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SAMUEL HEARNE

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

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.

