



NEWSLETTER/NOUVELLES

Number 12

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SCO NEWS

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held 27 June 1986 in Ottawa during the IOC meeting. One of the highlights of this meeting was the presentation of the first Doris Heustis Speirs Award for contributions to Canadian ornithology. The award, a framed copy of a photograph of a Pacific Loon by Robert Taylor, was presented to Dr. W. Earl Godfrey by Spencer Sealy.



Earl Godfrey was born and educated in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where he graduated from Acadia University in 1934. His interest in birds emerged early, with encouragement from the late Robie Tufts, and he began collecting and preserving specimens of birds for scientific study while still in his teens. This became his lifelong activity, through summer employment with the National Museum of Canada, followed by continuing positions, first with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and finally with the National Museum of Canada. At the latter institution he served as Curator of Birds from 1947 until his retirement at the end of 1976, having also served as Head of the Vertebrate Biology Section in his later years there. His book "The Birds of Canada," first published in 1966, stands as a testament to his taxonomic and distributional work, assembling the results of his many earlier regional studies. Nearly a decade in the writing and production, it provided a valuable overview of the birds of this sub-continent, many parts of which lack more recent treatment on this level. The publication of a completely revised edition in 1986 testifies to the continuing importance of this work.

Still more important to the development of ornithology in Canada was the way that Earl encouraged interest in birds among younger people across the country. In this he was continuing the National Museum tradition developed by his predecessors - Macoun, Taverner and Rand, and that of his early mentor - Tufts. Through his personal contacts with visitors to the Museum and through his individual responses to letters of enquiry from all across Canada, he stimulated and encouraged a generation of Canadian ornithologists. Many members of the Society have known Earl as a friend and a field companion as well as a helpful and authoritative advisor.

In the 1980's, with ornithologists on staff at most Canadian universities, in the Canadian Wildlife Service and in many provincial wildlife agencies, it is easy to forget how recently all this has developed. Right up into the 1950's and even later, though to a lessening extent, the National Museum of Canada - through the Dominion Ornithologist/Curator of Birds - was the main focus of knowledge of birds in Canada. For years, it was the "only show in town," featuring a "one-man band." That role was Earl Godfrey's work and his life. The dramatic changes in Canadian ornithology since that time are in no small part a result of his efforts. The presentation of the Doris Heustis Speirs Award for 1986 to W. Earl Godfrey recognizes this unique contribution.

THE SOCIETY is still not incorporated, although the papers have been filed with Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada. A problem developed regarding our obtaining tax-exempt status and we are trying to resolve this so that incorporation can proceed.

We plan to continue to hold annual meetings during AOU meetings, and occasionally with other Canadian groups where appropriate. It was felt that membership was too small to warrant independent meetings. Membership at the time of the annual meeting stood at 112, but there has been some confusion about membership. A number of founding members apparently thought they had purchased life memberships. In fact all who wish to remain members must pay annually. The fee barely covers expenses as it stands. The treasury is virtually empty at present.

An important item, that will be a major link among members in future is this newsletter. There is a need to remind all members to forward items for inclusion. As the newsletter appears only twice a year it is often difficult to remember it until it appears. So to try to strengthen the content a

committee was struck at the annual meeting to consider ways and means of securing additional material. Look for changes in the future.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS. Early in 1987 we shall be electing officers and councillors for 1988-89 (term of office begins following the 1987 annual meeting). Nominations are sought for these openings:

Vice President (= President Elect)
Recording Secretary
Treasurer/Membership Secretary

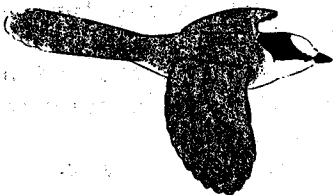
Newsletter Editor
5 Councillors

Written nominations are invited for any or all of the above, to be mailed before January 30, 1987 to Erica Dunn, SCO Vice President, Wildlife Research Section, Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 50, Maple, Ontario L0J 1E0. Please include the address of the nominee and the office for which you are making the nomination, so that we can confirm willingness to stand for election. Let us know also if you yourself would be willing to serve as an officer or councillor.

IOC NEWS

Ottawa, Canada, 22-29. VI. 1986

XIX CONGRESSUS INTERNATIONALIS ORNITHOLOGICUS



SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT. The hard work of all the committee members and of many volunteers across the country resulted in a successful congress. This event which had been planned during the previous four years took place in Ottawa from 22 to 29 June 1986, but activities related to the congress such as pre and post-congress excursions started as early as 9 June and finished as late as 11 July 1986.

The reports received at my office or from the excursion leaders and organizers indicate that participants were nearly all extremely pleased with the excursions. Even the weather cooperated in most cases. The 17 excursions that took place allowed participants to familiarize themselves with many regions of Canada and observe a large number of species, in addition to seeing the country.

In total, over 1,360 participants from 62 countries have registered, which makes this congress the largest ever held. Important delegations came from the United States, many European countries, and the representation from Third World and Socialist countries was greater than at any previous congress, thanks to the support provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the special efforts of Graham Cooch.

The scientific programme comprises, in addition to the presidential address and the secretary general's history of Canadian ornithology to 1950, 50 symposia with five papers each, 150 oral communications, 360 posters, and 41 round table discussions. An excellent ornithological film programme was presented with 80 films from all parts of the world; it was very popular and extremely favourable comments were received during and after the congress. The scientific programme was in the view of many who attend I.O.C. regularly the best in a very long while.

Other activities were also well attended such as the opening reception, the "outdoor dinner" party which had to be held "indoor" because of the weather, the closing banquet, and the various activities scheduled for the "day-off." The early morning bird walks, in spite of the dreadful weather we

had on a few days, took place on 5 different mornings in three different locations each day. They were all extremely well attended and some people could not be accommodated in a few instances. If the weather did not cooperate, the birds did, and most of the local species were observed. Concurrently to these bird walks, a more leisurely outing was available each morning before the plenary lecture. These were equally well attended and enjoyed by many of the participants.

On the "day-off" (26 June), congress members took part in various sightseeing activities, locally and as far as Montreal, in workshops, in local field trips, even in a white water rafting trip on the Ottawa River, and a day-long (20 hours) local bird watching excursion which tallied over 120 local species.

Although all the financial aspects have not been entirely settled at this point, it appears that all expenses fell within or close to the established budget.

Now that the congress itself is over much remains to be done with the editing of the manuscripts for the proceedings (Acta). Work has started actively on this aspect of the congress and the Acta should be available late in 1987 or very early in 1988. The manuscripts that I have read seem to be of good quality in general but the reviewers may think differently! In total it appears that the Acta will comprise some 1,500 pages in two volumes.

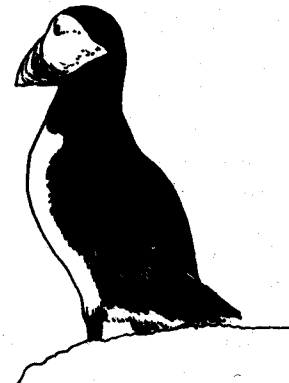
The XX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in November 1990. The President is Dr. Charles G. Sibley and the Secretary General, Dr. Ben D. Bell.

I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the Society of Canadian Ornithologists for having provided me space in the Newsletter to inform you about the Congress and for having provided useful material on Canadian ornithology before and during the Congress. If we can invest in the future of the Society a portion of the efforts that Canadian ornithologists have put forward to insure a successful XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus, I am convinced that the Society of Canadian Ornithologists can be a thriving and active society within a few years.

In closing, I want to express my deepest and most sincere thanks to all those who participated in the planning of the congress, who coordinated activities, who led an excursion or a local field trip, who chaired a committee, and who provided encouragements during the long preparation period. It is with your support and help that the XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus was so successful. Thank you all.--Henri Ouellet--86.12.24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

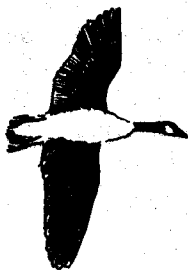
RENT-FREE LIVING accommodations are available to graduate students interested in field studies involving waterfowl behaviour, particularly the mechanisms mediating attachments in mallard ducks and the Giant Canada Goose. The Avian Behaviour Laboratory in the Department of Psychology at the University of Manitoba, has modified a caboose to be an observatory in which a maximum of two students can live. It is insulated, panelled, heated, has hot and cold running water, a shower, refrigerator, kitchen area, bunk beds, a study area, and outhouse.



Some cooking and eating utensils can be provided. The caboose/observatory is located on the grounds of the Field Station of the Avian Behaviour Laboratory, twelve miles south of the university. Approximately 100 geese and 200 Mallard ducks reside at the field station. The student(s) desiring these accommodations must be neat in their personal habits, physically fit, non-smokers, mature, be able to tolerate cold weather, be independent, and be prepared to remain alone for a few days at a time. The students must also meet the requirements of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba and must be accepted into the Graduate Programme in Psychology. In return the student(s) will look after/supervise the Field Station and participate in the research being conducted there. For more information contact Dr. L. James Shapiro, Director, Avian Behaviour Laboratory, Department of Psychology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA R3T 2N2. To apply to the Graduate Programme at the University of Manitoba, write to Dr. Robert W. Tait, Associate Head, Graduate Programme, Department of Psychology, for information and application forms.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES have signed the North American Waterfowl Management Plan -- A Strategy for Cooperation. The plan outlines far-reaching efforts that need to be undertaken to protect waterfowl habitat, build up declining waterfowl populations, and enhance waterfowl research and management. Signing of the plan does not constitute a commitment by the national governments to fund all aspects of it; it represents a guide and a challenge. Copies of the plan are available from the Office of Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Matomic Building, Room 536, Washington, DC 20240.

MEETINGS



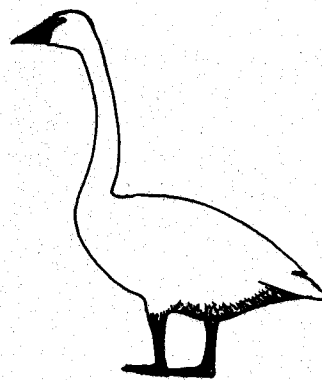
A SYMPOSIUM on the biology and conservation of northern forest owls of the world will be held in Winnipeg, 3-7 February 1987. Planning is well advanced, registrations have been received from around the world and numerous owl species will be subject to discussion. For additional information contact Spencer Sealy.

52nd NORTH American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held 20-25 March 1987, Quebec City. For information write Wildlife Management Institute, 1101, 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

A SYMPOSIUM on the ecology and management of breeding waterfowl will be held 19-22 August 1987, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Manitoba. Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station is hosting this international symposium to conduct a comprehensive review of the progress and future opportunities for research among the best understood of all wild birds. Program details are now available from Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station, R.R. #1, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 3A1.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

C. Stuart HOUSTON received the 6th annual Roland Michener Conservation Award from the Canadian Wildlife Federation on 30 May for significant contributions to conservation in Canada. In 1985 he was chosen by Environment Canada as the Canadian bird bander to receive its first Certificate of Merit for volunteer work. Stuart has banded more than 87,000 birds, of which nearly 5,000 were owls and more than 5,000 of which were hawks. Within Saskatchewan, he has banded 200 species of birds (at least) and has had in excess of 2,400 recoveries, excluding birds that returned to a banding station or those which died before fledging! These are remarkable statistics, and the awards are well deserved.



BRUCE D. J. BATT was recently appointed to the senior position of Scientific Director at the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station.

ERICA NOL has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8.

FRED COOKE was awarded a Killam Research Fellowship for Sept. 1985-Aug 1987. He will study at Cambridge Univ. and the Univ. of East Anglia, England, synthesizing 17 yrs of data on Snow Goose nesting populations in the Canadian Arctic.

POSITIONS/REQUESTS

FUNDING MAY become available for the 1987-88 academic year for an M.Sc. student to do research on the ecology of the Upland Sandpiper in Ontario. Those with keen interest in this species are urged to write for further information to: Erica Nol, Department of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario (705) 748-1455.

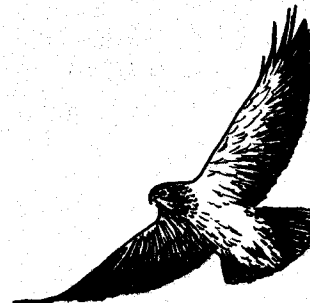


THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT at Trent University is creating a collection of skins and skeletons of representative birds and mammals, for teaching purposes. Donations from museums or individuals are requested. Please send description of possible donations to: Erica Nol, Department of Biology, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8 (705) 748-1455.

PUBLICATIONS

The Northern Naturalist - experiences with wildlife in the Canadian Aspen Parklands, by E.O. Hohn. 1983. 173 pp., ill. \$9.95. Order from Lone Pine Publishing, 414, 10357 109th Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3.

Checklist of Canadian Birds. 1986. This small booklet of 64 pages contains a list of



Canadian birds corresponding closely to the revised Birds of Canada. French, English and scientific names are given and space for comments is available. Copies were provided to registrants at the IOC. Additional copies are available at \$2.00 apiece from the editor or Bruce McGillivray.

History of Canadian Ornithology is the topic of a recently completed Ph.D. thesis by Marianne Ainley.

MISCELLANEOUS

A NICE GIFT FOR ORNITHOLOGISTS. A number of congress items remain as surplus. It was decided to offer them for sale in order to increase the proceedings publication fund, as follows:

XIX C.I.O. ball point pens \$5.00 a dozen
 XIX C.I.O. Clip board \$3.00 each
 XIX C.I.O. canvas bag with logo \$4.00 each

Send your order to: Henri Ouellet, XIX C.I.O., National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8, and make cheques payable to XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus.

AVAILABLE FOR SALE - from the library of R.C. Long.

CHAPIN, J.P. The Birds of the Belgian Congo. Part I. 1932.

CHAPIN, J.P. The Birds of the Belgian Congo. Part II. 1939.

Both are soft cover, slightly tattered.

The following are hard cover books all in good condition:

MOREAU, R.E. 1966. The bird fauna of Africa and its islands. 1966.

VINCENT, J. 1952. A check list of the birds of South Africa.

BENSON, C.W. and C.M.N. WHITE. 1957. Check list of the birds of Northern Rhodesia.

SMITHERS, R.H.N., M.P.S. IRWIN and M.L. PATERSON. 1957. Check list of the birds of Southern Rhodesia.

SNOW, D.W. 1958. A study of Blackbirds.

LONDON NAT. HIST. SOC. 1957. The birds of the London area since 1900.

CAYLEY, N.W. 1931. What bird is that? A guide to the birds of Australia.

Any reasonable offer will be considered. Please contact the editor.

Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada
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Philip H.R. Stepney

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Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6

The NEXT NEWSLETTER is planned for April 1987. Send items for inclusion to the editor Ross D. James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6, by 15 March 1987.