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Snow Buntings are known to most as “winter birds”; far fewer get to see them in summer, looking like this (Photo by Sarah Baldo)

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Editor's Message

Rob Warnock and Marcel Gahbauer

For many Canadian ornithologists, June is the busiest month of the year, because it is the peak of breeding activity for birds in most regions of the country. However, in case you are tempted to put aside this issue of *Picoides* until later, please at least take a quick look at the items in this issue that are time sensitive – most notably nominations for the Doris Huestis Speirs Award (*page 5*) and Jamie Smith Memorial Award (*page 6*), both due June 30, as well as requests for a new auditor and webmaster (*page 4*) and some reminders for the upcoming North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver this August (*page 17*).

As always, this issue also features a President's message, this time announcing the significant decision of SCO-SOC regarding involvement with the new Society for Ornithology (*pages 2-3*). Meanwhile, we are introducing new editors for our society's journal, Avian Conservation and Ecology (*page 7*). We are pleased to feature several pages of content on research by Canadian students, including profiles of our latest award recipients (*pages 8-10*), a progress report from one of last year's winners (*pages 11-12*), and an abstract of a recently submitted thesis (*page 13*). This issue also includes a feature article on the activities of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (*pages 14-15*), and the first submission from a new book reviewer (*page 16*).

Our next issue of *Picoides* will not be coming out until November. We hope that those of you in the field for research over the next few months have a safe and productive season – and also that you will consider sharing some of your photos and stories with us for future issues. Your suggestions and feedback are welcome at any time. Have a great summer!

Osprey (Photo by Marcel Gahbauer)

President's Message

As usual, our society is involved in a number of activities, including finalizing our commitments to the NAOC-V in Vancouver, choosing research award winners among many great applications from young ornithologists, moving forward with our own field seasons throughout Canada and beyond on excellent research projects, and then making big decisions, like, for example, whether we want to continue as a society, or dissolve and join the much larger, Society for Ornithology (SFO)!

Rather than hold you in suspense, I will tell you right now that your council has made the decision to forego further participation in planning this new large mega society for our discipline. Although there were those on council who argued that we should continue to investigate the pros and cons of the SFO by sending four representatives to the next phase of planning, others argued strongly against this, and these voices, in the end, carried the day. I suspect that many of you will be quietly relieved that SCO-SOC will continue to be the small, friendly, and productive organization that you have supported for years. I also know that another subset of members will be disappointed at our lack of participation in a potentially important and powerful movement in ornithology.

Message de la présidente

Comme d'habitude, notre société a été impliquée dans plusieurs activités, y compris : la finalisation de nos engagements envers l'NAOC-V à Vancouver; la sélection de lauréats de recherche parmi les nombreuses et excellentes applications de jeunes ornithologues; l'initiation de nos propres campagnes sur le terrain concernant d'importants projets de recherche partout au Canada et au-delà; la prise de décisions importantes, comme, par exemple, si nous voulons continuer en tant que société, ou se dissoudre et se joindre à la beaucoup plus grande Société d'ornithologie (OFS)!

Plutôt que de vous tenir en haleine, je vais vous dire dès maintenant que votre conseil a pris la décision de renoncer à une plus grande participation dans la planification de cette nouvelle grande (méga) société pour notre discipline. Bien que certains, au sein du conseil, aient argumenté que nous devrions continuer à évaluer les avantages et les inconvénients de l'OFS en envoyant quatre représentants à la phase suivante de la planification, d'autres ont soutenu fermement le contraire, et ces derniers, à la fin, l'ont emporté. Je soupçonne que beaucoup d'entre vous seront soulagés de voir que tranquillement SCO-SOC continuera d'être la petite organisation, conviviale et productive que vous avez soutenue pendant des années. Je sais aussi qu'une partie des membres seront déçus par notre manque de participation à un mouvement potentiellement important et puissant pour l'ornithologie.

Of course, the fact that SCO-SOC is not participating does not stop individual members from joining SFO once a structure is available to do so, and I suspect that many members will indeed join SFO. Going into the next phase of discussions will be representatives from the Waterbird Society, the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, and the Association of Field Ornithologists. Many members of SCO-SOC will also be members of these societies, and you will presumably have opportunity to voice your opinion via those organizations sometime soon. Personally, I found these discussions difficult, given both the importance of the decisions, but also, in tackling the nature of participatory democracy and making sure that all opinions were heard. That we conducted our discussions both by conference call and email, made me also realize the value of our face-to-face conversations at annual general meetings. I want to assure all of you that your council worked hard to give an informed response to the organizers of SFO. I also thank members who replied to me personally with your views on whether SCO-SOC should join SFO.

On other fronts, we are currently accepting nominations for our society awards (see notices herein). We have recently also seen the emergence of eBird, a system for online recording of bird observations. Rather than just a method to endear itself to the competitive leanings of some birders, I see its incredible potential, for example, in uncovering changes in distribution of our birds as a result of increased urbanization. Will the starlings, grackles, Blue Jays, Mourning Doves, etc., thoroughly fill our urban environments or will there be room, through sensitive planning, for Pine Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Indigo Buntings and other less common species who can tolerate small patches of natural habitat within an urban matrix? This is one of dozens of lines of inquiry that can, in the future, be addressed with the use of results from eBird. I encourage members to sign on and start making checklists (and the competition is fun and healthy as well!).

I want to thank all members of the SCO-SOC council, and also members of society committees and our treasurer (Matt Reudink) and membership secretary (Lance Laviolette) for their ongoing contributions to our society. I especially want to thank Jean-Pierre Savard and Marc-André Villard for their ongoing assistance in translation of Society emails and other information. I also wish all members a great start to their spring and summer. See you in Vancouver!

Bien sûr, le fait que SCO-SOC ne participe pas n'empêche pas les membres individuels de se joindre à l'OFS lorsqu'il y aura possibilité de le faire. Je soupçonne en effet que plusieurs membres se joindront à l'OFS. Des représentants de la Société des oiseaux aquatiques (Waterbird Society), de l'Union des ornithologues américains (AOU), de la Société d'ornithologie Cooper (Cooper Ornithological Society) et de l'Association des ornithologistes de terrain (Association of Field Ornithologists) participeront aux discussions à venir au sujet de cette nouvelle société ornithologique. De nombreux membres de l'OCS-SOC sont aussi membres de ces sociétés, et auront sans doute bientôt l'occasion d'exprimer leur opinion par l'intermédiaire de ces organisations. Personnellement, j'ai trouvé ces discussions difficiles, surtout à cause de l'importance des décisions à prendre, mais aussi à cause du défi d'organiser une démocratie participative permettant à toutes les opinions d'être entendues. Le fait d'avoir mené nos discussions, à la fois par conférence téléphonique et par courriel, m'a fait réaliser la valeur et l'importance des conversations face-à-face lors des assemblées générales annuelles. Je tiens à assurer chacun d'entre vous que votre conseil a travaillé dur pour donner une réponse éclairée aux organisateurs de l'OFS. Je remercie également les membres qui m'ont répondu personnellement avec leurs points de vue quant à savoir si SCO-SOC devrait rejoindre l'OFS.

Sur d'autres fronts, nous sommes en train d'accepter les candidatures pour nos prix de la société (voir les avis plus loin). Récemment, nous avons aussi vu l'émergence de eBird, un système d'enregistrement en ligne des observations d'oiseaux. Au delà d'un simple outil pour aviver les tendances concurrentielles des ornithologues, je vois l'incroyable potentiel de ce système, par exemple, pour documenter les changements dans la distribution de nos oiseaux en raison de l'urbanisation croissante. Est-ce que les étourneaux, quiscales, geais bleus, tourterelles tristes, etc. vont saturer nos environnements urbains ou est-ce qu'il y aura place, grâce à une planification sensible, pour les fauvettes des pins, viréos aux yeux rouges, passerins indigo et autres espèces moins communes pouvant tolérer des petite parcelles d'habitat naturel au sein d'une matrice urbaine? C'est l'une des douzaines de lignes d'enquête qui pourront, à l'avenir, être poursuivies en utilisant les données de eBird. J'encourage les membres à s'enregistrer et à commencer à remplir des feuillets d'observation (et la concurrence est aussi amusante et saine).

Je tiens à remercier tous les membres du conseil SCO-SOC, ainsi que les membres des comités de la société, de notre trésorier (Matt Reudink) et secrétaire (Lance Laviolette) pour leurs contributions continues à notre société. Je tiens tout particulièrement à remercier Jean-Pierre L. Savard et Marc-André Villard pour leur soutien continu dans la traduction d'emails autres informations pour la Société. Je tiens également à souhaiter à tous les membres un bon départ pour leurs activités printanières et estivales. Rendez-vous à Vancouver!

Erica Nol, Biology Department and Conservation and Ecology Group,
Environment and Life Sciences Graduate Program, Trent University

News from SCO-SOC

SCO-SOC Looking for Auditor

Matt Reudink, SCO-SOC Treasurer

One of the responsibilities of the SCO-SOC's Treasurer is to find an accountant or capable member to conduct a yearly audit of our expenses and file our return. Over the past several years, we have been receiving an incredible deal on our yearly audits ($500). Unfortunately, our current accountant is no longer able to conduct our audits, so I am tasked with finding someone new to do this task. The trouble is that current rates for audits are in the order of $3,500-$4,000, which is much more than our society can afford. I have been trying to solicit a donation/tax write-off or some kind of deal, but have been unable to find anyone in my area willing to make this kind of donation of time. Thus, I am approaching the membership in the hopes that someone either a) knows an accountant who may be willing to help us out, or b) is willing and able to conduct an audit on the 2011 books themselves. Please note the by-law statement below that states that a competent member may check the accounts.

By-law statement: "Find a person willing to audit the annual financial statement. This person can be any member competent to check the accounts, or a qualified auditor who is not a member if the Society is large enough to require that."

Please contact me as soon as possible if you can be of assistance. I can be reached at 250-828-5428 or mreudink@tru.ca.

LeConte's Sparrow (Photo by Lionel Leston)

SCO-SOC Requires a Webmaster

The SCO-SOC is in search of a new webmaster. After 4 years as webmaster, Joe Nocera is looking to step down from the role before he assumes the position of President this August.

The webmaster position requires someone with at least a little web-programming knowledge. On average, the role requires only 30 minutes each week or so, except during periods with special events (e.g., stand-alone conferences) or if the webmaster decided to revamp the entire site (which you would be welcome to do).

Currently, the site is hosted by Nexicom in Ontario, and we'd like to keep this relationship unless the new webmaster had access to a cheaper (but as reliable) host.

If you are interested in taking over the position, please contact Joe Nocera at joe.nocera@ontario.ca. The transition between webmasters could be gradual, and Joe would available to assist and tutor for as long as needed.

Le SCO-SOC est à la recherche d'un nouveau webmaster. Après 4 ans comme webmaster, Joe Nocera assumera le rôle de Président en août prochain et il est à la recherche d'un candidat pour remplir le poste qu'il occupe présentement, celui de webmaster.

La poste de webmaster exige une connaissance de base en programmation pour le web. En moyenne, le rôle requiert seulement 30 minutes chaque semaine, sauf lors des moments de l'année ou il y a des événements spéciaux (par exemple, conférences autonomes) ou encore si le webmaster décidait d'améliorer le site (un projet qui serait bienvenue).

Actuellement, le site internet est hébergé par Nexicom en Ontario, et nous aimerions maintenir cet situations à moins que le nouveau webmaster ait accès à un fournisseur aussi fiable mais à moindre coût.

Si vous désirez poser votre candidature, veuillez contacter Joe Nocera à l'adresse suivante joe.nocera@ontario.ca. La transition des responsabilités du webmaster pourrait être progressive, et Joe restera disponible pour aider et enseigner autant que ce serait nécessaire.

D.H. Speirs Award – Call for Nominations / Appel de Candidatures

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. Past awardees include professionals who work at museums, government agencies, private companies and universities, as well as amateur ornithologists.

To nominate a candidate for the Speirs Award please provide the Chair of the award committee with the name of the nominee and supporting information that describes the nature and scope of the nominee's contributions and impact in Canadian ornithology. This could include their efforts to advance conservation, science, public education, or some combination of these or other contribution(s). Please note that selection of the winner will be largely based on the strength of the nomination package and supporting documentation. We encourage resubmission of previous nominations.

Nominations for the 2012 award should be sent to:

Dr. Greg Robertson
Wildlife Research Division
Environment Canada
Mount Pearl, NL A1N 4T3
Phone: 709-772-2778; Fax: 709-772-5097
E-mail: greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca

Nominations will be accepted until 30 June 2012. For more information on the award and previous award winners go to: http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs_award.htm

Le Prix Doris Huestis Speirs est le prix le plus prestigieux décerné par la Société des ornithologistes du Canada. Ce prix est remis annuellement à une personne en reconnaissance pour sa contribution au développement de l'ornithologie au Canada. Les récipiendaires des années passées sont des professionnels et amateurs ayant travaillé dans les musées, l'administration publique, des compagnies privées ou le milieu universitaire.

Pour soumettre une candidature, vous êtes priés de faire parvenir à la présidente du comité le nom de la ou du candidat accompagné d'informations décrivant la nature, l'importance et l'impact de sa contribution à l'ornithologie au Canada. Ceci devra préciser ses efforts pour faire avancer la conservation, la science, l'éducation du grand public, ou une combinaison de ces éléments, et toute autre contribution digne de mention. Nous encourageons aussi les resoumissions de candidatures passées.

Veuillez soumettre les candidatures pour le prix 2011 à :

Dr. Greg Robertson
Wildlife Research Division
Environment Canada
Mount Pearl, NL A1N 4T3
Tél. : 709-772-2778; Fax: 709-772-5097
Courriel: greg.robertson@ec.gc.ca

Les candidatures seront acceptées jusqu'au 30 juin 2012. Pour plus d'information au sujet de ce prix et des récipiendaires passés, aller à http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs_award_fr.html

Common Eider with ducklings (Photo by Sarah Baldo)

Jamie Smith Award – Call for Nominations / Appel de Candidatures

Eligibility and Qualities of the Candidates:

To be eligible for the Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology, the candidate must have contributed to training and fostering Canadian ornithologists. The candidate need not work in a specific field; individuals in academia, public sector, industry, conservation agencies and government are eligible for consideration, providing they exhibit the desired qualities of Jamie Smith himself. The candidate must be recognized by those trained as being a consistent motivator, as well as diligent in pushing students/colleagues to excel. The candidate should demonstrate a passion for his/her discipline that is transferred to those that he/she has trained. The candidate should also instil a sense of integrity in those that he/she mentors.

Nomination Process:

Former/current students, colleagues and/or peers nominate candidates. There is no formal nomination form, but the nominator should provide a nomination letter addressed to the chair of the committee that includes a short statement (max. 1000 words) indicating how the nominee has influenced the development of other ornithologists through mentoring.

Nomination letters should be in either Word or PDF format, and e-mailed to the Chair of the committee to allow for distribution to other committee members. In the nomination letter or the accompanying email, the full contact information for the candidate should be provided. The nomination must be accompanied by at least two additional letters of support from others (these can be in the form of separately submitted e-mails). Support letters should not exceed 500 words, and should indicate they have seen and support the nomination letter; they may then add their own comments on the nominee.

If a candidate is not chosen to receive the award in the first year nominated, the nominee will be automatically considered for next successive years' competition. The nominator may update the file in the second year if they so choose, otherwise the existing file will be reconsidered.

This year's nominations are due by **30 June 2012** to:

Andrea Pomeroy, Ph.D, R.P.Bio
Chair, Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award Committee
Stantec – Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Services
4370 Dominion Street, 5th Floor
Burnaby BC V5G 4L7
Phone: 778-331-0201; Cell: 778-229-3643; Fax: 604-436-3752
E-mail: andrea.pomeroy@stantec.com

For more information on the award and previous award winners: http://www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/jsma_award.htm

Éligibilité et qualité des candidats:

Pour être éligible pour le prix commémoratif Jamie Smith pour le mentorat en ornithologie, le candidat doit avoir contribué à l'apprentissage et au développement d'ornithologistes canadiens. Il n'est pas nécessaire que le candidat travaille dans un domaine particulier; les individus du milieu académique, d'organismes de conservation et du gouvernement sont éligibles s'ils ont les qualités reliées au prix. Le candidat doit être reconnu comme un motivateur accompli par ceux qu'il a formés et aussi comme étant diligent en encourageant étudiants/collègues à exceller. Le candidat doit démontrer une passion pour sa discipline, passion qui est transférée à ceux qu'il/elle a formés. Le candidat doit aussi avoir transmis un sens d'intégrité à ceux pour qui il a été mentor.

Processus de nomination:

Les candidats sont nominés par leurs étudiants (présents ou passés), collègues ou pairs. Il n'y a pas de formulaire de nomination. Cependant la mise en candidature doit être accompagnée d'une lettre adressée au président du comité. Cette lettre doit inclure un court énoncé (max. 1000 mots) qui indique comment le candidat a influencé le développement d'autres ornithologistes avec son mentorat.

Les lettres de candidatures doivent être en formats Word ou PDF et doivent être envoyées par courriel au président du comité pour permettre leur distribution aux autres membres du comité. La lettre de nomination doit contenir les informations complètes pour contacter le candidat, et doit être accompagnée d'au moins deux autres lettres de support d'autres personnes (celles-ci peuvent être sous forme de courriels séparés). Ces lettres ne doivent pas excéder 500 mots et doivent indiquer que leur auteur a lu et supporte la lettre de nomination. Ils/elles peuvent alors ajouter leurs propres commentaires au sujet du candidat.

Si le candidat n'a pas été choisi pour recevoir le prix dans l'année où il a été nominé, sa candidature sera automatiquement considérée dans les années subséquentes. La personne ayant soumise la candidature peut alors, si elle le désire, mettre à jour la candidature, sinon le dossier original sera considéré.

Les nominations seront acceptées jusqu'au **30 juin 2012** par:

Andrea Pomeroy, Ph.D, R.P.Bio
Présidente du comité pour le prix commemorative Jamie Smith
Stantec – Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Services
4370 Dominion Street, 5th Floor
Burnaby BC V5G 4L7
Phone: 778-331-0201; Cell: 778-229-3643; Fax: 604-436-3752
E-mail: andrea.pomeroy@stantec.com

Pour plus d'information sur ce prix et des récipiendaires précédents:
http://www.sco-soc.ca/jamie_smith/jsma_award_fr.htm

News about the Society's journal Avian Conservation and Ecology

Charles M. Francis – Chair, Avian Conservation and Ecology Journal Committee

New Editors-in-Chief

We are pleased to announce that Ryan Norris and Keith Hobson have accepted the positions of Editors-in-Chief of the society's journal Avian Conservation and Ecology (ACE) and have taken up their duties as of January this year. Ryan and Keith have both been associated with SCO for many years and have excellent track records as scientists. We are confident they will help us develop and expand the journal. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our founding editors, Tom Nudds and Marc-André Villard, who worked tirelessly for 6 years on the challenging job of building this new journal into the high quality publication that it is now. Through their hard work and insistence on maintaining a high scientific standard for all papers accepted in the journal, the journal is new indexed by ISI and contains many excellent articles. If you have not already done so, please have a look at the journal (www.ace-eco.org/) and browse through some of the recent articles. Of particular interest are the special features, two already complete (on grassland birds and boreal forest birds) with another in progress, on aerial insectivores.

Expanded publication niche

With the arrival of new editors, a decision has been made to expand slightly the publication niche of the journal to encourage more submissions. The revised niche is best explained by quoting part of the editorial policy on the website:

"While the name of the journal implies a publication niche of conservation AND ecology, we think the theme of conservation THROUGH ecology provides a better sense of our purpose. As such, we are particularly interested in contributions that use a scientifically sound and rigorous approach to the achievement of avian conservation as revealed through insights into ecological principles and processes. Papers are expected to fall along a continuum of pure conservation and management at one end to more pure ecology at the other but our emphasis will be on those contributions with direct relevance to conservation objectives." (For further details, please see the website: www.ace-eco.org/about/policies.php)

The success of this journal depends on you

Ultimately, the success of the journal depends on the number of professional ornithologists and their students who submit high quality articles to the journal. We would like to encourage all members of the society working on issues related to bird conservation to submit some of their best articles to the journal. Please also encourage students and colleagues around North America and elsewhere in the world to consider using the journal. Remember that *ACE* is a fully-open access journal, meaning that anybody, anywhere, with internet access can read your articles. This can greatly expand the reach or your article to individuals and organizations that are not affiliated with universities or similar institutions that can afford the expensive subscriptions charged by many other journals. Increasingly, a number of other journals are recognizing the value of Open Access for reaching a broader audience and offering this option – but only for a fee that is generally much higher than ACE.

New web design

The journal also features a new web page design – as reflected in the modified banner at the top of this article. We hope this will make it easier to find the articles that interest you, and also attract more readers and more submissions. There are also links to Facebook and Twitter to enhance communication about new articles. Check them out.

Support the journal at the North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver

ACE will have a booth at the upcoming North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC) in Vancouver this August to help promote the journal among our colleagues from all over the continent. If you will be attending the NAOC, please drop by the booth. Please also consider volunteering for an hour or two, or even just for a coffee-break. Please contact any of the members of the journal steering committee if you would like to help out or to learn more about the journal: Charles Francis, Jon McCracken, Kathy Martin, Nicky Koper, Pierre Drapeau and Rob Butler.

2012 SCO-SOC Student Award Recipients

Ian Warkentin, Chair of the SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee

The SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee wishes to congratulate the four 2012 SCO-SOC Student Award winners. We received many outstanding applications from across Canada. I thank the other members of the committee this year: Colleen Barber (St. Mary's University), Jacques Ibarzabal (Université de Québec à Chicoutimi), and Karen Wiebe (University of Saskatchewan) for their contribution. Below are the 2012 SCO-SOC Student Award recipients with brief summaries of their research and their biographies.

Taverner Award

Elizabeth Gow, Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan; e-mail: eliz.gow@usask.ca

Thesis title: Parental Care Strategies of Male and Female Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*)

Biography:

I have been interested in animal behaviour since I was a young child. I completed a Bachelors of Health Sciences, major in Kinesiology and minor in Biology at York University, and worked as a field assistant studying migratory songbirds in Pennsylvania and Ontario. I continued at York University with a M.Sc., under Dr. Bridget Stutchbury. My project focused on trade-offs and carry-over effects between the breeding, moult and migratory periods (using geolocators) in Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Following my M.Sc. I took some time off and studied songbirds in Panama, and guided nature trips in the Canadian East Arctic. I am currently working towards a Ph.D., at the University of Saskatchewan, under Dr. Karen Wiebe, studying sex differences in foraging behaviour, and parental investment during the nestling and post-fledging periods in Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*), in British Columbia. My main research interests involve understanding avian behaviour from both a proximate (physiological) and ultimate (long-term) perspective.

Elizabeth Gow radio-tracking a Northern Flicker
(Photo by Annessa Musgrove)

Project Summary:

The amount or length of parental care and how it is divided between the sexes is highly variable between species and is the result of evolutionary processes and life history characteristics. In an experiment, I will first test the flexibility of male and female parental care (provisioning effort, fecal sac removal etc.), activity time budgets (time spent foraging vs. time at the nest), and home range use (distance foraging from the nest, proximity to escape cover etc.) of Northern Flickers in the context of sexual conflict or game theory by temporarily increasing brood demands and radio-tracking parents. I will also study parental effort during the post-fledgling period, a time with high juvenile mortality and high parental demands. If investment in fledglings is costly for parents, there could be a trade-off between investment during the nestling stage and investment during the post-fledging period. Furthermore, the length of time parents feed their fledglings and fledgling survival may be related to energy resources and the quality of the parents or fledglings.

Taverner Award

Ms. Magali Petit, Département de biologie, chimie, géographie, Université du Québec à Rimouski, Groupe de recherche sur les environnements nordiques BOREAS, Centre d'Etudes Nordiques; e-mail : Magali.Petit@uqar.qc.ca

Thesis title: Winter acclimatization and its consequences on survival in Black-capped Chickadees (*Poecile atricapillus*).

Biography:

My research interest is to understand how animal species adjust their physiology and behaviour to change in their environment. I completed a B.Sc in animal biology at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (France) and did my first research project in Spain, at the Fundación Mona, on socialization of chimpanzees. I then spent five months studying the well-being of a captive wolf pack in an animal park (France). Still at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, I obtained my master's degree on a project at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), on phenotypic flexibility of Red Knots under feeding restrictions. In 2009, I moved to Canada to begin a Ph.D., under Dr. François Vézina's direction at the Université du Québec à Rimouski, on the physiology of wintering Black-capped Chickadees.

Project Summary:
Birds wintering at northern latitudes face harsh conditions due to low temperatures and reduced food availability. To survive the cold season, small wintering birds use physiological and behavioral adjustments to balance their energy budget. According to the principle of "reallocation of resources" and because winter energy availability is limited, birds exhibiting higher thermoregulatory costs should reduce investments in other functions (e.g. self maintenance, immune defense). Therefore, winter physiological adjustments, which should be beneficial to cope with winter constraints, could be prejudicial to the bird's fitness through a reduction in their survival and/or reproductive success. Using a capture/mark/recapture protocol, I was able to collect hundreds of free-living Black-capped Chickadees and measure their metabolism and other physiological parameters. This project should provide one of the most complete datasets to date to shed light on physiological trade-offs used by resident birds living under challenging wintering conditions and to determine how winter phenotype relates to fitness in small resident passerines.

Magali Petit measuring a Black-capped Chickadee at the Macpès forest, near Rimouski, Québec (Photo by Agnès Lewden)

Fred Cooke Award

Vanya Rohwer, Department of Biology, Queen's University. E-mail: 6vgr@queensu.ca

Thesis title: Complex species interactions and the maintenance of local diversity: Investigating a plant-bird interaction in the Western Cape region of South Africa

Vanya Rohwer resting after a day of field work in Churchill, Manitoba (Photo by Carla Crossman)

Biography:
"There is wonder past all wonder in the ways of living things". This phrase rang through my head as a child and continues to do so today. I love the natural world and spend as much time outside as possible. Broadly, my research interests span ecology and evolutionary biology. I am inspired by research that creates new links between factors or ideas that help us better understand the natural world. My research with Dr. Paul R. Martin will take me to South Africa in the fall of 2012 where I hope to see splendidly bizarre creatures like Spitting Cobras and Aardvarks.

Project Summary:
Indirect interactions among species are potentially important for maintaining local biodiversity. Positive interactions with one species can allow a second species to persist in the face of negative interactions with a third species. These kinds of interactive webs are poorly understood, yet may play central roles in determining whether a species persists or disappears from a local community. For my Ph.D. research, I will examine a potential interaction between birds, plants and snakes in the Cape Region of South Africa. One hypothesis I will test is whether the aromatic compounds of *Eriocephalus* plant material in the nests of the Karoo Prinia reduces nest predation from egg-eating snakes. If this hypothesis is supported, this will be the first test showing that birds use the secondary chemical compounds of a plant to deter a vertebrate predator and suggests that *Eriocephalus* plants may play a key role in the maintenance of Karoo Prinia populations in the face of high nest predation.

James L. Baillie Award

Stefanie LaZerte, Ecosystem Science & Management Program, Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, University of Northern British Columbia, E-mail: lazerte@unbc.ca

Thesis Title: Effects of noise and urbanization on communication in chickadees.

Biography:
Stefanie LaZerte specialized in animal behaviour and avian studies at the University of Toronto for her B.Sc., and received her M.Sc. on eastern chipmunk behavioural ecology from McGill University. Now, at the University of Northern BC she has returned to her combined

love of birds and behaviour in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies program. Currently she is a Ph.D. candidate studying the effects of noise and urbanization on communication in Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees.

Stefanie LaZerte
(Photo by Stefanie LaZerte)

Project Summary:
Urban environments have different acoustics and greater noise levels than natural habitats. Studies show that some species of bird are able to compensate for these differences by adjusting how they sing (e.g., by singing louder, or at a higher frequency). Exactly how a species adjusts to these environments may determine how effective the adjustment is and whether that species can persist in human habitats. This research uses song recordings, experimental noise playback, and song playback experiments to examine whether mountain and black-capped chickadees can adjust the way they sing or call to compensate for changes in habitat structure and noise levels in human-altered environments. Understanding differences in how the sister-species are able to adjust their songs may help predict which species are susceptible to human-altered environments.

Conservation News: Two toxic pesticides cancelled by the US Environmental Protection Agency

Pesticides have been implicated in mortalities and population declines of a wide variety of birds and other wildlife. In March 2012, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) effectively banned two organophosphates that have long been used as agricultural insecticides.

Dimethoate (O,O-dimethyl S-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl] dithiophosphate) is a cholinesterase inhibitor that has primarily been used to control houseflies, as well as to protect food and forestry crops from a variety of insects and mites. Health Canada estimates that over 100,000 kg are used in Canada each year. Although it has a relatively short half-life of 4-16 days in soil and 1-56 days in water, some health concerns have been raised by certain studies suggesting dimethoate may be carcinogenic. The American Bird Conservancy has linked over 600 bird fatalities to the application of dimethoate, in many cases frugivorous species such as American Robin, Cedar Waxwing and Baltimore Oriole, which have the potential to ingest a large dosage through foraging on freshly sprayed fruit.

Methidathion (3-(dimethoxyphosphinothioylsulfanylmethyl)-5-methoxy-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-one) is also a cholinesterase inhibitor, and likewise has been widely applied to control insects and mites in an effort to protect crops ranging from fruits and vegetables to tobacco. Although implicated in fewer bird deaths, methidathion has been identified by the American Bird Conservancy as the cause of many raptor poisoning incidents. In Canada, methidathion was primarily applied to potato, alfalfa, mustard, canola, blueberry, cherry, and apple crops. However, the sale of methidathion was discontinued in Canada in 1999, and legal use of the product ended on December 31, 2002. In the United States, application of methidathion continued until this year, especially on fruit trees.

The cancellation of dimethoate and methidathion by the US EPA represents an ongoing effort to review the hazards associated with pesticides and seek safer alternatives. Other pesticides that have been shelved over the past decade include fenthion, carbofuran, chlorfenapyr, and ethyl parathion, all of which were also of concern to a variety of birds – and some of which are still used in Canada. The American Bird Conservancy estimates that as a result of these changes in policy, the annual rate of mortality due to pesticides in the US has dropped from 67 million birds in 1992 to fewer than 15 million currently. While this represents a substantial improvement, pesticides remain a significant threat to some birds, and further efforts are required to reduce this risk further, and especially on a more international scale.

Further details are available on the American Bird Conservancy website (www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120301.html) and on Health Canada's website, including pages for dimethoate (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/water-eau/dimethoate/index-eng.php) and methidathion (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/rev2001-01/index-eng.php).

2011 Fred Cooke Award Report

Tuamotu Sandpiper (*Prosobonia cancellata*) progress report

Marie-Hélène Burle, Simon Fraser University

Of 89 species of Scolopacidae described since 1600, two have become extinct. They were both endemic to French Polynesia and belonged to the genus *Prosobonia* (Piersma 1996; Colwell 2010). At least another three species of Prosoboniini had previously become extinct and are solely known as subfossils (Steadman 1995). Of this virtually unknown shorebird tribe of the South Pacific, only the Tuamotu Sandpiper *Prosobonia cancellata* persists and, with a significant and fast range reduction due to introductions of mammalian predators, it is listed by the IUCN as endangered (IUCN 2010).

Pierce and Blanvillain (2004) summarized the little knowledge on the species and proposed recommendations for its protection. But no study or conservation efforts were conducted before our first five month field trip in the winter of 2008/2009 to one of the four remaining population sites. This first season on Tahanea (16°51' S, 144°46' W), Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia allowed us to describe the socially monogamous behaviour of the birds, their territoriality and various types of vocalizations and displays. We also gathered information on breeding and followed 7 chicks, the first ever described.

Adult Tuamoto Sandpiper (Photo by Marie-Hélène Burle)

We spent another four and a half months on this uninhabited atoll, starting in May 2011, targeting the following topics:

- Demography: re-sighting of previously banded birds and mapping of new pairs and territories on 27 islets of Tahanea provided data on survival rates and pair/territory fidelity.

- Behaviour: new observations were made on pair establishment, divorce and territory acquisition and the first cases of polygamy and infidelity were described.

- Phenology: these 4.5 months of observations, in particular with respect to moult and breeding, were conducted during the austral winter while the first season consisted of 5 months during the austral summer. While the phenology remains unclear, this provides preliminary clues on the subject.

- Ornithology: 87 newly banded birds increased the sample size on morphometrics and 39 recaptures from first season allowed us to see variation of some features like leg colour and belly plumage with age. We also caught and described the first juveniles for the species.

- Diet: 111 fecal samples were collected to obtain quantitative information on the birds' diet.

- Vocalizations: hundreds of vocalizations from five different types were recorded from dozens of different individuals of known sex. One female was observed performing a full territorial "male song", bringing new information on the theme of female songs in birds.

- Habitat: the habitat was characterized, presence/absence of rats was established and birds were counted on 27 islets in an attempt to establish correlations, a question of much interest for the conservation of the species and its reintroduction elsewhere. A small-scale rat removal was conducted in collaboration with Island Conservation on one islet of Tahanea. This will serve as an experiment to test habitat preferences for the species: a third season will look at where birds will establish themselves after the rats are gone. (This was also a first conservation action directly directed at the species, even if on a modest scale).

- Breeding: 2 nests were found and monitored, 1 chick was observed for dozens of hours, 3 juveniles and several immature were observed, providing info on chick and juvenile behaviour, dispersion, length of parental care and potential difference in parental care between sexes. Two attempts at determining nest predators with cameras were made without success.

- Recruitment: 1 chick from the first season was found territorial, providing meagre but first information on recruitment age.

- Nectar feeding: 6 birds were trained to feed on artificial nectar feeders and high-speed videos were recorded for analysis of the nectar intake mechanism (unique amongst shorebirds) in correlation with tongue structure in collaboration with Margaret Rubega and Alejandro Rico Guevara (University of Connecticut).

Tuamoto Sandpiper chick (Photo by Marie-Hélène Burle)

- Captivity test: in anticipation of the logistics of translocations of the species for its conservation, 18 individuals were kept in captivity for various lengths of time and weighed upon release.

- Fortunate observations of unfortunate event: a meteorological perturbation (overwash from unusually strong swell) caused 55% of the population of Tahanea to die in a month. This observation brings new reflections on the demography and conservation of the species and will serve as an experiment to test the hypothesis that the species is regulated by a negative density-dependant breeding success.

Analysis of these data is currently underway, but at an early stage since this long season ended only recently. Three of the 5 questions we had set to answer with this second season were fully answered, one was partially answered (phenology of the species), and several other questions developed after the proposal was written were also answered. One (identity of nest predators) could not be answered.

Future research:

Returning to Tahanea for a shorter third visit will allow us to assess the capacity of the species to recover from a catastrophic event (the overwash), test hypotheses on density-dependant breeding success since the population has been so strongly reduced, and assess the current situation of the Tahanea population after this perturbation. We will also collect the result of the rat removal/bird re-colonization experiment to test for habitat preferences of the species.

Acknowledgements:

I would like to thank the Society of Canadian Ornithologists for funding part of this second field season through a Fred Cooke award. Other funding came from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. I am also deeply indebted to Claude Serra and the Direction de l'Environnement de Polynésie Française for countless help and for providing permits, as well as the mayor of Anaa-Faaite and landowners of Tahanea for letting me conduct research on their land. I would like to also thank Jean Kape from the SOP Manu for his help on getting permissions to work there. Finally I would like to thank my field assistant François Sanz and the Island Conservation personnel who worked with us.

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Recent Canadian Ornithology Theses

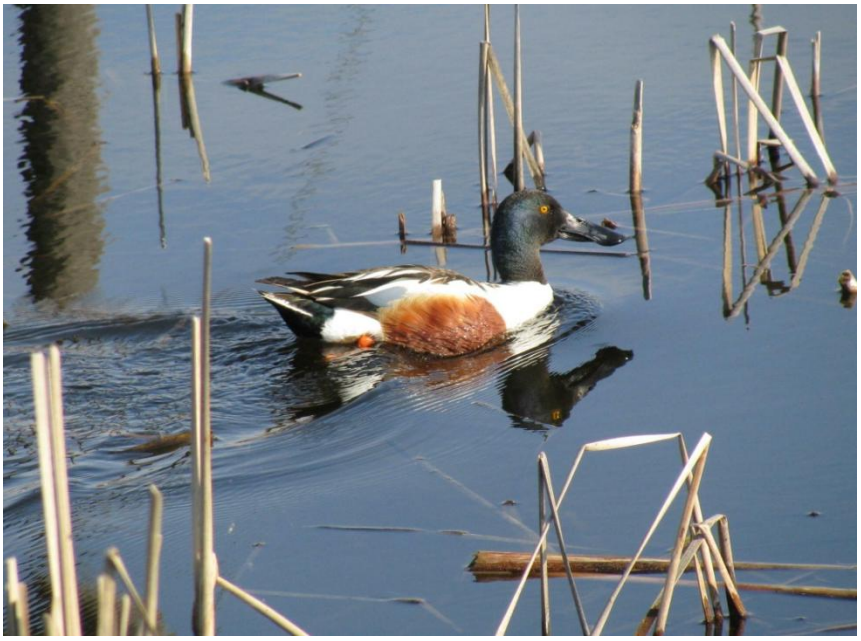
Fairhurst, Graham D. 2011. Does an Integrated Measure of Corticosterone from Feathers Improve Our Understanding of Avian Ecophysiology? Ph.D. thesis. Department of Biology University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK.

The hormone corticosterone (CORT) helps mediate the relationship between birds and their environment. I studied nestling and adult birds in several diverse contexts to understand how sources of environmental variability contribute to variation in an integrated measure of CORT from feathers.

In nestling tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*), feather CORT was positively related to maximum nest box temperatures. Temperatures may not have been challenging for nestlings. Instead, CORT physiology was likely matched to nest box conditions. Experimentally-reduced provisioning resulted in significantly lower feather CORT in nestling Cory's shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea*), suggesting nestlings invoked an adaptive strategy of CORT suppression to cope with extended nutritional challenges.

In adults, both enrichment and its removal from the cages of captive Clark's nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) resulted in significant increases in feather CORT, but this effect was a function of exposure time. In adult tree swallows, increased productivity was positively associated with CORT from feathers grown post-breeding. Although this effect likely reflected the increased energetic expense of raising more young, it could not be separated from individual quality. Traditional measures of habitat and spatial structure related to Dupont's lark (*Chersophilus duponti*) population dynamics were not related to feather CORT. However, when ratios of stable isotopes of carbon (δ13C) were used as a proxy for environmental conditions, a significant negative relationship resulted between δ13C and feather CORT. This result suggests that combining feather-based measurements is a particularly strong approach to studying habitat-physiology relationships.

Feather CORT quantified hormonal responses to ecological variability in general, rather than in response to any specific type(s) of challenges. A unifying theme of my work was that, when interpreted in proper context, feather CORT was apparently related to energetic demand or exertion. Feather CORT may therefore be a proxy for individual energetics. Building on this, I developed a conceptual model that helps explains how environmental and physiological variation delineates an "ecophysiological niche", the boundaries of which define a range of CORT values that should contribute positively to fitness. My results suggest that feather CORT will likely be useful in moving both theoretical and applied research towards a more holistic perspective of avian ecophysiology.



Northern Shoveler (Photo by Jeff Gleason)

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.

In addition, we 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.

Feature Article: The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network - taking the pulse of Canada's migratory birds

Jon McCracken[1,2], Stu Mackenzie[1,3], Marcel Gahbauer[1,4], Marie-Anne Hudson[1,5], and Alaine Camfield[1,5]

[1] – CMMN-RCSM Steering Committee, [2] – Bird Studies Canada, [3] – Long Point Bird Observatory, [4] – Migration Research Foundation, [5] – Canadian Wildlife Service

Effective conservation and management of birds requires an understanding of changes in populations. Indeed, the importance of monitoring bird population trends has been recognized by both the tri-national North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and Partners in Flight (PIF). In North America, the primary landbird monitoring program is the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), which uses roadside point counts to document breeding bird abundance. However, in Canada, the breeding range of many landbird species is largely north of the road network. Among the species with especially poor BBS coverage are Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackpoll, Cape May, and Connecticut Warblers, and Harris's and American Tree Sparrows. Alternative monitoring methods are therefore required if we are to understand how these populations might be changing. Because most of these birds migrate through southern Canada, where people (including birders) are concentrated, conducting standardized migration surveys is an effective way to collect data on landbirds.

CMMN-RCSM stations in eastern Canada have documented a recent increase in Cape May Warblers, correlated with a spruce budworm outbreak in Quebec. (Photo taken by Simon Duval at McGill Bird Observatory)

Partnerships from coast to coast

The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network - Réseau canadien de surveillance des migrations (CMMN-RCSM) was formed in 1998 as a cooperative venture among a dozen independent bird observatories with migration monitoring programs, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) and Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). The network has since expanded to more than 20 independent bird observatories across Canada, monitoring over 375 species annually. As a large collaborative network, CMMN-RCSM is uniquely positioned to contribute to the understanding of various aspects of bird migration at a national scale.

A volunteer Steering Committee comprising BSC and CWS staff and elected member station representatives coordinates network activities and organizes a biennial meeting typically attended by almost all member stations. The core effort at most stations is a banding program, but the majority also undertake a daily count of migrants, and at one station the observational approach is the primary data collection method; standardized protocols are followed for both. Some stations operate in both spring and fall, while others operate in one season only. At the end of the year, all banding data are sent to the CWS Bird Banding Office for incorporation into the North American banding scheme, while daily count data are sent to BSC for archiving and population trend analysis.

In addition to their core migration monitoring activities, many stations run special research projects during summer and/or winter. University researchers frequently undertake special research projects at migration monitoring stations; a publication repository is currently being compiled for the CMMN-RCSM website. Publications include studies on the effects of weather and climate change on bird migration, stop-over ecology, timing of migration (e.g. chronology/phenology), as well as energetics, physiology, disease, productivity and survival of birds. As the databases of individual member stations and CMMN-RCSM continue to grow, there will be ever greater opportunities for large-scale collaborations to advance our understanding of bird movements and population trends. Already, CMMN-RCSM data are increasingly being used to support assessment of species at risk, including status deliberations by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and evaluation of population status for species that are difficult to monitor on their breeding grounds (e.g., in support of the *Status of the Birds in Canada* website; www.ec.gc.ca/soc-sbc/).

As a network, CMMN-RCSM has recently participated in four collaborative national research projects: 1) contributing to the DNA barcoding of North American species, 2) contributing to modelling the spread of infectious disease into Canada through tick-borne vectors, 3) delineating catchment basins and place of origin of Canadian birds based on their isotopic signature, and 4) calculating trends in migratory bird populations across Canada (presented in a comprehensive technical report available at www.bsc-eoc.org/download/CMMNReport2008.pdf). Trends were calculated for 14 stations with at least 10 years of data; Prairie and Eastern regions showed predominantly declining populations for all species guilds examined, whereas Ontario and Western regions showed

predominantly increasing populations. Summarizing across Canada, about half of the species in most landbird guilds showed population increases, while the other half showed population declines.

All monitoring programs require a long time-series of data before meaningful trends can be produced and interpreted. This is especially true for bird populations, which typically fluctuate over time in relation to a variety of factors. Currently, population trends for migrating birds are updated periodically and are available on BSC's portal of the Avian Knowledge Network, NatureCounts (www.naturecounts.ca) along with detailed summary statistics such as migration windows and seasonal checklists from every station across the country. However, a major effort is being made to obtain the resources necessary to produce trend results annually for all member stations in order to get a timely "big picture" of how bird populations are faring across the country. Indeed, a better understanding of how regional population trends relate to specific geographical regions and overall national trends is a priority for the CMMN-RCSM. An upcoming synthesis of feather isotope analysis paired with band recovery data will strengthen our ability to do so.

The members

Most CMMN-RCSM stations are located at coastal sites, or strategically positioned near inland lakes or river systems; many are in protected areas, including Important Bird Areas. Most stations are accessible by car, but some can be reached only by boat (or a long hike). On-site facilities range from downright rustic to thoroughly modern. While there are many similarities, no two CMMN-RCSM stations are exactly alike. As independent entities, each station is responsible for its own management, funding, and programming. Across the network, there are strong affiliations and partnerships with universities, other research institutions, an array of federal, provincial and local government agencies, local and regional naturalist clubs, foundations, industry, and private memberships. There is also exchange among stations in terms of volunteers, personnel, knowledge, and even funding.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, one of several species with limited summer or winter monitoring data, but regularly documented at CMMN-RCSM stations. (Photo by Marcel Gahbauer)

Most CMMN-RCSM stations rely heavily upon a cadre of highly trained volunteers who are usually overseen by a paid seasonal biologist. As such, training students and other volunteer field biologists is often an integral component of the field program. In fact, hundreds of top-notch field biologists from around the world owe their professional development to the valuable training they received at such stations over the years. Some CMMN-RCSM members have even extended their research and training programs to Latin America.

CMMN-RCSM members make significant contributions to conservation by engaging communities and building new partnerships, providing unique data to local and regional management issues, training citizens and students, restoring habitat, and of course, monitoring bird migration. Several stations have sophisticated on-site programs aimed at educating the general public. Nearly all provide information to the birding community, often through their own websites. A growing number also offer special birding "festivals" during peak migration, bringing attention to conservation issues concerning migratory birds and the importance of stopover areas.

Looking to the future

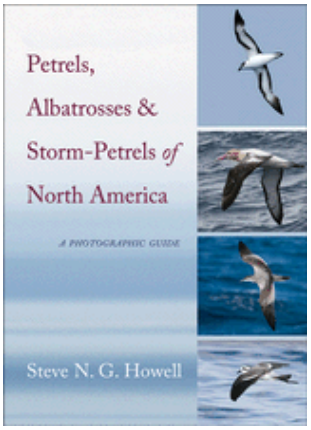
CMMN-RCSM has the capacity to help answer a great variety of questions. For example, how are bird migration patterns affected by weather variables and what can this tell us about the impacts of climate change on migratory birds? To what degree can we use fall age ratios of migrants to monitor annual breeding productivity? What are the geographical connections between specific breeding and wintering populations? What habitat characteristics make stopover sites important to migrating landbirds? Migration monitoring is taking flight with the advent of exciting new technologies like isotope analyses that link migrating birds to their breeding areas, DNA "barcoding," radar ornithology, and the miniaturization of tracking devices. CMMN-RCSM can play a critical role in applying these techniques to advancing our understanding of Canadian migrants by assisting researchers across Canada through providing sophisticated field training or accommodation and support to students, volunteers, and staff before they go in the field. CMMN-RCSM can also provide technical and analytical support for local to national research programs. Most of the CMMN-RCSM member stations take an open-source approach to their data and comprise some of the largest data sets on migratory populations anywhere in North America available to researchers. Inquiries about potential research collaborations are always welcome!

More information about CMMN-RCSM can be found on the web at www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cmmn.html. Please address any comments, questions, or suggestions to the current Steering Committee co-chairs, Marcel Gahbauer (marcel@migrationresearch.org) and Marie-Anne Hudson (marie-anne.hudson@ec.gc.ca).

Book Review

Howell, Steve N.G. 2012. Petrels, Albatrosses & Storm-Petrels of North America. Princeton University Press, Princeton NJ. 520 pages, 975 photos and figures.

Cloth cover, 17.8 cm x 24.5 cm. $45.00 US. ISBN: 978-0-691-14211-1.



This book covers the identification of North American Procellariiformes using excellent photographs from the author's extensive collection, and a few from other contributors. At 483 pages, it is more of a desk reference than a field book, but one well worth the investment. Directed more at birders than researchers or academics, it opens with a lengthy discussion on the tubenoses, their oceanic habitat, taxonomy, and conservation before diving into species accounts for all confirmed Procellariiformes occurring in North America (40 petrels & shearwaters, 11 albatrosses, and 19 storm-petrels), and a brief appendix of hypothetical records.

There is a wonderful description of oceanic habitat that was missing from earlier identification guides for pelagic birds, and covers the dynamics of oceanic fronts and upwellings, and shows the major currents in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Accompanying these descriptions are photographs of birds in these systems. There is an excellent discussion of how Procellariiformes exploit various wind conditions, and a plea for observers to interpret field marks based on wind speed, direction, and direction of flight – a step the author has found fruitful.

That said, Howell adds to the mire of Procellariiform taxonomy by adopting what he calls "a realistic course" through the conflicting literature. As an example, he splits the shearwater genus Puffinus into Puffinus and Ardenna, though no international body (AOU, BOU, IOC, Birdlife, IUCN) recognizes this split. The storm-petrels of the Southern Ocean are also raised to family status (Oceanitidae), which Howell states is recommended by Nunn and Stanley (1998), though they use sub-family names (Oceanitinae).

The book also uses non-standard English names (e.g., Steller's Albatross, rather than Short-tailed Albatross for *Phoebastria albatrus*), and tends to split species not recognized by the aforementioned ornithological groups (e.g., Band-rumped and Leach's storm-petrel "complexes"). While the taxonomy of this group is highly confusing, it would be nice to have at least adopted a position currently recognized by an (inter)national ornithological body.

The photography and field identification descriptions are excellent. As an example, the series of photos of the various plumage stages of Short-tailed (Steller's) Albatross is extensive, and includes everything from recently-fledged juvenile to full-breeding adult (at least 10 years old). Challenging identifications (e.g., Short-tailed vs. Sooty Shearwater) are illustrated with side-by-side images showing key field marks under various sunlight and sea conditions.

Of the 17-20 Procellariiformes that occur in Canada (10-11 petrels & shearwaters, 3-5 albatrosses, 4 storm-petrels), only two include photographs from Canadian waters (Great Shearwater, Northern Fulmar), and only from Newfoundland. Most species' Canadian ranges are subsumed by phrases like "from e. Aleutian Islands s to California". Notable Canadian records (Fea's Petrel, Nova Scotia; Black-browed Albatross, Labrador) are mentioned (though not the 1913 Yellow-nosed Albatross from Grand Manan, NB that is now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York; Christie et al. 2004).

Most maps are well thought-out, with the usual caveats of at-sea distribution being, in many cases, a best guess. Unfortunately, two maps of the Atlantic are truncated at the mid-Labrador coast, just north of Cartwright (Sooty Shearwater, Leach's Storm-petrel), despite the text indicating a range further north. This likely reflects the lack of commercial pelagic birding opportunities in these areas (though the Northern Fulmar map is quite extensive, and includes the Canadian Arctic).

Finally, some sources for the geographic distribution of Procellariiformes in Canada are out-dated, and have been replaced by more contemporary accounts. Squires' (1976) "The Birds of New Brunswick" was replaced by Christie et al (2004) "Birds of New Brunswick, an annotated list", for example. Records from the west coast include the 2009 pelagic seabird atlas produced by the Canadian Wildlife Service (Kenyon et al. 2009). Despite these drawbacks, the photography is excellent, and it will be a useful book for comparing those hard-to-identify photographs once back on land.

Reviewed by Alex Bond, e-mail: alex.bond@usask.ca

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Christie, D.S., B.E. Dalzell, M. David, R. Doiron, D.G. Gibson, M.H. Lushington, PA. Pearce, S.I. Tingley, and J.G. Wilson. 2004. Birds of New Brunswick: an annotated list. New Brunswick Museum Monographic Series (Natural Sciences) No. 10. Saint John, NB.

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Nunn, G.B., and S.E. Stanley. 1998. Body size effects and rates of cytochrome *b* evolution in tube-nosed seabirds. Molecular Biology and Evolution 15:1360-1371.

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Reminder – NAOC 2012

SCO-SOC will be part of the North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver, August 14-18, 2012. Full details are now on the conference website at www.naoc-v2012.com, but some highlights are listed below.

Support Student Ornithologists...by supporting our Silent Auction!

Get ready…to bid! A multi-society Silent Auction will be held 15-16 August to raise funds for student initiatives in each of the participating societies. Items donated by various companies and society members will be bid on by conference attendees – and to the highest bidder go the spoils! From jewelry to fine art to books and monographs, we've got it all. The generosity of donors and bidders helps fund students and student activities, but this meeting's auction has a twist! Proceeds will support students in the society of donor's choice. This year, YOU choose the society for your donation's contribution.

Volunteers needed!

Our auction can't happen without your help! Ideally, at least one student member and one council/society member will represent each society at the auction. Your help is needed to solicit auction items from your society members and to help at the auction during the conference. Interested in giving us a hand? Contact your society's secretary or council to volunteer! We have some volunteers already; see the list of participating societies below for your society representatives. If you'd like to volunteer but without a specific affiliation, please contact Andrea Norris (**students**; andrea.norris@alumni.ubc.ca) or Nancy Mahony (**non-students**; Nancy.Mahony@ec.gc.ca).

Auction items needed!

Do you have something you think other bird-minded folks might find interesting? It might be an item or a service that someone else would love! Suggested donations include, but are certainly not limited to: books and field guides (new, used, vintage, hard-to-get, out of print, or autographed books are especially welcome), binoculars and other optics, tripods, field supplies, education materials, jewelry, services (e.g. statistics or software consulting, bird identifications), trips, jewelry, art (photos, paintings, prints), decorations, and software. All donations, big and small, are welcome! Remember that at this meeting's auction, YOU choose the society for your donation's contribution. Revenue from items that are not designated for a specific society will be distributed evenly across participating societies for student events and initiatives.

Live auction!

To round out our event on 16 August, a compere will be live auctioning off a few major items and count down to the end of the silent auction bidding. It promises to be an exciting night! Have a donation? Have a question about the auction? Would your society like to participate? Please contact Silent Auction Organizer, Kim Dohms (kim.dohms@uleth.ca).

Participating societies:

American Ornithological Union (student volunteer: Stephanie Wright)
Cooper Ornithological Society
Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des ornithologistes du Canada
(student volunteers: Marlene Wagner, Devin Turner; Council representative: Erica Nol)
Waterbird Society (Council representative: Robert Elner)

SCO – SOC Information

Contact information:

Name	Title	Phone	Fax	E-mail
Officers for 2011/2012:				
Dr. Erica Nol	President	705-748-1011 (ext. 7640)	705-748-1139	enol@trentu.ca
Dr. Joe Nocera	Vice-President / President-elect	705-755-5220	n/a	joe.nocera@ontario.ca
Dr. David Bird	Past President	514-398-7760	514-398-7990	david.bird@mcgill.ca
Dr. Matt Reudink	Treasurer	250-828-5428	n/a	mreudink@tru.ca
Mr. Lance Laviolette	Membership Secretary	613-874-2449	n/a	lance.laviolette@gmail.com
Ms. Brenda Dale	Recording Secretary	780-951-8686 (ext. 495)	n/a	brenda.dale@ec.gc.ca
Dr. Ken Abraham	Recording Secretary	705-755-1547	n/a	ken.abraham@ontario.ca
Dr. Marcel Gahbauer	Co-editor, *Picoides*	403-475-8093	n/a	marcel@migrationresearch.org
Mr. Rob Warnock	Co-editor, *Picoides*	306-586-2492	n/a	warnockr@accesscomm.ca
Voting Members of Council: (* second term)				
Dr. Marc Avey	Member of Council*	780-708-4643	n/a	marc.t.avey@gmail.com
Ms. Debbie Badzinski	Member of Council*	519-586-3531 (ext. 211)	n/a	dbadzinski@bsc-eoc.org
Dr. Erin Bayne	Member of Council	780-492-4165	n/a	bayne@ualberta.ca
Dr. Russ Dawson	Member of Council*	250-960-6068	250-960-5845	dawsonr@unbc.ca
Dr. Sarah Jamieson	Member of Council*	011-64-6-356-9099 (ext. 7964)	n/a	s.jamieson1@massey.ac.nz
Dr. Paul Martin	Member of Council*	613-533-6598	n/a	martinp@biology.queensu.ca
Dr. Ian Warkentin	Member of Council	709-637-6200 (ext. 6246)	n/a	iwarkent@swgc.mun.ca

(Non-voting) Past Presidents:

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

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 outside Canada)
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 corrections for the website, contact webmaster Joe Nocera at joe.nocera@ontario.ca.

Submissions to *Picoides*:

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

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