a "Watch List" of 230 bird species that are currently endangered or at risk of becoming endangered without significant conservation help. See the report at http://www.stateofthebirds.org/.

A new study warns that global warming is a serious threat to nearly half of the bird species in the continental United States and Canada. According to Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report (http://climate.audubon.org/), 314 North American bird species will lose more than 50% of their current ranges by 2080. The study predicts that 126 of those species will lose more than 50% of their current ranges by 2050, with no possibility of moving elsewhere if global warming continues on its current trajectory.

World Wildlife Fund Living Planet Report 2014

The latest edition of the Living Planet Report was recently released with concerning results. Most notably, the Living Planet Index (LPI), which measures more than 10,000 representative populations of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, has declined by 52 per cent since 1970. The Living Planet Report 2014 and related summaries are available online at: http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/living_planet_report/.

Birds of North America Online Actively Revising Accounts

The Birds of North America Online is in the process of revision, with several revised accounts being published monthly. Revised accounts published in September were: Semipalmated Plover, Northern Bobwhite, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Boat-tailed Grackle. Revised accounts published in October were: Steller's Jay, American Wigeon, Sprague's Pipit, and Roseate Tern. See http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/news/news-and-updates-to-bna-online for a full list of revised accounts since 2008.

Recent COSEWIC and SARA Reports on Birds

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) released status reports for Short-tailed Albatross, Piping Plover, Harlequin Duck, and the *pratensis* subspecies of Grasshopper Sparrow on October 15, 2014. The reports can be viewed at http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/search/advSearchResults_e.cfm?sType=doc&advkeywords=&startDate=&endDate=&docID=18&page=1.

The federal management for McCown's Longspur was released on October 30, 2014. The report can be viewed on the Species at Risk Public Registry at http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2647.

Falsterbo, September 25th 2014

IBOC 2014 – Conference summary

The first International Bird Observatory Conference, hosted by Falsterbo Bird Observatory in cooperation with Lund University, was an overwhelming success. Bringing together 104 ambitious and open people from dozens of bird observatories across 18 countries, the conference was rich in possibilities for exchange of knowledge.

IBOC 2014 commenced with a day of welcoming, climaxing with an inspirational lecture by Yossi Leshem looking at the role of birds and bird research in the Middle East. Thereafter, a single full day was dedicated to the three main focus areas of IBOC 2014: environmental monitoring, research, and public activities. Mixing keynote speakers with shorter lectures throughout the day then ending the formal program with a panel discussion about the topic of the day proved to be successful.

The more informal part of the conference consisted of morning excursions to see the work of Falsterbo Bird Observatory first-hand. The participants had one morning each to visit the standardized migration counts, the standardized ringing, and a set of lectures about the research in Falsterbo. To really facilitate networking and building relationships between bird observatories, the evenings were open for socializing.

The diversity of bird observatories attending the conference was broad, from those run more-or-less voluntarily to those at the forefront global research. It did however seem like the conference could have been even more appreciated if focus had included slightly more of how bird observatories finance their work, since many bird observatories have to hold back their work due to shortage of resources.

There were two main decisions from the conference.

1. A platform for information exchange would be highly valued. In order to create such a platform, a working group was created and Björn Malmhagen (Falsterbo Bird Observatory) was appointed chairman.
2. Since IBOC 2014 was very much appreciated, many wished for IBOC to turn into an event repeated with certain time increments. Keith Bildstein of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary took on the task of investigating the possibilities for Hawk Mountain to host the next IBOC, preliminary planned for 2016.

In conclusion, the highly international setting and the focus on the work of bird observatories rather than academic research were key characteristics for IBOC 2014 and contributed to the success.

With that, the members of the organizing committee wish to extend their sincerest gratitude to all participants of IBOC 2014.

Thomas Alerstam
P-G Bentz
Måns Karlsson
Björn Malmhagen
Sissel Sjöberg

Announcements

Funding Available for Canadian Bird Research and Conservation Projects

Bird Studies Canada is now accepting applications to the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation (the Baillie Fund) for the 2015 grant cycle. A portion of funds raised through the annual Baillie Birdathon are allocated to the Baillie Fund to provide grants to individuals or groups for projects that further BSC's mission. Since 1978, the Baillie Fund has provided grants totalling nearly $700,000 to 580 bird research and conservation projects across Canada. In reviewing grant applications, the Baillie Fund Trustees give priority to projects that engage the skills and enthusiasm of amateur naturalists and volunteers to help us understand, appreciate, and conserve Canadian birds in their natural environments.

There are three granting programs, each with a different application and review process. Applications for Regular Grants are due by December 15, 2014; applications for Small Grants are due by January 15, 2015; and applications for the James L. Baillie Student Award for Field Research, administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, are due by February 15, 2015. Visit the Bird Studies Canada website at http://www.birdscanada.org/about/jlbmf/index.jsp for more information about the Baillie Fund grant programs, past grants, and how to apply for a grant, or contact the Baillie Fund Secretary at acoughlan@birdscanada.org or 1-866-518-0212.

Version français ici: http://www.oiseauxcanada.org/about/jlbmf/index.jsp?lang=FR&targetpg=index.

Join Project FeederWatch

The 28th season of Project FeederWatch began on November 8, but it is not too late to join thousands of volunteers across North America who have turned their bird feeding hobby into research for bird conservation. Your counts will help scientists monitor changes in winter feeder-bird populations. Results are published in BirdWatch Canada and Winter Bird Highlights – the FeederWatch magazine.

Anyone with an interest in birds and nature is invited to join Project FeederWatch and become a Citizen Scientist. Participants are asked to select a two-day count period once every two weeks and count birds for at least 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or both days. It is a great way to connect with nature, have fun, and help birds, and there is no need to be an expert. To learn more or to sign up, visit the Bird Studies Canada website at http://www.birdscanada.org/pfw.html or call 1-888-448-2473. Project FeederWatch is a joint program of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Volume 2 of Howard & Moore Checklist Released

After many years in the making, the second volume of the *Howard & Moore Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*, Fourth Edition (http://www.avespress.com/books/checklist-passerines.php) has recently been completed. This new edition reflects considerable changes in our understanding of the evolution of birds, largely due to studies of bird DNA over the past decade. The new edition also reflects revisions to species and subspecies. Range statements have been revised, particularly for the Americas.

To receive a 25% discount, purchase the book online through the Aves Press website (http://www.avespress.com/books/) and enter the promotional code 121!dlp. Orders for delivery in Canada and the U.S. will be supplied from stock held by Buteo Books, the appointed distributors of Aves Press in North America.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

Student Research Awards

TAVERNER AWARDS

Taverner Awards are offered by the Society to increase the knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation, and public education. The awards are aimed at people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

Two awards of up to $2,000 each are made annually.

JAMES L. BAILLIE AWARD

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student at a Canadian university conducting ornithological research involving Canadian species. The award supports: studies of birds in their natural environment; projects which contribute to the preservation of birds; and/or projects which disseminate knowledge of birds. This award is funded by Long Point Bird Observatory/Bird Studies Canada.

One award of up to $1,000 is made annually.

FRED COOKE AWARD

The Fred Cooke Student Award is offered jointly by the SCO-SOC and Bird Studies Canada to honour the contributions of Professor Fred Cooke to Canadian ornithology. The award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university (previous recipients of the award are not eligible). The award supports travel to ornithological conferences at which the student will make an oral or poster presentation, or for research in any aspect of ornithology anywhere in the world.

One award of up to $1,000 is made annually

FULL DESCRIPTIONS/APPLICATION FORM AT:

http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards.htm

- Applicants must be **members** of the SCO-SOC to be eligible ($10/year for students)
- **A single application** can be made to apply for all three types of awards.

For further information, or to submit an application (**e-mail only**), contact:
Karen Wiebe Chair, SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
e-mail: karen.wiebe@usask.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 FEBRUARY 2015

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des ornithologistes du Canada

Bourses de recherche pour étudiants

BOURSE TAVERNER

Les bourses Taverner sont offertes par la société afin d'accroître les connaissances des oiseaux canadiens grâce à la recherche, la conservation et l'éducation du public. Les bourses sont destinées aux personnes qui n'ont aucun accès ou un accès limité aux subventions majeures, indépendamment de leur statut professionnel et qui entreprennent des travaux ornithologiques au Canada.

Deux bourses d'une valeur atteignant 2000 $ chacune sont décernées annuellement.

BOURSE JAMES L. BAILLIE

La bourse de recherche pour étudiant(e)s James L. Baillie est ouverte à tout(e) étudiant(e) qui entreprend une recherche ornithologique à une université canadienne. Ces objectifs sont de supporter financièrement les études d'oiseaux canadiens dans leurs milieux naturels, les projets contribuant à la sauvegarde d'oiseaux et les projets visant à diffuser les connaissances ornithologiques. La bourse de recherche étudiante James L. Baillie est subventionnée par le Long Point Bird Observatory d'Études d'oiseaux Canada

Une bourse atteignant 1000 $ est présentée annuellement.

BOURSE FRED COOKE

La bourse de recherche pour étudiant(e)s Fred Cooke est offerte conjointement par la SCO-SOC et Études d'oiseaux Canada afin d'honorer les contributions à l'ornithologie canadienne par le professeur Fred Cooke. . La bourse est ouverte à n'importe quel(le) ornithologue poursuivant sa recherche dans une université canadienne, sauf les gagnant(e)s précédent(e)s de la bourse. La bourse doit être utilisée pour le voyage aux conférences ornithologiques auxquelles l'étudiant(e) donne une présentation orale ou une affiche (poster), ou pour la recherche ornithologique n' importe où à travers le monde.

Une seule bourse atteignant 1000 $ est présentée annuellement.

DESCRIPTIONS COMPLÈTES/FORMULAIRE D'APPLICATION À : http://www.sco-soc.ca/studentawards_fr.htm

- Les candidats doivent être membres de la SCO-SOC pour être éligible (10 $ par année pour les étudiants)
- **Une seule demande par candidat** pour les trois types de bourses.

Pour de plus amples renseignements ou pour soumettre une candidature (courriel seulement), veuillez communiquer avec:
Karen Wiebe, Présidente des bourses étudiantes, Université de la Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK
Courriel: karen.wiebe @ usask.ca

DATE LIMITE D'INSCRIPTION: 15 FEBRUARY 2015

Information Exchange

Yellow Rail Observations in Canada

Staff from the Bird Studies Canada Saskatoon office have been conducting field research on the Yellow Rail since 2011, including banding a substantial portion of Yellow Rails banded in Canada, and developing survey methods for using automatic recorders to collect data. The team is now interested in broadening knowledge of where Yellow Rails can be found in the Prairie Provinces and elsewhere by supplementing their information with additional public observations, with the goal to develop a national repository of locations where the species can occur.

The team requests and appreciates any recent Yellow Rail observations (sight or sound) in Canada. Please email the Senior Waterbird Scientist, Dr. Kiel Drake, at kdrake@birdscanada.org and include as many of the following details as possible: date and time of observation; location (ideally with latitude and longitude or UTM coordinates, so that researchers can find the location using a GPS); and your maximum count of Yellow Rails at that location.

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and Birds

Claire Jardine

The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) is a national organization of wildlife health experts with regional centres at each of the five veterinary colleges across Canada and a collaborating centre in British Columbia. Our mission is to promote and protect the health of wildlife and Canadians through leadership, partnership, investigation and action. The CWHC core functions include surveillance; trends, threat and risk assessment; health information management and knowledge mobilization to help turn knowledge into action. We do this with our partners in academia, government and the NGO sector.

Our disease surveillance program includes the post-mortem examination of thousands of cases from across Canada annually, and the maintenance of these and other findings within a secure national database of wildlife disease.

We invite both reports of observed mortality, illness or abnormalities in wildlife, and where possible, the submission of carcasses for post-mortem examination. Post-mortems can provide information on the presence of disease and causes of death in wildlife populations. They are also a useful adjunct to many research projects, providing information on often neglected aspects of the biology of the species under study.

Birds constitute a significant proportion of cases submitted to the CWHC, and a wide range of species are examined each year. This allows us to identify new risks to bird populations and provide evidence to support management decisions around issues such as West Nile virus, botulism, salmonellosis, trauma or toxins.

If you would like to report observations of wildlife mortality, make arrangements to submit carcasses or other specimens, or wish to discuss possible roles for wildlife disease investigation in a research project, please contact the nearest CWHC regional centre:

BC: 1-800 661 9903
Alberta: 403 210 6522
Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NWT and Yukon: 1-888 966 5815
Ontario and Nunavut: 1-866 673 4781
Quebec: 450 773 8521 x8346
Atlantic Canada: 902 628 4314

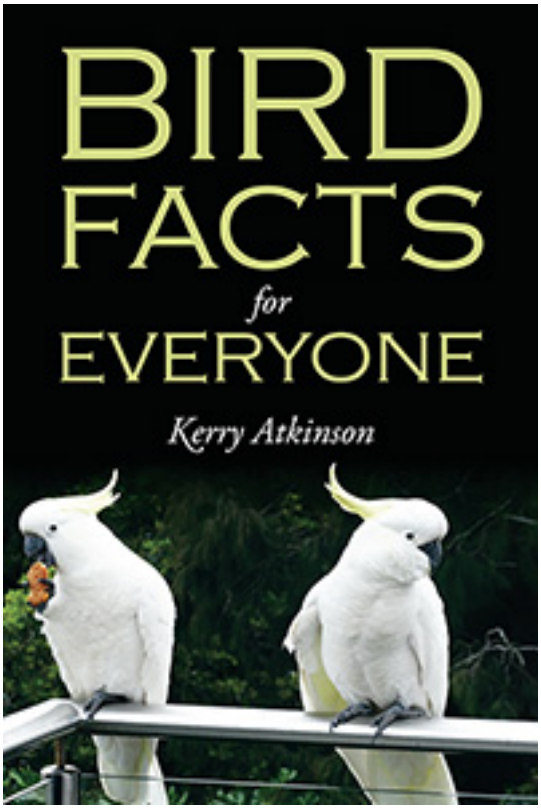
Pileated Woodpecker.
Photo by Yousif Attia.

Book Review

Bird Facts for Everyone

By Kerry Atkinson

Published in 2014 by Outskirts Press, Denver, CO. 212 pages.



This relatively small volume contains thousands of facts about birds around the world. Topics covered include classification, anatomy, physiology, behaviour, longevity, collective nouns for groups of birds, intriguing bird names, and eponyms (a name derived from a name of a person). Eponyms included in this book are the common bird names only. In addition, there is a section called FAQs, which answers interesting questions such as which bird has the longest beak in the world, what is the world's smallest bird, what is the world's most common bird, and many other questions about birds.

Most of the examples and facts about bird biology and behaviour in this book come from outside North America because the author is based in Australia. However, I learned many interesting bird facts that relate to North American species. For example, male and female cardinals, grosbeaks, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and Northern Mockingbirds sing in duets. Another interesting fact is that gull eyes contain droplets of red oil to reduce sun glare.

The text is easy to read. The author briefly and adequately explains avian behaviour or phenomena in a few words. One minor grievance is that the classification table looks like a Microsoft Excel worksheet.

The numerous colour photos enhance the text, and most of the photos have very good to excellent quality. It was neat to see photos of bird species that occur outside of North America in relation to the bird fact discussed.

The reference section enhances the volume with 15 key and/or accessible sources for avian biology and behaviour, including *Sibley's Guide to Bird Life and Behaviour*, so readers can get more information on topics of interest. There is a handy table of contents to help readers find information relatively quickly in the book. Surprisingly, there is no index at the back of the book.

If you like learning about bird facts, I highly recommend this book.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, e-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

Do You Have a Book Review You Would Like to Share?

If so, we would love to hear from you! Some recent and upcoming releases in ornithological literature include *Ten Thousand Birds: Ornithology since Darwin* by Tim Birkhead, Jo Wimpenny and Bob Montgomerie; *Facing Extinction: The World's Rarest Birds and the Race to Save Them* by Paul Donald, Nigel Collar and Stuart Marsden; *Birds & People* by Mark Cocker; and *The Double-Crested Cormorant: Plight of a Feathered Pariah* by Linda Wires.

SCO – SOC Information

Name	Title	Phone	E-mail
Officers for 2015/2016:			
Dr. Greg Robertson	President	709-772-2778	greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca
Dr. Ken Otter	Vice-President/President-elect	250-960 5019	ken.otter@unbc.ca
Dr. Joe Nocera	Past President	705-755-5220	joe.nocera@ontario.ca
Dr. Matt Reudink	Treasurer	250-828-5428	mreudink@tru.ca
Mr. Lance Laviolette	Membership Secretary	613-874-2449	lance.laviolette@gmail.com
Vacant	Recording Secretary		
Mr. Rob Warnock	Co-editor, *Picoides*	306-586-2492	warnockr@myaccess.ca
Ms. Barbara Bleho	Co-editor, *Picoides*	403-719-9958	bbleho@sociallyinfused.com
Voting Members of Council: (*second term)			
Dr. Alex Bond	Member of Council *	306-975-5216	alex.bond@usask.ca
Dr. Kyle Elliott	Member of Council	204-390-4277	haliaeetus@gmail.com
Dr. Barbara Frei	Member of Council		barbara.frei@mail.mcgill.ca
Dr. David Green	Member of Council	778-782-3981	davidg@sfu.ca
Dr. Laura McKinnon	Member of Council	705-930-4125	laura.mckinnon@utoronto.ca
Dr. Dan Mennill	Member of Council	519-253-3000 ext 4726	dmennill@uwindsor.ca
Dr. Greg Mitchell	Member of Council	613-998-7311	greg.mitchell@ec.gc.ca
Dr. Laura McFarlane Tranquilla	Member of Council	709-770-6923	ltranquilla@bsc-eoc.org
Dr. Junior Tremblay	Member of Council	418-649-6260	junior.tremblay@ec.gc.ca
Dr. Darroch Whitaker	Member of Council *	709-458-3464	darroch.whitaker@pc.gc.ca

(Non-voting) Past Presidents:

Ross Lein	1983-1986	Henri Ouellet	1994-1996	Charles Francis	2004-2006
Spencer Sealy	1986-1988	David Nettleship	1996-1998	Susan Hannon	2006-2008
Erica Dunn	1988-1990	Tony Diamond	1998-2000	David Bird	2008-2010
Jon Barlow	1990-1992	Kathy Martin	2000-2002	Erica Nol	2010-2012
Bruce Falls	1992-1994	Jean-Pierre Savard	2002-2004	Joe Nocera*	2012-2014

*beginning January 2015

Membership Information

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 Hazel Wheeler at hazel.wheeler@gmail.com.

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 3-4 weeks later. Please send all submissions to Rob Warnock at warnockr@accesscomm.ca.

Disclaimer:

Picoides is not a peer-reviewed journal; the publication of an article in *Picoides* does not imply endorsement by SCO-SOC.