

---

Society of Canadian  
Bulletin of The Ornithologists

# PICOIDES

Bulletin de la Société des Ornithologistes du Canada

---

ISSN 0836-060X

Picoides, November, 1994  
Volume 7, Number 2



Photo by W.R. Barrow

Atlantic Brant off Grand Manan Island, N.B., Spring, 1988  
(a species of interest both to new research initiatives (p. 6) and to Speirs Award Winner).

---

---

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

What is an "ornithologist"? By definition, it is someone who studies birds, but that may be too broad. At the recent I.O.C., someone remarked that ornithology was now part of "mainstream biology", meaning that bird research now embraces all facets of zoology rather than being mainly field studies or collecting for museum work on taxonomy and evolution. Our vocation has become respectable, viewed as a branch of science rather than a disguised hobby. For many of us, however, our work still retains a recreational element that is lacking in most other employment, including other branches of biology. This recreational aspect is one of the strengths of ornithology, linking professionals and amateurs and thus encour-

aging public support for our endeavours. So my first question might be rephrased as "Does recreational interest in birds set ornithologists apart from other scientists who use birds as the subjects of their biological studies?" A recent article by Bonita McFarlane in *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (22: 361-370, 1994) addresses the question of what motivates birdwatchers, which is pertinent for other ornithologists as well. Many scientists who work with birds mainly in the laboratory retain an interest in their subjects as living creatures; this is almost inevitable for students of behaviour and vocalizations, but may not be for those who work, for example, with cell biology or anatomy. Some students of behavioural ecology who work with birds

claim no background or interest in birding, but there is more to recreational interest in birds than the competitive side which makes "birding" a pejorative term for some people. But if no clear distinction can be made between ornithologists and other biologists who use birds as vehicles for study of phenomena or structures, rather than as living organisms that are interesting in and for themselves, how can we justify S.C.O. as a separate association? Perhaps one answer is that most "other biologists who use birds" sooner or later come under the spell of these fascinating creatures, thus developing a recreational interest where none existed beforehand?

The Editor

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 (payable to S.C.O.) for \$10.00 to:

Dr. Tom Dickinson, Dept. of Biological Sciences,  
University College of the Cariboo, 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 10,00\$ à l'adresse ci-haut.

---

## I.O.C. NEWS

As 1994 is another I.O.C. year, I am temporarily reviving this feature of early issues of the S.C.O. newsletter, to report on the 21st International Ornithological Congress, held in Vienna 20-25 August 1994. These Congresses, occurring only once every four years, seem to me to flit by with amazing rapidity. It already is eight years since the Ottawa I.O.C. of 1986, "our Congress", support of which was one of the stimuli that got the S.C.O. off and running. Most Canadians on the International Committee, the governing body of these Congresses, were appointed, partly to generate an invitation for a Congress in Canada in 1986, at the (West) Berlin Congress of 1978, now sixteen years ago. And at my first Congress, in 1962 at Ithaca,

N.Y., I met many big names I knew from the literature, and also some new Ph.Ds; I was happy to meet two of the latter once again in Vienna, 32 years later, when they were now, respectively, presidents of the 21st I.O.C. (Chris Perrins) and of the British Ornithologists' Union (Janet Kear). Time marches on inexorably, but people and their writings provide some of the links that keep our interest in birds alive and active.

I requested the following account from a younger person who might feel more intensely the kind of excitement that I remember feeling during and after attendance at my first International Ornithological Congress.

The Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

The setting for this year's I.O.C. was the Hofburg Conference Centre in Vienna, a name that does not do the venue justice - we were in the principal palace of the Habsburgs, from which the Austro-Hungarian Empire was ruled. I doubt I'll ever attend an academic conference in quite as opulent a setting, with frescoed ceilings, towering marble columns, gilt chandeliers, and history.

Now if they had just worked on the air-conditioning... The setting was formal, but the attendees were not; the conference was a terrific place to talk with real people whose names you'd only seen on papers. And there were a lot of people to meet: roughly 1,500, from all around the world. I particularly noticed a large number of relatively young ornithologists (graduate students and recent

Ph.Ds) including a good turnout from eastern Europe.

The biggest problem with these large conferences is that there is too much to see: 2 sets of 6 simultaneous symposia, 1 or 2 sets of 10 simultaneous round-table-discussions, posters without end, morning plenaries, and sometimes evening plenaries, on a single day! One could enter the conference centre in the morning and leave in late evening, having spent the whole day at seminars and posters; o.k., they did allow a short break for supper, but you had to find time to talk with colleagues sometime. All this meant that I barely kept up with the happenings in my own field, and couldn't hope to summarize the highlights of the presentations. Given Austria's geographic position in Europe, with four other countries within 2 hours' drive, it's not surprising that most days featured sessions dealing with science and conservation in eastern Europe. There were sessions on all the "standard" topics: systematics and evolution, conservation, cooperative breeding, endocrinology, etc.. But one could also spend time in sessions devoted exclusively to chemical defenses of birds, shrikes, or the evolution of intelligence, and even learn something about stickleback fish (honorary birds in one talk!). As an ecologist focussing on life-histories, I was interested to note that disease is "in". Several talks showed how disease and immunosuppression are potential candidates for causing trade-offs between reproduction and survival. The biggest problem for me was avoiding terminal burn-out before the conference ended.

For those who could tear themselves away from academic thoughts, the organizers also provided tours, both birding and cultural, before, during, and after the conference. On the birding trips, the guides were

enthusiastic, provided a wealth of information, and showed us sights and sites that foreigners would not find on their own. And then there was Vienna itself, with art galleries, museums (including one of musical instruments and armour - you figure out the connection), opera videos projected on a wall of city hall every evening, and real live opera and concerts, Viennese pastry-shops and international fast food.

This doesn't do justice to what the IOC was about. It was intellectual/cultural smorgasbord, but most of all an amazing opportunity to meet ornithologists from around the world and find out first-hand where our science is going. The next I.O.C. is to be held in Durban, South Africa, in under four years' time. Start saving your pennies!

Wesley Hochachka

*Canada's premier magazine for birders*  
*Colour photographs - excellent artwork*

## BIRDERS JOURNAL

*Bimonthly magazine for Canadian birdwatchers*

★ Bird News ★ Identification ★ Conservation News  
★ Status ★ Rarity Reports ★ Distribution  
★ Quizbird ★ Notes ★ Reviews



**Subscribe Now.**  
For the next six issues, send \$34 (Visa accepted with card number, expiry and signature)  
to: **Birders Journal,**  
8 Midtown Drive, Suite 289, Oshawa, Ontario L1J 8L2.

---

## NEW WILDLIFE RESEARCH INITIATIVES UNDERWAY

One initiative financed under the federal Green Plan is the implementation in this country of a Canadian counterpart to the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units long-established at many state universities in the

U.S.A.. Although originally proposed to have stations in each of Environment Canada's five regions, interest varied so much that only two of these have proceeded, in the "bookend regions".

\*\*\*\*\*

(a) *The Wildlife Ecology Research Chair* at Simon Fraser University (S.F.U.; Burnaby, B.C.) was established 16 April 1993, with Fred Cooke as Senior Chair. The excerpts which follow were drawn from his first annual report (January 1994) of this joint venture between Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) of Environment Canada, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (N.S.E.R.C.), and S.F.U., and from a letter from Fred.

The Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mission Statement** (for S.F.U. initiative)

"The central concept is to provide an interface between the mission-oriented research and management policies of the [C.W.S.] and the more curiosity-driven research of the university community. By encouraging this interface, the government agencies would gain access to a broader base of scientific information for ... policy and decision-making, and university researchers would benefit from a broader practical application for the more theoretical ideas which their disciplines generate."

"The key to conservation of birds is understanding the demographic processes which influence population numbers. Ultimately we are interested in the factors that influence reproduction and survival, and for this reason it is important to have the ability to examine these factors throughout the life cycle of the birds."

"We take as a useful model the approach to bird conservation pioneered in United Kingdom by the British Trust for Ornithology (B.T.O.), referred to as Integrated Population

Monitoring (I.P.M.). It identifies the following stages:

- 1. Is there a mechanism in place to detect conservation problems associated with bird populations? ... usually associated with disturbing changes in population size due to anthropogenic effects on the environment ...
- 2. If disturbing changes are recognized, can one identify the stages in the life-cycle that are affected? If survival is involved, does it affect all age-groups equally? If reproduction is involved, at what stage - egg production, fledgling success or recruitment? At what level does the problem lie?
- 3. If the stage of the life cycle that is affected has been identified, can one identify the causal components that influence it? For example, if over-winter mortality is high, is this due to changes in food availability, predator pressure (including hunting ...) contaminant levels or other factors?
- 4. Can remedial steps be taken? What management advice can we give?

"Our team consists of Tony Williams, a physiological ecologist who is the Associate

---

Chair; Ian Jones, our sea bird expert; Dave Lank, our shore bird expert; and Evan Cooch, our waterfowl expert and statistical and computer advisor. In addition we now have ten graduate students and 3 post-docs in the program.”

“We have set up several new research projects [where possible, involving individually marked birds]. These include:

- The establishment of a field station on the remote Triangle Island, nesting grounds for more than a million breeding sea-birds of at least 11 species. ... centred mainly on ... variability in life history traits of Cassin’s and Rhinoceros Auklets, Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots and Common Murres.
- We are collaborating with ... C.W.S. to establish a network of scientists studying Western Sandpipers at all stages of their annual cycle. Our contribution is to understand variability in reproductive performance ... at Nome, Alaska, and to understand wintering population dynamics at ... sites in Panama and Baja California. Brett Sandercock, Nils Warnock and Patrick

O’Hara are involved in this work.

- We are working closely with the Marbled Murrelet recovery team ... This year we were able to band and release 176 of these birds, [using] an effective method ... developed by Gary Kaiser (of C.W.S.).
- Our work with Snow Geese continues, but with the western populations which breed on Wrangel Island in Russia and on Banks Island [N.W.T.]. Barbara Ganter banded geese in Russia and Evan Cooch on Banks Island.
- In collaboration with Ian Goudie of C.W.S., we are embarking on a detailed study of the ... Harlequin Duck. We have more than 800 individually marked birds ...
- We [also have] a study of the winter feeding ecology of Western Grebes by James Clowater, and ... of breeding Eared Grebes in Cariboo-Chilcotin region in collaboration with Sean Boyd of C.W.S.”
- We hope to initiate population and feeding ecology studies of Dunlin and of Brant, both of which winter on Boundary Bay. [Studies of] crop damage by Trumpeter Swans and American Wigeons are also planned.

\*\*\*\*\*

(b) *The (Atlantic Cooperative) Wildlife Ecology Research Network* took effect in summer 1994 with Tony Diamond’s move to the Senior Chair/Director position, based at University of New Brunswick (U.N.B.; Fredericton, N.B.). Use of “Network” in its name reflects that the Junior Chairs will be located in other centres, at Acadia University (Wolfville, N.S.) and Memorial University of Newfoundland (M.U.N.; St. John’s, Nfld.). Research at all three locations will be focussed on, but not restricted to, birds, with ecology of forest birds in the forefront at U.N.B., estuarine birds (including shorebirds) at Acadia, and seabirds at M.U.N.. Qualified students wishing to begin graduate research on forest birds or seabirds at U.N.B., where the program will start in the field season of 1995, should contact Dr. Tony Diamond or Prof. Timothy Dilworth at U.N.B., Fredericton, N.B. E3B 6C2 for more information.

(extracted from student circular  
and other information on ACWERN)

---

## REPORTS FROM 1994 ANNUAL MEETING/RAPPORTS DE LA RÉUNION ANNUELLE DE 1994

### S.C.O. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/ RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT DE LA S.O.C.

Since the publication of the last issue of *Picoides*, our Society has been involved in several activities arising from its central place in Canadian ornithology. The annual meeting of the S.C.O. council as well as the annual general meeting were held last June in Missoula, Montana, in conjunction with the first-ever joint meeting involving all three major North American societies (American Ornithologists' Union, Cooper Ornithological Society, Wilson Ornithological Society). All meetings of the S.C.O. were well-attended by the many members present at this largest meeting of North American ornithologists.

I take this opportunity to thank the past councillors for their support and assistance during their tenure (Jean-Francois Giroux, Bill Montevecchi, David Mossop, Steve Wendt, and Tom Dickinson), and to welcome the five newly elected councillors (Mark Brigham, Alan Burger, Gilles Chapdelaine, Tony Diamond, and Raymond McNeil). Congratulations to the recipients of the Taverner awards, Colleen Barber and Ken Otter, and to the winner of the James L. Baillie Student Research Award, Karen Holder. Bill Montevecchi will be chairman of the 1995 Committee on Research Awards and will administer this important project of S.C.O. during the next year (see announcement in this issue).

The Editor of *Picoides* deserves our warmest congratulations for having been selected as recipient of the 1994 Doris Huestis Speirs Award (see presentation

statement in this issue).

The S.C.O. recently has been asked to be represented at a meeting organized by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Canadian Nature Federation to review a major bird conservation plan: the Canadian Landbird Conservation Strategy. Ricky Dunn, a past president of S.C.O., agreed to represent our Society at the meeting in Vancouver on 21 October. I hope that Ricky will prepare a brief report on that meeting for the next issue of *Picoides*.

On a related theme, I have reviewed a document prepared by the Long Point Bird Observatory which proposes the development of a Canadian Centre for the Study and Preservation of Birds. Documentation will be circulated to council members, and consultation will take place during the next few months concerning the role of such an establishment in Canadian ornithology, as well as the role that S.C.O. could play in its organization and, more generally, in bird conservation in Canada. A report on this project should be available for the next number of *Picoides*. This is an area where the new Conservation Committee of S.C.O. could become involved when more details are known about this important initiative.

I have been involved for a few months in formation of a committee to determine the feasibility of starting a Canadian journal of ornithology. There is a strong need for a Canadian journal, but it will be difficult to round up the necessary financial support to ensure its viability in both the short and long term. A plan detailing the scope and purposes of the planned journal will be prepared during the next few weeks, and I should have much

---

material to report on in a few months.

Our paid-up membership stands now at slightly more than 200 members. Let's make a special effort to recruit new members during the next year. I hope that a short document/brochure describing the Society, its activities, its role in Canadian ornithology, etc., can be circulated during the next few weeks or at least with the 1995 renewal notices.

It has been suggested that S.C.O. has reached a state of maturity which should allow us to hold most of our annual meetings in Canada. I would like to receive your opinions on this matter, with suggestions for planning future meetings of S.C.O. Probably there would have not been time for the 1995 meeting to be organized in Canada, even should that be the wish of the membership. For this reason, our next annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the A.O.U. meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, 13-20 August

1995. The sooner opinions and suggestions are transmitted to me, and the more of them, the sooner the Council will be able to decide on and plan for the 1996 meeting.

Finally, I would like to call for suggestions on initiatives and projects that your Society could or should undertake in the future. Council members have many ideas, but S.C.O. is a participatory organization and the ideas of all members are solicited. Send your comments and suggestions to any member of the Council or to me (address below) so that they may be shared and discussed by Council and membership. I am looking forward to hearing from you during the next few weeks so that S.C.O. can become more dynamic and active.

Henri Ouellet

(175, avenue de la Citadelle, Hull, Québec J8Z 3L9  
Tel: (819) 595-4956; Fax: (819) 595-8725)



W.R. Barrow photo.  
Brant and Common Eiders, off Grand Manan, N.B., 1972.

---

## S.C.O. FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP/LES FINANCES ET LE NOMBRE DES MEMBRES S.O.C.

**FINANCES** (condensed, by Editor, from 1993 financial statement by T.E. Dickinson, Treasurer S.C.O.)

Opening bank balances and investments (31 Dec. 1992) - total \$17,676.07

Income -

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Donations and gifts        | \$ 769.79       |
| Membership fees            | 2,846.87        |
| Bank & investment interest | <u>1,045.22</u> |
| total                      | \$ 4,661.88     |

Expenditures -

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Awards (Speirs, one Taverner)    | \$ 804.75     |
| <i>Picoides</i> (one issue only) | 1,164.16      |
| Operating & bank charges         | <u>289.68</u> |
| total                            | \$ 2,258.59   |

Closing bank balances & investments (31 Dec. 1993) -

total \$20,079.36

Outstanding cheques & debts (Speirs award 1993, one Taverner award, one issue of *Picoides*) -

total \$ 1,742.32

(Audited by Larry Peatt 20 June 1994)

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMBERSHIP** (condensed, by Editor, from summary, through 15 June 1994, by N.J. Flood, Membership Secretary)

Geographic distribution:

Nfld. 4; N.S. 5; N.B. 6; Que. 30; Ont. 64; Man. 9; Sask. 19; Alta. 26; B.C. 24; N.W.T. & Y.T. 4; U.S.A. 13; Overseas 6. total 210.

Those listed above had paid through 1994. The current membership (mailing) list also includes members who paid dues for 1993 or 1992 but have not yet renewed, in total 258 members and 16 institutions or groups, thus 274 in all. The archival list includes former members who failed to renew since 1991, another 144 names.

Membership, while not at an all-time high,

seems to be increasing (compare 177 total in report through 19 April 1993). Prince Edward Island is the only province unrepresented. Although foreign members have not been charged a higher rate, postage to such addresses costs considerably more. [Ed. note: Thus far, postage costs for *Picoides* were paid by the Editors' host institutions, so none of these extra postage costs have come back to S.C.O.]

---

## 1994 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY



A.H. Macpherson photo. Erskine (left) measuring banded merganser, 1966.

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists presents the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for 1994 to Tony Erskine in recognition of his many contributions to Canadian ornithology.

Dr. Anthony John Erskine has had a long and productive career with the Canadian Wildlife Service, which he joined in 1960. Since his retirement in 1991, he has continued his association with C.W.S. as Research Scientist Emeritus. It took Tony a few years before he saw the light, but after obtaining a Ph.D. in chemistry from Queen's University in 1957 he quickly switched to studying biology, and in 1960 he earned his M.A. in zoology at U.B.C..

In his long career with C.W.S., he worked as a biologist based in Sackville, N.B., during 1960-68; as a research scientist in Ottawa/Hull in 1968-77; as Chief, Migratory Birds Management, Atlantic Region, in 1977-88 back in Sackville; and in a Senior Assignment Position in Sackville until his retirement. Like many CWS biologists, Erskine worked for many years on waterfowl,

but his interests always extended more widely. He is best known for his work in encouraging volunteer data-gathering for bird monitoring, through the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme, the Breeding Bird Survey, census plot studies and, most recently, the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*, published in 1992.

Erskine's many writings included over 80 scientific or technical papers, ranging from his award-winning monograph *Buffleheads* to major C.W.S. publications on mergansers, boreal birds, and Great Cormorants, to annual reports on the Breeding Bird Survey, and contributions on the ecology and behaviour of a wide range of bird species. In addition, Erskine published more than 70 data reports, chiefly census accounts covering a wide variety of habitats. He also wrote a number of popular articles and book reviews.

Erskine contributed to Canadian ornithology also through work as editor, of the *Blue Bill* (1955-56), of the national newsletter of the Canadian Society of Wildlife & Fishery



W.D. McLaren photo. Erskine at Bufflehead nest, 1959.

---

Biologists (1969-74), and of *Picoides* (1993-present), and as Associate Editor (Ornithology) of *Canadian Field Naturalist* (1975-present).

Erskine has been actively involved in ornithological and conservation organizations including the Kingston Field Naturalists, the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, the Wilson

Ornithological Society, the Canadian section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and the International Ornithological Congress.

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists congratulates Dr. Erskine on his receiving the 1994 Doris Huestis Speirs Award, and thanks him for his excellent work across the country which has contributed so much to ornithology in Canada.

---

### STUDENT AWARDS/BOURSES AUX ETUDIANTS (extracted, by Editor, from letters by L. Ratcliffe)

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award went to Karen Holder, of Queen's University, for her proposal entitled "Evolutionary divergence of North American Rock Ptarmigan".

Two Taverner Awards were made, to Colleen Barber, of Queen's University, for her project entitled "Determinants of extra-pair paternity in Tree Swallows", and to Ken Otter, also of Queen's University, for his study entitled "Mixed reproductive strategies of female

Black-capped Chickadees".

The Awards Committee this year included Jean-François Giroux (U. Quebec à Montreal), Ross James (Royal Ontario Museum), and David Boag (retired from U. Alta.), with chair Laurene Ratcliffe (Queen's U.); the latter abstained from ranking candidates as several were from that university. Reports on work supported (at least in part) by these awards should appear in a later issue of *Picoides*.

---

### EDITOR'S REPORT/RAPPORT DU EDITEUR

In the year since I took over from our Bulletin's founder, Bruce McGillivray, one issue was mailed in November 1993 and another in May 1994. I hope to maintain this schedule for a few years, unless the Society prefers a different one. Any generalization from two issues is premature, but I've been encouraged by the response to my appeals for material and by reactions to recent Bulletins. I've made little effort to solicit photographs, so there were few in the issues I've assembled; we pay extra for photos, but they

can add information or entertainment. Perhaps we should include photos of authors (as in *Wildlife Society Bulletin*)? Publishing costs to date ran a little higher than in Edmonton, probably expectable in a smaller centre. If the product remains suitable and its appearance timely, I judge the convenience of local printing to outweigh the extra costs.

I thank S.C.O. members for their support in producing *Picoides*, and I regret not being at the A.G.M. to deliver this report in person.

---

## NEXT MEETING/LA PROCHAINE RÉUNION

The 1995 meeting of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A., during the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, 13-20 August 1995. More details will appear in the next issue of *Picoides*.

---

### Call for Nominations DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD

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

Society of Canadian Ornithologists,  
Speirs Award,  
c/o Dr. Henri Ouellet  
175 avenue de la Citadelle,  
Hull, Québec  
J8Z 3L9

### Call for Applications 1995 STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

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

The James L. Baillie Student Research Award is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university. It honours the memory of James L. Baillie, and supports 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.

Taverner Awards are offered by the Society

of Canadian Ornithologists to honour and further Percy A. Taverner's accomplishments in increasing knowledge of Canadian birds through research, conservation and public education. The awards are available to people with limited or no access to major funding, regardless of professional status, who are undertaking ornithological work in Canada.

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 for the same project; Baillie Awards only once to any person, but past winners of either award may apply for the other. Funds are not awarded for stipends.

To apply, submit a resumé, two letters of reference and a proposal (max. 3 pp.) which should indicate 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 15 January 1995:

Bill Montevecchi,  
Biopsychology Program  
Memorial University of Newfoundland,  
St. John's, Nfld.  
A1B 3X9.

Awards will be announced by 1 April 1995.

---

## IN PRESS

### Current and "In Press" Articles in Canadian Ornithology

---

#### CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, PACIFIC & YUKON REGION

**Morgan, K.H. 1994.** Underwater swimming behavior of American Black Oystercatcher chicks. *J. Field Ornithol.* 65: 406-409.

#### SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, including WILDLIFE ECOLOGY RESEARCH LAB

**Mulder, R.S., Williams, T.D.,  
Cooke, F.** Dominance, brood size and foraging behaviour during brood-rearing in the Lesser Snow Goose: an experimental study. *Condor*, in press.

**Robertson, G.J.** Factors affecting nest site selection and nesting success in the Eider *Somateria mollissima*. *Ibis*: in press.

**Sandercock, B.K.** The effect of manipulated brood size on parental defense in a precocial bird, the Willow Ptarmigan. *J. Avian Biol.*: in press.

**Sandercock, B.K., Pederson, x.x.** The effect of renesting ability and nesting attempt on egg size variation in willow ptarmigan. *Can. J. Zool.*: in press.

**Viallefont, A., Cooke, F.,  
Lebreton, J.-D.** Age-specific costs of first-time breeding. *Auk*: in press.

**Williams, T.D., Loonen, M.J.J.E.,  
Cooke, F.** Fitness consequences of parental behaviour in relation to offspring number in a precocial species: the Lesser Snow Goose. *Auk*: in press.

#### UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Artiss, T., Martin, K.** Male vigilance in paired White-tailed Ptarmigan *Lagopus leucurus*: mate guarding or predator detection. *Animal Behaviour*: in press.

**Braun, C.E., Martin, K.,  
Remington, T.E., Young, J.R.** North American grouse: Issues and strategy for the 21st Century. *in Trans. N.Am. Wildl. Nat. Res. Conf., Washington, D.C.*: in press.

**Brown, G.** Spatial association learning by Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*): Effects of relative spacing among stimuli. *J. Comp. Psych.*: in press.

**Cumming, S.G., Burton, P.J.,  
Prahacs, S., Garland, M.** Potential conflicts between timber supply and habitat protection in the boreal mixedwood of Alberta, Canada: a simulation study. *Forest Ecol. & Manage.*: in press.

**Doyle, F.I., Smith, J.N.M.** Population responses of Northern Goshawks to the 10-year cycle in numbers of Snowshoe Hares. *Stud. Avian Biol.* 16: in press.

**Gilchrist, G.H., deForest, L.N.,  
Gaston, A.J.** 1994. Age and breeding site selection in Thick-billed Murres: Effects on vulnerability to predation by Glaucous Gulls. *J. f. Ornithol.* 135: 382.

**Graham, J., Petkau, A.J.** 1994. Spatial association learning in hummingbirds. pp.182-213 *in Case studies in biometry* (Lange, N., Ryan, L., eds.), Wiley.

**Hannon, S.J., Martin, K.** Mate fidelity and divorce in ptarmigan: Polygyny avoidance on the tundra. *in Partnerships in Birds, The Ecology of Long-term Monogamy* (Black, J.M., ed.), Oxford Univ. Press.: in press.

**Hochachka, W.M., Eadie, J.M.** 1994. Age, experience, and reproductive performance in birds: Integrating proximate and ultimate mechanisms. *J. f. Ornithol.* 135: 383.

**Martin, K., Saether, B.-E.** 1994. Age-specific reproductive performance in birds - the biological mechanisms involved. *J. f. Ornithol.* 135: 385.

**Roberts, W.M.** Hummingbird licking behavior and the energetics of nectar feeding. *Auk*: in press.

**Rohner, C., Smith, J.N.M.,  
Stroman, J., Doyle, F.I., Joyce,  
M., Boonstra, R.** Northern Hawk Owls (*Surnia ulula capparoch*) in the nearctic boreal forest: Prey selection and population consequences of multiple prey cycles. *Condor*: in press.

**Schluter, D.** 1994. Adaptive radiation along "genetic lines of least resistance". *J. f. Ornithol.* 135: 357.

**Smith, J.N.M., Arcese, P.** Brown-headed Cowbirds and an island population of Song Sparrows: a 16-year study. *Condor*: in press.

**Sutherland, G.D., Gass, C.L.** Learning and memory for spatial pattern in hummingbirds. *Animal Behaviour*: in press.

**Thomas, L.** Monitoring long-term population change: why are there so many analysis methods? *Ecology*: in press.

**Westcott, D.A.** Leks of leks: A role for hotspots in lek evolution? *Proc. Roy. Soc. London, B*: in press.

**Westcott, D.A., Smith, J.N.M.** 1994. Behavior and social organization during the breeding season in *Mionectes oleagineus*, a lekking flycatcher. *Condor* 96: 672-683.

**Wiebe, K., Martin, K.** 1994. Growing old in the cold: Environment, age and reproduction in two ptarmigan species. *J. f. Ornithol.* 135: 385.

#### UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

**Clowater, J.S., Burger, A.E.** 1994. The diving behaviour of Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) off southern Vancouver Island. *Can. J. Zool.* 72: 863-872.

#### CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, ATLANTIC REGION

**Birkhead, T.R., Nettleship, D.N.** Arctic Fox influence on a seabird colony in Labrador: a natural experiment. *Wilson Bull.*, in press.

**Chardine, J.W.** The distribution and abundance of aquatic birds in Canada in relation to the threat of oil pollution. In press in *Proc. 3rd "Effects of oil on wildlife" conference, New Orleans, La.*

**Chardine, J.W.** 1994. Special hunter opinion survey for Newfoundland: response to questions about murre hunting. C.W.S.-Atl.Region, Tech. Rep. no.197. 25 pp.

**Chardine, J.W., Pelly, G.** 1994. Operation Clean Feather: reducing oil pollution in Newfoundland waters. C.W.S.-Atl.Region, Tech. Rep. no. 198. 43 pp.

**Kampp, K., Nettleship, D.N., Evans, P.G.H.** 1994. Thick-billed Murres of Greenland: status and prospects. pp. 133-154 in *BirdLife International, Conservation Series no. 1* (Nettleship, D.N., Burger, J., Gochfeld, M., eds.).

**Lein, J., Stenson, G.B., Carver, S., Chardine, J.W.** How many did you catch? The effect of methodology on bycatch reports obtained from fishermen. In press in *Internat. Whaling Comm.*, Special issue on incidental catch in passive fishing gear.

**Morris, R.D., Chardine, J.W.** Brown Noddies on Cayo Noroeste, Culebra, Puerto Rico: What happened in 1990? *Auk*, in press.

**Nettleship, D.N., Burger, J., Gochfeld, M., eds.** 1994. Seabirds on islands: Threats, case studies and action plans. (Proceedings of the Seabird Specialist Group workshop at XX World Conference of I.C.B.P., Hamilton, N.Z. 19-20 Nov. 1990.) *BirdLife International, Conservation Series no. 1*, 318 pp.

#### GROS MORNE NATIONAL PARK

**Deichmann, K.H.** Use of mammalian prey by nesting Merlins *Falco columbarius* in Atlantic Canada. *Can. Field-Nat.*, in press.

#### UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON

**Doucette, D.R., Reeb, S.G.** Influence of temperature and other factors on the daily roosting times of mourning doves in winter. *Can. J. Zool.*, in press.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION AMENDMENT.** The Migratory Birds Convention (M.B.C.), signed in 1916 on behalf of the U.S.A. and Great Britain (for Canada), has remained essentially unchanged to the present. Designed to end commercial exploitation of migratory birds while regulating sport harvest of species traditionally viewed as game, the

Convention made no provision for the use by native peoples of such birds for subsistence or other non-commercial purposes. Especially in northern areas, where many waterfowl are present only during the "closed season" established under the Convention, this oversight has led to many problems not foreseen by those responsible for its inception. "The Canadian

---

government [once again] is set to begin negotiations with the United States to amend the [M.B.C.] subject to regulation for conservation. The primary objective is provision for Canadian Aboriginal people to harvest throughout the year migratory birds and their ... eggs for food, social and ceremonial purposes."

For more information, please call or write:

Patricia Dwyer, Chief, Aboriginal Affairs and Transboundary Wildlife, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3 Phone: (819) 953-0289; Fax: (819) 953-6283.

**SYMPOSIUM ON "IMPACT OF ECOTOURISM ON BIRDS"**. As part of the program of the A.O.U. meeting to be held in Cincinnati in 1995, a symposium tentatively entitled "Impact of ecotourism on birds" will be held to address the impact of a billion-dollar growth industry on the world's bird populations. Whether the symposium is a half-day or full day in length and whether a proceedings will be published will depend on the interest generated. Some participants will be invited, and others wishing to make a presentation or desiring more information may contact DAVID M. BIRD, Avian Science and Conservation Centre of McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec H9X 3V9 (phone (514) 398-7760 W, fax (514) 398-7990; e-mail

CX54@musica.mcgill.ca)

## **INTERNATIONAL SUMMER STUDENT INTERNSHIPS**

Each summer the Avian Science and Conservation Centre of McGill University offers up to four non-salaried internships. This includes free residence with kitchen facilities provided within walking distance of the centre. We are located a short bus ride from downtown Montreal. In 1993 and 1994 our interns hailed from Canada, U.S.A., England, China, Turkey, Italy, Mexico, and France.

Each intern gains experience in the care, handling, and propagation of captive birds (mostly birds of prey) and, most important, becomes involved in scientific research either on captive birds or in the field, depending on annual funding. Our main research areas include behavioural ecology, nutrition, reproductive physiology, parasitology, toxicology, and management. We also have initiated a captive breeding program for endangered Loggerhead Shrikes for research purposes.

If interested, submit a letter of recommendation, a resumé of experience, and a covering letter indicating your research interests, by 1 February 1995 to Dr. David M. Bird (at address as shown in the preceding announcement).

---

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I thank all those who contributed material or responded to my pleas for input to this issue. Our Bulletin exists because we all need to communicate. Keep up the good work!

## **AND FOR THE NEXT ISSUE**

The president's report (earlier in this issue) listed several items that should appear in our spring 1995 *Picoides*, but we will need more than that. I hope that one or more items suitable for "feature articles" or an "S.C.O. Column" also will emerge. Suitable photographs (black-and-white, or high-contrast colour) for the cover or for inclusion in such articles would be most helpful. Our "In Press" section in the next issue will focus especially on work by ornithologists in Ontario.

## SOCIETY OF CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS 1994-95 OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS

**President**

Henri R. Ouellet

**President-elect**

David N. Nettleship

**Treasurer/Membership Secretary**

Tom Dickinson & Nancy Flood

**Recording Secretary**

André Cyr

**Ex-officio**

Anthony J. Erskine

*(Picoides Editor)*

**Councillors**

retiring 1995

Hans Blokpoel

R. Wayne Campbell

David J.T. Hussell

Richard W. Knapton

Bridget J. Stutchbury

retiring 1996

R. Mark Brigham

Alan E. Burger

Gilles Chapdelaine

Anthony W. Diamond

Raymond McNeil

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Editor's Musings .....  | 2  |
| Membership Information .....  | 3  |
| I.O.C. News .....   | 3  |
| New Wildlife Research Initiatives Underway .....                                | 5  |
| Reports from 1994 annual meeting .....  | 7  |
| SCO President's report .....  | 7  |
| SCO Finances & Membership .....   | 9  |
| 1994 Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology ..... | 10 |
| Student Awards .....  | 11 |
| SCO Editor's report .....   | 11 |
| Next meeting .....  | 12 |
| "In Press" and recently published .....   | 13 |
| Announcements .....   | 14 |