
Society of Canadian
Bulletin of The Ornithologists

PICOIDES

Bulletin de la
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

ISSN 0836-060X

Picoides, April 1999
Volume 12, Number 1



Great Blue Heron - southern Ontario, summer 1976
(photo by John Chardine)

Rob Butler's heron book also took wing, last year, but it hasn't been reviewed yet in this bulletin. Volunteers, please!

Society of Canadian Ornithologists

Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

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**1999 S.C.O. CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING
MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC
5 - 7 AUGUST 1999
THE SCIENCE OF SAVING SPECIES**

The Society's 4th Conference and 18th Annual Meeting will be held 5-7 August 1999 on the main campus of McGill University, Montréal, Québec.

The Conference will focus on **endangered Canadian bird species**. Three half-day sessions will be dedicated to this important topic. Presentations dealing with any aspect of the study of species at risk are welcome: identification of risk factors, monitoring, recovery planning, habitat, ecology, genetics, behaviour... One session will feature contributed papers dealing with other ornithological research.

The meeting will begin with registration on the afternoon of Thursday, 5 August. That same day, meetings of the different S.C.O. committees and a Council Meeting will be held. Scientific sessions will be held 6 and 7 August. There will be a banquet in the evening of 7 August.

An invitation to the meeting, with registration forms and details on submitting abstracts for oral presentations and posters, is included with this issue of *Picoides*. Deadline for submission of abstracts is **1 June 1999**. Updated information will be posted on our web site: <http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/sco99>

For more information about the meeting, please contact:

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The sad news of the passing of former S.C.O. President Henri Ouellet cast a pall over the winter for those of us lucky enough to have known him. Henri was a founding member of our Society and maintained an active interest in its affairs until recently. A full obituary, in both official languages, appears in this issue of *Picoides*.

Several recent (and continuing) public controversies focused our attention on the Society's involvement in conservation issues. In November, the 'Lands for Life' issue erupted in Ontario and, on request from the Conservation Committee, your Council sent a letter to the Ontario government expressing our concerns (see Conservation news, below). I here discuss briefly the Society's role in such affairs. We are above all a scientific society (not primarily a conservation one) with the role of bringing to bear our scientific knowledge on issues of importance to ornithology in Canada. The Conservation Committee believed (and I concur) that setting aside large areas of forest for conservation of biodiversity is sufficiently important to the future of the Canadian avifauna that the Society should speak out in support of it. We should focus on the scientific basis for large protected

areas, and offer expertise of our membership in pursuing that goal. At least one member felt it inappropriate for me to sign such a letter for the Society, without consulting the membership. However, Council exists to act on behalf of the Society, especially in circumstances (such as this) which do not permit lengthy consultation. The process followed involved a letter drafted by Conservation Committee, approval in principle by Council, and my signature and despatch of the final letter on behalf of the Society. I expect to follow the same procedure in comparable circumstances in future.

Two other issues - one local, one national - also may involve Society input. In New Brunswick, a Protected Areas Strategy was proposed, with the modest aim of setting aside up to 12 areas of at least 25,000 ha each, totalling at most 5% of the province's land base. It met with widespread opposition, mostly on grounds of job losses projected by forestry interests, but also by those afraid of fires or pest outbreaks spreading to surrounding properties. In one sense, it is 'Lands for Life' writ small. Should S.C.O. be involved, as a Society? At the national level, the federal government's proposed legislation on

Endangered Species was widely criticized, especially for replacing, at decision-making stages, independent scientists by bureaucrats or politicians. Again, should the S.C.O. take a stand, and on what grounds: the need for the final recommendations to the Minister to be made by independent scientists on strictly scientific evidence; or more broadly, addressing issues such as need to protect habitat, or to consider all lands, not just those under federal jurisdiction?

I expect to follow the same procedure in these cases as for the 'Lands for Life' issue; work with Conservation Committee to state a position, pass it through Council, for approval or otherwise, and transmit the result in my capacity as President. It would be most helpful to your Executive if members who feel strongly about these issues - including the Society taking public stands - would communicate with us, either directly or through *Picoides*.

S.C.O. Council Elections

In the 1998 election for Council, only 67 ballots were returned (an unusually low response).

Councillors were elected as follows, all for 2-year terms starting 1 January 1999:

new - Stephen Flemming, Marty Leonard, Karen Wiebe;
re-elected - David Bird.

Congratulations to our new Councillors!

[The full list of officers and councillors, with addresses, etc., appears on the inside front cover.]

A.W. Diamond, as A/Chair

CONSERVATION NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Global Accord on Longline Fishing

by David M. Bird

Longline fishing kills many tens of thousands of seabirds every year. One longline ship can deploy 35,000 fishing hooks, extending for 100 km; the totals in use off Australia and Japan 10 years ago ran to 9 millions and 23 millions, respectively. Seabirds of 61 species - albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels, skuas, auklets, murre, gannets, including 25 species listed as globally threatened, have fallen victim to longline fishing. For several species of albatrosses, this is deemed the most serious threat to their continued survival.

On 30 October 1998, in Rome, representatives of 80 nations, meeting at the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN, agreed on an International Plan of

Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (wow, that's a beakful!). Each nation is to assess its longline fisheries, develop and implement a plan of action by 2001. There are simple solutions: weighting hooks and lines to keep them well below the surface will thwart birds that feed at the surface; laying out hooks at night, avoiding discharge of offal, and using bird-scaring lines off the stern can minimize attracting seabirds during hook-setting operations. Though only voluntary, the global accord is a first step in focusing attention on solutions. For more information, contact the American Bird Conservancy (gww@abcbirds.org) or FAO (www.fao.org).

[adapted from (Montreal) Gazette article]

Lands for Life Update

by Michael D. Cadman

As of 10 February 1999, the Lands for Life process remains unresolved. Since the end of November, which was the deadline for public comment on recommendations of the Lands for Life Round Tables, the Ontario Government made no announcements on the acceptability of the recommendations.

The Partnership for Public Lands (World Wildlife Fund Canada, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Wildlands League) has stated that the government was overwhelmed with the negative response they received to

the Round Tables' recommendations. About 10,000 responses and 27 petitions were received by the government. Over 70% of the responses identified the main weakness as not dealing adequately with the issue of protected areas, and 60% indicated that 15-20% of the area should be protected. The top issues were that not enough land was to be protected, and that mining, logging and hydro-electric development should not be allowed in protected areas.

Discussions between the government and the Partnership for Public Lands are continuing.

(The following letter was sent by President Tony Diamond, on behalf of S.C.O., in response to the 'Lands for Life' Round Tables' recommendations.)

to John Snobelen,
Minister of Natural Resources, Ontario

We wish to express our concern regarding two aspects of the Lands for Life process. First, the process has not resulted in the completion of a representative protected area system for the province prior to designation of lands for resource extraction. And second, concerning the Round Tables' recommendation that only an additional 1.6% of the landbase be added to the existing protected area system in Ontario, bringing the total to 8.2% of the land area.

The Lands for Life decision as currently stated also contravenes the spirit of the Federal National Forest Strategy that clearly advocates the protection of Canada's biodiversity and has placed as a priority the completion of the Protected Areas Network.

The forests of the Lands for Life area provide breeding habitat for many of Ontario's birds. There are at least 45 species for which Ontario makes up over 20% of the Canadian range and whose distribution in Ontario is restricted largely or entirely to the Lands for Life area. Most of these species have 60% or more of their global breeding range in Canada. Given this level of responsibility for so many species, it is essential that the forested habitats be managed so as to ensure the long-term integrity of the ecosystem.

The Lands for Life process has failed to provide a representative protected area system, despite assurances that such a system would be one outcome of the process. It is important that the province meet its obligations to develop an adequate system of protected natural areas to

conserve its biodiversity, including birds which are of particular importance to our organization. Although birds are our focus, we agree with the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity that the conservation of biodiversity is important to maintaining the health of the biosphere, healthy economies, and the quality of life for humankind.

In recent years, scientific research has provided a considerable amount of information for the design of a protected area system that would maintain the ecological integrity of an ecosystem. Widely accepted principles include: ensuring adequate representation of the major ecological communities; ensuring that protected areas be of adequate size to sustain viable populations of all species; devising buffer zones to surround core protected areas; ensuring that protected areas are functionally connected by undisturbed corridors; and ensuring that intervening landscapes are managed to provide a hospitable environment for wildlife. Although additional information on the effects of forest management on birds would be required to provide definitive directions for the completion of a reserve system, the precautionary principle dictates that chances should not be taken by providing too little habitat to meet their needs. It is highly questionable whether the proposed system, which would entail designating only 8.2% of the landscape as protected area, and was not designed using current, scientifically based criteria, will be adequate to perform its function.

A properly designed system of protected areas would provide the opportunity to study and learn about natural processes essential to the functioning of forests. It would provide undisturbed control areas, which through

comparative studies would allow scientists to learn about the effects of forest management. Enhanced understanding of natural forest functions will improve the ability to manage forests in both an economically and ecologically sustainable manner. With so much of northern Ontario's economy based on forestry, fishing, wildlife and ecotourism, it is essential for the long-term health of the region's economy that the whole northern ecosystem be managed sustainably. In recommending an expanded system of protected areas we are fully cognizant of the need for economic development and sustainability in the Lands for Life area, and consider these economic and ecological ends to be compatible.

At this time, there remain a few extensive, largely undisturbed, roadless areas in the Lands for Life region that could provide core areas for an expanded protected

area system. We recommend that you consider these and other areas as potential additions to a scientifically based protected area system. We also recommend that such a system be completed prior to allocating lands for resource extraction purposes, as was the original intent of the Lands for Life process.

Failure to do so will lead to the decline of native habitats, birds, other wildlife species, and genetic resources in this extensive and important region, and will reduce opportunities for recreational, cultural, spiritual and economic development on a truly sustainable basis.

In closing, we offer the services of the membership of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists for a process to develop a scientifically based protected area system for the Lands for Life region.

Catharus thrushes - why is bicknelli so restricted in range?

by A.J. (Tony) Erskine

The genus *Catharus* (small thrushes) includes several Neotropical species in Central and South America, most of them sedentary and with restricted, non-overlapping ranges, and (now) five Nearctic species, four of them widespread and broadly overlapping in range across North America. That apparent overlap is partly an artifact of map scale, but often two or even three species may be heard from one spot. Competition demands that such species must be segregated, presumably by habitat, diet, or both, and that is evident on even a cursory survey.

As one travels from south to north in North America (see map), one meets first Veery (*C. fuscescens*), then Hermit Thrush (*C. guttatus*), Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*), and finally Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*). The ranges of Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes overlap almost completely, both using predominantly conifer forests. In the northwest, beyond Veery's main range, Swainson's occupies broad-leafed stands as well. Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes segregate most obviously in using closed vs. more open/disturbed habitats, respectively. I surmise that the competitive "edge" of one over the other is slight, but consistent in their preferred habitats. The other two widespread species may be assumed to compete less effectively in typical boreal conifer habitats, and they breed mainly south or north of the two more numerous (and dominant?) species. Veery is found mainly in broad-leafed stands, though (unlike Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*) tolerating up to 25% of conifer within the stand, and it occurs mainly

in the east, broad-leafed habitats in the west being mainly riparian or successional. Gray-cheeked Thrush (without *bicknelli*) inhabits the northern boreal and boreal - tundra transition zones, although Swainson's occurs locally almost to northern tree-line.

Bicknell's Thrush (*C. bicknelli*; Ouellet 1993) does not fit the pattern of other North American *Catharus* thrushes. This is an uncommon bird, restricted in range at all seasons. COSEWIC has not (yet) assigned a status, but its small numbers suggest it deserves attention. It occurs in local cool, dense, predominantly conifer, habitats, most often at high elevations, wholly within the broad ranges of Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes. It is altitudinally segregated from Veery, and its use of dense habitats largely separates it from Hermit Thrush. In appearance and habitat it seems to be an outlier of Gray-cheeked Thrush, with which it was lumped for most of the 100 years since it was first recognized. DNA evidence suggests it was a separate species before the glaciations, probably derived from Gray-cheeked Thrush but perhaps occupying high altitudes in the (then-higher?) Appalachian Mountains. Its present small numbers and limited range suggest relict occurrence, its former habitat perhaps having converged with that occupied by a larger and more dominant congener, with which it may compete effectively only in the densest patches. Swainson's Thrush was audible nearby in all (four) areas where I encountered Bicknell's Thrush in the 1960s, and the larger bird was much more generally distributed. On New England mountains, with greater altitudinal zonation of habitat, *bicknelli* is at least partly segregated altitudinally from *swainsoni*; this may apply also on the highest New

Brunswick peaks, but it has not been reported elsewhere in Canadian breeding areas (D. Busby, CWS, pers. comm.).

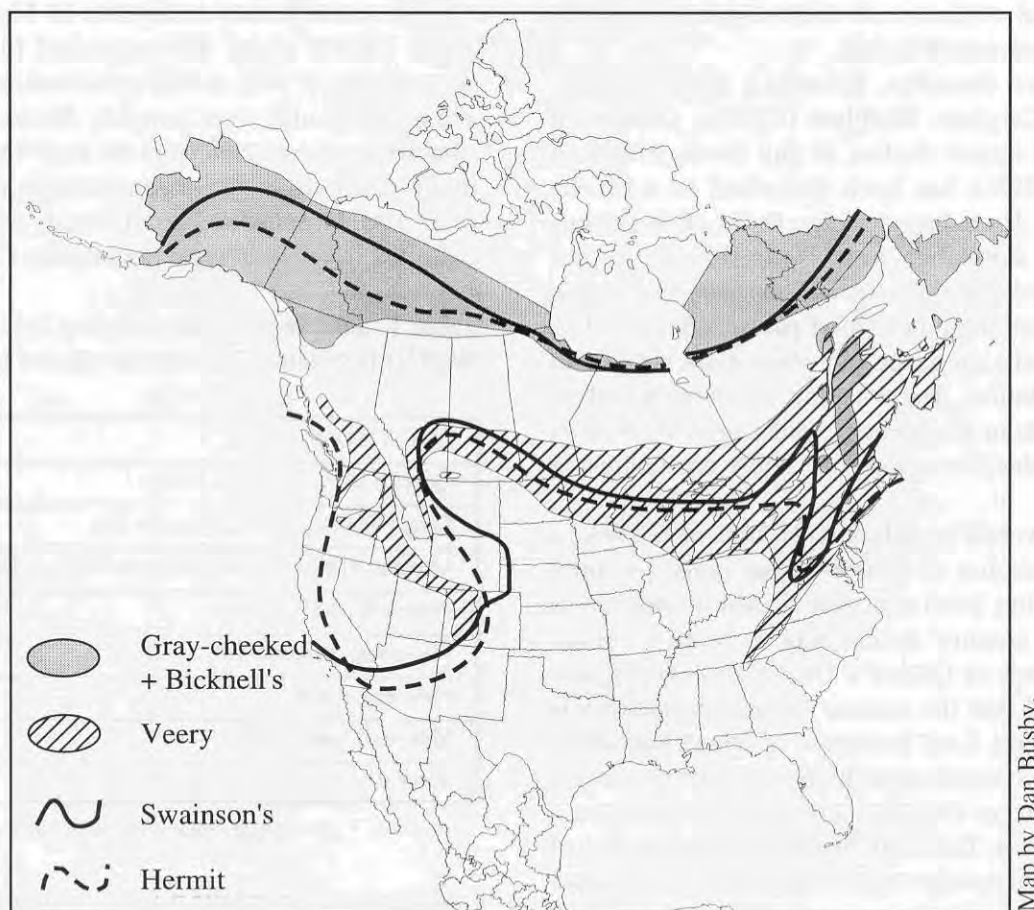
Thus, it may be unhelpful to look at Bicknell's Thrush and its habitat in isolation from its much more abundant congener, with which, in breeding areas, competition may be more important than habitat availability. My estimates of their relative numbers in the Maritimes (Erskine 1992) were: Swainson's 430,000 pairs; Bicknell's 1,000 pairs. No atlas square with the scarcer species lacked the more common one. Almost any ecological niche that might be defined for Bicknell's would presumably be better-than-marginal habitat for Swainson's Thrush. Their preferred breeding habitats may not be sufficiently distinct for larger numbers of Bicknell's to persist (in Canada?). Even assuming supplementary habitat manipulation by foresters, we cannot be confident that the competitive position of *bicknelli* vis-a-vis *swainsoni* would be improved thereby.

Winter range of Bicknell's Thrush, on the main Caribbean islands, though poorly known, seems separate from all other northern *Catharus*. Suitable habitat there

may be as limiting on its numbers as any factors operating in breeding areas. The argument that potential breeding habitat, in second-growth stands, is widespread may be valid without being pertinent. Data on numbers of Bicknell's Thrush are weak, though not more so than for most scarce passerines, but the total population cannot be large, given the restricted areas known to be used, at all seasons. Although better definition of factors restricting numbers on the breeding grounds is essential, obtaining meaningful numerical indices in suitable wintering areas may be a higher priority. Recent work in Hispaniola (by Vermont Institute of Natural Science) and Cuba (by CWS Quebec), though detecting the species, has not yet provided meaningful population indices from *bicknelli* winter range.

References cited:

- Erskine, A.J. 1992. Atlas of breeding birds of the Maritime Provinces. Nimbus Publ./Nova Scotia Mus., Halifax. 270 pp.
Ouellet, H.R. 1993. Bicknell's Thrush: taxonomic status and distribution. Wilson Bull. 105: 545-572.



Breeding ranges of northern *Catharus* thrushes.

Reports from 1998 Awardees

(a) James L. Baillie Student Research Award

“Genetic structure and gene-flow in Cerulean Warblers: A test of the source-sink model in nature”.

M. Lisa Veit, Queen's University.

In species with populations spatially divided across their geographic range, habitat fragments may be of varying quality. The source-sink model is based on the premise that varying birth and death rates among local populations may occur due to differences in habitat quality, which affects reproductive success of the population. Potential thus exists for high quality, reproductively successful “source” populations to supplement poor quality “sink” habitats, where mortality exceeds reproduction, through dispersal of individuals from sources to sinks. However, despite much theoretical interest in the source-sink model, empirical evidence of source-sink systems in nature has been extremely limited.

In the last two decades, Breeding Bird Surveys suggested that Cerulean Warblers (CEWA, *Dendroica cerulea*) had the largest decline of any North American Warbler. The CEWA has been described as a forest-interior species, depending on large tracts of deciduous forest, and is therefore very sensitive to forest fragmentation occurring in much of the breeding range. Increased nest predation and brood parasitism as well as decreases in food abundance are often associated with habitat fragmentation. These factors combine to affect quality of habitat in fragmented landscapes, as well as decreasing reproductive success of CEWA populations in such areas.

Despite the overall population decline of CEWA, a northeastern expansion of their breeding range has been suggested, resulting from agricultural land abandoned at the turn of the century succeeding to mature forest. Ongoing research at Queen's University Biological Station indicated that the eastern Ontario population is stable or increasing. Low incidence of brood parasitism and nest predation contribute to high reproductive success of CEWA in eastern Ontario, which may constitute a “source” population. Therefore, variable demographics of CEWA across its breeding range suggest this species may provide a good opportunity to test the source-sink population dynamics theory.

To evaluate the potential of the eastern Ontario population as a “source” population, contributing to “sink” populations elsewhere in the breeding range, my research entailed a population genetics study of CEWA starting in May 1997. Eight populations in Ontario and the U.S.A. are being sampled: eastern and southwestern Ontario, eastern and western Tennessee, northwestern Illinois, central Arkansas, central Missouri, and eastern West Virginia. These areas represent upper, intermediate, and lower latitudinal regions of the breeding range, and provide opportunities to analyse the genetic structure of populations in potential “source” and “sink” habitats. A molecular approach is being used instead of more traditional methods of monitoring banding data due to the difficulty of capturing adequate numbers of birds for study of population dynamics. By using molecular techniques, large-scale population monitoring can be conducted through identification of population-specific genetic markers.

Field research was conducted in May-July 1997 and 1998. CEWA males were captured in mist-nets using song-playback with model-presentation. A few females and nestlings also were sampled. Blood, feather, or tissue samples were collected from the birds by myself or one of many researchers who cooperated in this study. In all, over 180 samples were collected, with 20+ samples collected from six of eight populations (Table 1).

Table 1. Sample size and sampling locations of Cerulean Warbler populations in Ontario and the United States.

LOCATION	No.samples
Queen's Univ. Biol. Stn., e Ont.	55
Long Point Reg. Cons. Areas, sw Ont.	20
Meeman-Shelby SP* & Chickasaw WR*, w Tenn.	30
Frozen Head SP, e Tenn.	4
Mississippi Palisades SP, nw Ill.	27
Cass area, c Ark.	24
Missouri Ozarks, c Mo.	4
Three Rivers Avian Center, e W.Va.	21

* SP = State Park; WR = Wildlife Refuge.

Molecular research focuses on examining microsatellite and mitochondrial control regions to assess the degree of

genetic structure among sampled populations. These markers are extremely useful for determining intraspecific variation due to their high level of mutation, and the hypervariability of microsatellite loci and the maternal inheritance and resultant sensitivity to population bottlenecks in mitochondrial DNA. As yet, none of the loci has been screened for all sampled populations, and therefore no preliminary results are available on gene-flow between populations. I hope to complete the analysis of my samples by the spring of 1999. Thus far, at least 5 microsatellite loci were found to be polymorphic and will be used for sequencing the mitochondrial control region of CEWA to assess phylogeography and to provide indices of population genetic structure. The challenge of the molecular analysis that adds a unique component to this study beyond typical population genetics research will be to determine directionality of gene-flow in movement of individuals from source to sink populations. Asymmetrical or biased gene-flow from populations ("sources") which provide dispersers to populations ("sinks") which receive them must be established to identify a source-sink system in nature using a molecular approach.

The results of this study could have significant conservation and management implications for CEWA, which are currently classified as Vulnerable in Canada and as a Species of Management Concern by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If my genetic analyses indicate that genetic structure among sampled populations is not evident, and I can assess asymmetrical gene-flow between populations, the potential for a source-sink population system exists. Then, it will be important to identify sink populations, as management decisions based on sink populations might be detrimental to the species. Alternatively, if I identify a large degree of genetic differentiation among populations, demonstrating minimal dispersal of individuals, source-sink models are not applicable to CEWA population dynamics. In that instance, each population should be managed independently, and those populations exhibiting significant declines should receive special attention.

I gratefully acknowledge the funding I received from the James L. Baillie Student Research Award, the American Ornithologists' Union Alexander Wetmore Memorial Research Award, and NSERC (through my co-supervisors V.L. Friesen & R.J. Robertson). In addition, I thank the many individuals in Ontario and the U.S.A. who assisted this project through sample collection and logistical support.

(b) Percy A. Taverner Awards

(i) "Host nest selection by the Brown-headed Cowbird", Celia McLaren, University of Manitoba.

The parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) is an extreme host generalist. Host use by Brown-headed Cowbirds varies greatly across ranges of many host species, and patterns of host use may also vary among communities. Natural selection should favour cowbirds that exhibit host selectivity and distribute their eggs in ways that maximize their reproductive success. Although much has been written about effects of cowbirds on success of their hosts, little was published about details of the cowbird's reproductive success with different hosts. Specifically, how appropriate cowbird selection of host nests is, within a community, is not clear.

For a cowbird to reproduce successfully, it must locate, select and monitor a number of nests belonging to appropriate host parents from a pool of potential hosts nesting in a given community. Published descriptions of how cowbirds locate nests are largely anecdotal. In addition, there is almost no information on how a laying female selects nests from among those available. Whether selection is random for each cowbird female or for an entire parasitic population is still debated. Many studies reported preferential use of one or more host species by cowbirds within a community and, within a species, highly variable parasitism frequencies are also common.

Frequency of multiple parasitism within a community or on a species may also be an index of host preference or an indication of shortage of suitable alternative host nests. Because success rate of cowbird eggs is inversely proportional to the number of cowbird eggs in a nest, cowbirds should avoid laying in already parasitized nests. However, most studies found multiple parasitism is common, and cowbird eggs are distributed randomly. Multiple parasitism that results from more than one female cowbird laying in the same nest may occur in areas of high cowbird density if suitable nests are limiting or if female cowbirds cannot recognize already parasitized nests. On the other hand, multiple parasitism resulting from a single female parasitizing one nest more than once should occur only at high cowbird densities if females use an area exclusively.

Indications of host preference suggest that cowbirds may adaptively select high-quality hosts from among those available, and the use of unsuitable hosts may be a consequence of the low cost of egg production in

cowbirds or the result of parasitism by young females. Alternatively, observed patterns might result from other factors related to cowbird search strategies, such as nest microhabitat features, host defences, or nest type.

I am examining host nest selection by cowbirds by documenting several behavioural and ecological parameters within a community of potential and actual cowbird hosts. Cowbird parasitism and cowbird-host interactions have been monitored in the Delta Marsh dune-ridge community in southern Manitoba for >20 years; patterns of host use appear to be shifting. Differential parasitism across species, and high frequency of multiple parasitism within some host species, are patterns without adequate adaptive explanations in this community.

The experiments I am conducting address the above issues by examining: 1) proximate causes and patterns of multiple parasitism in the most frequently parasitized host, Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*); 2) factors important in determining a nest's susceptibility to parasitism; and 3) nest-searching energy investment and strategies of female cowbirds.

The first year of data collection began in May 1998. I monitored cowbird parasitism of three common hosts at Delta Marsh: Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) and Clay-coloured Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Cowbird eggs found in nests of these species were removed on discovery (for kinship analysis, see below) and replaced with a model egg. Frequencies of parasitism were high, with 59% of Song Sparrow nests surviving to at least incubation containing one or more cowbird eggs, 29% of Yellow Warbler nests, and 16% of Clay-coloured Sparrow nests. Frequency of multiple parasitism was also high: 60% of parasitized Song Sparrow nests contained 2 or more eggs (with a mean of 1.86 cowbird eggs/parasitized nest) and 21% of parasitized Yellow Warbler nests received 2 cowbird eggs. At least 20 of 70 cowbird eggs found in Song Sparrow nests were laid in unsuitable nests. These included depredated or abandoned nests and nests already into incubation (some as late as day 12).

I followed fates of Song Sparrow nests to compare success of parasitized and unparasitized nests. Hatching success was higher in unparasitized (44%) than parasitized nests (23%). Of nests that hatched, fledging success was higher in parasitized nests (5 of 6, compared to 5 of 10 unparasitized nests). With increased sample sizes expected in 1999, I will compare success rates in singly vs. multiply parasitized nests. In 1998, host clutch-

size in unparasitized versus singly parasitized nests did not differ, but clutch size in multiply parasitized nests was significantly lower than in singly parasitized nests. This indicated that multiple parasitism may exert a greater cost on reproduction than just egg removal associated with cowbird egg-laying.

I assessed the roles of active searching and host-watching as cowbird nest-searching techniques by measuring microhabitat features around nests and by behavioural observations to quantify surreptitiousness of hosts around nests, especially during nest-building. These data sets were used to compare parasitism susceptibility as indexed by parasitism intensity (un-, singly or multiply parasitized). Foliage density was measured both directly at the nest, where cover may be important if cowbirds actively search for nests and rely on visual cues, as well as at 11 m from the nest, where cover that hides host activity during building might be important if cowbirds use host behaviour as a cue to nest location. No single vegetation variable differed significantly among un-, singly and multiply parasitized nests for all three species, and multivariate analyses showed no trends. However, percent ground cover around Song Sparrow nests, and average foliage cover 1-2 m above ground at 11 m from Yellow Warbler nests were marginally significant. Those results suggest that vegetative cover does play a role in a nest's susceptibility to parasitism, but these vegetative measures are inadequate for detecting a correlation. Experimental manipulations of cover may be conducted this year to clarify further the importance of nest concealment. Behavioural observations of host activity at Yellow Warbler and Song Sparrow nests also yielded equivocal results in 1998. Most Song Sparrow nests were found after the nest-building stage, and activity recorded at these nests was minimal. None of the behavioural variables recorded at Yellow Warbler nests differed between parasitized and unparasitized nests, but frequencies of both male and female vocalizations within the nest habitat were marginally significant. In 1999, playbacks of host vocalizations and possibly the use of model birds at abandoned nests may be used to explore further the role of host activity on parasitism risk.

Using DNA microsatellite analysis of cowbird eggs collected from host nests, I will determine the number of females responsible for multiple cowbird eggs in nests, and compare this variable as well to nest concealment and host surreptitiousness. Eggs collected in 1998 have been preliminarily analysed, but final results will not be obtained until eggs from 1999 are tested.

I gratefully acknowledge funding received from an S.C.O. Taverner Award and a University of Manitoba Fellowship.

(ii) "Behavioural thermoregulation by Red-winged Blackbirds." Barb Glassey, University of Manitoba.

Nestlings of altricial passerines begin life as ectotherms, and make the transition to endothermy during early development. Nestlings too cold or too hot fall victim to hypo- and hyperthermia, and intermediate temperature is an important determinant of growth and development (Shilov 1973). Lack (1947, 1954) proposed that brood-reduction may allow parents to track unpredictable food supplies; however, death of last-hatched nestlings by "lingering starvation" argues against adaptive brood reduction. I propose an alternative explanation for retention of the doomed nestling, the "thermal-facilitation hypothesis" (TFH), which posits that the marginal nestling is retained in order to facilitate survival of the core brood until the latter are capable of thermoregulating themselves. This study tested key assumptions of TFH by: i) quantifying thermal contribution of the last-hatched nestling in broods of Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) at different thermal stages of development; and ii) determining whether nestling movements involve behavioural thermoregulation.

During June-July 1998, I collected daily growth data (mass, tarsus length) and tracked nestling mortality from thirty nests. Also I completed experimental manipulations to assess contribution of the last-hatched (marginal) nestling to the thermal state of the brood. I classified young using a relative measure, age of first-hatched (core) nestlings relative to last-hatched (marginal) nestlings, to incorporate physiological differences between nestlings within asynchronous broods. I used day 5, the age at which transition to endothermy begins in Red-winged Blackbirds, as a marker (Hill and Beaver 1982; Olson 1992). Broods were designated as ectothermic (core and marginal nestlings younger than day 5), transitional (core nestlings older, marginal nestlings younger, than day 5), or endothermic (core and marginal nestlings older than day 5). To assess the degree to which a marginal nestling influenced brood temperature at these developmental stages, I recorded brood temperature during three consecutive 1-h sessions: i) prior to removal of a marginal nestling (control); ii) after temporarily removing nestling from nest (transferred to adjacent nest with nestlings at similar state of development); and iii) after returning nestling to its own

nest. Incremental changes in nestling body temperature were tracked by cloacal measurements from each nestling, after Olson (1990). Cloacal temperatures (Tcl) and two nest temperatures (Tnest1 vs. Tnest2) were recorded using hand-held YSI Tele-thermometer. Brood temperature (Tbrood) was continuously monitored using a thermocouple attached to Hobo Temp-XTII Data Logger and humidity logger in the bottom of the nest, which recorded measurements every 8 sec throughout the experiment. TFH assumes that thermal value of the marginal nestling to the core brood depreciates as thermoregulatory abilities of the latter improve, and predicts that a window for brood-reduction occurs during the transitional stage of brood development.

Behavioural thermoregulation was monitored by recording location of each nestling within the huddle upon arrival at the nest. Unfortunately, unusually rainy weather precluded filming during much of the field season, restricting video-monitoring to a small number of representative nests. I took advantage of unseasonably cold temperatures by undertaking a supplementary experiment to assess effects of adding a marginal nestling on the thermal state of endothermic broods. All broods involved had undergone brood reduction (i.e. lost a marginal nestling). The experimental protocol was the same as previously described, except for addition, as opposed to removal, of a marginal nestling.

At reporting, I completed data entry into computer. Preliminary results highlight two findings. First, once thermoregulation was initiated by core nestlings, neither addition nor removal of a marginal nestling altered temperature of the target brood substantially. Conversely, removal of a marginal nestling from ectothermic broods led to an apparent decrease in brood temperature relative to the control session.

Second, jostling within the nest may not be restricted to accessing the site closest to the parent. Behavioural thermoregulation, in the form of dispersion and huddling, may also motivate nestlings to shift position between feedings. Preliminary results suggest that nestlings orient themselves facing outward, heads in the shade, when it is hot. Conversely, during cold weather they commonly huddle in the centre of the nest-cup, with the core nestlings on the bottom of the huddle and marginal ones on top. Further, in-depth analysis is ongoing.

I am grateful to Society of Canadian Ornithologists for funding transportation to my field site. The \$500 grant offset substantially the cost of renting a car during the field season.

Call for Nominations - DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD

The Speirs Award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. If you wish to nominate someone, please contact:

Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Speirs Award,

c/o Dr. D.N. Nettleship, Canadian Wildlife Service, DOE, 45 Alderney Dr., Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6 (see inside back cover for phone, fax, and e-mail).

RECENT LITERATURE

Book Review

(Opinions expressed are those of the reviewer, not the official viewpoint of the Society.)

The Bird Almanac. The ultimate guide to essential facts and figures of the world's birds. David M. Bird. Key Porter Books, Toronto, Ontario. xvii+460pp. 1999. (price not given, soft cover; from Key Porter Books, 70 The Esplanade, Toronto, Ont. M5E 1R2, ph.416-862-7777; fx.416-862-2304)

A review of this reference book must start from its claims to be the first of a kind, with a prospective audience including "anyone... who liked birds...". The "first" can always be improved on, but "anyone..." may be an impossibly broad target. I judged the main audience to be people who might have a guide for identifying birds but with no convenient source for learning more about feathered creatures. Whether or not that is so, I fear few S.C.O. members would find it an indispensable reference. Like me, they might have difficulty deciding what information to include for such an all-encompassing audience.

The main blocks of information presented are

- a world checklist of birds - English & scientific names, with codes for biogeographic regions and for special status (214 pp.);
- several sections on basic biology, esp. anatomy, physiology, reproduction, mortality (60 pp.);
- a "history of who's who in bird biology and conservation", restricted to deceased persons (32 pp.);
- lists to assist in attracting birds to the backyard, and of resources for bird lovers and for ornithologists (94 pp.);

and - a glossary (33 pp.).

- various lists of "trivia" occupy minor fractions of the space.

If the book really is aimed mainly at novices, devoting over 200 pages to listing all 9000-odd species of birds may have been a mistake. I suggest, for future editions, capsule descriptions of the different groups of birds [total space (say) 30 pages] might be more helpful to such people; condensation of text material in O.L. Austin's Families of Birds (Golden Books series, 1973) or in the last chapter of VanTyne & Berger's Fundamentals of Ornithology (Wiley, New York, 1959) might produce a more convenient review of world birds?

The other major sections seemed reasonable selections from available information (sources duly credited), though most ornithologists would quibble over some inclusions in - and omissions from - the "who's who" list. The author acknowledged a bias towards English-language sources, and thus towards North American and U.K. information. Inevitably, the "resources" cited were predominantly American, though Canadian sources and events received more space than they would in a U.S.-based publication.

Unfortunately, the binding is unlikely to stand up to long use; the cover came off my review copy on the first day...

A.J. Erskine,
Sackville, N.B.

Books to be reviewed in future issues include:

- The Auks. Bird families of the world 4. by A.J. Gaston and I.L. Jones. 349 pp, 8 colour plates, drawings, maps. Oxford University Press, Oxford. £40.00. ISBN 0-19-854032-9.

Books noted in recent issues as available for review are still waiting - one of them impatiently (see cover of this issue!).

1998 Journal Publications - Canadian Birds

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- Yerkes, T. 1998. The influence of female age, body mass, and ambient conditions on Redhead incubation constancy. *Condor* 100: 62-68.
- Yerkes, T., Bluhm, C. 1998. Return rates and reproductive output of captive-reared mallards. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 62: 192-198.

Some journals not (fully) covered in *Picoides* 1996-98 Canadian Ornithological Literature surveys (not in CWS or Mt.A libraries) that are used as outlets for such publications.

American Naturalist
Animal Behaviour
Archives (also Bulletin, Review) of Environmental Contamination & Toxicology
Biological Conservation
Environmental Pollution
Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
Evolution

Journal of Applied Ecology
Journal of Great Lakes Research
Journal of Plankton Research
Journal of Raptor Research
Journal of Zoology (London)
Northwest Naturalist (ex-Murrelet)
Prairie Naturalist
Wader Study Group Bulletin

Lots more toxics journals have occasional bird papers, but these seem used more often. Offers to list 1999 titles from any of these (to be completed by mid-February 2000)?

NEWS ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fifth Almost Annual Western Sandpiper Workshop

42 members of the Western Sandpiper Research Network met at Simon Fraser University in December 1998 to exchange updates on their work. Presentations came from 24 people scattered from Alaska to Ecuador - also Wisconsin, Virginia, & Nova Scotia (the last three

probably studying other species...?). Studies included breeding, migration, wintering, feeding, habitat use, physiological ecology, conservation. For copies of this year's program, contact Dov Lank, Dep. Biol. Sci., SFU, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6 (dlank@sfu.ca).

from info by Dov Lank

Prairie Grouse Technical Council

The 23rd International Meeting of the Prairie Grouse Technical Council is to be held at Gimli, Manitoba, 20-23 September 1999. Species covered will include prairie chickens, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Sage Grouse. Gimli is located in the centre of Manitoba's best sharptail area, and field tours will acquaint participants

with some of the problems of managing these birds here. Further information may be obtained from

Dr. Richard Baydack,
Natural Resources Institute,
University of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, MB R2N 2R4
phone: 204-474-6776; fax: 204-261-0038;
e-mail: baydack@ms.umanitoba.ca

Necrology

We were saddened recently to learn of the unexpected deaths of two long-time members of the Canadian ornithological community and of the S.C.O.:

Henri Ouellet, past-President of S.C.O. - see Obituary below;

Roger Evans, Professor of zoology - including birds, and supervising graduate students in ornithology, since 1966 at University of Manitoba, died in Winnipeg in late January 1999. An obituary may be included in the next issue of *Picoides*.

OBITUARY

Henri Roger Ouellet — Rivière-du-Loup 1938 - Hull 1999

With the death of Henri Ouellet on 9 January 1999, Canada lost a distinguished ornithologist. His passing at age 60, leaving his wife Yvette and their son Alain, was sudden and unexpected.

Henri's first degrees were in French and history at Université Laval and in biology at University of New Brunswick. His graduate work in zoology at McGill University led to a master's degree (1967) on birds of the Montérégian hills around Montréal, and a Ph.D. (1977) on Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers.

While at McGill he served as curator of zoology in the Redpath Museum (1965-70), leaving to join National Museum of Natural Sciences (now Canadian Museum of Nature) as assistant curator of ornithology. Later he succeeded his mentor, Earl Godfrey, as curator, and chief of vertebrate zoology, at NMNS. Henri brought a new

dimension to ornithology in North America - the French language. He knew birds by French names from youth, and he continued his studies and research in French, though doing it in English would have been easier. Partly through his efforts there was an explosion of enthusiasm for *ornithologie* in his native Québec. Already at McGill he published a list to standardize French bird names, and in Ottawa he translated Godfrey's best-selling book, *The Birds of Canada*, into French. He worked at NMNS/CMN until 1994 when, following an unfortunate reorganization [see *Picoides* 6(2)], he took early retirement, continuing as researcher emeritus (with office and access to collections).

Henri described his ornithological interests as avian systematics, taxonomy and zoogeography, but they were broader than that. His research methods were both



Henri Ouellet, at his home in Hull, April 1995. Photo from Raymond McNeil.

traditional and modern, using behaviour, songs and biochemical analyses as appropriate. He authored over 100 ornithological publications including 4 books/monographs, and 40+ book reviews. He also lectured on ornithological subjects, latterly including Bicknell's Thrush.

His recent work on Bicknell's Thrush, formerly treated as a subspecies of Gray-cheeked Thrush, led to several studies in support of its conservation. His systematic interests dealt also with woodpeckers, including *Picoides*, and the seedeaters of South America. The Gray (Canada) Jay was the subject of several publications, and he chose this species as the official bird of the 1986 International Congress in Canada.

His interest in feathers was called into service for identification of birds that had struck aircraft. Using keratin electrophoresis he developed a method with over 99% accuracy. Few biological methods boast such success.

From the National Museum, Henri mounted some 20 expeditions, mostly in northern Québec and Labrador, to

study and collect birds, with a major publication planned, beyond his reviews on zoogeographic elements in the bird fauna of Canada. Sadly his plans for these were cut short, though he published historical summaries of ornithology in Canada and at the National Museum. His long-running project to establish French names for all birds came to fruition, with inclusion of French names in the 7th A.O.U. Check-List (1998), and a monograph (with P. DeVillers and others, 1993) on French names for birds of the world.

A striking feature of Henri Ouellet's career was the time and effort he put into ornithological organizations in Canada and internationally. He served on Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and scientific advisory committees to Nature Conservancy of Canada, World Wildlife Fund (Canada), and Bird Studies Canada. His wider commitments included American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and International Ornithological Congress (IOC). His work on the AOU Committee on Classification and Nomenclature involved him in updates of the Check-List. Perhaps his largest undertaking was as Secretary-General of the XIX

IOC, at Ottawa in 1986. Preparations began in 1982 and extended beyond 1986 to publication of two massive volumes of proceedings. Under his direction this was a very successful conference which, among other consequences, launched the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO). He also was a member of Council for the Neotropical Ornithological Society 1983-87.

Because of heavy responsibilities for the Ottawa IOC Henri did not become active in SCO until later - Councillor 1988-89, President-Elect 1992-93, President 1994-95. He served on various SCO committees, and with Canadian Wildlife Service undertook production of a first Directory of Canadian Ornithologists. His SCO Presidency was a period of transition for the Society, when possibilities of holding independent meetings in Canada and producing a Canadian journal in ornithology were explored.

Henri had a low-key sense of humour, and while he studied birds he also studied people. We will never have the pleasure of reading his reminiscences, but they would surely have included insights on behaviour of the human species. His scientific papers had prosaic titles like "Speciation, zoogeography and taxonomic problems in the neotropical genus *Sporophila*", but there was always a twinkle in his eye. Like Bicknell, whose *Auk* obituary described him as "courtly..., reserved..., of kindly disposition and... helpful to... younger students", Henri was a friendly and polished gentleman as well as a meticulous worker.

The song of Bicknell's Thrush on a spring morning in the Gaspé is his fitting memorial. Michael Spencer likes to think of the singer as Henri Ouellet's thrush.

adapted and abridged from
drafts by Bruce Falls and Michael Spencer

(et en français)

Avec le décès subit d'Henri Ouellet survenu le 9 janvier 1999, à l'âge de 60 ans, le Canada a perdu un ornithologiste réputé. Henri a laissé dans le deuil son épouse Yvette Testuz, son fils Alain, sa mère, ainsi que ses deux frères et trois soeurs.

Henri a d'abord terminé ses études préuniversitaires, en français et histoire, à l'Académie de Québec (collège affilié à l'Université Laval) et a, par la suite, obtenu un baccalauréat en biologie de l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick. Ses études graduées en zoologie, réalisées à

l'Université McGill, ont porté sur les oiseaux des collines Montérégiennes dans la région de Montréal (M.Sc. 1967) et sur les Pics mineur et chevelu (Ph.D. 1977).

Au moment où il était à l'Université McGill, il a occupé les postes de conservateurs adjoint et associé en zoologie des vertébrés au Musée Redpath (1965-70), avant de se joindre au Musée national de Sciences naturelles (MNSN — maintenant Musée canadien de la Nature ou MCN) en tant que conservateur-adjoint en ornithologie. Par la suite, il a succédé à son modèle, W. Earl Godfrey, en tant que conservateur, puis en tant que chef de la section de zoologie des vertébrés, au MNSN. Henri a apporté une nouvelle dimension à l'ornithologie nord-américaine — la langue française. Durant sa jeunesse, il a connu les oiseaux d'abord sous leurs noms français et il a continué ses études et ses recherches en français, même s'il aurait été plus facile de le faire en anglais. C'est en partie à cause de ses efforts que s'est produit l'explosion d'enthousiasme pour l'ornithologie dans son Québec natal. Déjà au moment où il était à McGill, il a publié une liste standardisée des noms français des oiseaux et, par la suite à Ottawa, il a traduit en français le populaire livre de Earl Godfrey, *The Birds of Canada*. Il a travaillé au MNSN/MCN jusqu'en 1994, moment où il prit sa retraite prématurément, suite à la réorganisation déplorable du MCN [voir *Picoides* 6(2)], continuant cependant à y poursuivre ses activités en tant que chercheur émérite (avec bureau et accès aux collections).

Les intérêts d'Henri en ornithologie étaient très larges, débordant largement ses champs principaux qu'étaient la systématique, la taxonomie et la zoogéographie. Il a eu recours à la fois aux méthodes traditionnelles et modernes, e.g., données comportementales, chants, et analyses biochimiques. Il a publié plus de 100 ouvrages ornithologiques, dont 4 livres/monographies, et plus de 40 revues de livres. Il a aussi donné de nombreuses conférences traitant de sujets ornithologiques dont, plus récemment, celui de la Grive de Bicknell.

Ses récents travaux menant à la reconnaissance de la Grive de Bicknell comme entité spécifique (elle était auparavant considérée comme une sous-espèce de la Grive à joues grises) ont été suivis de plusieurs autres études ayant pour objet la conservation de l'espèce. Ses intérêts en systématique ont aussi porté sur les pics, dont *Picoides*, puis sur les granivores *Sporophila* en Amérique du Sud. Il a aussi publié plusieurs documents portant sur le Mésangeai du Canada, espèce qu'il a choisie comme emblème du Congrès international d'ornithologie tenu au Canada en 1986.



Henri Ouellet (right), in the field in New Brunswick with Raymond McNeil, July 1957. Photo by Earl Godfrey.

Ses intérêts pour les plumes l'ont amené à développer une méthode, fiable à 99%, basée sur l'électrophorèse de la kératine, pour identifier les restes d'oiseaux dans les moteurs d'avions. Peu de méthodes biologiques présentent tel degré de fiabilité.

Henri a organisé et mené, pour le compte du MNSN/MCN, quelque 20 expéditions d'étude et de collection d'oiseaux, la plupart dans le nord du Québec et au Labrador, ayant pour objectif, à long terme, une publication majeure résultant de ses revues des éléments zoogéographiques de l'avifaune du Canada. Malheureusement, ses plans ont été anéantis avec la fin du MCN. Il a cependant publié des ouvrages portant sur l'histoire de l'ornithologie au Canada et au MNSN.

Son projet à long terme d'uniformiser les noms techniques français de tous les oiseaux s'est concrétisé avec la publication d'une monographie intitulée "Noms français des oiseaux du monde", en collaboration avec P. DeVillers et collaborateurs en 1993, et l'inclusion des noms français dans la 7^{ième} édition du AOU Check-list en 1998.

Un fait marquant de la carrière d'Henri a été le temps et l'effort qu'il a consacré aux organisations ornithologiques nationales (Canada) et internationales. Il a siégé sur le

Comité sur le statut des espèces menacées au Canada (COSEWIC), le Comité interministériel sur les risques aviaires et l'aviation, de même que sur les comités consultatifs scientifiques de Conservation de la Nature Canada et du Fonds mondial pour la nature (Canada). Au plan international, il a contribué aux activités du Comité sur la classification et la nomenclature de l'American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), chargé de la mise à jour du AOU Check-list. Son rôle le plus marquant a été sans doute celui qu'il a joué dans l'organisation, en tant que secrétaire général, du 19^{ième} Congrès international d'ornithologie (IOC) tenu à Ottawa en 1986. La préparation de ce congrès, commencée en 1982, s'est terminée en 1986 avec la publication des actes sous forme de deux immenses volumes (> 2800 pages). Ce congrès, sous sa direction, a été un immense succès, qui a eu comme retombée, entre autres, la fondation de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada (SOC). Il a aussi été membre du conseil de la Société ornithologique néotropicale.

À cause de ses lourdes responsabilités dans l'organisation du congrès d'Ottawa, ce n'est que plus tard qu'Henri a participé aux activités de la SOC: conseiller (1988-89), président élu (1992-93), président (1994-95).

Il a joué un rôle sur plusieurs comités de la SCO et il a entrepris, avec l'aide du Service canadien de la faune, la réalisation du premier répertoire des ornithologistes du Canada. Son passage à la présidence de la SCO fut une période de transition au cours de laquelle a été envisagée la pertinence de tenir des congrès indépendants au Canada et de publier une revue d'ornithologie.

Henri avait le sens de l'humour et, tout en étudiant les oiseaux, il étudiait aussi les gens. Nous n'aurons jamais l'occasion de lire ses souvenirs, mais ils auraient sans doute comporté certains aspects du comportement humain. Ses ouvrages scientifiques portaient des titres prosaïques tels que "Spéciation, zoogéographie et problèmes taxonomiques du genre néotropical

Sporophila", mais il avait toujours un regard pétillant. Tout comme Bicknell, lequel était qualifié, dans son obituaire publié dans *The Auk*, "de courtois ..., réservé..., disponible et serviable ... pour les jeunes étudiants", Henri était un homme amical et distingué, de même qu'un travailleur méticuleux.

Le chant de la Grive de Bicknell un matin de printemps en Gaspésie rappelle sa mémoire. Michael Spencer, en pensant au chanteur, se plaît à penser à la Grive d'Henri Ouellet.

Adaptation française du texte de
Bruce Falls et Michael Spencer faite par Raymond
McNeil.

Selected publications by Henri R. Ouellet

Dispersal of land birds on the islands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada. *Can. J. Zool.* 45: 1149-1167 (1967);

Les noms français des oiseaux d'Amérique du Nord avec les équivalents latins et anglais. *Mus. Redpath, Univ. McGill, Bull.* 1: 1-20 (1968);

Les oiseaux de l'île Anticosti, province de Québec, Canada. *Mus. Natl. Sci. Nat. Publ. Zool.* no.1. 79 pp. (1969);

Contribution à l'étude de la ptérylose chez *Perisoreus canadensis* (Linnaeus) (Aves; Corvidae). *Can. J. Zool.* 49: 147-158 (1971);

Les oiseaux des collines montérégienues et de la région de Montréal, Québec, Canada. *Mus. Nat. Sci. Nat. Publ. Zool.* no.5. 167 pp. (1974);

Relationships of woodpecker genera *Dendrocopos* Koch and *Picoides* Lacépède (Aves: Picidae). *Ardea* 65: 165-183 (1977);

Ornithology in Canada from the beginning to 1950. *Acta Congr. Internat. Ornithol.* 19: 109-123 (1988);

The Palearctic elements of the avifauna of Canada: a review. Pp. 73-80, in *Current topics in avian biology* (R.

van den Elsen, K.L. Scuchmann, K. Schmidt-Koenig, eds.). *Deut. Ornithol.-Ges., Bonn, Germany* (1990);

Avian zoogeography in the Canadian arctic islands. pp.516-543, in *Canada's missing dimension: Science and history in the Canadian Arctic Islands* (C.R. Harington, ed.). vol.2. *Can. Mus. Nat., Ottawa* (1990);

Speciation, zoogeography, and taxonomic problems in the Neotropical genus *Sporophila* (Aves: Emberizinae). *Bull. Brit. Ornithol. Club (Centenary Suppl.)* 112A: 225-235 (1992);

Noms français des oiseaux du monde. *Comm. internat. noms français des oiseaux*. Éditions Multimondes inc., Ste-Foy (Qué., Canada) et Éditions Chaband, Bayonne Cedex (France). 452 pp. (1993) (with P. Devillers);

Bicknell's Thrush: taxonomic status and distribution. *Wilson Bull.* 105: 545-572 (1993);

Ornithology at Canada's National Museum. Pp. 303-322, in *Contributions to the history of North American ornithology* (W.E. Davis, Jr., & J.A. Jackson, eds.). *Mem. Nuttall Ornithol. Club*, no. 12. Cambridge, Mass. (1995).

Advance Warning!

MILLENNIAL BIRD MEETING

Birds 2000 - Living on the Edge

14-20 August 2000, St. John's, Nfld.

The Annual Meeting of our Society in the year 2000 (whether or not that really is the 'Millennial' year!) will take shape as the Society's contribution to a joint meeting between the British Ornithologists' Union, the American Ornithologists' Union, and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, in St. John's, Newfoundland, 14-20 August 2000. The theme of the meeting is 'Birds 2000 - Living on the Edge', with a strong emphasis towards marine birds.

The Society's representative on the Organizing Committee is Dr. Bill Montevecchi; on the Program Committee we are represented by Dr. Greg Robertson. The Meeting Website is at <http://dogsbody.psych.mun.ca/birds2000/logo.shtml> - I trust that by the time you visit it the Society's name will have been corrected.

Book these dates in your calendar now; it will undoubtedly be an historic meeting and a rare opportunity to meet with ornithological colleagues from Britain as well as the United States.

What is our Society's Logo?

The forthcoming establishment of an S.C.O. website, hosted by the Ornithological Council, demands that we focus on the identity of our logo. We are accustomed to the woodpecker on the masthead of *Picoides* but this does not meet with universal approbation, at least among your current Council. A more attractive alternative is the Canada (Gray) Jay used by the International Ornithological Congress in Ottawa in 1986; that probably is an I.O.C. logo but has not been used by them since, and as the S.C.O. was the host organization for that I.O.C. we surely can lay some claim to it. At the 1997 Annual Meeting, the hosts at Trent University provided an attractive Upland Sandpiper for the website and the carrying-bags and mugs associated with the meeting. So we are in danger of proliferating logos with none emerging clearly to identify the Society.

Your Council will have to resolve this issue at the McGill meeting in August, but meanwhile we would like to hear from members. Unfortunately there was no time to obtain publication-quality examples to include here, but they should be relatively easy to track down. Please respond to

S.C.O. President

EDITOR'S MUSINGS: THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Ornithology knows no boundaries. Right?

Big is good, so bigger is better. Right?

As noted in the last *Picoides*, S.C.O. decided to join the Ornithological Council, and will join OSNA as soon as we can "qualify" by publishing a journal. There are various arguments for and against both those moves by S.C.O., but our elected Council made their decisions - perhaps better than waffling over them for another year or three.

I see obvious potential benefits from joining OSNA, and from publishing a suitable journal; but we concluded at earlier Council meetings that our journal should serve Canadian ornithology, which is not the same thing as satisfying membership demands of another organization. One hopes the Ornithological Council can do more for S.C.O. than hosting a Web site for us; its central focus of influencing legislation within the U.S.A. may provide precedents for similar government moves in Canada - but

it may not. It seems unlikely that U.S. legislators would welcome advice from S.C.O., assuming we had something important to contribute (on many subjects considered by OC we would have none), unless it was "well-laundered" through OC (?).

In conclusion, unlike ornithology, organizations in our field - including the Ornithological Council and S.C.O., have to recognize political boundaries when dealing with governments, whether or not political boundaries have any ornithogeographic reality - although that between Canada and the U.S. may have some. S.C.O. may become bigger through membership in OSNA, but it still must constantly battle the geographic reality of Canada's immensity in serving its widely scattered Canadian membership - who find no counterpart in service from OSNA nor the various individual societies contained therein. We must fight - and win - our own battles.

Editor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who contributed material or ideas for this issue. And thanks to the rest of you for making it possible to publish *Picoides* as something more than a mimeo'd newsletter. Also to John Chardine for trouble-shooting computer photos.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE (provisional deadline for copy: 1 October 1999)

The fall issue will focus on our 1999 meeting and conference in Montréal, and initiatives arising therefrom. Suggestions for new or original features are always welcomed.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada
Standing Committees and Representatives

voice:

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(excellence in Canadian Ornithology)

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Tony Diamond	506-453-5006	506-453-3583	diamond@unb.ca
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Research Awards Committee

(James L. Baillie [1K\$] & 2 Taverner [0.5K\$] Research Awards)

Chair - David Bird	514-398-7760	514-398-7990	bird@nrs.mcgill.ca
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Mandate: annual selection of candidates;

Actions: (a) fall call for applications, review, & announcement of awards 1 April each year; (b) membership appointment and maintenance of rotational committee structure.

Conservation Committee

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Canadian Landbird Conservation Program

TBA

Ornithological Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1999 S.C.O. Conference and Annual Meeting - Montreal, Qué.	1
President's Message	1
S.C.O. Council Elections	2
Conservation News and Highlights:	
Global Accord on Longline Fishing, by David M. Bird	2
Lands for Life Update, by Michael D. Cadman	3
<i>Catharus</i> thrushes - why is <i>bicknelli</i> so restricted in range, by A.J. (Tony) Erskine	4
S.C.O. Student Awards - Reports from 1998 Awardees	6
Recent Literature - Book Review	10
1998 journal publications: Canadian Birds	11
News items and announcements	14
Obituary - Henri Roger Ouellet, by Bruce Falls and Michael Spencer,	14
with French translation by Raymond McNeil	16
S.C.O. News	19
Editor's Musings	20

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you would like to be a member of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, please send your name, address, phone number, and a cheque or money order (payable to S.C.O.) for \$15.00 – \$10.00 for students – to the Membership Secretary [Note increased fee]:

Dr. Nancy Flood, Dept. of Biological Sciences,
University College of the Cariboo,
900 McGill Rd. (Box 3010), Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3

Si vous désirez devenir membre de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada, faites parvenir vos coordonnées ainsi qu'un chèque ou mandat-poste (à S.O.C.) au montant de 15,00\$ – 10,00\$ pour les étudiants – à l'adresse ci-haut [Attention: Les frais sont augmentés!].

Published by:
The Society of Canadian Ornithologists.
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service, Atlantic Region,
P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6

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