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SAMUEL HEARNE

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## Editor's Message

In this issue, Stuart Houston is continuing his series on early figures in Canadian Ornithology with a feature on Samuel Hearne. Ornithologists with a predilection for Canadian history will recognize that this article is similar to one published by Stuart and his wife Mary in *The Beaver* Vol 67 (4) : 23-27, 1987.

Even though Stuart has promised to supply me with more articles, I am seeking additional ornithologists to be profiled in our historical section. Suggestions on historical figures and possible authors are always welcome.

Sylvester strikes back!...for those who feel Sylvester the cat deserves Tweety for a meal, I suggest you look at the article: Beware of well-fed felines by Peter Churcher and John H. Lawton in the July 1989 issue of *Natural History*. This semi-quantitative study of cat predation in the village of Bedfordshire, England suggests that cats account for 30-50% of all House Sparrow mortality. While small mammals make up about 64% of the extra-curricular feline fare, on a national (Britain) scale, at least 20 million small birds fall prey to cats each year. Lets assume similar numbers

obtain for Canada, combine these with all the road kills, tower kills and office building kills and you get a whole lot of dead birds. What will we do about it? Nothing of course but we'll sure fine the heck out of the poor hunter who bags an extra Mallard!

Many thanks to Donna Reilly, Colleen Steinhilber, Steve Fisher, Bob Kidd, Carolyn Lilgert and Charles Mandel for their assistance producing this issue.

W. Bruce McGillivray

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## Baillie Fund Grant Applications for 1990

The Trustees of the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation were pleased to support three non-atlas projects in 1989, as well as providing seven atlas travel grants to volunteers in the Alberta and Maritimes breeding bird atlas projects. In total, \$5841.50 were granted to the recipients. Grants were provided to David Lemon for continuing banding studies of a sedentary population of Dark-eyed Juncos in Newfoundland, the Ottawa Banding Group for banding studies of North American migrants on Andros Island in the Bahamas, and the Ontario Nest Records Scheme.

Applications are welcome for funding in 1990. All projects must be conducted in Canada, and preference will be given to projects conducted by amateurs or by professionals who use large amounts of data collected by volunteers. Thesis projects will be considered but are less likely to receive support than projects

of similar quality by persons with less access to other funding sources.

Atlas travel grants are available to assist persons travelling to take part in fieldwork for the Alberta and Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas projects in 1990. Up to 50% of travel expenses are eligible for support, with preference given to atlasers who spend a significant amount of time atlassing in high priority areas, as determined by the atlas coordinators. Application forms are available from the Secretary of the Fund or from atlas coordinators:

Maritimes: Brian Dalzell, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, NS B3H 3A6, Tel: 902-429-4610; Alberta: Jack Clements, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845 - 102 Ave., Edmonton, AB T5N 0M6, Tel: 403-427-1730).

Atlas travel grant requests must be received by 1 March 1990, and should be completed only after consultation with the

coordinator of the appropriate atlas. Non-atlas project grant requests and supporting letters of recommendation should be postmarked by 31 December 1989 to be guaranteed consideration by the Trustees.

The current board of Trustees consists of Fred Bodsworth (Past Chairman), Robert Curry, David J. T. Hussell (Chairman), Ross D. James, Alex. L. A. Middleton, Erica Nol, Ronald R. Tasker and Linda M. Weseloh. The chief source of funding is the Jim Baillie Birdathon conducted annually by the Long Point Bird Observatory, but direct donations are welcome and tax deductible in Canada. A receipt will be issued. Application forms, instructions and further information can be obtained from Martin K. McNicholl, Secretary, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0 (tel: 519-586-3531). The address for donations is the same.

# President's Report 1988-89

During the Society's seventh year, we continued to develop new programs and consolidate existing ones. Our major new initiative was the establishment of the Taverner Award. This award received generous capital funding from Doris Huestis Speirs, whose continuing support has been so vital in our early years. (We were saddened to learn of Mrs. Speirs recent passing. Her contributions to Canadian ornithology will be covered fully in the next *Picoides*). The award is granted to promote the study of birds in Canada by helping support a specific project on birds, and honors Percy A. Taverner's wide-ranging accomplishments in furthering knowledge of Canada's birds through research, conservation and public education.

We had an excellent field of applicants in the first year of the Taverner awards, and the winner for 1989 was Mr. Glen Chilton, University of Calgary, (see Taverner award elsewhere in this issue). His results will be summarized in *Picoides* at a later date. Because of our healthy financial situation, we are pleased to be offering two Taverner Awards for 1990, of up to \$500 each.

Dr. Stuart Houston was the fourth winner of the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology. We're delighted to

honour a long-time friend of the Society who encouraged many current members to become ornithologists.

Another development in the area of grants began this year, with an approach by the Long Point Bird Observatory for the SCO to administer a \$1000 a year grant for 3 years, possibly longer, to be known as the James L. Baillie Student Research Award. Open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian University, this award will support field studies of Canadian birds. The awards are supported by the Baillie Birdathon, to which so many SCO members made donations in 1989. Applications are now being accepted for the 1990 award.

Council decided at its annual meeting to form a Conservation Committee. We see the committee functioning to inform members of national and regional issues that affect birds, to help us formulate opinions and resolutions. Other activities of the committee will depend in part on the directions its members wish to take. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Jon C. Barlow at the Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Cres. Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6. The Society is now being represented in the Canadian Section of the ICBP.

For some time we have considered the idea of preparing

a National Plan for Ornithology, consisting of a status report on ornithology in museums, government, universities and non-government organizations with recommendations for future directions. This has not begun due to heavy commitments by the current executive. If you would like to further this project, particularly in a leadership capacity, please contact Henri Ouellet.

Our membership and financial condition are both good, thanks in large part to Phil Stepney's hard work as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. The continuing high quality of *Picoides*, under Editor Bruce McGillivray, is another important factor in the SCO's general good health. Both people are continuing in their offices for 1989-90, under the leadership of the new President, Jon Barlow. The Vice President (President Elect) is Bruce Falls. New Councillors elected were Cynthia Bluhm, Richard Elliot, Peter Hicklin, David Hussell and Ross James.

My work as president over the past 2 years was made quite easy because of the willing efforts of other officers, councillors and committee members. It has been a pleasure serving the Society and meeting so many of you for the first time.

Erica H. Dunn

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# Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology

## Dr. C. Stuart Houston - 1989



The Society of Canadian Ornithologists is pleased to present the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for 1989 to C. Stuart Houston, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology. This year the award is presented to an ornithologist who, perhaps more than anyone else in Canada, has blurred the distinction between "amateur" and "professional" in this field

Dr. Houston's contributions are wide-ranging and his influence has extended far beyond his home province of Saskatchewan. A widely-respected medical radiologist by profession, to field biologists he is best known for his many years of banding birds, especially raptors. He has published faunal and distributional papers on many species of hawks, owls, gulls, terns, pelicans, cormorants and scoters, to name the most prominent groups. He is widely recognized as a leading authority on the birds of Saskatchewan and the Central Plains regions of Canada and the United States.

As a respected scholar on northern explorations, Houston's historical research has brought to light the ornithological investigations of hitherto relatively unknown 18th century collectors and natural historians in Canada

such as James Isham, Andrew Graham, Alexander Light, Humphry Marten and Thomas Hutchins. It was those pioneers who obtained from "Rupert's Land" the type specimens of many species of birds that received binomial Latin names from Linnaeus. Houston's books on the expeditions of John Franklin are of international stature and have been recognized for exceptional merit in Canada and beyond.

Dr. Houston has been involved in the publication of *The Blue Jay*, the journal of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, since its founding 46 years ago. This important and unique periodical is devoted in large part to western ornithology.

Conservation work, which Dr. Houston has undertaken with the constant support and collaboration of his wife Mary, earned this couple the Pimlott Award for Wildlife Conservation from the Canadian Nature Federation in 1988, and Houston was awarded the Roland Michener Conservation Award in 1986.

Certainly one of Dr. Houston's most enduring legacies has been his influence on two generations of ornithologists, educating young Canadians about the importance of con-

servation and the study of birds in this country. Many of Canada's prominent ornithologists (including the first two presidents of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists) were influenced by Dr. Houston in their early years, and subsequently pursued careers in ornithology as university professors, museum curators or government biologists.

It is therefore with great pleasure, on behalf of all its members, that the Society of Canadian Ornithologists honors Stuart Houston for his many achievements in field research in Western and Central Canada, his historical research into Canadian ornithology and northern explorations, and his continuing and important role in nature conservation and education in Canada.

For these many and outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists presents the 1989 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to a fine ornithologist: Dr. C. Stuart Houston.

# The Taverner Award 1989

The first Taverner Award to honor and further Percy A. Taverner's accomplishments in Canadian ornithology was presented by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists to Glen Chilton. Mr. Chilton is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Calgary. The Society awarded the grant to support his research into the ability of female White-crowned Sparrows to discriminate among male song dialects.

Two subspecies (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* and *Z.l.*

*oriantha*) of the White-crowned Sparrow overlap extensively in the Fortress Mountain region west of Calgary, Alberta. Distinctive vocal dialects are characteristic of these 2 subspecies, and in this region, an equal mix of dialects is heard. Mr. Chilton is investigating whether or not female White-Crowned Sparrows preferentially select mates on the basis of their song dialect. Both field and laboratory methods are to be used. Mate choice by females

from year to year is being monitored at Fortress Mountain, while in the lab, female response to playback of songs of different dialects is being measured.

The Society offers its congratulations to Mr. Chilton on winning the inaugural Taverner award, and looks forward to a full report on his research published in *Picoides* in 1990. All interested ornithologists are requested to look at the call for applications for two Taverner awards and the Baillie award for 1990 given below.

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## Research Awards for 1990

### Call for applications

Applications are sought for 2 Taverner Awards (up to \$500 each) and 1 Baillie Award (\$1,000) for 1990.

Taverner Awards are offered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists to honor and further Percy A. Taverner's accomplishments in increasing knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation, and public education. The award is aimed at people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

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 will support field research on Canadian birds. The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is funded by Long Point Bird Observatory from proceeds of the Baillie Birdathon, and is administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists.

A single application may be made for both awards, but only one award can be won by an applicant in a given year. Taverner Awards are only given

once to the same person—but past winners of either award may apply for the other.

To apply, submit a resumé, 2 letters of reference, and a proposal (maximum 3 pages) which should include the purpose of the study, methods to be used, and a budget outlining total costs and other sources of funding received or applied for. Applications should reach the following address before January 15, 1990: c/o Jon Barlow, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6. Awards will be announced by April 1, 1990.



# Samuel Hearne

MR. SAMUEL HEARNE  
*late Chief at Prince of Wales's Fort,  
Hudson's Bay.*

Samuel Hearne is remembered as one of the greatest North American explorers, the first white man to reach the Arctic coast of North America. His literary artistry, "enabled him to write... one of the classics of the literature of exploration" (Brebner 1933:389). Yet it seems that only the historians, not the biologists, have appreciated Hearne's unusual skills as a naturalist.

Samuel Hearne was born in London, England, in 1745, the son of Samuel Hearne of the London Bridge Water Works and his wife Diana. He was schooled in Beaminster in Dorset, "without noticeable success. To the end of this life Hearne's spelling remained quaintly phonetic, his grammar erratic and his mathematics dubiously reliable."

He entered the navy at the age of 11, as servant to Admiral Hood, for six years. He joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1766 as a seaman and mate of the *Charlotte* for three years, sailing out of Churchill. He had two important achievements with the Hudson's Bay Company: first in arctic exploration and second in establishing the Company's first inland trading post. The first achievement gained him eventual fame, the second kept the Hudson's Bay Company in competition with the numerically larger North West Company operating out of Montreal.

Hearne was chosen by his company for their first major arctic exploration by land, to search for the fabled Neetha-san-san-dazey or "Far Off Metal River," now known as the Coppermine River. Hearne's first journey began from Prince of Wales' Fort, Churchill, on 6 November 1769, but lasted only one month and five days. It was a failure because Hearne was deserted by his Indian guide, Chawchinahaw.

His second attempt, with an Indian guide named Conne-e-queese, began on 23 February 1770 and lasted 8 months and five days. This time he was forced to return when he broke his quadrant and would therefore be unable to make astronomical observations as to the whereabouts of the copper "mines".

Not a man to be discouraged easily, Hearne set out again on 7 December 1770, this time with Mattonabee, a skillful leader of great prestige among the Chipewyan Indians. Moses Norton, his superior, gave Hearne a cumbersome, heavy old Elton's quadrant, the most difficult of instruments for astronomical observations. His party reached the mouth of the Coppermine River on 16 July 1771, where Hearne "took possession of the coast, on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company." Hearne was thereby the first white man to view the Arctic Ocean,

the northern shore of this continent. His estimation of the latitude was grossly in error, two hundred miles north of its actual position. Hearne's Indian companions proceeded to slaughter the Inuit encamped there. After the slaughter, Hearne explored the copper "mines" and found a four-pound piece of copper. He arrived back at Churchill on 30 June 1772.

Hearne was next assigned to found the first inland trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company, Cumberland House, on the Saskatchewan River, in 1774-1775. After a journey by canoe up the Grass River to Cranberry Portage, and down Goose River to Goose Lake, he reached Cumberland Lake, where he built his house on an island on the south shore. Cumberland House has been occupied continuously ever since, and celebrated its bicentenary in 1974.

He also had a moment of ignominy, when he was compelled to surrender Prince of Wales' Fort to a French force under Jean François de Galaup, Comte de Lapérouse, on 8 August 1782. With the British again in possession, Hearne returned to resume charge of Churchill from 1783 through 1787, then retired, a tired and broken man, in 1787. But before he died he completed his greatest achievement, the writing of *A Journey from Prince of Wales' Fort in Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean*, published in 1790 three years after his death.

## Hearne's Journal

The story behind the publication of Hearne's journey is worth recounting. Indeed, events helped to compensate for the ignominy of Hearne's surrender. Lapérouse, the celebrated French navigator, claimed Hearne's journal as a fair prize when he captured Prince of Wales' Fort. Lapérouse returned this journal, already under revision, as Richard Glover (1958) said, "on the express condition that he publish it." Whether or not Lapérouse deserves as much credit as he has been given for the eventual publication, it was a gentlemanly gesture. Hearne made a further brazen request: that Lapérouse let him take one of the fort's trading sloops which had been seized as a fair prize of war. Lapérouse acquiesced and Hearne sailed the little boat on a risky journey from Hudson Strait directly back to Stromness in the Orkney Islands, a big improvement over being taken to Cadiz, Spain, as a prisoner.

When Hearne returned to Churchill to restore the Fort in 1783 he was still working on his book.

In October 1792 Hearne submitted his manuscript for publication and received the high price of 200 pounds for it. A month later, when he died of "the dropsy," he was only 47. The book did not appear in print until 1795.



Ruffed Grouse

*"... clapping their wings with such a force... it resembles thunder."*

Hearne's journal, readily obtained from most libraries, is one of the greatest travel narratives ever written. His frank and often understated accounts of hardship and starvation are well worth reading.

### **Hearne as a naturalist**

Historian Richard Glover, in his introduction to the 1958 edition of Hearne's *Journey*, aptly recognized that "Samuel Hearne was, of course, another first class observer and reporter — in fact, a much better naturalist than (Andrew) Graham ... head and shoulders superior to every other North American naturalist who preceded Audubon." Glover singled out Hearne's accounts of the Whooping Crane and the beaver as especially well done.

Hearne was a century ahead of his time in describing habits of wild animals, particularly the Arctic Ground Squirrel and Arctic Hare. He was the first to describe the Ross' Goose, Musk-ox and Wood Buffalo, and the first to describe the nest of the White-crowned Sparrow, in this instance, on the ground at the root of a dwarf willow or a gooseberry.

The term *willick*, used by Hearne for the guillemot, one of the smaller seabirds of the Auk family, is now obsolete. He also used the word non-descript as it was correctly used at the time, to mean a species not yet described to science.

Hearne was the first to give a recognizable description of Ross' Goose, not mentioned by Pennant (1786) in his 4-volume "...up to 120 could be shot in a few hours..." *Arctic Zoology*. Hearne described how the base of its bill was studded with little knobs about the size of peas. This small goose was scarce at Churchill but more common 200 or 300 miles to the northwest. It is of interest that another well-known fur trader and naturalist, Bernard Rogan Ross, wrote a series of articles in the *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist* in 1861 and 1862 dealing with the birds and mammals of the Mackenzie River district. He listed the "Horned-way Goose" of Hearne as a species still without a scientific name. The omission was quickly corrected that very year, when John Cassin (1861) gave the name of *Anser rossii* to the specimen sent by Ross from Great Slave Lake. Cassin remarked that "this species has never again been noticed from the time

of Hearne until the time of the receipt of the present specimens from Mr. Robert Kennicott, an enterprising young naturalist, now in the northern regions of British America, but has been constantly insisted on as a valid species in his letters to the Smithsonian Institution by Mr. Bernard R. Ross, an enthusiastic naturalist and careful observer in the service of the Hudson Bay Company." Bernard Rogan Ross, "a tart Londonderry Irishman," was the chief trader at Fort Simpson, in charge of the entire Mackenzie district. Robert Kennicott had been the stimulus for men like Bernard Rogan Ross and Roderick Ross MacFarlane to collect specimens.

Hearne owned "an excellent microscope." Being interested in the lice and other parasites on the Northern Lemming, he tried to examine them under the microscope. However the lens became damp with the moisture from his breath in his cold winter room.

Hearne preceded the naturalist Dr. John Richardson by 50 years in telling how a warble-fly, squeezed out of a caribou skin, was a delicacy, always eaten rough and alive, and "said, by those who liked them, to be as fine as gooseberries." Many larvae were as large as the first joint of Hearne's little finger. Warble-fly larvae and domestic lice were the only two things that Hearne saw his Indian companions eat, which he himself could not stomach. Hearne recognized that the Cloudberry or Bake-apple berry was useful in preventing and treating scurvy.



Rock Ptarmigan

In his description of the variable size of ptarmigan, Hearne demonstrates his understanding of sexual dimorphism, and of what was later to be described as Gaussian (normal) distribution.

Some of his observations on the Ruffed Grouse were a century ahead of their time. He told how this species makes its nest on the ground, generally at the foot of a tree, and lays 12 or 14 eggs. He realized as many others then did not, that the noise of "drumming" was made by "clapping their wings with such a force, that at half a mile distance it resembles thunder."

He noted that the pouch at the base of the pelican's beak had a capacity of three quarts; that in the 1770s as today, muskrat houses were favorite

nesting sites for Canada Geese, and that he found eggs of the Trumpeter Swan were so large that one was a sufficient meal for a moderate man without bread or any other addition.

Hearne examined the "windpipes" of both the Whistling and Trumpeter Swan. He noted that the convoluted windpipe passed into the broad and hollow breast bone of the swan and after passing the length of the sternum, returned into the chest to join the lungs. However, he erroneously reported that both species had identical anatomy even though their notes were quite different in pitch.

Hearne corrected some of the mistaken conclusions of his predecessor, James Isham, and of his contemporary, Andrew Graham. Isham and Graham had erred in claiming that beaver houses had several apartments for various uses and that there were "slave-beavers." Hearne also pointed out that the glans penis of the caribou is not shed annually.

Hearne provided one of the earliest accounts of the Passenger Pigeon, flying in large flocks in the interior near Cumberland House, where he saw 12 killed at one shot. The Whooping Crane even then was not common, usually seen only in pairs and not very often. It was good eating. The wing bones were so long and large that they were sometimes made into flutes.

Hearne was the first to recognize that two different species of curlew, the Hudsonian Curlew and the Eskimo Curlew, occurred at Hudson Bay. But he did not restrict his attention to edible birds; he also described small birds such as the chickadee.

He understood well the concept of bird migration, at a time when scientists in England, including Sir Daines Barrington, were suggesting that swallows spent the winter under water. He also recognized that other species such as the ptarmigan and Arctic Hare were year-round residents. He described the Trumpeter Swan as the first species of waterfowl to return in spring, sometimes as early as late March, frequenting the open waters of falls and rapids before the rivers had broken up.

Hearne provided valuable information concerning the numbers of some species. One Indian could kill 20 Spruce Grouse in a day with his bow and arrow. Some Indians would kill upward of a 100 Snow Geese in a day, whereas the most expert of the English hunters would think it a good day's work to kill 30. At Albany Fort there were sufficient geese that they could in one season salt 60 hogsheads of them for winter consumption. Arctic Terns, ranked by Hearne among "the elegant part of the feathered creation," occurred in flocks of several hundreds; bushels of their eggs were taken on an island of very small circumference.

He once saw a flock of over 400 Willow Ptarmigan near the Churchill River. The Indians

framed nets on stakes, placed over gravel used as bait, to entice the ptarmigan to gather under the net. When the stake was pulled to drop the net on top of the birds, three people could catch up to 300 in one morning. In the winter of 1786 Mr. Prince at Churchill caught 204 ptarmigan with two separate pulls. Ptarmigan feathers made excellent beds and the feathers were sold at the rate of 3 pence per pound. The smaller Rock Ptarmigan would not go under nets but up to 120 could be shot in a few hours.

Hearne's account of the large subspecies of the Canada Goose best reveals his scientific bent of mind. He met these very large geese on the barren grounds. Most naturalists who read Hearne appear to have missed the significance of their name. He did not call them the Barren Geese because they summered on the barren grounds, but rather because of the "exceeding smallness of their testicles."

The modern status of this large goose had been somewhat controversial. Hanson's (1965) book, *The Giant Canada Goose*, clears up much of the mystery. Hanson believes that the Canada Geese nesting in Minnesota and Southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan belong to the giant race, *Branta canadensis maxima*, previously believed to be extinct. This race is characterized by a wing span of six feet or more in adult males, an unusually long neck, and frequently a white spot above the eye. They weigh anywhere from 8 pounds for an immature female to 18 pounds for an adult male, certainly reaching the 16 to 17 pounds weight cited by Hearne.

Hanson also tells about the capture of flightless Canada Geese on the tundra in Keewatin Territory. Some of these immature birds carried bands previously placed on them in Minnesota and Manitoba. They had journeyed about 1000 miles north in order to molt. Because they were not breeding they arrived in the far north later in the year than the other geese, as Hearne reported. Also because of their age and non-breeding status, they had small testes. Thus it took nearly two centuries to elucidate the precise scientific explanation for the phenomenon noted with such insight by Samuel Hearne, the most talented of the early naturalists on this continent.

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# NEWS SHORTS

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**R. Wayne Campbell, Curator of Ornithology** at the Royal British Columbia Museum, was the second recipient of the "Award of Excellence in Biology" presented by the Association of Professional Biologists of British Columbia. The award is presented in recognition of significant contributions to the biological sciences in British Columbia. Wayne received the award at the Association's Annual General Meeting in Victoria in May.

APB president William J. Schouwenburg, in presenting the award, recognized Wayne's role in preparing the treatise on "Birds of British Columbia" and his many contributions to the science of ornithology over the past two decades.

This is the fourth honor Wayne has received over the past several years. He became an Elected Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1987, an Honourary Life Member of the Vancouver Natural History Society in 1988 and was presented an Award of Distinction for Lecturing by Environment Canada and the Centennial Wildlife Society of British Columbia during Canadian Environment Week in 1988.

**Grants Awards and Prizes in Ornithology 2nd ed. 1989**, Compiled by Richard C. Banks is available for \$ 5.00, U.S. + \$ 1.50 postage and handling from Max C. Thompson, Assistant to AOU Treasurer, Dept. of

Biology Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, Kansas 67156. This booklet details all of the grants and other forms of support for ornithological work available in North America. Eligibility rules, application dates, addresses and amounts are all provided. No ornithologist who is not independently wealthy should be without access to this financial guide.

**The Long Point Bird Observatory** is pleased to announce the establishment of the **Ontario Rare Bird Alert**. This service will be provided free of charge to everyone interested in bird sightings in Ontario and in the Long Point region. Updated weekly, or more often as necessary, the Ontario Rare Bird Alert will emphasize provincial-level rarities anywhere in Ontario, unusual sightings in the Long Point area, and trends during spring and fall migration.

A taped message will consist of a quick synopsis of all sightings, followed by details of those sightings, migration trends, birding hotspots, upcoming field trips and meetings, and occasional predictions.

The Ontario Rare Bird Alert will be successful only with the help of all birders in the province. Information provided on tape will be based on that reported. It is hoped that if you find a rarity or have an unusual sighting, you will want to share it with others by reporting your observation.

The Ontario Rare Bird Alert is a project of the Long Point Bird Observatory and is funded through the proceeds of the Baillie Birdathon. For further information, please contact Ron Ridout (519) 586-2652 or Doug McRae (519) 586-3531.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This winter the SCO needs to elect 5 new Councillors who will serve the Society in 1991 and 1992. Nominations are requested now, please send the names of potential Candidates to: Dr. J. Bruce Falls, Dept. of Zoology, University of Toronto M5S 1A1.

**The Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent at Canterbury** is offering a two-year part-time course in the study of birds of prey leading to an advanced university diploma in raptor biology. The program comprises two parts: a 100-hour lecture course dealing with all aspects of raptor biology, and an individual study project. The course is designed for anyone with a genuine interest in raptors including enthusiastic amateurs, curators of raptor collections, and conservation workers. Part I will commence in the 1989/90 academic year. For further details on the program outline, admission requirements, and fees please write to : Dr. Mike Nicholls, Christ Church College, Canterbury CT1 1QU, U.K.

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# In Press

## Current and In Press Articles In Canadian Ornithology

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### UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Arcese, P. 1989.** Territory acquisition and loss in male Song Sparrows. *Animal Behavior* 37:45-55.
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# Canadian Ornithologists and their Research

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#### UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

**Malcolm A. Ramsay** - Professor - Ecology and behaviour of mammals and birds.

**Karen L. Wiebe** - Ph.D. candidate (Bortolotti) - Hatching asynchrony in the American Kestrel.

**Enid Cummings** - MSc. (Diamond) - Populations of forest birds.

**Mark Gloutney** - MSc. (Clark) - Incubation behaviour of ducks.

**Daryl Meger** - MSc. (Clark) - Behavioural ecology of crows.

**Navjot Sodhi** - Ph.D. candidate (Oliphant) - Foraging ecology of Merlins.

**Tom Duncan** - MSc. (Oliphant) - Food habits of Peregrine Falcons.

**Keith Hobson** - Ph.D. candidate (Ramsay) - Stable isotope ratios of seabirds.

**Ian Warkentin** - Postdoctoral research associate - Ecology of Merlins.

#### UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

**Dr. Spencer G. Sealy.** - Interactions between brood parasites and their hosts.

**Ronald C. Bazin.** - (M.Sc. student with S.G. Sealy). Defenses against brood parasitism by Eastern Kingbirds.

**Percy N. Hebert.** - (Ph.D. student

with S.G. Sealy). Asynchronous hatching in Yellow Warblers.

**Diane L. Neudorf** - (M.Sc. student with S.G. Sealy). Nest defence in four host species of the Brown-headed Cowbird.

**Dr. Rick Baydack** - Ecological significance of habitat management for Sharp-tailed Grouse.

**Maureen Bouchart** - (M.Sc. student with Nero/Baydack) - The effect of forest management on Great Gray Owl habitat in southeastern Manitoba.

**Leonard MacWilliam** - (Master's student with Baydack) - An analysis of waterfowl hunting violations in prairie Canada.

**Marc Shuster** - (M.Sc. student with Baydack) - Effects of transitory impacts on wetland margins to waterfowl in prairie Canada.

**Robert Berger** - (M.Sc. student, recently completed with Baydack) -Habitat revitalization for Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Interlake region of Manitoba.

**Ken Thomson** - (M.Sc. student, recently completed with Baydack) -Management of burrowing owls in Manitoba: population distribution and a plan for recovery.

**Dr. Roger M. Evans** - Terminal egg neglect, parental behavior, and embryonic behavioral thermoregulation in birds.

**Douglas Torrance** - (Ph.D. student with R.M. Evans). - Patterns of food allocation and mechanisms of solicitation by the young in Barn Swallows.

**Blair McMahon** - (M.Sc. student with R.M. Evans). - Foraging behavior in American White Pelicans.

#### UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Lorraine Andrusiak** (M.Sc. student) - Barn Owl population biology.

**Craig Benkman** (Post-Doc.) - Behavioural and morphological correlates of speciation in Red Crossbills.

**Darin Bennett** (M.Sc. student) - Energetics of growth of Great Blue Herons.

**Kimberly M. Cheng** (Professor) - Basic and applied avian reproductive ecology (genetics, behaviour, and physiology).

**Nick Folkard** (M.Sc. student) - Food enhancement and community structure in boreal forest birds.

**Gordon McIntyre** (M.Sc. student) - Spatial memory and learning in hummingbirds.

**Ian Moul** (M.Sc. student) - effects of toxins, predation, and disturbance on Great Blue Heron nesting

success.

**Mark Roberts** (M.Sc. student) - The biomechanics of nectar extraction in hummingbirds.

**Chris Rogers** (Post-Doc.) - Winter fat storage strategies of Song Sparrows.

**Christoph Rohner** (M.Sc. student) Great Horned Owl foraging strategies and predation on Snowshoe Hares.

**Ethan Temeles** (Post-Doc.) Inter-sexual morphological differentiation and its effect on foraging ability and territoriality in hummingbirds.

**David Westcott** (M.Sc. student) - Evolution of tyrant flycatcher mating systems.

#### BEDFORD INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY

**D.N. Nettleship and W.W. Lidster**- Distribution & Status of High Arctic Thick-billed Murres: Cape Hay & Cape Graham Moore, Bylot Island, N.W.T.

Reassessment of population status from monitoring plots established in 1978 and analyses of numeric changes in distribution between 1972 and 1989.

Population Status & Trend of Atlantic Puffin -

Continued monitoring of study plots established in 1968 at Great Island, Witless Bay, Newfoundland, to assess changes in population size and status. Project forms part of a long-term monitoring program to examine the influence of natural (oceanographic, climatological) and human-induced (commercial fisheries, off-shore oil developments, winter hunting) factors on a specialized top-trophic feeder whose North American breeding range is centered in Witless Bay, Newfoundland.

**D.N. Nettleship and J.W. Chardine**

Modelling the Effects of Hunting on Thick-billed Murre Populations Breeding in Eastern Canada and West Greenland

Development of a simulation model that will allow: (a) predictions of future population size to be made; (b) identification of the relative importance of parameters in the model (through sensitivity analysis) and therefore indicate where research needs are highest; and (c) an assessment of the effectiveness of potential management strategies.

Population Biology of the Atlantic Puffin at Machias Seal Island, New Brunswick, Canada - A long-term study of post-fledging survival, migratory and inter-colony movements of puffins at a small colony on the southern edge of its North American breeding range.

Canadian Wildlife Service  
Seabird Colony Registry -

A new database and repository for seabird colony survey/census data for Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific Canada. Completion of the relational database structure is expected in late 1989. Principal aims are to: minimize data redundancy, maximize efficiency of access to seabird colony information (on a local, regional, and national basis), and provide a multi-user database for the integration of data of colonially-breeding seabirds in Canada.

**D.N. Nettleship and S.W. Kress.** Atlantic Puffin Reintroduction Study: Newfoundland/Maine -

A long-term Canada/USA conservation effort (initiated in 1973) to reintroduce the Atlantic Puffin to Seal Island (Penobscot Bay) and Eastern Egg Rock (Muscongus Bay), both formerly important breeding sites for puffins in New England.

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