

---

Society of Canadian  
Bulletin of The Ornithologists

# PICOIDES

Bulletin de la  
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

---

ISSN 0836-060X

Picoides, November, 1993  
Volume 6, Number 2

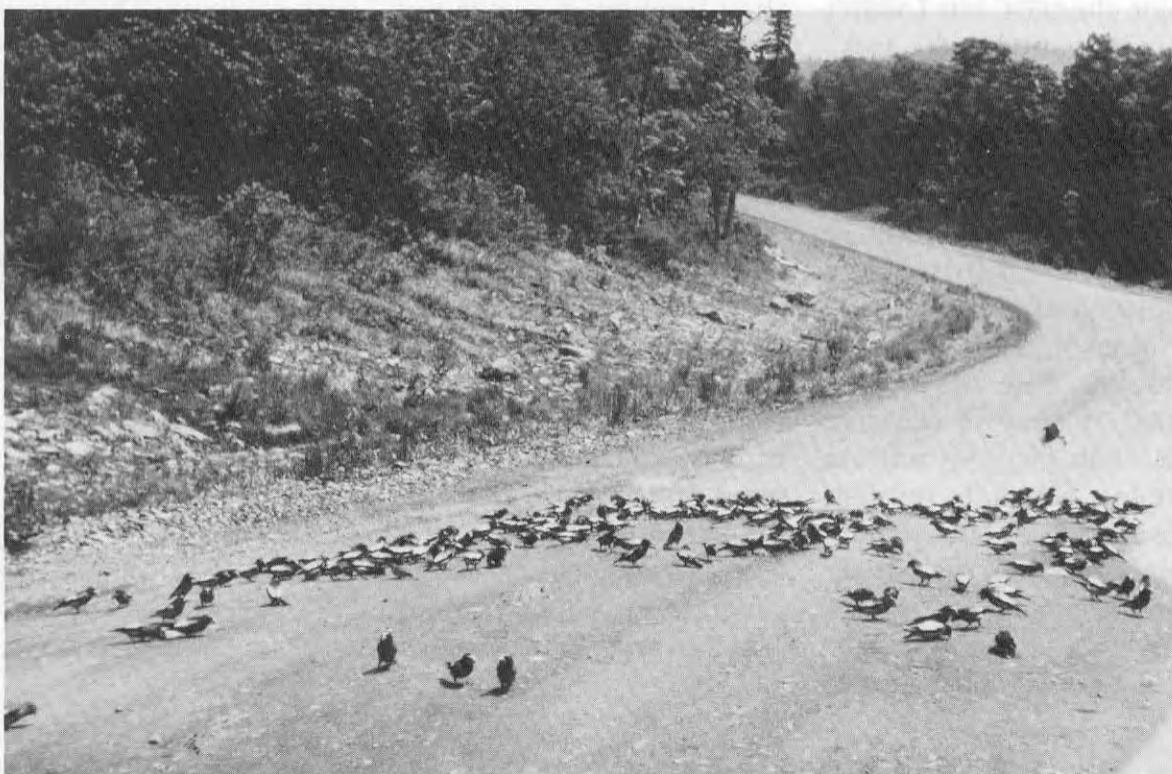


Photo by Editor

Evening Grosbeaks on highway in central New Brunswick, 23 June 1967  
(example of "Dynamic populations..." - see S.C.O. article inside)

---

---

---

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Editors are usually drafted rather than elected, as there are no lineups for these jobs. I'm like most retirees (i.e. fully occupied), and I travel less than most of you, so I miss a lot that might appear in our bulletin, unless someone tells me or sends me a copy. The last sentence in each introduction to the Bent Life Histories series applies to Picoides too. I don't expect to make major changes, but I won't promise not to make any.

As with our Society, our bulletin is hemmed in by the need to encourage Canadians in ornithology without duplicating functions already covered by other organizations and outlets. The historical slant of recent feature articles in Picoides reflects that few journals publish this kind of material, which provides insight on how Canadian ornithology evolved \*. Arguments for or against particular

policies or practices affecting ornithology in Canada, as in S.C.O. Column in this issue, comprise another type of article with few possible outlets.

Most of Picoides' content is "news", but a twice-yearly publication cannot avoid including some information that is months old when it appears. Programs that are about to begin, papers about to be published, people about to move, will be news when they happen, but not yet history three months later. What is new to one person may be old hat to another.

Increased frequency of publication depends on having enough material - plus money for extra mailings. The Society must decide if the benefits of more frequent communication balance the costs of extra issues. Without more material, we can't fill more than two issues per year, but more issues might generate more material - a "chicken-and-egg" situation.

The Editor

\* In 1980 I floated the idea of a volume of capsule biographies of Canadian ornithologists, as a contribution to the 1986 I.O.C. in Canada. The responses were favourable, but I haven't made time to continue with it. Marika Ainley and Stuart Houston have published many articles in that field, but most people who added to Canadian ornithological knowledge won't rate separate accounts; these might be included in such a volume. The historical articles in Picoides, plus several recent books on Canadian bird people, suggest that the idea might be revived. Who else wants to learn more about people who worked on birds in Canada?

Published by:

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists.  
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service, Atlantic Region,  
P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, New Brunswick E0A 3C0

To advertise in Picoides,  
please write to:

The address at left, with  
Attention: Dr. Anthony Erskine

---

## 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 for \$10.00 to:

Dr. Philip R. Stepney, Provincial Museum of Alberta,  
12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6

Si vous désirez devenir membre de la Société des ornithologistes du Canada, faites parvenir vos coordonnées ainsi qu'un chèque ou mandat-poste au montant de 10,00\$ à l'adresse ci-haut.

---

## IS *Picoides A rara avis*? WHAT ELSE SHARES THE FIELD?

(An editorial initiative)

To learn how Canadians interested in birds communicate, I canvassed several people across the country as to regional or provincial groups and periodicals serving the field. The following (incomplete and very condensed) summary provides some perspective that may help SCO as well as its Editor. [Note: Provincial naturalists' federations or natural history societies are listed by initials to save space.]

**Alberta** (per Geoff Holroyd): Alberta Naturalist, published by the FAN, and local naturalists' bulletins such as Edmonton Naturalist and Pica (Calgary) include many articles dealing with birds. The Beaverhill Bird Observatory publishes an annual report. Occasional Papers of the Provincial Museum of Alberta often deal partly or wholly with birds. Alberta bird papers also appear in Blue Jay (see Saskatchewan).

**British Columbia** (per Wayne Weber): The British Columbia Field Ornithologists publish British Columbia Birds (began 1991) and a newsletter. The FBCN includes bird summaries in its newsletter, and presumably will also feature birds in its projected journal. The Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology (formerly Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society), based in Washington

State, covers British Columbia and now Alberta as well as northwest U.S.A. in its journal Northwestern Naturalist (formerly Murrelet).

**Manitoba:** The bird committee of the provincial naturalists society seems to be the main functional group, with a provincial bird book as its present focus. It has no regular publication, although some regional faunal summaries from its work have appeared through the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. Bird articles by many Manitoba naturalists appear in the Blue Jay (see Saskatchewan).

**New Brunswick:** The N.B. Naturalist, published by NBFN, is the only in-province outlet for popular bird articles beyond the local level. The local club in Edmundston is explicitly a bird group, although birds feature prominently in most naturalists' clubs, here as elsewhere.

**Newfoundland and Labrador** (per Bill Montevecchi): The N&LNHS publishes Osprey, which includes bird articles regularly. A birding newsletter The Bullbird appeared until recently but may have lapsed.

**Northwest Territories (including Nunavut)** (per Jacques Sirois): Yellowknife seems to have the largest number of













































