



# PICOIDES

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

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Northern Cardinal. Photo by Jean-Sebastien Guénette



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### Editor's Message

Season's Greetings and welcome to the third and final issue of *Picoides* of 2007! The year just flew by!

Please find numerous reports from the President, Membership Secretary and about the Jamie Smith and Doris H. Spiers award winners and 2 student award winners and a summary of the 2007 SCO-SOC conference at Opinicon. Also check out the other ornithological articles and notices in this issue.

Our letter to the Prime Minister highlighting our concerns about the drastic cuts and poor budget allocation timelines harming the Canadian Wildlife Service is a good first step toward educating senior politicians and policy makers about the importance of wildlife monitoring and research and habitat conservation and how they can fit with their environmental agenda. These vitally important biodiversity conservation activities require adequate and timely infrastructure, fiscal and human resources. Without good information, sound environmental policy cannot be made. We should also stress the fact they have excellent and committed staff at CWS doing very important and significant work.

I would suggest to the Executive and the Membership that SCO-SOC seek alliances with provincial and national environmental organizations with similar interests, goals and objectives. This is what Nature Saskatchewan has done to help ensure governments and corporations hear environmental concerns. We cannot do it by ourselves.

Please take note of photo submission guidelines on page 9. On a final note, I need all members to continue to submit material and I welcome your feedback to improve *Picoides*. After all, it is your publication. I look forward to hearing from you. Have a safe, wonderful and fun Christmas and Happy New Year!

Cheers,

Rob Warnock  
*Picoides*  
Editor



**PLEASE NOTE THE PICOIDES DEADLINES! Deadlines are now February 15, May 15 and October 15.**

Cedar Waxwings in the Great Sand Hills, Saskatchewan. Photo by Randy Olson.



## The state of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists Report from your President, Susan Hannon

I have just returned from a highly successful 26<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists held at the Queen's University Biological Station, near Kingston, Ont. At the meeting I gave a report of SCO activities over the first year of my presidency and I want to share that with members who could not attend the meeting.

I am happy to report that the SCO is in a very good state. Our membership is stable (~400 members), our finances are excellent (since *Picoides* became electronic we have saved a lot of money), we have an interesting and informative newsletter (thanks to editor Rob Warnock) and an excellent website that is almost fully translated into French now (thanks to webmaster Ken Otter and Jean-Michel Devink, Gabriel Fontaine, Emily Berthiaume and Marc-André Villard for translating). Our new journal, *Avian Conservation and Ecology - Écologie et Conservation des Oiseaux (ACE-ÉCO)*, has published 26 papers in 4 issues. Editorial standards have been rigorous; the journal is of high quality and is receiving a high number of hits. Many thanks are given to editors Marc-André Villard and Tom Nudds, and all the associate editors. We also have a new student award, the Junco Technologies award worth \$1,000.00- it will be offered next year. Finally, I am very happy to see the participation of younger people in the society, both at the meeting and as councilors. This bodes well for our future.

One of the tasks I set myself last year was to revise our society's bylaws and working documents so they reflect current operations and are relevant to modern times (they were last revised in 1989). This, with the help of councilors and committee chairs, is almost complete and should soon be posted on our website. At our annual general meeting we discussed other goals for SCO for the next year. One of these is to step up fund raising for our society awards. A second is to form a conservation committee so that we will have a voice on research and conservation issues involving birds. Erica Nol and Tony Gaston agreed to form this committee and I am sure would welcome other members with an interest in this area. At the AGM we also voted to create a new "Lifetime Member" category, which will cost 10 times the sustaining membership fee (currently a lifetime membership will cost \$500.00): half of this will be considered a donation and a tax receipt will be issued. Please contact Thérèse Beaudet, our membership secretary, if you wish to become a lifetime member. Finally, our Vice President David Bird reported that he will be looking for people to stand for Vice President and councilors, so if you are interested in serving your society, please contact him. Contact emails for SCO executive members and councilors are found at the end of *Picoides*.

There were a number of people to congratulate at the meeting. Bob Clark won the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award and Tony Gaston won the Doris Heustis Speirs Award. Their citations are included in this issue of *Picoides*. Congratulations also to Jamie Morris-Pocock (Queen's) and Shawna Pelech (University of Alberta) who won best student presentation awards at the meeting. Finally, there are many people to thank. The following people are leaving their positions: Greg Robertson (Recording secretary; replaced by Andrea Pomeroy), Bob Clark (chair Student Awards committee; replaced by Russ Dawson), David Bird, (chair Speirs Committee; need replacement) and Ken Otter (webmaster, replaced by Joe Nocera). I thank them for their important service to our society and I also thank all continuing executive and councilors. And finally, a huge vote of thanks goes to Joe Nocera and the local committee for a well-organized annual meeting and to Greg Robertson and Andrea Pomeroy for setting up such an interesting program.

Our next meeting is held jointly with the AOU and COS in Portland Oregon, 4-9 August 2008. I hope to see you there.

Susan Hannon  
President



## 26<sup>th</sup> SCO/SOC Annual Meeting Lake Opinicon, Ontario 27-29 September 2007



### Summary and Highlights

Queen's University hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> SCO/SOC annual meeting at Lake Opinicon, Ontario from 27-29 September 2007. Meeting activities were held at the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) and the nearby Opinicon Resort Hotel.

A total of 95 registrants gathered for the meeting; a sizeable assemblage given the last-minute abolition of travel for employees of the Canadian Wildlife Service and Environment Canada. Although their absence was felt, productive discourse was generated and many excellent presentations were given (both oral and poster).

The conference began with a plenary address from **Raleigh Robertson**. Raleigh has played a key role in Canadian ornithology during his 30+-year career, and has devoted enormous effort as long-time director of QUBS. His research has focused on reproductive behaviour, population dynamics and conservation biology of birds. The second day of the conference was kicked off by a plenary presentation from **Paul Martin**, the successor to Raleigh's position and the new ornithological force at QUBS.

Over two days, 45 oral presentations were delivered, of which students gave 26. Presentations encompassed topics as diverse as cavity nesting birds, parental care and behaviour, methodology, breeding success, plumage and signalling, boreal birds, habitat selection, song, and applied ecology. The prize for best student oral presentation was awarded to **Shawna Pelech** of the University of Alberta for her paper entitled: "The value of burns and old-growth to Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers: A demographic analysis". Second-place was a tie; the award went to **Susan Crowe** of Queen's University for her paper entitled: "Frequent copulation as a mechanism of paternity assurance in the Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*", and to **Jessica Cuthbert** of the University of Windsor for her paper entitled: "Plumage ornamentation and mutual sexual selection in Royal Flycatchers".

The poster session was well attended and 19 posters were given, of which students gave 13. The prize for best student poster presentation was awarded to **Jamie Morris-Pocock** of Queen's University for his poster entitled: "Comparative phylogeography of Brown and Red-footed Boobies: Can foraging distribution restrict gene flow in pelagic seabirds?" Second-place was awarded to **David Bradley** of the University of Windsor for his poster entitled: "Duets and choruses in a group-living tropical bird: The vocal behaviour of Rufous-naped Wrens (*Campylorhynchus rufinucha*)".

Two special sessions were held. The first session, comprised of nine presentations, was a mixture of contributed and invited talks focussed on cavity-nesting species ranging from Tree Swallows to Saw-whet Owls.

The second session was a memorial to Neal P.P. Simon. Dr. Simon, at the age of 32, passed away in September 2006 in a tragic boating accident. His friends and colleagues sought to honour his contributions to, and exceptional interest in, boreal forest management. Five invited talks comprised the session devoted to boreal birds, which focussed on different regions of the boreal forest (Alberta to Newfoundland) and on different topics (behavioural conservation to landscape ecology). The session commenced with a brief memorial speech by Joe Nocera. Several requests have been made



by SCO members to ensure that the text of this oration be entered into the printed record; it is provided here for that purpose:



Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Jean-Sebastien Guénette

Introduction to the boreal bird session  
A memorial to **Neal P.P. Simon**

*"I stand before you today as a representative of those who knew, or were influenced by the memory of, this man: Neal Philip Perry Simon. This past Sunday, September 23, marked an ignoble anniversary. Neal died in a canoeing accident on that date one year ago, in his native Labrador.*

*For those of use who knew Neal, the reasons to have this boreal bird symposium in his name are obvious. My motives to do so were both personal and professional; I will present you with both.*

*Neal was a dear personal friend of mine. I met him eleven years ago. We were among a group of confused and cautious graduate students assembled for a meeting on an island off southern Nova Scotia. I had just started my Masters and knew no one, so I assessed everyone in the group, looking for a kindred spirit. In that group, I found Neal, who I reasoned was wearing a flannel shirt so must be my kind of guy.*

*This search resulted in a decade long friendship with Neal. We worked on our Masters together, we completed our Ph.D.'s together, and we played together. Last year, I took on my new position as a postdoc, where I split my time between Queen's and UQAM. You can imagine that I was not shocked to learn that, indeed, Neal had signed on to do a postdoc at UQAM to begin in January of this year. It was the way things were supposed to be.*

*For those of you that did not have the good fortune of knowing Neal as well as some of us did, let me illustrate why this symposium is so fitting and show you why, friend and stranger alike, should feel that our field has been robbed of an inquisitive and rigorous researcher.*

*Neal's scientific life began in Labrador where his life-long mentor, Francis Schwab, turned him on to research. He studied small mammal populations in Labrador for his honours, which he completed in 1995 at Memorial. In 1996, he joined the lab of Tony Diamond at the University of New Brunswick where he conducted his Master's research on the effects of forestry on boreal bird communities. He completed his M.Sc. in 1998, and then went to work as the provincial ecologist for Labrador. This position allowed him to apply science to management, an activity he thought was rare in provincial governments. He believed in this philosophy so much that he leveraged his position to provide the vehicle to conduct his Ph.D. work, which began in 2000, again under Tony Diamond. He broadened the scope of his earlier work and looked at theoretical and mathematical aspects – Neal was a talented theorist and statistician. He defended his Ph.D. in May of last year.*

*Neal died at the age of 32. In that time, he produced 22 peer-reviewed publications – I want to express my pride in having co-authored at least one of those with him. He studied small mammals, large mammals, forestry, fire ecology, and of course, birds. All of his work took place in the boreal. As a provincial ecologist, he had the drive to translate his research into management action. He did not ever subscribe to the idea that simply publishing his work with a shopping list of conservation needs was enough. He saw his work through to the publication stage most of us dread: policy. This is not to say that Neal ever adopted a stance of pure advocacy – he*



*understood the needs of all stakeholders. He valued the art and right of debate. He knew that new ideas needed some criticism and that old ones needed even more.*

*The session you are about to hear embodies this ideal.*

*Tony Diamond, in whose lab Neal spent so much time, will give us an overview of the work he and his students have accomplished in the realm of forest birds. Tony has had some exceptional students over the years, and they have assembled an interesting story about the situation of forest birds in eastern Canada.*

*This will be followed by Pierre Drapeau who will take us west into Quebec – and discuss how forest configuration influences boreal birds.*

*Our third talk will be from Ian Warkentin, who will describe the state of affairs for boreal birds and forestry activity in Newfoundland. Ian has partnered with a great team at Acadia to answer some important questions in the Main River / Gros Morne area.*

*Sue Hannon will follow this with a perspective from Alberta – providing the intriguing suggestion that maybe things aren't so bad for boreal birds, at least as far as fragmentation is concerned.*

*We will wrap things up with Andre Desrochers, who will discuss behavioural conservation aspects of boreal birds.*

*You can see this line-up will take us across the country and a wealth of ideas. I want to thank them all, in advance, for responding to my request to present. I think Neal would have been proud to have his name attached. I know I was proud to do so."*

- Joseph J. Nocera, 28 Sept 2007

The conference concluded with a banquet at the Opinicon Hotel, and a campfire social at QUBS. The highlight of the banquet was the award presentations. Among other prizes, the first place student presenters were each awarded a limited edition print of Black-crowned Night-Heron fledglings painted by William McVaugh. Lola Price of Ottawa graciously donated these prints to the conference.

Following the presentations of the student awards, the Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology was awarded to **Bob Clark** to recognize his lifelong effort of influential tutelage for many fledgling ornithologists. Unfortunately, Bob could not be present to accept the award and sent his regrets. The Doris Huestis Speirs Award, the most prestigious award by the SCO, was presented to **Tony Gaston** for his important part in Canadian ornithology. Despite governmental hurdles, Tony was there to accept his award (see photo) and to provide banquet-goers with a life-lesson courtesy of Bob Dylan.

The organizers are happy to report, that to our knowledge, everyone had safe travel home. We hope they took with them a memorable experience. In a related case, **Erica Nol** also took with her a prized limited edition print of a Resplendent Quetzal, donated and signed by none other than Robert Bateman.

**Joe Nocera**, Local Host of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Queen's University

**Acknowledgements.** The organization of this meeting was a Herculean effort, which would not have been possible without the labours of the local organizing committee. Each of them acted as organizer, volunteer, and menial labourer. I would like to thank them all profusely: Susie Crowe, Roz Dakin, Ryan Germain, Jamie Morris-Pocock, Hannah Munro, Lori Parker, Matt Reudink, and Scott Taylor.

Likewise, scientific committee members, in the guise of Greg Robertson and Andrea Pomeroy, took great care in soliciting and reviewing contributions. They were also charged with the seemingly impossible task of trying to categorize presentations into some semblance of order. Their work is indescribably appreciated. These presentations were then scrutinized by the capable student award assessment team of Stéphanie Doucet, Dan Mennill, Troy Murphy, and Andrea Pomeroy.

Many donors helped make the conference a success (and helped us stay out of the red). Their contributions are appreciated: Bird Studies Canada, Birds N' Paws, Heritage Brewery, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Lola Price, Kingston Brew Pub, Mountain Equipment Co-op, Pelee Island Winery, Queen's University, Wayfarer Books, and of course, Robert Bateman.



## The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring in Ornithology

It is with great pleasure that the Society of Canadian Ornithologists presented the 2007 Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award to:

**Dr. Robert G. (Bob) Clark, Research Scientist, Environment Canada and Adjunct Professor, University of Saskatchewan**

Bob's nominators indicated that he displayed many of the attributes that Jamie himself displayed – despite being described as very patient, Bob is still able to gently push students and colleagues to achieve work they didn't even realize they were capable of. All spoke of Bob's ability to guide others to discover the answers to their own questions, rather than simply providing the answers. Almost all of the nominators remarked that once Bob has taken you under his wing, you are made to feel "part of the family" and many of his mentees highlighted the importance of the social experience (lab barbecues etc) of working with Bob complementing their scientific experience.



Although these characteristics were shared by many of the nominees, several factors made Bob's nomination outstanding:

1. The first was the tremendous outpouring of support for the nomination - we received a total of 28 letters for Bob. This included persons from: provincial government; federal government; Parks Canada; Ducks Unlimited, Bird Studies Canada and several other NGOs; consulting biologists in industry; vets; academic faculty; students at the undergraduate and graduate level. Bob's nominators covered almost every facet of Canadian ornithology.
2. Strikingly, many of the nominators were not even Bob's students, but rather Bob served on their supervisory committees. It is one thing to be named by your students, but it is extremely strong recognition of mentoring ability to be named by people on whose committees you simply participated!
3. Among the letters from persons that Bob did supervise, we had nominations from former students as well as current ones. It is quite an accolade to have in-progress students being this supportive. Often appreciation of one's abilities to draw the best out of people comes in hindsight.



4. Another very important attribute that Bob demonstrated by word and deed is the importance of life-work balance, which is a key trait in these burnout times.
5. One letter, however, neatly summarized the influence that Bob had on their lives – the nominators named their child after him.

On behalf of the award committee, I would like to congratulate Bob on his achievements and encourage others to consider making nominations of supervisors and peers for next year’s awards.

Ken Otter, Chair,  
Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award Committee

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### Attention Photographers- Submission Guidelines!



To assist the Picoides editor with managing photo submissions, please do following

- Use tiff or jpeg file format
- Minimize file size while maintaining photo quality. This helps keep overall file size down and speed up downloads
- Use descriptive file names. Generic file names from photo software are not very helpful.
- Supply captions for all photos. Good captions include common names of species, names of people, locations, activities, behaviours and dates and very importantly photo credit.

Your submissions are greatly appreciated and always welcome.

Rob Warnock  
Editor of Picoides

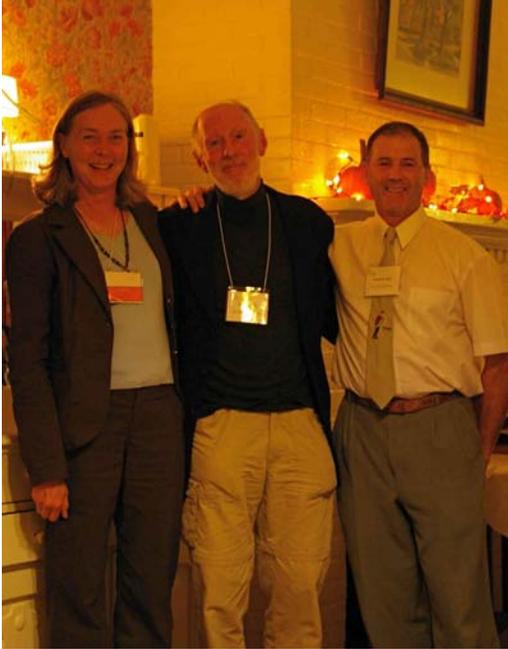
Golden Eagle chicks. Photo  
By Sarah Jamieson



## 2007 Doris Huestis Speirs Award For Outstanding Contributions to Canadian Ornithology: Dr. Anthony Gaston, Senior Research Scientist, Environment Canada

By David Bird, D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee Chair

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, recognizing outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology.



Tony Gaston (centre) after receiving the Doris Huestis Speirs Award at the 26th Annual Meeting of the SCO-SOC. He was presented with the award by SCO-SOC President Susan Hannon (left) and President-elect David Bird (right). Photo by Lori Parker.

In recognition of impressive contributions to avian ecology and conservation in Canada, the SCO is delighted to present the 2007 Speirs Award to **Tony Gaston**. The depth and quality of long-term demographic and behavioural studies of seabirds, including interactions with marine systems and climate, are hallmarks of Tony's distinguished career. Trained first in physical anthropology at Cambridge and then in zoology at Oxford, UK, Tony's Canadian career began as a contract biologist with Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in 1975. Hired as a Research Scientist by CWS in 1979, Tony launched what has become a highly successful and influential research career marked by the production of four books or monographs on seabirds, scores of peer-reviewed papers in top-ranked international journals, and editorial duties for *The Ibis* and *Marine Ornithology*. His approach to monitoring and research programs has been collaborative, whether on remote islands in the Arctic or on the islands of Haida Gwaii, where several globally important seabird populations breed. Moreover, through adjunct affiliations with Universities (Ottawa and Memorial), Tony has trained dozens of young Canadian and international scientists who have embarked on productive careers. In 1995, he spearheaded a joint program to study the impact of Black-tailed Deer on forest ecosystems in the Queen Charlotte Islands, with experimental studies continuing today. These, and many other accomplishments, have led to widespread recognition of Tony's talents, and have invited lectures

and consultancies around the globe. Craving more than mere research success, Tony currently serves as Scientific Director of the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society (since 1990) and has chaired the CWS seabird committee since 1986. He has also recently become a member of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a bird specialist. In the 1990s, Tony was selected by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to deliver the inaugural lecture for the Himalayan Trust, promoting the conservation of natural resources in the Himalayas. He was also a consultant to the Wildlife Institute of India and World Bank to address resource management challenges in India. Tony's productivity, energy and vision are inspiring, and the SCO wishes him the very best in future endeavours.

The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee for 2007 consisted of David Bird (chair), Mark Brigham, Bob Clark and Marty Leonard.



# Society of Canadian Ornithologists Soci t  des ornithologistes du Canada

## 2008 Student Research Awards Competition

The SCO-SOC administers four different student research awards - the Taverner Awards, James L. Baillie Award, Fred Cooke Award, and the Junco Technologies Award.

Applicants must be members of the SCO-SOC to be eligible.

A single application can be made to apply for all three types of Student Research Awards. **The deadline for application is 15 February 2007.** Applications are available online at: <http://www.sco-soc.ca/awards.html>

**Successful applicants are strongly urged to submit brief project reports (3-4 pages) within 1 year of receipt of award to *Picoides* so the membership can learn about your award winning research.**

Applications should be emailed to:

**Russ Dawson**

**Chair, SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee**

**University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George BC**

**e-mail: [dawsonr@unbc.ca](mailto:dawsonr@unbc.ca)**

**Phone: 250-960-6068**

### **Taverner Awards**

Taverner Awards are offered by The Society of Canadian Ornithologists to honor Percy A. Taverner and to further his accomplishments in increasing 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 \$1000 each are made annually.

### **James L. Baillie Student Research Award**

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university. It honors the memory of James L. Baillie and shall be for research that is consistent with the objectives of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund. These are to support: studies of Canadian birds in their natural environment; projects which contribute to preservation of birds; and projects, which disseminate knowledge of birds. Long Point Bird Observatory funds the James L. Baillie Student Research Award from proceeds of the Baillie Birdathon. The Society of Canadian Ornithologists administers the \$1000 annual James L. Baillie Student Research Award on the behalf of Bird Studies Canada.

### **Fred Cooke Student Research Award**

The Fred Cooke Student Award is offered jointly by the SCO and Bird Studies Canada to honour the contributions of Professor Fred Cooke to Canadian ornithology by supporting ornithological conference travel or research activities by a student at a Canadian university. The award shall be open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university, except that previous recipients of the award shall not be eligible. The award shall be for travel to ornithological



conferences at which the student will make a verbal or poster presentation, or research in any aspect of ornithology anywhere in the world. A single award of up to \$1000 is made annually.

**Junco Technologies Award**

The Junco Technologies Award is open to any student who is enrolled in a Canadian university and is conducting a field research project in Canada on at least one species of cavity-nesting bird. The Award must be used to purchase field equipment necessary for the research project (e.g., audio recording, optics, video camera or radio transmitters). The Award cannot be used for to pay a stipend for the recipient. One Award of up to \$1,000 is available each year. The Junco Technologies Award is sponsored by Junco Technologies Inc., in cooperation with Bird Studies Canada / Études d'Oiseaux Canada (BSC/ÉOC). Junco Technologies Inc., a company specializing in the production of birdhouses, is interested in advancing field research on cavity-nesting birds in Canada. Bird Studies Canada / Études d'Oiseaux Canada (BSC/ÉOC), a national non-governmental conservation organization, is dedicated to advancing the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of wild birds in Canada.

**Graduate Research Opportunities in the Lab of Dr. Karen Wiebe (University of Saskatchewan)**



I currently have space for either a MSc. or PhD. student to study either the behaviour or ecology of Northern Flickers, or nestling begging and parental food allocation strategies in bluebirds and tree swallows. My study area is at Riske Creek in central British Columbia. We have been banding adults and nestlings at 100-160 flicker nests annually since 1998 and a wide variety of topics including the behaviour, morphology or ecology of flickers is possible. Students must have scholarship funding, either from NSERC, or a GPA of at least 80% to be competitive for a U of S scholarship. If you are interested, contact me at karen.wiebe@usask.ca

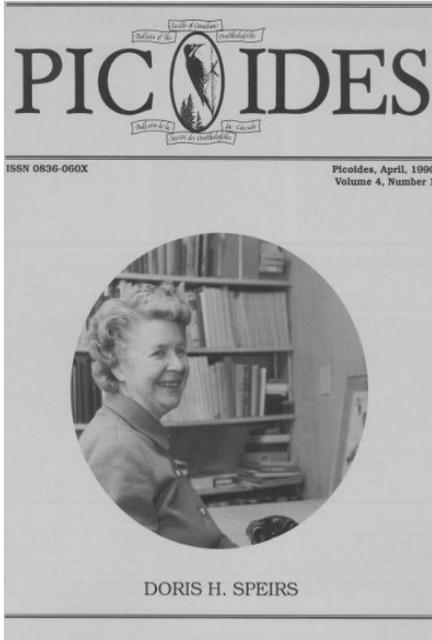
Northern Flicker.

Photo by Jean-Sebastien Guénette

**Photos Needed for *Being a bird in North America***

From Robert Alvo, preparing the book *Being a bird in North America*:

If you are interested in providing bird photos for this book, please contact me at [robalvo@hughes.net](mailto:robalvo@hughes.net) or at 819-827-5652, and I will provide you a list of the subset of 669 species breeding in North America for which photos are still needed. \$15 Can will be paid for any photos used. Photo credit (your name) will be given next to the photo in the book, and you can include a 100-200 word biography for publication in the book.



## CALL for NOMINATIONS: D.H. SPEIRS AWARD

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. Previous winners include both professional and amateur ornithologists. Nominations for the 2008 award may be sent to the Chair of the award committee:

Dr. Marty Leonard  
Department of Biology  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J1  
Phone: (902) 494-2158; Fax: (902) 494-3736  
E-mail: [mleonard@dal.ca](mailto:mleonard@dal.ca)

Nominations will be accepted until 1 June, 2008.

For more information on the award go to: [http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs\\_award.htm](http://www.sco-soc.ca/speirs_award.htm)

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS AND VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Would you like to serve your organization? Would you like to nominate someone to serve your organization? The SCO is seeking nominations for positions of Vice President/President-Elect and up to five Councillors. Please send me nominations, preferably by e-mail, and do not be shy to nominate yourself. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THE PERSON YOU NOMINATE IS WILLING TO SERVE AND INCLUDE THEIR EMAIL IN YOUR EMAIL TO ME ([david.bird@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.bird@mcgill.ca)). The deadline is Monday, April 14, 2008.

## RECHERCHE DE CANDIDAT(E)S AUX POSTES DE CONSEILLERS(ÈRES) ET DE VICE-PRÉSIDENT(E)/PRÉSIDENT(E)-ÉLU(E)

Voulez-vous être impliqué dans la SOC et rendre service ? Voulez-vous mettre en nomination quelqu'un d'autre ? La SOC sollicite actuellement les mises en nomination pour les postes de vice-président(e)/président(e)-élu(e) et de (jusqu'à cinq) conseillers(ères). J'apprécierais si vous pouviez m'envoyer les nominations, de préférence par courriel, et soyez tout à fait à l'aise si vous souhaitez vous mettre vous-même en nomination. S'IL-VOUS-PLAÎT ME CONFIRMER QUE LA PERSONNE MISE EN NOMINATION EST CONSENTANTE ET INCLURE SON ARESSE COURRIEL DANS LE MESSAGE QUE VOUS M'ENVERREZ ([david.bird@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.bird@mcgill.ca)). La date limite est le lundi 14 avril 2007.

David M. Bird, Ph.D.  
Avian Science and Conservation Centre  
McGill University  
21,111 Lakeshore Road  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue, QC Canada H9X 3V9  
phone: 1-514-398-7760  
fax: 1-514-398-7990  
E-mail : [david.bird@mcgill.ca](mailto:david.bird@mcgill.ca)

[www.ascc.mcgill.ca](http://www.ascc.mcgill.ca)



## NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

by Thérèse Beaudet, Membership Secretary, SCO

Big news about the membership: members who wish to do so can become LIFE MEMBERS. It is a new category and was asked for by some members. It has been approved at the AGM at Lake Opinicon. It cost \$500, and each life member will receive a \$250 receipt for tax purposes (the SCO is a registered non-profit society and issues tax receipts). The SCO has already 4 LIFE MEMBERS, the first one being M. Robert Alvo, Conservation Biologist from Gatineau, preparing a book titled *Being a Bird in North America* (see message from Robert Alvo on page 12).

Following oral and poster presentations at the Lake Opinicon meeting, one year complimentary memberships have been awarded to five students: David Bradley (University of Windsor), Susie Crowe (Queen's University), Jessica Cuthbert (University of Windsor), Shawna Pelech (University of Alberta), James Morris-Pockock (Queen's University).

Number of members: at the end of December 2005, SCO members had reached 394, as compared with 293 at the end of 2006; 40 new members joined in 2006. In October 2007, the membership is down to 375 members, but the number will go up once we will include the new members who joined for the meeting in September at Lake Opinicon. Every year, about 10% of the members do not renew and are replaced by new members.

### Affiliation of SCO members

Affiliation (Category)	Members in Dec 2005	Members in Dec 2006
None (0)	32	24
University (1)	186	199
Canadian Wildlife Service (2)	87	80
Other Fed. Gov. Agencies (3)	8	8
Museum (4)	5	6
Non Gov. Agencies (e.g. DU) (5)	20	19
Prov. Gov., Hydro-Québec (6)	17	18
Clubs, Societies (7)	10	9
Private Consultants (8)	21	22
Libraries (9)	8	8
TOTAL	394	393

Renewal status: at the end of 2005, 311 members (79%) had paid their 2005 membership; at the end of 2006, 334 members (85%) had renewed for 2006 or beyond. A reminder will be send very soon to all members about their membership status.

Renewal pattern of members: in 2006 almost half (46,3%) of the members renewed for more than one year at a time.

Categories: the number of student members (102, or 28% of the membership in 2006) is increasing steadily, likely because of the obligation to be a member in order to apply for awards.



Geographical breakdown of SCO membership: the SCO is represented in every province and territory, but representation varies slightly from year to year depending where the AGM is held. Typically, membership increases in a province following a meeting in that province.

Communicating with members: the SCO has functioning e-mail addresses for all except about 25 of them who do not have e-mail access, or do not want to communicate electronically with the SCO, or who moved and do not let us know their new e-mail addresses. Regular mail is then used to join these members.

All the details and more in the 2006 Membership Report, soon on the SCO-SOC website.

Thérèse Beaudet  
SCO Membership Secretary  
Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC  
26 October 2007



Least Auklets. Photo by Alex Bond.



## Nouvelles des Membres

par Thérèse Beaudet, Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC

Grande nouvelle pour les membres: ceux et celles qui le désirent peuvent devenir MEMBRES À VIE. Il s'agit d'une nouvelle catégorie, créée à la demande de membres lors de réunions annuelles précédentes. Cette nouvelle catégorie, qui coûte \$500, a été adoptée à l'assemblée générale au lac Opinicon. Tout MEMBRE À VIE recevra un reçu pour fins d'impôt de \$250 (la SOC a le statut d'organisation à but non lucratif et peut émettre des reçus pour fins d'impôt). La SOC a déjà 4 MEMBRES À VIE, le premier à joindre a été Robert Alvo, biologiste de la conservation, de Gatineau; M. Alvo prépare un livre dont le titre est *Being a bird in North America* (voir le message de M. Alvo à p. 12).

À la suite des présentations orales et des affiches à la rencontre du lac Opinicon, des adhésions d'un an à la SOC ont été décernées à cinq étudiants: David Bradley (Université de Windsor), Susie Crowe (Université Queen's), Jessica Cuthbert (Université de Windsor), James Morris-Pockock (Université Queen's) et Shawna Pelech (Université de l'Alberta).

Nombre de membres: à la fin de décembre 2005, la SOC comptait 394 membres, comparé à 393 à la fin de 2006; 40 nouveaux membres ont joint l'organisation en 2006. En novembre 2007, le nombre de membres atteint 410, incluant 52 nouveaux membres, dont 31 qui ont joint pour la rencontre du lac Opinicon. Chaque année, on constate qu'environ 10% des membres ne renouvellent pas leur adhésion et sont remplacés par de nouveaux membres.

### Affiliation des membres de la SOC

Affiliation (Categorie)	Membres en Déc. 2005	Membres en Déc. 2006	Membres en Nov. 2007
Aucune (0)	32	24	21
Université (1)	186	199	225
Service canadien de la faune (2)	87	80	69
Autres Agences du Gouv. Féd. (3)	8	8	11
Musées (4)	5	6	6
Agences Non Gouv. (e.g. DU) (5)	20	19	20
Gouv. Prov., Hydro-Québec (6)	17	18	16
Clubs, Sociétés (7)	10	9	8
Consultants Privés (8)	21	22	26
Bibliothèques (9)	8	8	8
TOTAL	394	393	410

Renouvellement: à la fin de 2005, 311 membres (79%) avaient payé leur adhésion; à la fin de 2006, 334 membres (85%) avaient renouvelé pour 2006 ou plus. Un rappel sera bientôt envoyé à tous les membres, les informant de leur statut. En 2006, presque la moitié des membres (46,3%) avaient renouvelé pour plus d'un an.



Catégories: les étudiants (102) comptaient pour 28% des membres en 2006 , et 33% des membres (137) en 2007, Le nombre de membres étudiants augmente régulièrement, en partie en raison de l'obligation d'être membre pour être éligible aux bourses.

Distribution géographique: la SOC est représentée dans toutes les provinces et dans tous les territoires, mais la représentation varie légèrement d'année en année selon l'endroit où l'assemblée annuelle des membres a lieu. De façon typique, le nombre de membres augmente dans une province à la suite d'une réunion annuelle dans cette province.

Communication avec les membres: la SOC possède l'adresse courriel de tous ses membres sauf pour environ 20 d'entre eux qui n'en ont pas, ou ne veulent pas communiquer électroniquement avec la SOC, ou encore ont déménagé et n'ont pas informé la SOC de leur nouvelle adresse courriel. La poste est alors utilisée pour joindre ces membres.

Tous les détails apparaissent au rapport 2006, bientôt sur le site web de la SOC.

Thérèse Beudet  
Secrétaire aux membres de la SOC  
24 November 2007

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Loggerhead Shrikes. Photo by G.E. Pérez



## Heather Major: 2007 James Baillie Award Recipient



Heather Major conducting fieldwork. Photo courtesy of Heather Major.

### Biography:

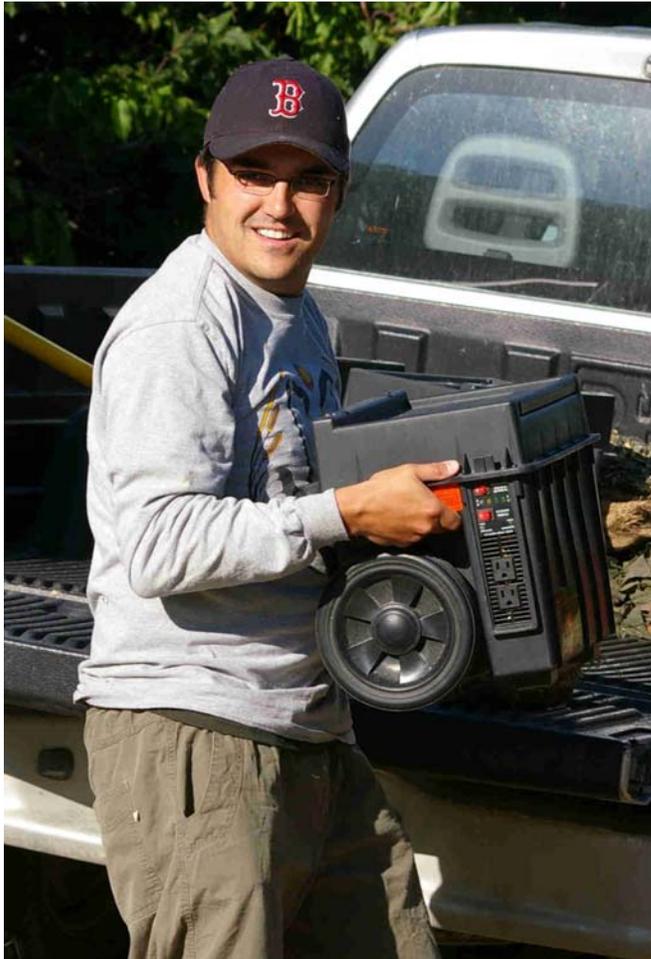
In 2000 I graduated from Dalhousie University with a BSc in Marine Biology. After working as a field technician for a year I began an MSc at Memorial University of Newfoundland. My research focused on the impacts of introduced Norway rats on Least Auklets breeding at Kiska Island, Alaska. I completed my MSc in 2004 and began a PhD at Simon Fraser University in 2005. My current thesis research focuses on recovery of nocturnal-burrow nesting seabirds after the eradication of introduced predators. Specifically, I'm interested in how introduced predators affect island ecosystems and how nocturnal-burrow nesting seabirds are affected by both the presence and eradication of these predators.

### Summary of work:

In Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, introduced predators caused declines and extirpations of many populations of nocturnal, burrow-nesting seabirds. The successful eradication of these predators has not resulted in recovery. The objectives of this study are to assess why seabirds, specifically nocturnal burrow-nesting seabirds, do not recover after the eradication of introduced predators and determine what can be done to promote and enhance seabird recovery. I hypothesize that prospecting individuals favour settling in established colonies where conspecifics act as attractants, or cues. Using Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) at Langara Island as a representative species and system, I predict that abandoned Ancient Murrelet colonies at Langara Island will be visited and assessed by prospectors when artificial vocalizations and breeding burrows are presented. Incorporating the results of this work along with information about changes in habitat, colony boundaries, and population size over time I will construct a predictive population model for recolonizing nocturnal-burrow nesting seabirds.



## Justin Rasmussen: 2007 Taverner Award Recipient



Justin Rasmussen lugging field equipment.  
Photo courtesy of Justin Rasmussen.

### Biography

I completed undergraduate degrees at both the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba, in Geography and Zoology respectively. I am currently working on a Master of Science degree in the newly formed Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba under Dr. Spencer G. Sealy's supervision. When not studying birds, my general interests involve photography, paddling, running, and reading. I have been involved with the Nocturnal Owl Survey, Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization, and the Christmas Bird Count. I also enjoy being a teaching assistant in the undergraduate chordate and bird biodiversity courses offered at the University of Manitoba.

### Summary of work

I am examining the influence of physical limitation on the evolution of ejection behavior in hosts of the Brown-headed Cowbird. As most small hosts do not react to the presence of a cowbird egg, it is not known whether (1) they accept cowbird eggs because they do not recognize them as foreign, (2) the costs of attempting to eject them are higher than if they were to raise the cowbird, or (3) they are simply physically incapable of ejecting them. As a result, the smallest bill size required to eject a cowbird egg is unknown. Instead of testing small hosts to determine the minimum bill size required before a cowbird egg can be

ejected, I am examining the ability of species known to grasp eject cowbird eggs (i.e., Gray Catbird [*Dumetella carolinensis*] and American Robin [*Turdus migratorius*]) by video taping ejection of objects larger than a cowbird egg. This will allow me to estimate the maximum width of an object that can be grasped relative to the respective bill size, which I will standardize to determine the minimum bill length required to eject cowbird eggs. My findings will have important implications for the evolutionary lag and evolutionary equilibrium hypotheses, two contrasting hypotheses that attempt to explain the seemingly nonadaptive behavior of acceptance of cowbird eggs by hosts.



Annual Meeting sponsored by the American Ornithologists' Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des ornithologistes du Canada.

#### Key Dates

Registration

Early: until 15 April 2008

Regular: until 15 May 2008

Late: after 15 May 2008

#### Abstract Submission

15 April 2008

#### Call for Symposia and Workshops

Deadline for submission: 1 December 2007

#### Silent Auction

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!! We need donated items for a silent auction. Proceeds will fund student travel to future meetings.

#### 125th Anniversary of AOU

Founded in 1883, the American Ornithologists' Union is the oldest and largest organization in the New World devoted to the scientific study of birds. The 2008 meeting in Portland will mark the 125th anniversary of the AOU's founding.

#### How Green is Our Meeting

The conference organizers have carefully considered the effects of meeting on our environment and selected the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower because it is a certified green property as well as selecting guidelines to minimize the environmental footprint of our meeting. For more information, please see the "How Green is Our Meeting" section in the news and notes area of the web site.

#### For More Information

For more information, please contact the conference management office by e-mail at [pdxbirds08@sgmeet.com](mailto:pdxbirds08@sgmeet.com) or by phone at 1-254-776-3550 or check out the website at: <http://www.pdxbirds08.org/>.



Oct 9, 2007

Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ont.

**RE: Concerns of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO) over budget uncertainties in the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and their implications for bird biodiversity in Canada.**

Dear Mr. Harper:

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists is a group of 400 professional and amateur ornithologists whose major goal is to promote scientific research on Canadian birds and their conservation. We have enjoyed strong partnerships with Canadian Wildlife Service biologists and research scientists for over 25 years. We endeavor to hold our biennial meetings in conjunction with the CWS bird committee meetings to allow exchange of ideas and discussion. Because of the recent cancellation of approved travel, 35 CWS employees could not attend our meeting, causing major disruption of the scientific program. Their absence was noticeable; federal scientists were not able to learn about, or discuss, recent and important research being conducted on Canadian birds. But more important, the members of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists are very concerned that the continuing budget uncertainties for the CWS will jeopardize bird monitoring programs, national wildlife areas, research and obligations under federal legislation.

Canadians have entrusted the management of our migratory birds and endangered wildlife to our federal government. The Canadian Wildlife Service provides these essential services through scientific research, monitoring and conservation action. Research by a CWS scientist, profiled recently on the CBC National news, predicts effects of climate change on colonial nesting seabirds in the arctic. Other CWS biologists have helped to bring back the endangered Peregrine falcon, Whooping Crane and Trumpeter Swan. Other programs assess the effects of forestry activities and insect outbreaks on nesting songbirds and study the effects of toxic chemicals and contaminants on bird health. To remove funding for this research, when environmental conditions are deteriorating rapidly, seems irresponsible, particularly when there is a federal budget surplus. Moreover, reallocating funds targeted for CWS to climate change initiatives at the expense of long-term population monitoring is shortsighted. While climate change is clearly a significant threat to wildlife including birds, other stressors, such as habitat loss and degradation and pollution continue to threaten wildlife populations.

Without allocation of budgets, no planning can be done. It is clear that monitoring and research programs will suffer and that Environment Canada will be unable to meet their obligations under the Migratory Bird Convention Act and the Species at Risk Act. These circumstances have repercussions beyond the CWS and have affected national and international partners working to study and conserve Canada's bird life. Some academic scientists have had their research contracts with CWS cancelled or delayed, severely compromising their ability to complete this targeted research and undermining longer-term partnerships between CWS and other scientists. National Wildlife Areas managed by CWS protect nationally significant habitat for birds and other wildlife. Insufficient funding will result in degradation of conservation programs in these areas and put these protected areas and the species they contain at risk.

As Canadian ornithologists, we strongly urge the Prime Minister and Environment Minister to reconsider the current budget restrictions and to restore and increase funding to these important programs so that the Canadian Wildlife Service can continue its important contributions to monitoring, research and conservation of Canadian birds.



Sincerely,

Susan J. Hannon, President SCO and Professor, Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta  
David M. Bird, Vice-President SCO and Professor, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University

Jean-François Giroux, SCO Councillor and Professor, Dept Sciences biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal

Ian Warkentin, SCO Councillor and Associate Professor, Environmental Science, Memorial University, Corner Brook NL

Lesley Evans Ogden, SCO Councillor, Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of British Columbia

Joseph J. Nocera, SCO Councillor and NSERC postdoctoral fellow, Dept. of Biology, Queen's University

Andrea Pomeroy, Councillor SCO and Post doctoral fellow, University of Northern British Columbia

Pierre Lamothe, Biologist, SCO Treasurer

Thérèse Beudet, Biologist, SCO Membership Secretary

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Upland Sandpiper. Photo by Randy Olson.



Oct 9, 2007

Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ont.

**Inquiétudes de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada concernant la précarité budgétaire du Service canadien de la faune et son impact sur la biodiversité aviaire au Canada.**

La Société des ornithologistes du Canada (SOC) regroupe 400 ornithologistes professionnels et amateurs dont le but premier est de promouvoir la recherche scientifique sur les oiseaux du Canada et leur conservation. Depuis plus de 25 ans, notre société a maintenu des collaborations très étroites avec les biologistes et scientifiques du Service canadien de la faune (SCF). Les membres de la SOC sont fort inquiets de la précarité persistante du budget du SCF qui menace le maintien des programmes de suivis des populations d'oiseaux, des réserves nationales de faune, de la recherche et des obligations du Canada en vertu de la législation fédérale.

Les canadiens ont confié la gestion des oiseaux migrateurs et des espèces menacées au gouvernement fédéral. Le SCF est l'organisme responsable de pourvoir à ces services essentiels grâce aux recherches scientifiques, aux suivis des populations et des activités de conservation. Les résultats des travaux d'un chercheur du SCF récemment présentés au bulletin de nouvelles de la CBC, The National, permettent de prédire l'effet des changements climatiques sur les oiseaux coloniaux marins de l'arctique. Les biologistes du SCF ont contribué au rétablissement du Faucon pèlerin, de la Grue blanche d'Amérique et du Cygne trompette. Certains évaluent l'impact des pratiques sylvicoles et des épidémies d'insectes sur les passereaux alors que d'autres étudient l'effet des produits toxiques et des contaminants sur la santé des oiseaux. Cesser de financer ces recherches alors que la situation de notre environnement ne cesse de se détériorer est irresponsable, surtout lorsque le budget fédéral affiche des surplus considérables. De plus, détourner les fonds initialement alloués au SCF pour financer les initiatives liées aux changements climatiques au lieu de maintenir les programmes à long terme de suivis des populations, démontre un manque évident de vision. Même si les changements climatiques sont une menace pour la faune incluant les oiseaux, d'autres facteurs tels que la perte et la dégradation des habitats ainsi que la pollution continuent de menacer les populations fauniques. Cette réaffectation de fonds est comme maintenir une automobile en investissant tout son argent dans le système d'échappement alors que les roues sont en train de tomber.

Il est impossible de planifier quelque programme que ce soit sans attribution de budget. Il est donc clair que le suivi des populations et les activités de recherche du SCF ne pourront être maintenus et qu'Environnement Canada ne pourra s'acquitter de ses obligations dans le cadre des lois sur la Convention concernant les oiseaux migrateurs et sur les Espèces en péril. La situation actuelle se répercute au-delà du SCF en affectant des collaborations nationales et internationales qui visent à étudier et à conserver les oiseaux du Canada. Des ententes de financement entre le SCF et plusieurs chercheurs universitaires ont été annulées ou reportées compromettant ainsi le parachèvement de certaines études et affaiblissant le partenariat établi depuis longtemps entre les scientifiques du SCF et les chercheurs universitaires. Les réserves nationales de faune gérées par le SCF (ex. Cap Tourmente) protègent des habitats d'intérêt national pour les oiseaux et autres espèces fauniques. Un financement inadéquat va affaiblir les programmes de conservation dans ces réserves mettant ainsi en péril les habitats et les espèces que le SCF doit protéger.

En tant qu'ornithologistes canadiens, nous réclamons au Premier Ministre Harper et au Ministre de l'Environnement Baird de supprimer les restrictions budgétaires actuelles en rétablissant et même en augmentant le financement de ces programmes essentiels afin de permettre au Service canadien de



la faune de poursuivre son important mandat de suivi, recherche et conservation des oiseaux du Canada.

Susan J. Hannon, Présidente et Professeure titulaire, Département des sciences biologiques, Université d'Alberta;

David M. Bird, Vice-président et Professeur titulaire, Département des Sciences des ressources naturelles, Université McGill;

Pierre Lamothe, Biologiste, Trésorier;

Thérèse Beaudet, Biologiste, Secrétaire aux membres;

Jean-François Giroux, Membre du Conseil et Professeur titulaire, Département des sciences biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal;

Ian Warkentin, Membre du Conseil et Professeur adjoint, Sciences environnementales, Université Mémorial;

Lesley Evans Ogden, Membre du Conseil et Chercheure postdoctorale, Université de Colombie-Britannique;

Joseph J. Nocera, Membre du Conseil et Chercheur postdoctoral, Département de Biologie, Université Queen's';

Andrea Pomeroy, Membre du Conseil et Chercheure postdoctorale, Département de Biologie, Université du Nord de la Colombie-Britannique.

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Common Loon. Photo by Jean-Sebastien Guénette.



**Bird Protection Quebec**  
**Protection des oiseaux du Québec**

Bird Protection Québec offers research grants for amounts up to a maximum of \$3,000 to support studies directly related to the furtherance of knowledge in the general field of Quebec ornithology. Applications for the coming year are now sought. Projects that we have funded in the past have covered a wide range of research levels, from doctoral theses to much less formal wetland inventories. Applications will be accepted from any interested persons regardless of place of residence or educational background and will be evaluated based on their merits and ranked in accordance with other applications received. For income tax purposes, a social insurance number or a charitable organisation number must be supplied on all applications. Requests for application forms should be sent to the Research Committee at [birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com) no later than the deadline for completed applications of 16 February 2008.

*Protection des oiseaux du Québec offre des subventions d'une somme maximale de \$3 000 pour la recherche visant directement l'étude des oiseaux du Québec. Ce concours est ouvert à tous, quelque soit le lieu de résidence ou le niveau de scolarité, ainsi qu'à toute la gamme de projets, qu'il soit académique (ex. thèse de doctorat), ou pratique comme l'inventaire d'un marécage. Toute candidature sera évaluée selon son mérite et comparée aux autres candidatures reçues. Enfin, pour raison d'impôts, le numéro d'assurance sociale du candidat ou un numéro d'enregistrement d'organisation à but non lucratif doit être indiqué sur la demande. Pour obtenir les formulaires de candidature contactez [birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com](mailto:birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com) La date limite pour les formulaires complétés est le 16 février 2008.*



**Baillie Fund Grants 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 2008 grant cycle. A portion of funds raised through BSC's annual Baillie Birdathon fundraiser 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 over half a million dollars to almost 500 bird research and conservation projects across Canada.

In reviewing grant applications, the Baillie Fund Trustees give priority to well designed 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 15 December 2007, applications for Small Grants are due by 15 January 2008 and applications for the James L. Baillie Student Award for Field Research, administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, are due by 15 February 2008. For more information about the Baillie Fund grant programs, past grants, and how to apply for a grant for your project go to [www.bsc-eoc.org/about/jlbmf](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/about/jlbmf) or contact the Baillie Fund Secretary at [ahcagy@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:ahcagy@bsc-eoc.org) or phone 1-888-448-2473 ext. 243.



## STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Are you a student interested in joining the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU)? The Council of the AOU has voted to provide one-year student membership awards to qualified undergraduate or graduate students interested in pursuing a career in ornithology.

There are many benefits to becoming a member of the AOU:

1. You will receive *The Auk*, the leading journal of ornithology.
2. You will receive *Ornithological Monographs* a venue for longer ornithological publications.
3. You will have access to the online membership directory, providing contact information for all members of the Ornithological Societies of North America.
4. You will be eligible to apply for travel awards to attend annual meetings and research grants to support high quality research.
5. You will have access to the *Birds of North America* online.
6. You will become part of a forward-looking organization that promotes participation of professionals and amateurs in the mission of understanding and conserving birds.

To qualify, students must:

1. Have no current or prior membership in the AOU.
2. Provide a resume or curriculum vitae describing the current degree program, the expected date of completion and the candidate's academic and/or work experience, and interests in ornithology.
3. Provide a brief letter of sponsorship from an academic advisor on letterhead from the institution in which the student is currently enrolled.

Awards are not renewable, but recipients can continue to be AOU members at the reduced student rate for four additional years, as long as they retain student or post-doctoral status.

To apply send materials by email to: Dr. Daniel Mennill. Email: [membershipawards@aou.org](mailto:membershipawards@aou.org) (please use subject heading "AOU Student Membership Award"). Applications for 2008 membership awards are accepted up until January 1, 2008.

More information on the AOU website: <http://www.aou.org/>

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Willow Ptarmigan.  
Photo by David Raitt



***Which Bird Species are These?***

John Donnelly is looking for assistance in identifying these birds in these four photos he took below. Please reply to John Donnelly at: [john.donnelly@rtc.gov.im](mailto:john.donnelly@rtc.gov.im) and the editor at [warnockr@accesscomm.ca](mailto:warnockr@accesscomm.ca). Thank you.





**XIth International Grouse Symposium**  
11 - 16th September 2008  
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada

<http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/alpine/IGS2008>



**Third North American Sea Duck Conference** will be held in Québec City, Canada, on **10-14 November 2008**. New information on the conference is now available on the web site: <http://www.seaduckconference2008.org>

All relevant information regarding the conference should normally be available at the proper time through the above web site. For additional information, please use the following contacts:

Michel Robert (Chair of the Organizing committee)  
[michel.robert@ec.gc.ca](mailto:michel.robert@ec.gc.ca)

Phone: 418-649-8071

Jean-Pierre L. Savard (Chair of the Scientific committee)  
[jean-pierre.savard@ec.gc.ca](mailto:jean-pierre.savard@ec.gc.ca)  
Phone: 418-648-3500



**Society of Canadian Ornithologists  
Soci t  des ornithologistes du Canada**

**RENEWAL / APPLICATION FORM**

This form is provided for you to use when renewing, and to post or forward to others who might be interested in joining. Please feel free to renew or join for more than one year if desired: this will cut down on administration and the need to send you reminders every year. Donations are also gratefully accepted (the SCO is a registered non-profit society and issues tax receipts). For more on the SCO, please visit our website <http://www.sco-soc.ca/>.

Renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ New member? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (in Canadian Dollars)

Student:	_____ years @ \$10.00 per year	Total= _____
Regular:	_____ years @ \$25.00 per year	Total= _____
Sustaining:	_____ years @ \$50.00 per year	Total= _____
Outside Canada:	_____ years @ \$35.00 per year	Total= _____
Life member:	once @ \$500.00	Total= _____

Donation :

- Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology \_\_\_\_\_
- Doris Huestis Speirs Award \_\_\_\_\_
- Student Research Awards:
  - Taverner Awards \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fred Cooke Award \_\_\_\_\_

All donors of \$10.00 or more will receive a receipt for tax purposes; sustaining members will receive a \$25.00 receipt for tax purposes for each year of sustaining membership, and life members will receive a \$250.00 receipt. The SCO is a registered non-profit society and issues tax receipts.

Please make cheques payable to **The Society of Canadian Ornithologists.**

Mail to:

**Th r se Beudet**  
**SCO Membership Secretary**  
**128, Chemin des Li ges**  
**St-Jean de l' le d'Orl ans (QC)**  
**Canada G0A 3W0**

[beudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca](mailto:beudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca)



**Society of Canadian Ornithologists  
Soci t  des ornithologistes du Canada**

**RENOUVELLEMENT / ADHESION**

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**Secr taire aux membres de la SOC**  
**128, Chemin des Li ges**  
**St-Jean de l' le d'Orl ans (QC)**  
**Canada G0A 3W0**

beudet.lamothe@sympatico.ca



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\*Dr. Jean-Michel DeVink, Email: [jean.michel.devink@jacqueswhitford.com](mailto:jean.michel.devink@jacqueswhitford.com)

Dr. Andrea Pomeroy, Voice: (604) 436 3014; Cell: (778) 229 3643; Email: [apomeroy@jacqueswhitford.com](mailto:apomeroy@jacqueswhitford.com)

Dr. Ryan Norris, Voice: 519-824-4120 ext. 56300, Fax: 519-767-1656. E-mail: [rnorris@uquelpq.ca](mailto:rnorris@uquelpq.ca)

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**Society of Canadian Ornithologists/  
Soci t  des Ornithologistes du Canada**

**Standing Committees and Work Groups**

See Page 29 for contact information for those with # beside name.

Doris Huestis Speirs Award Committee (annual award for excellence in Canadian Ornithology): Marty Leonard, chair, E-mail: [mleonard@dal.ca](mailto:mleonard@dal.ca), Bob Clark, E-mail: [bob.clark@ec.gc.ca](mailto:bob.clark@ec.gc.ca), Mark Brigham E-mail: [mark.brigham@uregina.ca](mailto:mark.brigham@uregina.ca), Greg Robertson, E-mail: [greg.roberson@ec.gc.ca](mailto:greg.roberson@ec.gc.ca)

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Bird Studies Canada Representatives: Richard Elliot, Email: [richard.elliott@ec.gc.ca](mailto:richard.elliott@ec.gc.ca), Jon McCracken, Email: [jmccracken@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:jmccracken@bsc-eoc.org), James Duncan, Email: [james.duncan@gov.mb.ca](mailto:james.duncan@gov.mb.ca).

Ornithological Council Representatives Lesley Evans Ogden, Email: [lesleyje@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:lesleyje@interchange.ubc.ca), Liana Zanette Email: [lzanette@uwo.ca](mailto:lzanette@uwo.ca)

North American Banding Council Representative Wendy Easton, Voice: 604-940-4673; Fax: 604-946-7022; Email: [wendy.easton@ec.gc.ca](mailto:wendy.easton@ec.gc.ca)

**Findings on the SCO/SOC website**

**WEBSITE: [www.sco-soc.ca/index.html](http://www.sco-soc.ca/index.html)**

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Notes about Annual Meetings

SCO/SOC Award information

Officers of SCO/SOC

*Picoides* Submission Guidelines

For Jobs and to post job openings see our link to the Ornithological Newsletter:

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